

Usefulness of Photowrite Films to Recipients of IUE Data from the NSSDC

Recipients of IUE data from the National Space Science Data Center (NSSDC) are strongly encouraged to obtain the photowrite film hardcopies which are available as well as magnetic tape files. Whereas the tape files are of course the primary data source, the photowrite images provide complementary information which is difficult or even impossible to obtain from the magnetic tapes alone. For example, the presence of image flaws which may affect the extracted spectra (such as data dropouts or localized radiation events) may only be discernible on the photowrite images. Additionally, the so-called "OSCRIBED" photowrite frame which contains the spectral image overlaid by the trajectories of the analytical dispersion relations used to extract the spectral intensity allows the observer (or data recipient) to judge the degree to which the trajectories actually coincide with the spectral order(s). This is of particular significance since apparent variations in extracted spectral intensity may result if the dispersion-relation trajectories fail to track properly along the spectrum due to mis-registration or local distortion of the spectral image.

Data recipients who have been IUE Guest Observers are presumably aware of the value of the photowrite film hardcopies. Those recipients who have not been Guest Observers are therefore strongly encouraged to request and utilize the photowrite films in conjunction with the magnetic tape files.

B. Turnrose