

GIPPSLAND BASIN, VIC AIRBORNE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, 1998/1999 OPERATIONS REPORT

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SUMMARY

The Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO) flew an airborne geophysical survey of 107,574 line kilometres covering parts of the onshore and offshore Gippsland Basin area in Victoria. AGSO flew the survey over two periods; November to December 1998 and January to April 1999.

The survey formed part of the National Geoscience Mapping Accord. Flight lines were flown in an east—west direction with various line spacings and flying heights. The line spacing over the onshore component was 200 metres with a flying height of 80 metres above ground level. The offshore component was flown at 130 metres above sea level with line spacings of 400 and 800 metres. The latter spacing was used over the southeastern section of the survey area.

The total magnetic intensity, gamma-ray spectrometric and digital elevation model data collected during the survey have been processed and are available for purchase. These data are sold as digital point located data, grids and hardcopy maps, by the Australian Geological Survey Organisation. A colour pixel image map depicting total magnetic intensity is also available.

1. SURVEY AREA AND PARAMETERS

(i) Area Description

The Gippsland Basin airborne survey in southeastern Victoria covered the entire 1:250 000 Sheet areas of Sale, SJ55-12 and parts of the 1:250 000 Sheet areas of Bairnsdale, Mallacoota, SJ55-15 and SJ55-16. See Appendix A for a diagram of the exact survey area.

(ii) Survey Parameters

Altitude: onshore component

offshore component

80 metres above ground level

130 metres above sea level

Flight line direction:

Tie line direction:

East-West

North-South

Survey line spacing

Flight line spacing: onshore 200 metres

offshore

400 and 800 metres

Tie line spacing:

onshore 2000 metres

offshore 4000 metres

Survey distance flown (onshore)

Lines:

9 956 kilometres 1 115 kilometres

Ties: Total distance:

11 071 kilometres

Survey distance flown (offshore)

Lines:

86 229 kilometres

Ties:

10 274 kilometres

Total distance:

96 503 kilometres

Sampling intervals

Magnetic (compensated,

uncompensated and vector):

0.1 seconds (approx 7 metres)

Gamma-ray spectrometric

4 - channel data:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

Accumulated 256 channel

spectra:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

GPS:

0.5 seconds (approx 35 metres)

Altimeter:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

Barometric pressure:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

Temperature:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

Humidity:

1.0 seconds (approx 70 metres)

2. LOGISTICS

(i) Operating Base and Dates of Flying

(a) Operating Base

Aircraft and crew were based at the West Sale Aerodrome, Victoria for the duration of the survey from 16 November to 13 December 1998 and from 28 January to 12 April 1999.

(b) Flying Dates

Calibration flights for the Automatic Aeromagnetic Digital Compensator (used to compensate for the magnetic field of the aircraft) were flown at the start of each phase of the survey, after aircraft services and after repairs to aircraft alternators. Production flying commenced on 27 November 1998 and continued through to 13 December 1998. Flying recommenced on 1 February and ceased on completion of the survey on 12 April 1999.

Appendix B summarises flying days and distances flown.

(ii) Survey Aircraft and Field Crew

(a) Aircraft

Aero Commander 500 S "Shrike", VH-BGE

(b) Field Crew Party Leaders:	Mario Bacchin	16 November to 28 November 1998 28 January to 11 February 1999 24 February to 12 April 1999	
×	Jane Mitchell	29 November to 13 December 1998	
	Tim Mackey	12 February to 23 February 1999	
Technicians:	David Pownall	16 November to 28 November 1998	
	Terry Smith	16 November to 13 December 1998	
	Trevor Dalziell	28 January to 16 March 1999	
	Jim Whatman	17 March to 12 April 1999	
Operators:	Craig Smith	16 November to 13 December 1998	
	Alan Crawford	28 January to 12 April 1999	
Pilots (Pearl Aviation):	Capt. Shane Lawrey	16 November to 13 December 1998 28 January to 12 April 1999	

Capt. Anthony Whitten

16 November to 13 December 1998

28 January to 12 April 1999

3. SURVEY EQUIPMENT

(i) Major Equipment

Magnetometer: Geometrics G822A caesium magnetometer

Compensator: RMS Instruments Automatic Aeromagnetic Digital

Compensator

Gamma-ray spectrometer: Exploranium gamma-ray spectrometer consisting of

a GR820 spectrum processor and two DET1024 spectrometer crystal detectors (33.56 litres total)

Altimeter: Collins ALT-50 radar altimeter

Barometer: AGSO digital – Setra sensor

Thermometer/Humidity: AGSO digital – RS combined temperature and

humidity sensor

Navigation: Ashtech XII "Ranger" and Ashtech 12 channel dual

frequency "Z-Surveyor" GPS receivers Ashtech "Ranger" and "PNAV" differential

processing software

Fugro OmniSTAR Plus real time differential GPS

base station system

Video: National colour video camera (WV CL 302E)

National VCR (NV 180) National LCD TV (TCL 3A)

Acquisition hardware: Axiom-Ax6150A industrial computer, 3.5 inch

floppy disc drive, 504 Mb removable SCSI hard disc, IOMEGA SCSI zip drive and Planar VGA monitor

Acquisition software: AGSO-developed QNX C language program

(ii) Navigation

(a) GPS Navigation System

Navigation in the survey aircraft made use of the real-time differential GPS method. The aircraft navigation system used an Ashtech XII global positioning system (GPS) receiver which manipulated range data received from satellites every half second and calculated the current latitude and longitude coordinates of the aircraft in the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84). The range data were recorded internally in the GPS receiver every second. Differential GPS corrections to the range data, supplied by Fugro Starfix Pty Ltd, were transmitted in real time via an Optus satellite link to a Fugro OmniSTAR Plus base station system. The real time method employed is described more fully in Appendix C.

The real-time differentially corrected position of the aircraft was recorded on the aircraft acquisition system every half second and was used to provide the pilot with aircraft guidance information on a LCD display.

An Ashtech dual frequency "Z—Surveyor" GPS receiver was also installed in the aircraft. Code-phase and carrier-phase data were recorded onto a removable internal PCMIA solid state non-volatile Flash memory card every half-second. These data were used to produce the final aircraft navigation data via post flight processing using Ashtech "PNAV" software.

To enable this differential GPS post flight processing, a second "Z-Surveyor" GPS receiver was set up as a GPS base station in AGSO's field office caravan located at the West Sale Aerodrome. Code-phase and carrier-phase data were recorded onto a removable internal PCMIA card every half-second. The data were post-processed using Ashtech "PNAV" software at the end of each flight. Relative precision from point to point along a post-processed flight line is expected to be better than ±5 metres.

The position of the base station GPS receiver was accurately determined by differential GPS surveying using as a fixed reference point, the survey mark, Rosedale 00351, located approximately 3.5 kilometres northeast of Rosedale township and 16 kilometres west of West Sale Aerodrome. This was carried out at the start of the 1998 phase of the survey and repeated at the start of the 1999 phase of the survey.

The WGS 84 coordinates for the reference point Rosedale 00351 are:

Longitude:

146° 48' 18.1297" E

Latitude:

38° 07' 27.3098" S

Ellipsoidal height:

80.350 metres

The determined base station GPS coordinates (WGS 84) were:

1998

Longitude:

146° 58' 22.385424" E

Latitude:

38° 05' 36.754620" S

Ellipsoidal height:

26.7395 metres

1999

Longitude:

146° 58' 22.28880" E

Latitude:

38° 05' 36.912350 S

Ellipsoidal height:

26.4100 metres

As the 1999 base station was not located on exactly the same position as that used in 1998, the base station coordinates differ slightly for the two phases.

The horizontal positions of the geophysical data from the survey are reported with respect to the WGS84 datum which is almost identical to the Geocentric

Datum of Australia (GDA). It is intended that the GDA will be fully adopted in Australia by the year 2000. In the survey area there is an apparent northeasterly translation in geographical position of approximately 200 metres from AGD66 to WGS84.

(b) Video Flight Path Recording

The aircraft's flight path was recorded on a VHS video system consisting of a National colour video camera with a wide-angle lens, a National VCR and a National LCD TV.

(iii) Magnetometer

A Geometrics G822A caesium magnetometer, with the sensor mounted in a boom attached to the rear of the aircraft, was used for the survey. The specifications of the magnetometer are summarised in Appendix D.

The recorded total magnetic field data were compensated in real time using a RMS Instruments automatic aeromagnetic digital compensator (AADC). The AADC compensates for the effects of aircraft motion and heading. The specifications of the AADC are summarised in Appendix E. Compensation procedures are described in Chapter 4.

The AADC applies a low pass filter to the total magnetic field intensity data using a second order 0.9 Hz recursive Butterworth filter. The uncompensated, the filtered compensated total magnetic field intensity data and the XYZT components of the fluxgate sensor were all recorded on the aircraft acquisition system.

(iv) Gamma-ray Spectrometer

An Exploranium gamma-ray spectrometer, incorporating two DET1024 crystal detectors with a total volume of 33.56 litres was used during the 1998 onshore phase of the Gippsland Basin survey. An EXPLORANIUM GR820 spectrum processor controlled the crystal gains. Appendix F summarises the specifications of the gamma-ray spectrometer components.

Two hundred and fifty six channels of data between 0.0 MeV and 3.00 MeV were recorded every second.

Additionally five channels of data were recorded once a second using the following window limits:

 Total Count:
 0.41-2.81 MeV

 Potassium:
 1.37-1.57 MeV

 Uranium:
 1.66-1.86 MeV

 Thorium:
 2.41-2.81 MeV

Cosmic: 3.00 MeV and above

The total count, potassium, uranium and thorium data were used for data quality control and the cosmic counts were used for background estimation and later data processing.

System live time (sample time – total dead time) was output with the data for later data processing.

(v) Altimeter

A Collins ALT-50 radar altimeter was used to measure ground clearance. The radar altimeter display indicates ground clearance from 0-2000 feet. The manufacturer's specifications claim a $\pm 2\%$ accuracy for the ALT-50 system.

(vi) Barometer, Thermometer and Humidity

Atmospheric temperature, pressure and humidity were measured using a digital barometer (Setra sensor) and combined digital thermometer/humidity (RS sensor). Although both of these units were built by the AGSO, the sensors were factory calibrated and no AGSO calibrations were performed.

(vii) Base Station Magnetometer

Daily variations of the Earth's magnetic field were monitored using a Geometrics G-823B base station caesium magnetometer, the specifications of which are given in Appendix G. The base station was set up in an area of shallow magnetic gradient, away from cultural influences and within telemetry range of AGSO's office caravan. Data from the base station were telemetered back to the AGSO's field office caravan for display and recording on a Toshiba Pentium 110 CS lap-top computer. The telemetry system used Proxim Proxlink MSP-500 modems. The software program, "DIURNAL", developed in-house by AGSO, was used to display and log diurnal data.

Base station diurnal data were recorded at an interval of 0.1 seconds for all 1998 production and compensation flights and for flights flown between 1 March to 12 April 1999. Flights flown from 31 January to 28 February 1999 were recorded at an interval of 0.2 seconds.

(viii) Aircraft Data Acquisition

The aircraft acquisition program and system were run using an Axiom-Ax6150A industrial 486 computer with data recorded via an IOMEGA SCSI zip drive onto 100 Megabyte zip discs.

The acquisition program written in the QNX C language was developed in-house at AGSO. See Appendix H for a schematic diagram of the aircraft's acquisition system.

4. CALIBRATION

(i) Compensation for the Magnetic Field of the Aircraft

Compensation flights were flown prior to the start of survey flying in 1998 and 1999, after aircraft services and after alternator repairs. These flights were conducted offshore over a magnetically quiet zone approximately 90 kilometres south of Sale in the southwestern corner of the survey area at an altitude of 2800 metres above sea level, between longitudes 146° 45' E and 147° 15' E and latitudes 38° 45' S to 39° 00' S.

The compensation manoeuvres comprise a series of rolls ($\pm 10^{\circ}$), pitches ($\pm 5^{\circ}$) and yaws ($\pm 5^{\circ}$) in the four cardinal headings to enable the AADC to calculate correction coefficients needed to remove aircraft manoeuvre noise. Each manoeuvre component was of 20 seconds duration.

The compensation manoeuvres were repeated after calculation of the coefficients to check the compensation quality. Peak-to-peak noise during repeat manoeuvres and after the final compensation was 0.20 nT or less. On normal survey flights, noise levels from all sources were generally less than 0.20 nT peak-to-peak.

The AADC calculates basic statistics that reflect the degree of merit of the compensation. These include the standard deviation of the recorded data without corrections applied, the standard deviation with the corrections applied, the improvement ratio (the ratio of the standard deviation of the recorded data without and with the corrections applied) and the vector norm (the degree of difficulty in calculating the corrections). Appendix I lists these statistics, the dates the compensations were performed and the period over which each compensation was used.

(ii) Gamma-ray Spectrometer Calibration

The GR820 spectrum processor uses a sophisticated automatic control method to maintain crystal alignment while stabilising on naturally occurring isotopes (typically thorium). During operation the system continuously monitors each of the eight crystal signals and accumulates a separate spectrum for each configured signal. When the confidence level for the selected stabilisation peak (thorium) is reached, the peak channel of this isotope is computed, compared to the correct peak location, and the gain is then corrected.

As verification that the system sensitivity has remained constant, thorium source tests were carried out at the start and end of each day's survey flying. The background corrected thorium window count rate fell within the accepted $\pm 5\%$ difference between the current value and that from the most recent pad calibration value. Spectrometer system resolution was also checked as part of the thorium source check. This value averaged out at 5.7%.

Gamma-ray spectrometric test lines were flown during the 1998 phase of the survey at the beginning and end of each day's production flying as well as at the start of the second flight for the day. These lines were flown at survey altitude along a north-south line located 4 kilometres due west of West Sale Aerodrome. Acquisition along the line lasted for 100 seconds (approximately 7 kilometres). Appendix J shows the location of the test line used while acquiring gamma-ray spectrometric data over the onshore component of the survey.

Background corrections for gamma-ray data are calculated using a full spectrum method (Minty, 1998).

After each flight, statistics were calculated from data recorded between fixed reference points along the test line. These statistics were recorded in spreadsheet

form and compared with the preceding flights in order to monitor the effect of moisture in the ground, and the behaviour of equipment in the air (Grasty and Minty, 1995). In particular, the difference between the average in the total count channel for the most recently flown test line and the running average of all the previously flown test lines was analysed. This value only rarely varied by greater than 5% for the test line, well inside a 10% variation that would be considered acceptable.

5. DATA PROCESSING

Flight path recovery, data checking, editing, diurnal variation and preliminary IGRF corrections applied to the magnetic data, gridding and imaging were performed at the survey base using the INTREPID airborne geophysical data processing and visualisation system. Final magnetic, gamma-ray spectrometric and digital elevation model data processing were carried out in Canberra, again using the INTREPID data processing system.

(i) Data Checking and Editing

Data recorded on the aircraft acquisition zip drive were transferred on a flight by flight basis from the zip disc to a Graphics Computer Systems Scorpion 10 Workstation (SUN Clone). Later in the 1999 phase of the survey this workstation was upgraded to a SUN Ultra 5 workstation. All data transferred to a workstation were edited for missing values, noise, spikes or steps using INTREPID software. All the recorded data were displayed for each survey line and any errors were interactively corrected. Anomalies arising from cultural influences, such as sheds, houses, fences, pipelines, the Gippsland Gas and Oil Processing Plant, offshore oil and gas production platforms and submerged pipelines were not edited out. Those arising from ships were edited out.

(ii) Flight Path Recovery

In the AGSO aircraft acquisition system there are two separate recordings of navigation data. One navigation dataset comes from the Z-Surveyor GPS receiver and was recorded onto the PCMIA card. The other set was the real time corrected data output by the Ashtech XII GPS receiver and recorded by the aircraft acquisition system onto zip discs. The data from the Ashtech XII GPS receiver were also used to provide the pilot with aircraft guidance information on a LCD display. Both navigation datasets were recorded at half-second interval.

The code phase and carrier phase data recorded on removable PCMIA cards every half a second on both Z-Surveyor GPS receivers were post-processed daily in the field using "PNAV" - an Ashtech proprietary program. "PNAV" calculates the corrected flight path (longitude, latitude and height) relative to the WGS84 reference ellipsoid.

These post-processed longitude and latitude data calculated at half second intervals by "PNAV" were merged with the fiducial numbering data and became the final aircraft flight path data replacing the real time corrected dataset. Together with this merging of fiducial and "PNAV" navigation data, other acquisition system specific corrections were applied. Position data were retained in the WGS84 coordinate system. The World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84)

coordinate system is defined in Appendix K. Taking the accuracy of the navigation data into account, the WGS84 system can be considered the same as the Geodetic Datum of Australia (GDA) for the survey data.

The full post-processing correction procedure applied to the position data is described in Appendix L and is outlined below:

- (a) "PNAV" post-processed data merged with fiducial numbering data.
- (b) Infilling of final navigation data for small gaps.
- (c) Low pass filter.
- (d) Reference navigation data to position of magnetometer sensor.

The fully corrected flight path was plotted each day to check the position of survey lines and their spacing. For the survey line spacings of 200, 400 and 800 metres, navigation reflies were determined by the following criteria:

200 metre line spacing

Across Track Deviation Distance along line ≥ 20 metres ≥ 1 kilometre

GPS Data Gap ≥ 4 kilometres

400 and 800 metre line spacing

Across Track Deviation Distance along line GPS Data Gap ≥ 40 metres ≥ 1.5 kilometre ≥ 4 kilometres

Whenever the across track deviation and along line distance or the GPS data gap are exceeded, the survey line is re-flown or an infill line flown to rectify the problem. These criteria were exceeded only on five lines, necessitating infill lines to be flown over the section of line out of specification.

(iii) Magnetic Data Processing

The magnetic data for the onshore and offshore areas were processed as separate survey areas. After the data from both areas were satisfactorily levelled and microlevelled the onshore data were levelled to the offshore data and one combined dataset produced. Following is a description of the processing steps used for the two areas.

Onshore Gippsland Basin

At the survey base raw magnetic data were merged with the navigation data, and diurnal variation corrections were removed. IGRF corrections using the IGRF 1995 geomagnetic reference field, updated to 4 December 1998 at an altitude of 100 metres above sea level (estimated to be the mean onshore survey altitude) were subtracted from the data during final processing in Canberra.

The IGRF was calculated at a spacing of 7 metres from the coefficients defined by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (Barton, 1997). All magnetic values were adjusted by a constant (4,924.2551 nT) so that the average residual magnetic field value was 5000 nT.

The data were levelled using standard tie line levelling procedures. Luyendyk (1997) describes the procedure involved in the tie line levelling method in more detail. The steps involved in the tie line levelling were as follows:

- (a) Tie line 110 was chosen as a reference tie.
- (b) All other ties were levelled to tie line 110 using degree three polynomial adjustments.
- (c) Lines were adjusted on a flight by flight basis using either degree three polynomial adjustments to minimise the differences at line/tie crossover points.
- (d) Finally the lines were adjusted individually using either degree two or three polynomial adjustments to minimise crossover differences.

The data were micro-levelled using the technique described by Minty (1991). Filter characteristics for the micro-levelling were as follows:

- (a) Low pass filter in the flight line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 1000 metres.
- (b) High pass filter in the tie line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 400 metres.
- (c) Correction strings were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 250 metres before being applied to the line data and were constrained to fall within the range ± 10.0 nT (90% of these corrections fell in the range -0.47 nT to 0.68 nT).

The final micro-levelled data were gridded using the minimum curvature technique described by Briggs (1974), with cell sizes of 45 metre (for UTM grid) and 1.5 second (for geodetic grid).

Offshore Gippsland Basin

At the survey base raw magnetic data were merged with the navigation data, and diurnal variation corrections were removed. IGRF corrections using the IGRF 1995 geomagnetic reference field, updated to 9 December 1998 (for 1998 data) and to 9 March 1999 (for 1999 data) at an altitude of 130 metres above sea level, were subtracted from the data during final processing in Canberra.

The IGRF was calculated at a spacing of 7 metres from the coefficients defined by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (Barton, 1997). All magnetic values were adjusted by a constant (4,947.407 nT) so that the average residual magnetic field value was 5000 nT.

The data were levelled using standard tie line levelling procedures. Luyendyk (1997) describes the procedure involved in the tie line levelling method in more detail. The steps involved in the tie line levelling were as follows:

- (e) Tie line 5330 was chosen as a reference tie.
- (f) All other ties were levelled to tie line 5330 using degree three polynomial adjustments.
- (g) Lines were adjusted on a flight by flight basis using either degree three or two polynomial adjustments to minimise the differences at line/tie crossover points.
- (h) Finally the lines were adjusted individually using either degree three or two polynomial adjustments to minimise crossover differences.

The data were micro-levelled using the technique described by Minty (1991). Filter characteristics for the micro-levelling were as follows:

- (d) Low pass filter in the flight line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 7500 metres.
- (e) High pass filter in the tie line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 3200 metres.
- (f) Correction strings were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 1000 metres before being applied to the line data and were constrained to fall within the range ±40.0 nT (90% of these corrections fell in the range -1.38 nT to 1.42 nT).

At the end of the first pass of tie-line levelling and micro-levelling an image of the fractional vertical derivative (1.5) of the magnetic data reduced to the pole with artificial illumination perpendicular to flight line direction revealed further processing was required as minor levelling errors were still present.

The entire offshore area except for a zone with high frequency anomalies in the north required further processing. See Appendix M for a diagram showing the excluded area.

The second pass of micro-levelling used the following filter characteristics:

- (a) Low pass filter in the flight line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 2700 metres.
- (b) High pass filter in the tie line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 1600 metres.
- (c) Correction strings were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 500 metres before being applied to the line data and were constrained to fall

within the range ± 1.0 nT (90% of these corrections fell in the range ± 0.37 nT).

Gridded data from the onshore and offshore areas were stitched together to produce a combined grid with cell size of 90 metres. Offshore Gippsland Basin was used as the reference for this operation and a correction grid created for subsequent application to the onshore Gippsland Basin line data. These corrections were applied to the onshore Gippsland Basin line data via the INTREPID micro-levelling tool to produce a dataset levelled to the offshore Gippsland Basin dataset.

The final combined data were gridded using the minimum curvature technique described by Briggs (1974), with grid cell sizes of a 90 metres (for UTM grid) and 3.0 second (for geodetic grid).

(iv) Gamma-ray Spectrometer Data Processing.

A combination of full-spectrum and 3-channel processing methods were used to correct the gamma-ray spectrometric data. Noise in the raw spectra was first reduced using the Noise Adjusted Singular Value Decomposition (NASVD) spectral smoothing technique described by Hovgaard and Grasty (1997) applied to spectral clusters according to the methodology described by Minty and McFadden (1998). This procedure transforms observed spectra into orthogonal spectral components. The higher-order components represent the signal in the observed spectra and the lower-order components represent uncorrelated noise. Noise is removed from the observed spectra by rejecting noise components and reconstructing smooth spectra from the higher-order components. For this survey, 8 higher-order components were used to reconstruct the smooth spectra. The smoothed spectra were livetime corrected, energy calibrated and background corrected. The spectra were then summed over the conventional 4-channel windows (IAEA, 1991), for subsequent stripping and height correction as described below.

The energy calibration was effected by using the positions of prominent photopeaks in the sum spectrum for each line to obtain an estimate of the energy at channel one and the gain (keV per channel). These parameters were then used to correct each spectrum in the line by resampling each channel to its correct energy range.

The three components of background were removed as follows.

(a) Aircraft and Cosmic Background

Aircraft and cosmic spectra for the AGSO aircraft were determined from high altitude calibration flights using the procedure described by Minty and Richardson (1989).

(b) Atmospheric Radon Background

A full spectrum method (Minty, 1998) was used to remove radon background. The method is based on the assumption that the observed

spectrum (after correcting for aircraft and cosmic background) is the linear sum of the spectra due to K, U, and Th in the ground and atmospheric radon. Since the shapes of these spectra can be determined through suitable calibrations, the atmospheric radon contribution to the observed spectrum can be estimated.

The energy-calibrated and background-corrected spectra were then summed over the conventional 4-channel windows recommended by the IAEA (IAEA, 1991). Stripping (channel interaction correction) to correct for Compton scattering was then applied to the K, U, and Th window count rates. Minty and others (1990) using portable calibration sources determined stripping ratios for the AGSO system. The corrections were applied as follows:

 $\begin{array}{lll} N_{TH(corrected)} & = & N_{TH} \\ \\ N_{U(corrected)} & = & N_{U} - A \times N_{TH(corrected)} \\ \\ N_{K(corrected)} & = & N_{K} - B \times N_{TH} - C \times N_{U(corrected)} \end{array}$

where

 N_{TH} = counts in the thorium channel N_{U} = counts in the uranium channel N_{K} = counts in the potassium channel A = 0.3098 + 0.00049 * height A = 0.3830 + 0.00065 * height A = 0.8381 + 0.00069 * height

The total count, potassium, uranium and thorium window count rates were height corrected to a nominal survey flying height of 80 metres. Where the aircraft attained a height of 250 metres or higher above the ground, 250 metres was used to height correct the total count, potassium and thorium data. For uranium, the maximum aircraft height used in the height correction was 160 metres. Height attenuation corrections were made using the following formula:

 $N_{corrected}$ = $N_{uncorrected} e^{-u(H-h)}$

where

N_{corrected} = corrected counts (cps)

N_{uncorrected} = uncorrected counts (cps)

H = nominal flying height (m)

h = measured flying height (m)

u = attenuation coefficient (m⁻¹)

Attenuation coefficients for each channel are given below

 $u_{\text{total count}}$ = 0.00785 (m⁻¹) $u_{\text{potassium}}$ = 0.00943 (m⁻¹) u_{uranium} = 0.01150 (m⁻¹) u_{thorium} = 0.00747 (m⁻¹)

The corrected window count rates were converted to ground concentrations of K, U and Th using the expression:

$$C = \frac{N}{S}$$

where

C = Concentration of the radioelement (K%, U ppm or Th ppm); S = broad source sensitivity for the elemental count rate; and N = the fully processed elemental count rate (cps).

The broad source sensitivities were obtained from flights over the Lake Hume calibration range. The following sensitivities were used:

potassium: 119.964 cps/%K uranium: 8.992 cps/ppm eU thorium: 6.17 cps/ppm eTh.

The total count was converted to the equivalent air-absorbed dose rate at ground level using the expression:

 $D = \frac{N}{F}$

where

D = the air absorbed dose rate (nanoGrays per hour, (nGh⁻¹)); F = the conversion factor determined experimentally from flights over a calibration range (31.734 cps/nGh⁻¹); and N = the total count rate (cps).

Before any further processing of the gamma-ray spectrometric data the associated geodetic data were adjusted for a parallax error of -9.03 metres (ie shifted toward the front of the aircraft by 9.03 metres). This corrects for the difference between the position of the spectrometer crystals and the position data reference point, which for the AGSO acquisition system is the magnetometer sensor.

All survey lines from the onshore Gippsland Basin survey extend at least 2 kilometres offshore. The over-water section of each line was used to level the

data by adjusting the elemental count rates along each line by subtracting the average over-water count rate.

The four channels of gamma-ray spectrometric data were micro-levelled using the technique described by Minty (1991).

Filter characteristics for the dose rate, percent potassium, ppm uranium and ppm thorium micro-levelling were as follows:

- (a) Low pass filter in the flight line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 20000 metres.
- (b) High pass filter in the tie line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 400 metres.
- (c) Correction strings for all four data channels were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 5000 metres before being applied to the line data. Adjustments were constrained to lie within the ranges given below.
 - ±1.0 nGh⁻¹ for dose rate (90% of adjustments lie within ±0.18 nGh⁻¹)
 - $\pm 0.1\%$ for potassium (90% of adjustments lie within $\pm 0.005\%$)
 - ±0.5 ppm for uranium (90% of adjustments lie within ±0.006 ppm)
 - ± 0.1 ppm for thorium (90% of adjustments lie within ± 0.026 ppm)

Filter parameters were chosen to ensure that no real east—west features were removed by the micro—levelling process.

The four channels of micro-levelled data were gridded as individual grids with cell sizes of 45 metres (for UTM grids) and 1.5 second (for geodetic grids) using Briggs (1974) minimum curvature technique.

(v) Digital Elevation Model Data Processing

As described in Chapter 3, Section (ii), code phase and carrier phase data recorded on removable PCMIA cards every half a second on both GPS receivers were post-processed on a daily basis using "PNAV" – an Ashtech proprietary program. "PNAV" calculates the position of the aircraft GPS receiver's antenna, outputting the longitude, latitude and height relative to the WGS84 reference ellipsoid for each set of half-second data.

As in the case of the longitude and latitude data, the following acquisition system specific corrections (described in Appendix L), are applied to the height data:

- (a) "PNAV" post-processed data merged with fiducial numbering data.
- (b) Barometric infill of height data gaps.

The corrected height data, which are relative to the WGS84 reference ellipsoid, are merged with the longitude and latitude data.

A radar altimeter provided the aircraft's ground clearance, the altimeter data being sampled every second.

The raw ground elevation data were then calculated as the difference between the height of the aircraft above the ellipsoid and the height of the aircraft above the ground. These raw elevation data calculated every half-second (35 metres along the ground) are relative to the WGS84 reference ellipsoid - the ellipsoid being a horizontal datum.

Before any further processing of the elevation data the associated position data were adjusted for a parallax error of -11.4 metres (ie shifted toward the front of the aircraft by 11.4 metres). This corrects for the difference between the position of the GPS and radar altimeter antennae and the position data reference point, which for the AGSO acquisition system is the magnetometer sensor.

Elevation data were levelled in much the same way as the magnetic data and the steps involved are described below.

- (a) Tie line 110 was chosen as the reference tie.
- (b) All other ties were levelled to the reference tie using degree one polynomial adjustments.
- (c) Lines were adjusted on a flight by flight basis to minimise the differences at line/tie crossover points, using degree one polynomial adjustments.
- (d) Finally the lines were adjusted individually to minimise crossover differences, using degree one polynomial adjustments.

The data were micro-levelled using the technique described by Minty (1991). Filter characteristics for this micro-levelling are described below:

- (a) Low pass filter in the flight line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 2500 metres.
- (b) High pass filter in the tie line direction with a cut-off wavelength of 1600 metres.
- (c) Correction strings were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 500 metres before being applied to the line data. Adjustments were constrained to lie within the range of ±25.0 metres (90% of the corrections were in the range -3.73 metres to +4.72 metres).

The next step is to convert the heights from being relative to the WGS84 ellipsoid to being relative to the geoid. The geoid, which is defined as "the equipotential surface of the gravity field which best approximates mean sea level", is usually chosen as the datum to which heights plotted on maps are

referred. The height of the geoid above the WGS84 ellipsoid is called the geoid-ellipsoid separation or N value.

Geoid-ellipsoid separation information for the area covered by the onshore Gippsland Basin survey area was supplied by the Australian Surveying and Land Information Group (AUSLIG). The set of N values was supplied as a 10 minute of arc (approximately 18 kilometres) grid. AUSLIG also provides a program "WINTER" which uses bilinear interpolation to calculate N values on a one minute of arc (approximately 1800 metre) grid.

These values were then imported into an INTREPID database and gridded using the INTREPID software package to a cell size of 10 seconds of arc (approximately 300 metres). This grid of N values was then used to calculate correction strings to be subtracted from the elevation data. The correction strings were low pass filtered with a cut-off wavelength of 1000 metres before being applied to the point-located elevation data.

The elevation data were next corrected to account for the vertical separation between the antenna of the aircraft's GPS receiver, on the roof of the aircraft, and radar altimeter located on the underside of the aircraft fuselage. This antenna separation correction was applied by subtracting 1.675 metres from the elevation data.

The accuracy of the position located height data is expected to be better than \pm 10 metres. Relative precision from point to point along a flight line is expected to be better than \pm 5 metres.

A comparison was made between third order gravity station heights and the elevation data. There were 367 gravity stations within 50 metres of airborne sample points. For these 367 stations the elevation data were on average 6.35 metres lower than the gravity station heights. This difference has been added to the elevation data.

The fully corrected elevation data were gridded using ANUDEM46 (Hutchinson, 1988, 1989) employing a 45 metre cell size.

(vi) Final Products

(a) Standard AGSO geophysical maps

An AGSO standard set of geophysical maps has been produced at scales of 1:250 000, and 1:100 000. Flight path and contour maps were produced using the INTREPID processing system. The standard set of maps produced is listed in Appendix N.

(b) Digital Data

Final processed point-located data and grids were archived in the standard AGSO ARGUS format, onto CD-ROM discs, in ASCII format (Appendix O).

(c) Pixel Image Map

Additional to the standard AGSO geophysical maps listed in Appendix N, a pixel image map has been compiled using the method described by Milligan and others (1992). The following pixel image map has been released:

• Colour 1:250 000 scale image of total magnetic intensity reduced to the pole with easterly illumination of its fractional vertical derivative.

A digital version of the pixel image map is available on CD-ROM in BIL format suitable for import into and use in many standard geographic information system (GIS) applications.

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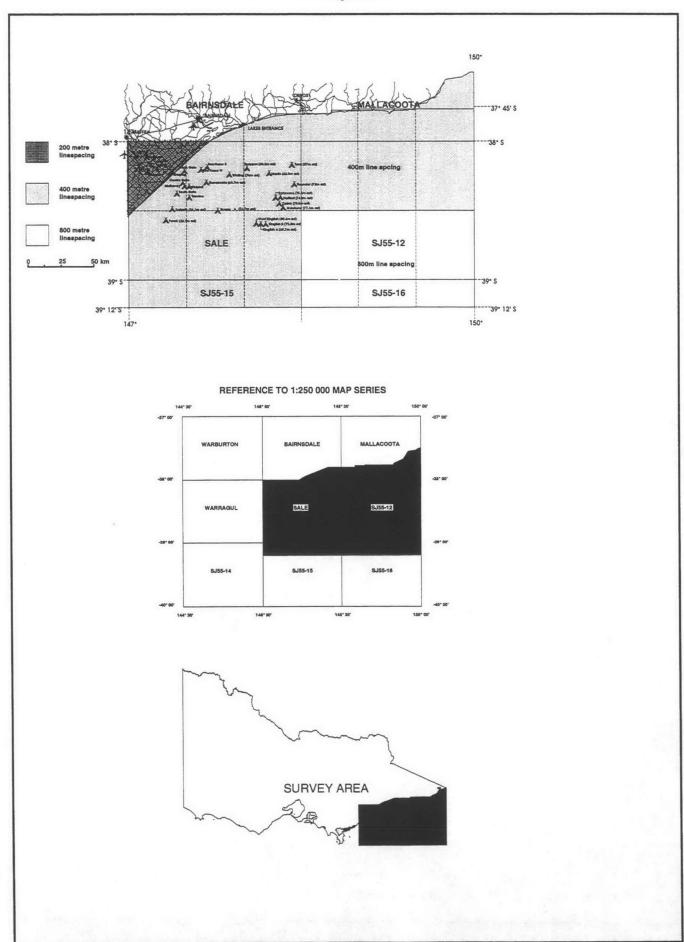
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Appendix A

Survey Area



APPENDIX B-1

Flying Dates and Line Kilometres Accepted

Date	<u>Flight</u>	Comments	Line Km
25/11/98	505	Compensation flight	0
27/11/98	507	Compensation flight (after equipment	0
		reinstalled)	2012 A 1120
27/11/98	508	Operations Normal	525
28/11/98	509	Operations Normal	478
29/11/98	510	Operations Normal	989
29/11/98	511	Operations Normal	819
30/11/98	512	Compensation flight (video camera	722
		installed) Operations Normal	201
30/11/98	513	Operations Normal	884
1/12/98	514	Operations Normal	633
1/12/98	515	Operations Normal	742
2/12/98	516	Operations Normal	906
2/12/98	517	Operations Normal	962
3/12/98	518	Operations Normal	1252
4/12/98	519	Operations Normal	1162
4/12/98	520	Operations Normal	920
5/12/98	521	Operations Normal	548
6/12/98	522	Operations Normal	1050
6/12/98	523	Operations Normal	918
7/12/98	524	Operations Normal	1044
8/12/98	525	Operations Normal	1060
8/12/98	526	Operations Normal	1072
9/12/98	527	Operations Normal	1092
9/12/98	528	Operations Normal	1108
11/12/98	529	Operations Normal	1108
11/12/98	530	Operations Normal	1102
12/12/98	531	Refly for navigation reasons	0
12/12/98	532	Operations Normal	765
12/12/98	533	Operations Normal	789
13/12/98	534	Operations Normal	804
13/12/98	535	Flight abandoned weather foul	0
31/1/99	550	Compensation Flight	0
1/2/99	551	Operations Normal	1035
1/2/99	552	Operations Normal	1250
2/2/99	553	Operations Normal	1270
3/2/99	554	Operations Normal	860
4/2/99	555	Operations Normal	1285
4/2/99	556	Operations Normal	880
5/2/99	557	Operations Normal	880
5/2/99	558	Operations Normal	890
7/2/99	559	Operations Normal	1330
7/2/99	560	Operations Normal	680
8/2/99	561	Operations Normal	1360

Flying Dates and Line Kilometres Accepted

APPENDIX B-2

<u>Date</u>	Flight	Comments	<u>Line Km</u>
8/2/99	562	Operations Normal	910
9/2/99	563	Operations Normal	1370
9/2/99	564	Operations Normal	940
10/2/99	565	Operations Normal	950
10/2/99	566	Operations Normal	800
11/2/99		Aircraft to Melbourne for spar inspection	0
11/2/99		Aircraft return to Sale	0
12/2/99	567	Operations Normal	1405
12/2/99	568	Operations Normal	960
14/2/99	569	Radar Altimeter test flight	0
15/2/99	570	Operations Normal	970
15/2/99	571	Operations Normal	980
16/2/99	572	Operations Normal	980
17/2/99	573	Operations Normal	990
17/2/99	574	Operations Normal	1000
18/2/99	575	Flight cut short - rain	250
19/2/99	576	Operations Normal	1500
19/2/99	577	Operations Normal	1005
20/2/99	578	Operations Normal	1500
21/2/99	579	Operations Normal	1005
21/2/99	580	Operations Normal	1530
21/2/99		Aircraft to Melbourne for service	0
24/2/99		Aircraft return to Sale	0
25/2/99	581	Compensation flight	0
25/2/99	582	Flight cut short due to poor weather	470
26/2/99	583	Operations Normal	1330
26/2/99	584	Operations Normal	1030
27/2/99	585	Operations Normal	1175
27/2/99	586	Operations Normal	1028
28/2/99	587	Operations Normal fog delayed take off	790
28/2/99	588	Operations Normal	1065
1/3/99	589	Flight abandoned due to poor weather	0
1/3/99	590	Operations Normal (except last line mag	792
		diurnal out of spec)	
2/3/99	591	Operations Normal	1328
3/3/99	592	Operations Normal	1328
4/3/99	593	Operations Normal	1305
4/3/99	594	Flight abandoned low cloud	0
5/3/99	595	Operations Normal	1539
5/3/99	596	Operations Normal	806
6/3/99	597	Operations Normal	1308
6/3/99	598	Operations Normal	864
8/3/99	599	Operations Normal	1055
8/3/99	600	Operations Normal	798
		•	

APPENDIX B-3

Flying Dates and Line Kilometres Accepted

Date	Flight	Comments	Line Km
9/3/99	601	Operations Normal	1365
9/3/99	602	Operations Normal	1104
10/3/99		Aircraft to Melbourne spar check & left	0
		hand alternator replaced	
10/3/99		Aircraft return to Sale	0
11/3/99	603	Compensation flight & normal production	529
11/3/99	604	Operations Normal	1558
12/3/99	605	Operations Normal	1308
13/3/99	606	Flight abandoned Ashtech GPS malfunction	0
13/3/99	606	Flight abandoned Ashtech GPS	0
		malfunction	
13/3/99	606	Operations Normal after GPS cable	268
		replaced	
13/3/99	607	Operations Normal	1047
14/3/99	608	Last three lines unacceptable. Alternator	794
		malfunction introduced noise	
15/3/99	609	Flight cut abandoned pilot display	0
		malfunction	
15/3/99	610	Operations Normal	268
15/3/99	611	Operations Normal	529
16/3/99	612	Operations Normal	1264
16/3/99	613	Operations Normal	836
16/3/99		Aircraft to Melbourne for service	0
19/3/99		Aircraft return to Sale	0
19/3/99	614	Compensation flight	0
20/3/99	615	Flight abandoned fog at survey altitude	0
20/3/99	616	Flight abandoned fog at survey altitude	0
21/3/99	617	Operations Normal fog delayed take off	537
21/3/99	618	Operations Normal	881
22/3/99	619	Operations Normal	1214
22/3/99	620	Flight abandoned alternator malfunction	0
24/3/99		Aircraft in Melbourne alternator replaced	0
25/3/99		Aircraft return to Sale	0
26/3/99	621	Compensation flight	0
26/3/99	622	Operations Normal	537
26/3/99	623	Operations Normal	803
27/3/99	624	Operations Normal	1313
27/3/99	625	Operations Normal	921
28/3/99	626	Operations Normal	964
28/3/99	627	Aircraft problems with spark plug no flight	0 707
29/3/99	627	Operations Normal last line diurnal out of specification	797
30/3/99	628	Operations Normal	1320

APPENDIX B-4 Flying Dates and Line Kilometres Accepted

<u>Date</u>	<u>Flight</u>	Comments		<u>Line Km</u>
31/3/99	629	Operations Normal		1333
2/4//99	630	Operations Normal		714
2/4/99	631	Operations Normal		1063
2/4/99	632	Operations No	rmal	1063
3/4/99	633	Operations No	rmal	1063
4/4/99	634	Operations No	rmal	519
4/4/99	635	Operations No	rmal	1075
5/4/99	636	Operations No	rmal	1198
5/4/99	637	Operations No	rmal	801
5/4/99		Aircraft to Mel	bourne spar check	0
7/4/99		Aircraft return	to Sale	0
7/4/99	638	Compensation	flight	0
8/4/99	639	Operations No		1463
8/4/99	640	Operations No		1079
10/4/99	641	Operations Normal		1348
11/4/99	642	Operations No		741
11/4/99	643	Operations No		988
12/4/99	644	Operations No	rmal	759
m , 13: //:	1:1			107.574
Total line/tie kilometres flown				107,574
Summary				
Produc	rtive survey fl	ights	109	
	Productive survey flights 109 Compensation flights 8			
Section Control of the Control of th	s with unacce		4	
Abandoned flights 12				
Abandoned s	urvey flights	consisted of:		
In flight bad weather 7				
Aircraft equipment malfunction 2				
Aircraft geophysical equipment 3				

malfunction

APPENDIX C

Real time differential GPS

Real time differential GPS navigation is a method used to improve navigation accuracy. Line tracking using this method is more precise than by the single GPS receiver method thus allowing a pilot to fly an aircraft to an accuracy of better than 5 metres.

The navigation equipment used for real time differential navigation consisted of an Ashtech XII GPS receiver in the aircraft and an Ashtech Z-Surveyor receiver located in the office caravan at a known position on the West Sale Aerodrome. The ground based GPS receiver operated in non-differential mode while the aircraft GPS receiver was set up to run in differential mode.

Fugro Starfix Pty Ltd supplied satellite range corrections to the aircraft. The range corrections were calculated using Fugro's OmniSTAR Wide Area Differential GPS (WADGPS) service. OmniSTAR is a differential GPS service over Australia which is supported by a network of reference stations located throughout the continent to provide differential GPS corrections back to Fugro's Network Control Centre (NCC) in Perth. The WADGPS service allows monitoring of data from more than one reference station, quality control parameters, weighted least squares solution and improved accuracy over a single reference station.

The range corrections from all the available reference stations are transmitted to the NCC in Perth, then to an OmniSTAR Plus – Enhanced Differential System (EDS) receiver in the aircraft via the Optus satellite. The EDS receiver contains a demodulator board, an eight-channel GPS engine, a computing engine and an interface and power supply board. The OmniSTAR Plus demodulator receives the Fugro compressed data from the satellite and using the aircraft's position and the "least squares method" computes an optimum set of RTCM (Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services) corrections for output to the aircraft GPS receiver. The EDS receiver calculates the aircraft position from the internal GPS engine and then provides corrections for output to the aircraft GPS receiver in RTCM 104 format.

The EDS receiver obtains satellite range data through an Ashtech plate antenna and range correction data through an OPTUS plate antenna, both mounted on the upper fuselage of the aircraft. The Ashtech GPS receiver in the aircraft uses the Ashtech plate antenna for receiving satellite range data. The EDS receiver outputs corrections to the aircraft GPS receiver at 4800 baud.

APPENDIX D

Specifications - G822A Caesium Magnetometer

Operating principle:

Self-oscillating caesium vapour magnetometer

Operating range:

20,000 nT to 95,000 nT

Active zones:

Sensor equator ±10°

H_o field sensor axis ±10°, switchable or auto switch

Noise level:

 $\leq 0.01 \text{ nT peak-to-peak}$

Heading error:

 $\leq \pm 0.25 \text{ nT}, \leq 0.5 \text{ nT envelope}$

Power required:

26 to 32 VDC, 500 mA continuous, 750 mA while starting

Output:

 $2V p-p, f(Hz) = 3.498 H_{0}(nT)$

Interface:

Larmor signal AC coupled to power input

Environmental:

-35°C to +50°C, humidity 95% non-condensing

Dimensions:

Sensor: 5 cm diameter, 18 cm long, 140 grams

Electronics module: 5 cm wide, 5 cm high, 23 cm long,

170 grams

Sensor electronics cable: 135 cm to 270 cm long

Qualification:

MIL-I-45208, MIL-M-19595

APPENDIX E-1

Specifications - RMS Instruments Automatic Aeromagnetic Digital Compensator

Inputs: one or two high sensitivity magnetometers of optical

absorption type

Input frequency range: 70 kHz - 350 kHz - Cs sensor

140 kHz - 700 kHz - K sensor 560 kHz - 2800 kHz - He sensor 850 Hz - 4260 Hz - Overhauser

Magnetic field range: 20,000 nT - 100,000 nT

Resolution: 1 pT (picoTesla)

Compensation procedure: improvement ratio 10 - 20 (typical for total field)

improvement ratio 20 - 100 (typical for gradient)

Accuracy of compensation: 0.35 nT standard deviation for the entire aircraft flight

envelope in the bandwidth 0 - 1 Hz typical

Data output rate: 10 Hz

System frequency response: 0 - 0.9 Hz

Internal system noise: less than 2 pT (standard deviation in the bandwidth

 $0-1~\mathrm{Hz}$

Duration of calibration flight

manoeuvres: 5-8 minutes typical

Vector magnetometer: Develoo Model 9202–02 (3-axis fluxgate)

Microcomputer: SBC-11/21 Plus (DEC) Front End LSI-11/73

(DEC) Main CPU

Keyboard: limited alphanumeric

Display: green fluorescent, 80 character self scan panel

Outputs serial data communication port:

RS232C - max. rate 19.2 K Baud

parallel output port:

16 bit with full handshaking (DRV11–J) (optional)

APPENDIX E-2

Specifications – RMS Instruments Automatic Aeromagnetic Digital Compensator

Power: $28 \pm 4 \text{ VDC}$

5A, 150 W (for single magnetometer) 7A, 196 W (for gradiometer system)

Environmental:

Operating temperature:

0°C to 50°C

Storage temperature:

-20°C to 55°C

Relative humidity:

0-99%, non-condensing

Altitude:

0-6000 metres

Physical data:

console dimensions: 483 x 178 x 440 mm

console weight: 12.5 kg

power supply dimensions: 225 x 180 x 220 mm

power supply weight: 5.5 kg

APPENDIX F-1

Specifications - GR820 Spectrometer System

A. Detector Controller

- Maximum number of crystals 16. Each crystal has individual pole-zero cancellation, semi-gaussian shaping and advanced base line restoration circuitry.
- Continuous, individual-crystal spectrum analysis ensures that optimum system stabilisation is achieved. Resolution is calculated by a sophisticated gaussian curve-fitting algorithm to perform an accurate centroid analysis of the selected stabilisation peak.
- High-energy cosmic pulses are accumulated in a separate channel.
- Accurate pile-up rejection for simultaneous pulses allows qualitative gamma-ray spectrum analysis almost independent of the system count rate. Special circuitry analyses for pulse pile-up and permits only detector signals from single events to be analysed. Simultaneous events in adjacent crystals are added to reduce the Compton effect.
- Residual pulse pile-up at 100,000 counts/sec are less than 2%.

B. Analogue to digital converter (ADC)

- 50 Mhz Wilkinson ramp ADC.
- Linearity integral less than 0.2%; differential less than 1%.
- Average system dead-time is less than 5 microsec/pulse.
- Live-time channel records the actual system live-time. This data is output with the digital data which allows post correction for system dead-time to an accuracy of 0.1%.
- Number of channels selection of 256-channel or 512-channel operation.
- Maximum number of counts/channel 65,535 (16 bits).
- The lower threshold manually selectable from channel 2 to channel 50 (20–500 keV).
- The upper threshold is set to 3 MeV. All pulses above 3 MeV are accumulated in the cosmic channel as a direct measure of cosmic ray activity.
- ADC offset set from the keyboard.
- The maximum input count rate is 100,000 counts/second.

Specifications - GR820 Spectrometer System

C. System outputs

- Visual display the front panel display is a 640x200 electroluminescent (EL) high contrast graphics display that allows full spectrum display, system set-up and various parameter-monitoring functions. In the spectrum display mode, the region of interest and cursor may be viewed by channel number or directly in keV.
- The internal channel number to energy level (keV) conversion table compensates for non-linearity of the detector's light output.
- The front panel has a 21-button keyboard for easy operator control.
- The system's operation is fully menu driven.
- Digital outputs:
 - RS-232 port (1200 to 19200 baud).
 - IEEE-488 bus output: talk-listen/talk-only.
- Geometrics GR-800 output format.
- Some system functions can be controlled remotely by an external computer via the RS-232 and the IEEE-488 digital ports.
- Analogue output:
 - 4 channels of roi data can be selected for output on the analogue port. The outputs have 10 bit resolution (0-10V). Scaling can be set from the keyboard (100-50K counts/sec FSD) and output data may be raw or stripped using internally stored calibration constants. Analogue output wraps at FSD limits and is dead-time corrected.

D. Miscellaneous

- Regions of interest (ROI): 8ROIs can be selected. The upper and lower thresholds can be individually set over the entire spectrum range.
- The first 4 ROIs are available for digital and analogue output. The second 4 ROIs are available only for digital output on the RS-232 or the IEEE-488 ports.
- System resolution. Detector resolution is automatically computed for each (and summed crystals) during peak analysis and is displayed for operator monitoring when required. The summed down resolution is also output on the data stream.
- System test. At power on, a full system test of all internal pcb handshaking is performed. Included in the testing is the lithium back-up battery, the system ram memory, display handshaking, the

Specifications - GR820 Spectrometer System

systems configuration (options installed), the selected detectors (checked via ADC analysis) and peripheral handshaking response.

- Configuration menus. The configuration menus allow the selection of the number of detectors in use, confidence levels for gain analysis, maximum crystal resolution levels for each detector (with operator warning if levels exceeded), output configurations for analogue and digital data and various special display/monitoring functions.
- Maintenance. A set of special menus allows the user to test and calibrate many system functions including system test, ADC offset, low level discriminator etc.
- Power: 28V 1.25 amps

E. Detectors

The crystals are housed in a specially designed hi-impact polystyrene cases using low background materials for minimum signal attenuation. Full thermal and internal shock protection allows the units to be directly mounted to the floor. A very low noise, high voltage power supply is housed in each pack so high voltage is not present in the connecting cables. A unique preamplifier with special processing for signal optimisation is used. The GPX-1024 has 4 crystals with a total volume of 16.78 litres

- Outputs: Individual BNC connectors output each crystal's signal separately
- Size: GPX-1024 : (73x51x30 cm)
- Weight: GPX-1024: 84kg
- Power: 28V @ 0.5A/crystal pack
- Temperature limitations
 - Closed pack: storage -40°C to +60°C, operation -40°C to +60°C
 - Open pack: not recommended
- Temperature gradient
 - Closed pack: -40°C to +50°C (instantaneous)
 - Open pack: a change of 1°C/hr

Specifications - G823B Base Station Caesium Magnetometer

Operating principle: Self-oscillating caesium vapour magnetometer

Operating range: 20,000 nT to 90,000 nT

Active zones: Sensor equator $\pm 10^{\circ}$ H_o field sensor axis $\pm 10^{\circ}$, switchable or auto switch

Noise level: ≤ 0.01 nT peak-to-peak

Heading error: $\leq \pm 0.25 \text{ nT}, \leq 0.5 \text{ nT envelope}$

Power required: 26 to 32 VDC, 500 mA continuous, 750 mA while starting

Output: $2V p-p, f(Hz) = 3.498 H_{o}(nT)$

Interface: Larmor signal AC coupled to power input

Environmental: -35°C to +50°C, humidity to 99% non-condensing

Dimensions: Sensor: 5 cm diameter, 18 cm long, 140 grams

Electronics module: 5 cm wide, 5 cm high, 23 cm long,

170 grams

Sensor electronics cable: 135 cm to 270 cm long

Qualification: MIL-I-45208, MIL-M-19595

Specifications - CM-201 Larmor Counter

Operating frequency

range:

70 kHz to 350 kHz

Operating field range:

20,000 nT to 100,000 nT

Cycle rate:

variable from 20 sec to 0.01 sec in 0.005 second

increments

Sensitivity (nT) (Counter LSB)	Noise (RMS) (nT)	Earth's Field (k nT)	Sample Rate (Hz)
0.001	0.003	30	1
0.002 0.004		50	
0.003	0.005	70	
0.013 0.015		30	10
0.023 0.020		50	
0.032 0.025		70	

Julian clock:

Resolution: 0.01 seconds

Drift: < 1 second/day

A/D channels:

Internal: one channel for Larmor signal amplitude

External: five, 12 bit channels

Data output:

RS-232 standard serial port

Operating temperature:

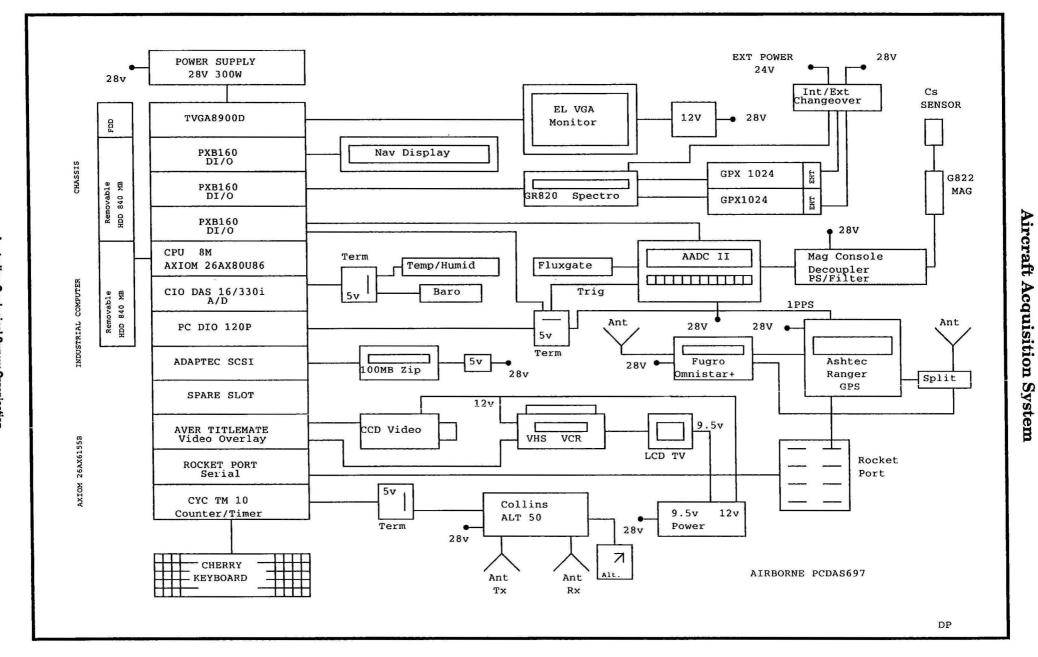
-25°C to +50°C

Power:

CM-201 alone runs on 5 V @ 0.30 A

Compatibility:

PC based systems



APPENDIX H

Compensation Results

COMPENSATION 1

Date flown:

27 November 1998 (after equipment reinstalled)

Dates used:

27 November to 30 November 1998

Air conditioner off:

SDU=0.2999

SDC = 0.02136

IR = 14.0

VN = 25.5

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.3892

SDC = 0.01676

IR = 23.2

VN = 29.0

COMPENSATION 2

Date flown:

30 November 1998 (after video camera repaired)

Dates used:

30 November to 13 December 1998 (end of 1998 surveying)

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.3149

SDC=0.02325

IR = 13.5

VN = 28.2

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.2942

SDC = 0.02318

IR = 12.7

VN = 28.7

Compensation Results

COMPENSATION 3

Date flown:

31 January 1999 (start of the 1999 survey)

Dates used:

31 January to 25 February 1999

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.2160

SDC = 0.01478

IR = 14.6

VN = 24.5

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.2480

SDC = 0.01379

IR = 18.0

VN = 28.1

COMPENSATION 4

Date flown:

25 February 1999 (after aircraft service)

Dates used:

25 February to 11 March 1999

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.2377

SDC = 0.01643

IR = 14.5

VN = 31.5

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.2987

SDC = 0.01543

IR = 19.4

VN = 33.8

Compensation Results

COMPENSATION 5

Date flown:

11 March 1999 (after alternator changed)

Dates used:

31 March to 19 March 1999

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.1650

SDC = 0.01289

IR = 12.8

VN = 27.4

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.1940

SDC = 0.01247

IR = 15.6

VN = 28.3

COMPENSATION 6

Date flown:

19 March 1999 (after aircraft service)

Dates used:

19 March to 26 March 1999

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.2149

SDC = 0.01431

IR = 15.0

VN = 28.3

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.2239

SDC = 0.01282

IR = 17.5

VN = 26.9

Compensation Results

COMPENSATION 7

Date flown:

26 March 1999 (after alternators repaired)

Dates used:

26 March to 7 April 1999

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.2513

SDC = 0.01884

IR = 13.3VN = 30.1

Air conditioner on:

SDU = 0.3096

SDC = 0.01920

IR = 16.1VN = 29.9

COMPENSATION 8

Date flown:

7 April 1999 (after aircraft maintenance)

Dates used:

7 April to 12 April 1999 (end of survey)

Air conditioner off:

SDU = 0.1990

SDC = 0.01502

IR = 13.2VN = 29.7

Air conditioner on:

Not performed air conditioner not needed

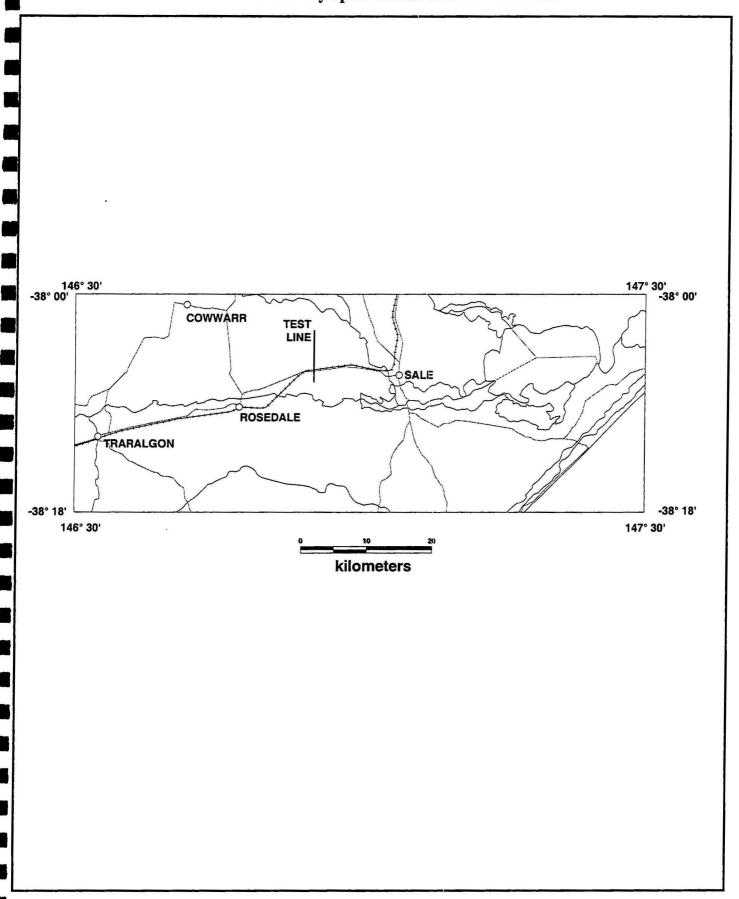
SDU = Standard deviation of the data recorded during manoeuvres.

SDC = Standard deviation of the data recorded during manoeuvres after compensation corrections have been applied.

IR = Improvement ratio = SDU/SDC

VN = Vector Norm, a measure of the degree of difficulty in calculating the coefficients.

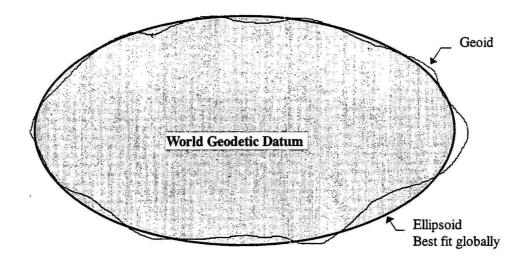
 ${\bf Appendix} \ {\bf J}$ ${\bf Gamma-ray} \ {\bf Spectrometer} \ {\bf Test} \ {\bf Line} \ {\bf Location}$



APPENDIX K

The World Geodetic System 1984 Datum

For geophysical surveys the real shape of the earth has to be considered. An ellipsoid of revolution around the earth's north-south axis approximates the earth's shape. This figure is called the spheroid. The mean sea level equipotential surface describing the shape of the earth is known as the geoid.



Calculated positions from the GPS are in the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS84). The WGS84 datum is a global geocentric reference datum that has as its origin the Earth's centre of mass.

This geocentric datum comprises a spheroid (also known as an ellipsoid) oriented and located in such a manner as to "best-fit" the geoid over the entire earth.

The WGS84 datum is defined by a semi-major axis (a) and flattening (f) of the selected ellipsoid.

a = 6378137 mf = 1/298.2572

APPENDIX L

Corrections to Differential GPS Navigation Data

(a) "PNAV" post-processed data merged with fiducial numbering data.

Using the code phase and carrier phase data recorded every half a second on a removable internal PCMIA card in both Z-Surveyor GPS receivers, "PNAV" post-processes the navigation data to produce correct positions at half-second intervals along the flight path. These corrected positions are merged with the aircraft fiducial numbering system to become the final flight path data.

(b) Infilling final navigation data

For a variety of reasons, data gaps may appear in the final navigation data. These gaps in the final navigation data are linearly infilled. The maximum gap size that is infilled by this method is 10 seconds.

(c) Generation of terrain data

Subtracting radar altimeter clearance data from the "PNAV" ellipsoidal height data generates the terrain data. These terrain data are linearly interpolated to match the half-second sampling interval of the "PNAV" corrected navigation data.

(d) Low Pass filter

The can be small steps in the final post-processed data. To eliminate these steps a low pass 5 point Fuller filter with a cut-off wavelength of 175 metres was passed over the navigation data. The terrain data are not filtered.

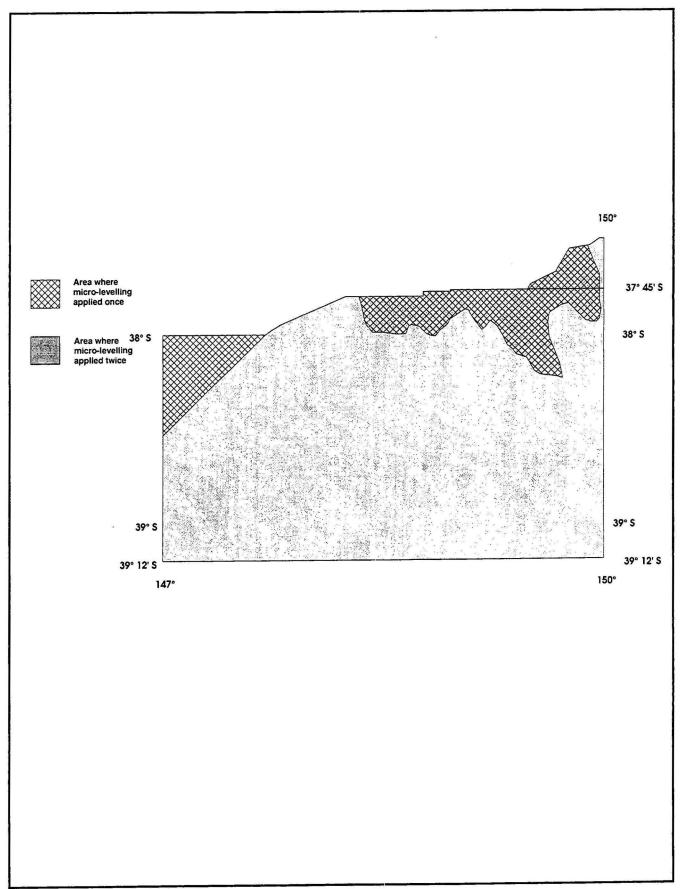
(e) Reference navigation data to position of magnetometer sensor

The calculated GPS positions refer to the position of the GPS receiver's antenna. Since the magnetometer is the most position—sensitive instrument, all position data are shifted 11.4 metres towards the rear of the aircraft to correspond with the position of the magnetometer sensor.

(f) Barometric infill of height data gaps

Whenever gaps in the GPS height data less than 5 kilometres in length occur, these gaps are infilled with height data calculated using the recorded barometric and temperature data. Gaps longer in length than 5 kilometres require the line to be reflown or an infill line flown.

 ${\bf Appendix} \ {\bf M}$ Location of area with extra micro–levelling applications



APPENDIX N

Geophysical Maps

Name	Type	Contour	Reference Number
		Interval	la .

1:250 000 scale

Sale Special	TMI Contours	2 nT	22-1/J55-11/1
SJ55–12 Special	TMI Contours	2 nT	22-1/J55-12/1

1:100 000 scale

Sale-Stockyard	TMI Contours	1 nT	22-2/J55-11/1-1 & 2
	Dose Rate Contours	2 nG/h	22-2/J55-11/18-1 & 2
	Elevation Model	2 m	22-2/J55-11/19-1 & 2
	Contours		
	Flight Line System		22-2/J55-11/3-1 & 2

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

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FIGURES

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

1. THE AGSO SEQUENTIAL FILE STRUCTURE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This appendix describes the general sequential file structure used by AGSO to store airborne geophysical data. For the purpose of this survey eleven data chains are involved for each line and tie. They are:

channel 4 edition 1 (processed navigation data)
channel 4 edition 2 (processed magnetic data)
channel 4 edition 3 (processed spectrometric data)
channel 4 edition 4 (processed digital elevation model data)
channel 6 edition 2 (raw terrain above WGS84 ellipsoid)
channel 6 edition 3 (diurnal data)
channel 8 edition 1 (raw compensated magnetic data)
channel 8 edition 2 (vector data and uncompensated magnetic data)
channel 14 edition 2 (pressure, temperature, humidity, cosmic data)
channel 16 edition 2 (raw navigation data)
channel 17 edition 1 (raw 256 channel spectrometer data)

1.2 GENERAL FILE STRUCTURE

The information pertaining to each traverse (line or tie) is held on the file as a separate entity called a segment. Segments are separated from each other by industry standard EOF records. The end of the file is indicated by two or more consecutive EOF records. Each segment consists of two types of records. Both types are 5120 characters long.

Segment Directory Record (SDR): the first record on each segment:

defines the data content of the

segment.

Data Records (DAR's): hold the measured data values.

1.3 CHANNELS AND SAMPLES

Data are recorded at regular intervals in time along a traverse. The data recorded at one instant of time are held as any ordered set or sub-set. Each set is held logically distinct and referred to as a channel. The data records in a segment hold all the information for one channel in the form of a data chain, then all the data for the next channel and so on for as many channels as the segment holds.

Each channel is uniquely defined by a channel number and an edition number. The measurement(s) taken for a channel at a given time is called a sample. Samples are held within each channel in increasing order of fiducial (time).

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In defining channels the channel number can be used to define the sample format and the edition type of the data. For example, within AGSO, samples with format (longitude, latitude, value, value....) have a channel number of 4 with edition 2 for magnetic data and edition 3 for gamma-ray spectrometric data.

1.4 SEGMENT DIRECTORY RECORD (SDR)

Lines and ties are uniquely identified as follows:

Project number: a unique number to identify the survey

Group number: a unique number within a survey for each flight made. That is, several lines may be

recorded on one flight (group). AGSO convention is for group numbers to lie

between 001 and 999 inclusive.

Segment numbers: a unique number within a survey for a line or

tie. AGSO convention is for ordinary line numbers to lie between 1000 and 9999 inclusive and tie line numbers between 100

and 999 inclusive.

The segment directory record identifies the data segment at Project, Group and Segment level and defines the data channels, their structure and the location of their data chains in the segment. Each SDR consists of one or more 10 word blocks. The first, the Segment Identification Block (SIB), identifies the segment and gives the number of data channels held in the segment.

For this survey the number of data channels is nine as mentioned in the introduction. Subsequent blocks, one for each data channel, define the data channels and their location within the segment. These are called Channel Identification Blocks (CIB's). A typical SDR is shown in Figure 1 and its exact format given in Table 1. All unused words in the SDR are set to zero.

The last word in the record in the past has been used as check sum and represents the sum of all the other words in the record. The check sum word is no longer used and is set to zero.

The overall record format is 2I9, 509I10, I12.

1.5 DATA RECORD (DAR)

These each contain 512 values. The first two are fiducials giving the fiducial range of the samples contained in the record. The next 508 represent data values, the second last is always zero (to maintain

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

compatibility with our random access file format) and the last is a record check sum representing the sum of all other values in the record.

If a record is the last one in a data chain for a given channel all unused values are set to zero, with the next channel commencing at the start of the next data record. The N data records in a segment are numbered from 2 to N+1, the SDR being regarded as record one in a segment, with records for a given channel following each other sequentially. The data record addresses in the channel identification block of the SDR refer to this sequential numbering of the data records. A typical segment is shown in Figure 1 and the exact format of a data record given in Table 2.

The overall format of each data record is: 2I9, 509I10, I12.

1.6 NO DATA VALUE

For a variety of reasons it is sometimes necessary to flag a data value to indicate it is to be ignored. This is achieved by replacing the data word in question by the value 536870912. If a gap exists in a data chain each word of every sample involved must be replaced by 536870912, the so-called missing value. Thus a 1:1 correspondence is maintained between the fiducials encompassed by a data chain and its samples.

1.7 STANDARD DATA CHANNELS

The standard AGSO data channels are:

```
channel 4 edition 1 (processed navigation data)
channel 4 edition 2 (processed magnetic data)
channel 4 edition 3 (processed gamma-ray spectrometric data)
channel 4 edition 4 (processed digital elevation model data)
channel 6 edition 2 (terrain data above WGS84 ellipsoid)
channel 6 edition 3 (diurnal data)
channel 8 edition 1 (raw compensated magnetic data)
channel 8 edition 2 (vector and uncompensated magnetic data)
channel 14 edition 2 (pressure, temperature, humidity and cosmic data)
channel 16 edition 2 (raw navigation data)
channel 17 edition 1 (raw 256 channel gamma-ray spectrometric data)
```

C4 E1 - Navigation Data

```
channel number = 4
edition number = 1
sample size = 2 words
word 1 = Longitude (degrees) * 1 000 000
word 2 = Latitude (degrees) * 1 000 000
```

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C4 E2 - Corrected Total Magnetic Intensity Data

```
channel number = 4
edition number = 2
sample size = 4 words
word 1 and word 2 as for C4 E1
word 3 = final non micro-levelled TMI (nT) * 1000
word 4 = final micro-levelled TMI (nT) *1000
```

C4 E3 - Corrected Gamma-ray Spectrometer Data

```
channel number = 4
edition number = 3
sample size = 7 words
word 1 and word 2 as for C4 E1
word 3 = final total count (nanoGrays/hour) * 1000
word 4 = final potassium (%) * 1000
word 5 = final uranium (ppm) * 1000
word 6 = final thorium (ppm) * 1000
word 7 = radar altimeter (metres above ground level * 1000)
```

C4 E4 - Corrected Digital Elevation Model Data

```
channel number = 4
edition number = 4
sample size = 4 words
word 1 and word 2 as for C4 E1
word 3 = final aircraft elevation (metres above sea level) * 1000
word 4 = final terrain elevation (metres above sea level) * 1000
```

C6 E2 - Terrain Elevation Data above WGS84 Ellipsoid

```
channel number = 6
edition number = 2
sample size = 2 words
word 1 = radar altimeter (metres above ground level) * 1000
word 2 = terrain elevation above WGS84 ellipsoid (metres) * 1000
```

C6 E3 - Diurnal Data

```
channel number = 6
edition number = 3
sample size = 2 words
word 1 = diurnal (nT) * 1000
word 2 = filtered diurnal (nT) * 1000
```

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

C8 E1 - Raw Magnetic Data

```
channel number = 8
edition number = 1
sample size = 1 word
word 1 = compensated TMI (nT)* 1000
```

C8 E2 - Vector and Uncompensated Magnetic Data

```
channel number = 8
edition number = 2
sample size = 5 words
word 1 = fluxgate X (nT) * 1000
word 2 = fluxgate Y (nT) * 1000
word 3 = fluxgate Z (nT) * 1000
word 4 = fluxgate T (nT) * 1000
word 5 = uncompensated magnetic data (nT) * 1000
```

C14 E2 - Pressure, Temperature, Humidity and Cosmic Data

```
channel number = 14
edition number = 2
sample size = 4 words
word 1 = pressure (millibars) * 1000
word 2 = temperature (degrees Celsius) * 1000
word 3 = humidity (%) * 1000
word 4 = cosmic channel (counts per second) * 1000
```

C16 E2 - Raw GPS data

```
channel number = 16
edition number = 2
sample size = 4 words
word 1 = Longitude (degrees) * 1 000 000
word 2 = Latitude (degrees) * 1 000 000
word 3 = GPS time (seconds) * 1000 (GPS time is recorded in seconds
from midnight the previous Sunday)
word 4 = GPS Quality * 1000
(flag indicates whether data are real time corrected)
```

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

C17 E1 - Raw 256 Channel Gamma-Ray Spectrometric Data

channel number = 17
edition number = 1
sample size = 290 words
word 1 - 34 = various control information words
word 35 - 290 = individual 256 channels from channel 1 to 256
(counts per second * 1000)

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

2. PHYSICAL FORMAT OF STORAGE MEDIA

2.1 GENERAL

Each exabyte magnetic tape or CD-ROM consists of a sequence of segments, each segment consisting of one or more physical records. Segments are to be separated by one EOF marker. The end of all information on the media must be flagged by two or more consecutive EOF markers. Industry standard EOF records apply. Records are to be fixed length and each block is to contain one record.

2.2 PHYSICAL PARAMETERS OF TAPES

- (a) Exabyte Tapes are 8 mm wide, computer grade standard data cartridge.
- (b) CD-ROM are 74 minute (640 Mbyte) standard media.
- (c) Each media have an external label identifying the airborne survey, character code, recording density, date data written.

2.3 TAPE STRUCTURE

- (a) Written in ASCII.
- (b) No multi-tape files.

2.4 PHYSICAL RECORDS AND BLOCKS

- (a) Fixed length records of 5120 characters.
- (b) One record per block.

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

3. GRID FILE FORMAT

3.1 HEADER RECORD

The first record on the file defines the content of the grid, including:

- (a) Origin in latitude and longitude.
- (b) Grid cell size.
- (c) Number of rows and columns in the grid.
- (d) Storage mode, ie whether the data is stored row by row or column by column. In general the data is stored by row.
- (e) The exact header record format is in Table 3.

3.2 DATA RECORDS

Each data record contains 320 values in E16.10 format. No location data is held in the data records – the location of a grid point is determined by its sequence within the file. The data for the grid may be sequenced in row or column order (ie row by row or column by column respectively). Each row or column is written on consecutive records and begins at the start of a new record. If the rows/columns do not contain a multiple of 320 values the last record for each row/column is padded with zeros. Any point in the grid which is undefined is set to -9999.0.

In ROW mode, rows are sequenced from north to south and within each row values are ordered from west to east.

In COLUMN mode, columns are sequenced from west to east and within each column values are ordered from north to south.

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

TABLE 1

SEGMENT DIRECTORY RECORD FORMAT

1. SEGMENT IDENTIFICATION BLOCK

WORD	CONTENT and USE	FORMAT		
1	Project identification	I9		
2	Group identification	19		
3	Segment identification	I10		
4	Number of channels on segment	I10		
5	Date code – yymmdd	I10		
6	Fiducial factor – (fiducial size in seconds)			
7	Time of day at fiducial zero in seconds	I10		
8	Bearing in degrees (0 – 359) measured east of north	I10		
9	Altitude in metres above sea level	I10		
10	Ground clearance in metres	I10		

2. CHANNEL IDENTIFICATION BLOCK (for the Nth channel)

WORD	CONTENT and USE	FORMAT		
1	Channel code	I10		
2	Edition numbers	I10		
3	Fiducial interval between samples	I10		
4	Number of data values (words) per sample	I10		
5	Address of first data record for channel	I10		
6	Address of last sample in data chain I10			
7	Fiducial of first sample in data chain I10			
8	Fiducial of last sample in data chain I10			
9	Unused – set to zero I10			
10	Unused – set to zero I10			

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

TABLE 2

DATA RECORD FORMAT

WORD	CONTENT and USE	FORMAT
1	Fiducial at first data sample in record	I 9
2	Fiducial at last data sample in record	19
3	First word of first sample	I10
4	Second word of first sample	I10
•		
•		
•		
•	First word of second sample	I10
•	Second word of second sample	I10
•		
•		
•	Etc	
511	Always unused – set to zero	I10
512	Always unused – set to zero	I12

NOTE:

- 1. A data sample can be of any length greater than zero.
- 2. Each record contains an integral number of samples. This may lead to several unused words at the end of the record which are set to zero.

ie If a sample is 7 words long 72 samples will fit in a data record and words 507–510 will be set to zero.

AGSO Archive Data, Grid and Magnetic Tape Format for Airborne Geophysical Data

TABLE 3
GRID HEADER RECORD FORMAT

CHARACTER	FIELD	FORTRAN	CONTENT
POSITION	LENGTH	FORMAT	
1-60	60	6A10	Grid Identification
61-170	10	11A10	Facts defining data
			acquisition/processing
171-180	10	A10	x,y units defining grid,
			Usually degrees.
181-192	12	E12.6	x origin of surface. Bottom
			left hand corner.
193-204	12	E12.6	y origin of surface. Bottom
			left hand corner.
205-214	10	A10	Type of z data in grid (eg
			TMI).
215-216	2	A2	Blanks.
217-228	12	I12	Number of data records per
			column or row.
229-240	12	E12.6	Grid increment in the x
			direction
241-252	12	E12.6	Grid increment in the y
			direction
253-262	10	A10	Time when original surface
000 000			created (hh.mm.ss).
263-286	24	2A10,A4	Filter used on original z data.
287-310	12	2E12.6	x,y co-ordinate of the bottom
			left hand corner of the grid.
311-320	10	A10	Same as x,y origin.
311-320	10	AIU	Date of creation of surface
201 244	94	9410 44	(dd/mm/yy). Blanks.
321-344 345-368	24 12	2A10,A4 2E12.6	
340-300	12	ZE12.0	x,y co-ordinate of top right hand corner of grid. NOTE:
			these values are too large by
			one grid increment for tapes
			created prior to 01/06/85.
369-373	5	I5	Number of rows in the grid.
374-378	5	I5	Number of columns in the
5.10.0	ŭ	10	grid.
379-382	4	A4	Blanks.
383-388	6	A6	Defines if the grid is stored in
AND STREET	-		column mode (COLUMN) or
			row mode (ROW).
389-5120			Blank filled.