ABSORPTION MEASUREMENTS WITH RIOMETER

Data Summary for the period September through December 1963

by M. A. SETTE and F. DE MENDONÇA

REPORT N? LAFE-12 May 1964

The measurements reported herein were performed in cooperation with Stanford Research Institute and A.F. Cambridge Research Laboratories.

Comissão Nacional de Atividades Espaciais São José dos Campos São Paulo - Brasil



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ERRATA FOR REPORT LAFE-9, DEC. 1963

The values of absorption on Tables II to XIII (pages 6 to 17) and on the median monthly absorption curves, page 19, should be divided by the factor 2.

RIOMETER MEASUREMENTS

DATA SUMMARY Nº 2

I - INTRODUCTION

This summary is a catalogue of reduced riometer data for the period of observations from September 1963 through December 1963 at São José dos Campos.

This summary will also show (Fig. 1) a "quiet-day" curve for São José dos Campos station which was obtained from the available data of the period of April 1963 to December 1963 - nine months of regular operation.

The dotted part of the "quiet-day" curve indicates that section of the curve which will need future corrections for errors that became apparent while reduction of the riometer data was performed in terms of daily absorption.

For each month, the value of absorption is tabulated for the first minute of each hour to the nearest 0.1 db, and the total number of readings for the month as well as the median value are indicate in the same table. See for instance Tables II through IX. Note that Fig. 2 also shows the monthly medians mentioned above.

A listing of the registered solar flares and related absorption effects during the period under consideration is shown in the Table I.

II - DESCRIPTION OF THE EQUIPMENT

RIOMETER: The riometer (Relative Ionospheric Opacity Meter) is a device for measuring ionospheric absorption using the cosmic noise method.

A high gain receiver is switched automatically between one antenna and noise diode at a given switching frequency (340 cps).

The antenna which in our station is an east-west four elements Yagi, points vertically and receives the cosmic noise. If there is a difference between the antenna power and the noise diode power, a square wave at the switching frequency appears at the detector of the receiver. The detector output is a DC voltage which has an amplitude that is proportional to the difference between the antenna and the diode signal. The voltage is used to adjust the current of a servo diode in order to reduce the above mentioned difference to zero. The diode noise power is proportional to the current which in turn is directly proportional to the antenna noise power. The diode current is recorded in a common pen recorder.

The riometer is calibrated daily by connecting a test noise diode in place of the antenna and passing different value of current readings of the riometer.

The frequency used of 30 Mc/s is low enough to be sensitive to the non-deviative absorption effects of the lower ionosphere and yet it is sufficiently high so that a signal is detectable even under heavy ionospheric disturbances.

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III - MEASUREMENTS TECHNIQUE

In the cosmic noise method already mentioned, the absorption is measured by comparing the signal actually received with the signal that would be received in the same system at the same sidereal time under conditions of zero absorption.

In order to measure the absorption it is necessary to establish the local "quiet-day" curve. This curve is obtained from the riometer recording in the hours before the sunrise, when absorption is low. The value of current observed are transferred to the corresponding sidereal time. The highest realiable readings are considered points of the "quiet-day" curve, which is assumed as pointed before to represent values of zero absorption condition.

From the "quiet-day" curve the absorption in db at any time is given by the relation:

A (db) =
$$10 \log_{10} Ir/Iq$$

where:

Ir = power noise actually received at a given time.

Iq = power noise from the "quiet-day" curve for the corresponding sidereal time.

IV - TYPE OF SCALING AND DATA REDUCTION

In reducing the riometer data, scaling TYPE I (URSI-AGI Committee 1958) has been used.

The absorption during the first minute of each hour every day throughout a given period of observation is recorded and then averaged. The results give a picture of the daily and seasonal variation of the absorption.

The data reduction was performed in the following manner:

The "quiet-day" curve, assumed to represent ZERO absorption, was plotted as well as curves of constant ratio (I_0/I) , in order to obtain a set of parametric curves for given values of absorption in (db).

The actual values of current for each hour are translated to the correct sidereal time and the value of absorption in db is obtained from the parametric curves mentioned above.

The following qualifying symbols have been used for values obtained indirectly from the record:

- C failure of equipment
- S interference
- U value uncertain
- I value interpolated

V - ABSORPTION EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH SOLAR FLARES

The Sun's ionizing radiation during solar flares is normally enhanced and reaches the lower level of the ionosphere increasing the absorption through the D-region producing the attenuation of the cosmic noise reaching the antenna. Sometimes prior to the observation of attenuation, and depending on the relative position of the Sun and antenna beam, one observes an increase in the flux of energy reaching the antenna as a result of the Sun's HF radio emissions, during solar bursts of intensity over 1.

Some flares occuring during the local sunlight could be clearly related to absorption effect showed in the riometer records.

The information on solar flares, published on the Solar Geophysical Data - Part B - of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, was used to analyse the absorption effects on the riometer records. There is a good correlation between the increase in absorption and solar flares accompained by ionospheric effects S-SWF (sudden drop-out and slow recovery).

Table I lists sudden increase in absorption and related solar flares. Also listed together are the bursts events on the range 7 - 41 Mc/s that occurred at about the same time as the flares and that showed some disturbance on the records.

VI - MAGNETIC BREMSSTRAHLUNG FROM RELATIVISTIC ELEC-TRONS

We expected to make measurements on the excess signal component from the synchrotron radiation of high energy particles trapped in the earth's magnetic field after the July 9, 62 detonation over Johnston Island. This was not possible however, and one reason for that could be that this riometer was set in operation on March 16, 1963, that is, eight months after the detonation. Since the decay of the bremsstrahlung radiation has a time constant of about sixty days, the excess radiation component was already reduced by that time to about 20% of its original value.

The possibility of extracting the excess signal component from the riometer records was upset by the fact that at the time that this riometer was put into operation, the portion of the sky of very high temperature, namely the galactic center, was on the antenna beam in the early hours of the morning when the absorption is normally low.

The excess signal, already reduced in its strenght, was not noticeable over this high level background signal. However there is still hope that using next years zero absorption levels, one might be able to go back in time and establish the above mentioned contribution.

VII - "QUIET-DAY" CURVE ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS

The "quiet-day" curve for this station has been obtained from data of nine months of operation during a period of relatively low absorption. However in this procedure it seems that some errors have been included in the "quiet-day" curve.

A portion of the curve which shows low values of current is the result of including values obtained from hours when the absorption was low but could not be disregarded or considered equal to ZERO. A first trial to correct this error has been made using recent data corresponding to local time between 3AM, and 6AM, and during the local winter. This correction was done in order to get a first approximation of the "quiet-day" curve. It was a correction which consisted of modified values of current that were to correspond to zero absorption in the new curve.

This riometer has been in operation regularly since March 16, '63. Some equipment failure occurred for a week during the month of July and the receiver was off. After that the riometer has been recalibrated and reset and the adjustments of the receiver were not exactly as before.

The available data used in deducing the "quiet-day" curve came from the receiver operating with two different set of parameters. The increase in the absorption level in the early morning after July can be related to the change in the receiver gain. Corrections on the level of the "quiet-day" curve has been introduced in order to make the measurements obtained after the reset of the equipment comparable with those made in the former period.

VIII - CONCLUSION

Except for very strong interference produced by thunder storms, typical of the summer period in this latitude, this station is placed in a very quiet location.

The riometer records are quite free from man made interferences.

Since for reasons mentioned above, there were some errors in the "quiet-day" curve, this report presents the data as a provisional average of monthly absorption.

A few more results of consistent operation of the riometer will provide data for a detailed study of the seasonal variation of non-deviate absorption.

This station will continue its operation and will provide data on ionospheric absorption in a cooperative program for the International Quiet Sun Year (1964 - 1965).

Data will be sent to the World Data Center, as established in the Guide to International Data Exchange, CIG - IQSY Committee.

Acknowledgement:

The riometer in operation at this site was provide to us by the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (Mr. S. Horowitz) through the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, California (Dr. Rolf B. Dyce). Copies of our recordings are sent regularly to SRI. We do appreciate this opportunity for participating in their program of Global Riometer Measurements.

References:

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5) Lusignan, B.B. - "Cosmic Noise Absorption Measurements at Stanford, California and Pullman (Washington)" - J. G. R., Vol. 65, nb 12, Dec. 1960, pp 3896-3902.

6) "Riometer Measurements, Data Summary nº 1, January to December 1958" - Radioscience Laboratory, Stanford Electronics Laboratories, Stanford University, Nov. 1959.

7) Goldman, S. C., and Horowitz, S - "Global Riometer Measurements".

Date	Time	interval ((UT)	Excess absorp-		Flare		Pro	v. ion. effects			Bur	sts	
1963	Start	Max.	End	tion in db	-	Start (UT)	End (UT)	Time (UT)	Туре	Туре	In- ten- sity	Time	interval	Freq. range Mc/s
Sept. 15	13:06	13:10	13:17	0.40	1	13:05	13:35	13:11	Slow S-SWF	-	-	-	-	-
15	20:17	20:28	20:47	0.30	2+	20:08	21:08	20:30	S-SWF	III	1-	20:17:15	20:17:30	30/41Mc
16	10:25	10:28	10:36	0.40	1+	10:18E	10:55D	10:32	S-SWF	-	-	-	-	-
21	18:45	≈ 19:00	19:30	0.30	-	-	-	-	-	Cont.	2	b1 3 :18	a24:37	18/41Mc
Oct. 18	b16:12	16:12	17:00	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	IV	1	16:13:15	17:33	15/41Mc
18	20:43	20:47	21:00	0.30	-	-	-	-	-	Cont.	3	20:43:30	21:05	7/41Mc
19	16:50	16:57	17:30	1.80	2	16:50	17:25D	16:57	S-SWF	ш	2	16:52:15	16:53:15	15/41 M c
21	13:25	13:40	14:20	0.70	1+	13:23	14:20D	13:44	G-SWF	Cont.	1	b13:50	a23:50	20/41Mc
22	13:35	13:50	₹14:30	1.80	2+	13:29	13:54D	13:50	S1-S-SWF	III	1-	13:12:15	13:13	28/41Mc
23	16:43	16:53	17:15	0.50	1	16:17	17:21D	-	S-SWF	Cont.	1	b13:20	a23:38	20/41Mc
. 29	16:17	16:25	16:40	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-

MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

Station	- SJ	Lat 23912'43	3''S Freq	- 30 Mc/s
Month	- September	Long 45951 35	Bandwidth	- 30 Kc/s
Year	- 1963	DIP 22.59S	Diode Load Resist	
Riometer	- Mark II	Mag. Lat 11.79S	Audio Threshold	- By pass
		Alt 623 m	Time Int.	- 3 sec
			ACG Time	- 4 sec

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TIME - UT

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MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

Station SJ Month October Year 1963 Riometer Mark II	Lat 23912'43''S Long 45951'35''W DIP 22.59S Mag. Lat 11.79S Alt 623 m	Freq 30 Mc/sBandwidth 30 Kc/sDiode Load Resist 750 ohmAudio Threshold- By passTime Int 3 secACG Time 4 sec
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TIME - UT

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Year:	1963

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MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

Station Month Year Riometer	- November - 1963	Lat Long DIP Mag. Lat Alt	- 45951'35''\ - 22.598 - 11.798	Freq Bandwidth Diode Load Resist Audio Threshold Time Int ACG Time	- 30 Kc/s - 750 ohm - By pass - 3 sec
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Month: November Year: 1963

Hour	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	2 2	23
Day																								
16	c	C	060	100	100	080	080	080	040	040	050	070	050	070	060	040	050	050	060	0.40	040	030	040	-020
17	-020	0	0	020	040	040	020	0	0	0	010	0	020	040	030	040	060	070	070	060	020	020	030	020
18	010	010	010	020	040	020	040	030	040	050	040	060	070	090	070	090	120	130	130	080	200	080	070	060
19						040			0	020	010	020	030	040	040	050	080	100	120	100	070	090	070	040
20	020	020	030	040	050	040	030	010	0	010	010	020	020	040	020	020	060	C	C	e			050	
21	050	060	050	040	070	080	060	040	030	040	040	050	050	050	040	050	080	110	110	030	080	040	040	020
22	010	020	020	020	030	020	020	0	0	0	0	0	010	040	030	050	070	C	C				080	
23	5	040	050	040	070	050	020	020	0	010	0	0'2	030	050	050	060	080	110	120	070	060	050	060	050
24	050	040	020	030	030	030	020	010	020	010	010	0.00	030	050	040	060	090	110	120	200	060	070	060	070
25	050	060	030	050	070	050	010	0	0	0	010	020	020	040	060	070	080	090	090	1.00	070	060	060	040
26						040			0	0						040			5	5				030
27						020			0	Ø	020	040	040	060	060	100	120	100	090	e			070	
28						040			0	010	010	020	040	040	050	070	100	100	070	070	200	080	020	0
29	020	020	030	040	050	040	020	0	020	010	030	030	030	060	060	060	080	5	5	5	C	e	<u> </u>	C
						020		0		-010		020	040	050	060	050	060	060	030	0	0	020	040	010
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the set in some	Í l				1								l		1				L	ļ				L
N. 1999 (A. 1997 - 1997 - 1997)			in ann ann 1997 - 1997, 71, 798	1.98°	1				PAG-F PERMIT										L					
Count	28	29	30	30	30	30	30	29	29	29	29	29	29		29	29	29	26		24	26	25	27	28
Wedia				and the second second		090	020	020	0	0	020	020	030	040	060	060	080	200	090	070	060	060	060	040

MEAN VALUE OF ABSORPTION DURING THE FIRST MINUTE OF EACH HOUR

Station	- SJ
Month	- December
Year	- 1963
Riometer	- Mark II

Lat..... - 23°12'43''S Long - 45°51'35''W DIP - 22.5°S Mag. Lat. - 11.7°S Alt. - 623 m

- 30 Mc/s
- 30 Kc/s
- 750 ohm
- By pass
- 3 sec
- 4 sec

Hour	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Day																								ĺ
1	030	030	030	030	040	040	030	0	0	0	0	0 20	030	040	050	070	080	080	050	040	010	040	040	030
2							020		010	010	010	010	030	030	020	050	050	050	070	050	010	0\$0	010	010
3							0	0	0	0	0													020
					030			0	0	0	<u>o</u>													030
5	030					030	020	020	010	010	030	040	040	040	040	070	070	060	060	070	050	040	010	0 5
6	010	0	010	010	0	0	010	010	oio	<u> </u>	C	C	Ċ	C	e	C	C	e	C	e	e	<u> </u>	C	CF
7	C	<u>د</u>	C	C	C	C	C	e	ତ	<u>C</u>	C	C	C	C	C	e	C	C/	C	C	C	C	Ċ	C
8	020	030	050	030	020	030	0	0	0	<u> </u>											050	070	060	050 5
9							010		0	0					040				050	0	C	C	e	<u> </u>
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13							020																	
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Hour	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Day															1								
16	020	030	030	040	010	0	0	0	0	060	0	020	020	020	040	060	070	060	060	070	070	060	010
17	030	030	040	040	020	020	020	020	0			020	020	030	070	060	060	080	080	02.0	030	020	020
					020												070				050		
19	020	030	040	040	010	020	010	020	010	020							030				040	A Constanting to	0
20	010	030	020	030	010	020	0	0	010	010							050					010	0
21	0	C	C	C	C	0	C	C	C	e	C	C	C	C			050						
22					010		0	020	020	030	020	050	020	020	040	040	040	020	040	050	050	010	0
23	010	020	020	020	010	0	0	0		020							030			C	C	C	C
24	C	C	C	C	e	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C			050			030	030	0	020
25	050	0	050	040	030	030	010	020	010	010	020	020	020	030							100		020
26	050	070			020			020					010				C	C	C	C	C	e	C
27	C	C	C	C	C	C	e	C	e	C	C	C	C				030	020	030	060	070	020	0
28					010	0	0	C	C	C	010	020	0		1		060						
29	050	040	040	030	020	0	0	C.	C	C							050						
30	030	030	040	020	020	0	0	C	C	0							060		5	0		010	
31	020	050	040	030	020	0	0	010	010	0							060		050	070		010	
															ļ								
lount	28	27	27	27	27	27	27	24	24	23	26	26	26	26	28	29	28	27	27	26	25	25	25

Month: December Year: 1963

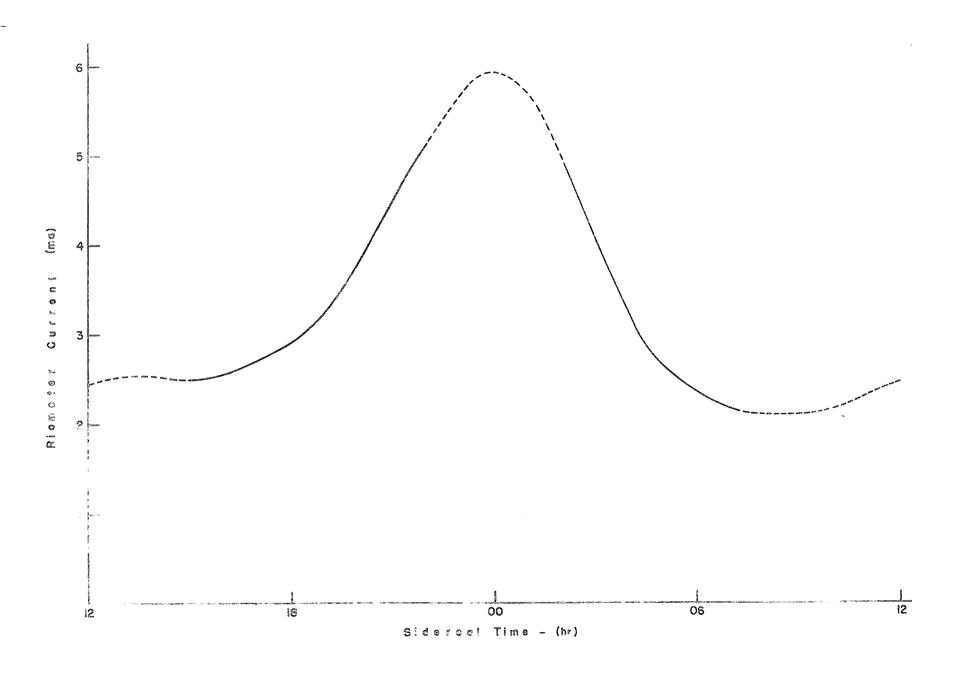
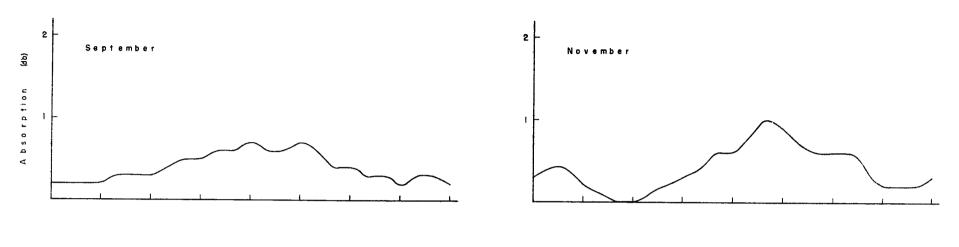


FIG: I - QUIET - DAY CURVE

SÃO JOSÉ DOS CAMPOS - SP (BRASIL)

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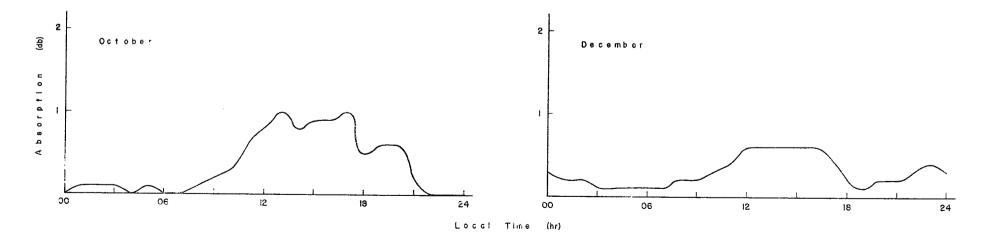


FIG: II MEDIAN MONTHLY ABSORPTION CURVES (September - December --- 1963)

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