# NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY GBSERVATORY Charlottesville, Virginia <br> VERY LARGE ARRAY PROJECT 

October 1974<br>VLA Electronics Division Memo \#126<br>NRAO-VLA ANTENNA CONTROL TEST UNIT<br>Ray Escoffier

## INTRODUCTION

This report describes the VLA Antenna Control Test Unit and will be both an operators manual and service manual. This test set will simulate the VLA Digital Communication System antenna servo interface and provide for manual control and monitoring of the VLA Antenna Control System. The unit will also interface with the Stand-Alone Computer Control Unit plus Hewlett-Packard 9810A calculator and provide source tracking capability from r.a. and declination plus sidereal time.

## DATA SYSTEM REVIEW

The next few pages are excerpts from the E-Systems servo specification (Rev. E) and define the servo digital word format and the command and monitor word bit assignments. Each basic digital word is a 45 bit word preceded by a 10 bit start character. Each 45 bit word contains 16 bits of addressing, 5 bits of parity, and 24 bits of data.

At the Antenna Buffer - servo interface the first 8 address bits may be logic zero (the 5 bit antenna code is not checked and the 3 bit antenna control code is 000 ). All other bit requirements are specified in the word assignments of pages 3 through 8.

In AUTO mode the antenna control test unit transmits four commands each 100 ms , an azimuth position, a mode command, an elevation position, and a spare word. Two words are transmitted within one ms, followed 50 ms later by the second two. In each case 20 ms after two command words are sent, two Q characters are transmitted within one ms,


| 0 | - Control Room |
| ---: | :--- |
| $1-27$ | - Antennas |
| $28-31$ | - Spare |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { 0-127 Analog Monitor Data } S=\text { Start Character } \\
& \text { 128-191 Digital " } \quad \text { P }=\text { Parity Bit } \\
& \text { 192-255 Digital Commands } \quad E=\text { Stop Character }
\end{aligned}
$$

3, 4 - Ant. Spare
6, 7 - Local Spare

## MPLX <br> ADDRESS



ADDRESS
DATA
Parity - The parity bit shall be calculated and transmitted so that the total number of ones in the 9 bits comprising one data word and its parity will be odd.

Standard word format. A standard word consists of a start character plus 45 bits comprised of 40 information bits plus 5 parity bits. The 40 information bits contain a 16 -bit address and 24 bits of data. The 16 -bit address contains 5 bits for antenna designation, 3 bits for function, and 8 bits for multiplexer address. The 24 -bit data word may be 24 bits of binary data or may consist of two $12-b i t$ A/D converter words. In the latter case, the left-most 12 -bit word is from the specified multiplex address and the right-most 12 -bit word is from the specified multiplex address plus one.

Start Character. The start character shall be a 10 -bit pattern with each bit interval being 5 infero-s conds duration. The pattern shall be 1010110100.

Q Character. Tile Q character is the same as the start character, except the pattern shall be 1010010100 .

Stop Bit. The stop bit shall be a zero level for at least 10 micro-seconds.

TABLE 5.1a
COMMAND WORD ASSIGNMENTS

| BIT | WORD 192-AZIMUTH | WORD 193. MODES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | 0 | Az. Drive No. 1 Disable* |
| 20 | 0 | Az. Drive No. 2 Disable |
| 21 | 0 | Az. Limit Override |
| 22 | Az. Pos. $360^{\circ}$ bit | Spare |
| 23 | Az. Pos. $180^{\circ}$ bit | El. Drive No. 1 Disable |
| 24 | Az. Pos. $90^{\circ}$ bit | El. Drive No. 2 Disable |
| 25 | Az. Pos. $45^{\circ}$ bit | E1. Limit Override |
| 26 | Az. Pos. $22.5^{\circ}$ bit | Automatic Stow |
| 28 | Az. Pos. $11.25^{\circ} \mathrm{bit}$ | Stand-by Mode |
| 29 30 |  | Digital Position Mode Spare |
| 31 |  |  |
| 32 |  |  |
| 33 |  |  |
| 34 |  |  |
| 35 |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |
| 38 |  |  |
| 39 |  |  |
| 40 | $\downarrow$ |  |
| 41 |  |  |
| 42 | Az. Pos. $0.0013733^{\circ} \mathrm{bit}$ |  |
| 43 | Az. Pos. $0.0006866^{\circ} \mathrm{bit}$ | $\nabla$ |
| 44 | Az. Pos. . $0003433^{\circ} \mathrm{bit}$ | Spare |

Azimuth $90^{\circ}$ shall be near the maximum CCW travel and nominally east. Rotation shall be continuous from nominally $90^{\circ}$ to $630^{\circ}$.

Elevation 0 shall be at the horizon.

TABLE 5.1b
COMMAND WORD ASSIGNMENTS

| BIT | WORD 194 - ELEVATION | WORD 195 - SPARE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 1 | 1 |
| 11 | 1 | 1 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | 0 | Spare |
| 20 | 0 |  |
| 21 | 0 |  |
| 22 | 0 |  |
| 23 | El. Pos. $180^{\circ}$ bit |  |
| 24 | E1. Pos. $90^{\circ}$ bit |  |
| 25 |  |  |
| 26 |  |  |
| 28 |  |  |
| 29 |  |  |
| 30 |  |  |
| 31 |  |  |
| 32 |  |  |
| 33 |  |  |
| 34 |  |  |
| 35 |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |
| 38 |  |  |
| 39 |  |  |
| 40 |  |  |
| 41 |  |  |
| 42 | $\nabla$ |  |
| 43 |  |  |
| 44 | E1. Pos. . $0003433^{\circ}$ bit | Spare |

TABLE 5.2a
MONITOR WORD ASSIGNMENTS


TABLE 5.2b
MONITOR WORD ASSIGNMENTS

| BIT | WORD 0 - AZIMUTH | WORD 1 - ELEVATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | Az \#1 Mot. Curr., MSB | E1 \#1 Mot. Curr., MSB |
| 20 \| |  |  |
| 21 |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | 23 |
|  |  |  |
| 26 | Az \#1 Mot. Curr., LSB | E1 \#1 Mot. Curr., LSB |
| 28 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 0 |  |
| 32 | Az \#2 Mot. Curr., MSB | 21 \#2 Mot. Curr., LSB |
| 33 \| |  |  |
| 34 |  |  |
| 35 |  |  |
| 37 |  |  |
| 388 |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| 40 | Az \#2 Mot. Curr., LSB | E1 \#2 Mot. Curr., LSB |
| 41 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | 0 | 0 |
| 43 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | 0 | 0 |

TABLE 5.2c
MONITOR WORD ASSIGMENTS

| BIT | WORD 2 - AZIMUTH | WORD 3, - ELEVATION |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | 1 | 1 |
| 17 | 0 | 1 |
| 19 | Az Current Comm, MSB | El Current Comm, MSB |
| 20 | $1$ |  |
| 21 |  |  |
| 22 |  |  |
| 23 |  |  |
| 24 |  | $\downarrow$ |
| 25 |  | E1 Current Comm, LSB |
| 26 | Az Current Corm, LSB |  |
| 28 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Az Velocity Comm, MSB | E1 Velocity Comm, MSB |
| 33 |  |  |
| 34 |  |  |
| 35 |  |  |
| 37 | $\downarrow$ | $\downarrow$ |
| 38 |  |  |
| 39 |  |  |
| 40 | Az Velocity Comm, LSB | E1 Velocity Comm, LSB |
| 41 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 | 0 | 0 |
| 43 | 0 | 0 |
| 44 | 0 | 0 |

TABLE 5.2d
MONITOR WORD ASSIGNMENTS

| 3 IT | WORD 4 | WORD '5; |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 10 \\ & 10 \\ & 12 \\ & 13 \\ & 14 \\ & 15 \\ & 16 \\ & 17 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 1 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 1 \\ & 0 \\ & 1 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 19 \\ & 20 \\ & 21 \\ & 22 \\ & 23 \\ & 24 \\ & 25 \\ & 26 \end{aligned}$ | Phase A voltage, MSB <br> Phase A voltage, LSB | Phase C voltage, MSB <br> Phase C voltage, LSB |
| $\begin{aligned} & 28 \\ & 29 \\ & 30 \\ & 31 \\ & 32 \\ & 33 \\ & 34 \\ & 35 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & \text { Fhase B voltage, MSB } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & 0 \\ & \text { Spare Analog, MSB } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 37 \\ & 38 \\ & 39 \\ & 40 \\ & 41 \\ & 42 \\ & 43 \\ & 44 \end{aligned}$ | Phase B voltage, LSB 0 <br> 0 <br> 0 <br> 0 | Spare Analog, LSB 0 <br> 0 <br> 0 <br> 0 |

OPERATING MODES
Several switches control the various operating modes. These switches are located in the mode control area of the front panel.

The main mode control switch is a 6 position rotary switch which allows the selection of 5 single send functions, in conjunction with the SEND pushbutton and an automatic mode which closely simulates the digital servo interface of a Digital Communication System Antenna Buffer. The first five positions - AZ Pos., MODE, EL Pos., SPARE and Q will set up the test unit such that a single word, of the type indicated, is transmitted each time the SEND pushbutton is pressed. In the case of $Q$, a single $Q$ is transmitted in response to pushing the SEND swtich and the unit set-up to receive a single monitor word.

In automatic mode four words are transmitted each 100 ms , two one ms apart and two more, again one ms apart, 50 ms later. In each case two Q characters are transmitted, one ms apart, 20 ms after each two command words. A monitor word is expected after each Q and a NO RESPONSE lamp illuminates if none is received.

Two 3-position rotary switches, one each for azimuth and elevation, control the source of the azimuth and elevation position commands. In REMOTE position an external 21 bit word for azimuth and 20 bit word for elevation will be encoded into the azimuth and elevation command words. These words originated within the Stand-Alone Control Unit and are used to track sources given r.a. and declination.

In INTERNAL position the position commands are encoded with switches located in the AZIMUTH POSITION and ELEVATION POSITION areas of the front panel. A 21 bit word can be formed from the AZIMUTH POSITION COMMAND switches (MSB at bottom). A 20 bit word can be formed from the ELEVATION POSITION COMMAND switches (again MSB at bottom).

In RATE position the antenna servos can be slewed at a constant velocity, up or down, clockwise or counter-clockwise, at a rate set by a 12 bit binary weight code with MSB yielding $32^{\circ} / \mathrm{min}$. The initial position from which the slew starts is the position given by the position toggle switches at the time the unit is switched from INTERNAL to RATE. All switches that control the direction and rate of slew are located in the $M O D E$ CONTROL area of the front panel.

The REMOTE/INTERNAL/RATE function of the azimuth and elevation commands are independent of each other and any mixture of modes is possible.

One additional operating mode is possible. A switch located at the rear of the unit will switch the unit into a self test mode. In this condition the command bus is connected into the monitor word port and each command word multiplex address is modified so as to be acceptable to a monitor register. In this mode the azimuth position command, monitor registers, the elevation position comand and monitor registers can be checked out completely (in REMOTE, INTERNAL, RATE, AUTO, or single send modes) by the unit displaying the command word in the respective monitor register. The mode command bits will be displayed in the fault status monitor register but since only 8 of their bit positions coincide only a partial test of their functions is possible.

In AUTO mode the self test function will either put the azimuth position command word into the azimuth monitor register and the elevation position command word into the elevation monitor register or it will put the mode command word into the fault status monitor register - how the unit initializes on power turn-on will determine which.

## COMMAND AMD MONITOR PANEL FEATURES

The switches and lamps in the AZIMUTH POSITION, ELEVATION POSITION, FAULTS STATUS, MONITOR and COMMAND areas of the front panel all represent bits in the command or monitor words specified on pages 3 through 8 . The COMMAND switches under AZIMUTH POSITION program the azimuth command word (p.3); the toggle switches under COMMAND program the modes word ( $p .3$ ); the COMMAND switches under ELEVATION POSITION program the elevation position command word (p.4); the ACTUAL lamps under AZIMUTH POSITION display the contents of the last received azimuth monitor word (p.5); the ACTUAL lamps under ELEVATION POSITION display the contents of the last received elevation monitor word ( p .5 ); and the lamps under MONITOR may be selected so as to display the contents of any of the monitor words defined in pages 6,7 or 8 using the select rotary switch. Th monitor word displayed by the MONITOR lamps will be the last monitor word, of the type selected after the select rotary switch was positioned. If, for example, the select switch is rotated from IMIA/IM2A (word 0, AZ No. 1 motor
current and $A Z$ No. 2 motor current) to $\phi A / \phi B$ (word 4, phase $A$ voltage and phase $B$ voltage) but no word 4 monitor words are received, the MONITOR lamps will continue to display the old word 0 monitor word.

## METER DISPLAYS

Two front panel meters display the pointing error of the servos as determined from the difference between the command and monitor position words. Both azimuth and elevation error meters display errors in the range 0 to $\pm 0.025^{\circ}$. An azimuth error in the counter-clockwise direction indicates that the antenna is counter-clockwise of its commanded position and an elevation error in the down direction indicates that the antenna is below its commanded position. If position errors greater than $\pm 0.025^{\circ}$ occur the respective OVERRANGE lamp illuminates and the meter reading is meaningless.

## ERROR STATUS

The NO RESPONSE lamp is set each tinie a Q character is transmitted and reset upon reception of the $S$ character portion of a monitor response. If no monitor word is received (or if the $S$ character is incorrect) this lamp will remain illuminated. It can, however, be reset by depressing the PARITY RESET switch.

The SERVO PARITY lamp will be latched each time incorrect (not odd) parity is detected in a monitor word. This lamp can only be reset by depressing the PARITY RESET switch.

The PARITY SELECT switch programs the operation of parity bit 45 (p.2) only and allows intentional bad parity to be transmitted in command words. All other parity bits of all command words continue at all times to send correct (odd) parity. In self test mode, however, parity bit 18 will be incorrect and the parity lamp will illuminate when any word is transmitted. The NO RESPONSE lamp does not function properly in self test mode.

## LOGIC DESCRIPTION

On page 12 is a table that gives a breakdown of the antenna control test unit card requirements:

Card Location
B* Command Board
D* Monitor Board
F Monitor Register D13500L36
G
H
K
L
M
$\mathrm{Az} / \mathrm{El}$ Rate Control
D73500L35
Command Word Transmit Control D13500L34
Az/El Rate Control
D13500L35
Monitor Register
D73500L36
Receiver Logic
D13500L32
N
Control Logic
D13500L33
*Cards optional - only to be used with the Stand-Alone Computer Control Unit.

CARD N, CONTROL
The control card develops both transmit and receive timing signals used in control of other unit functions. This card contains a 1 MHz crystal oscillator, 3G, from which all timing is derived. The divider string, 3F, $4 F, 4 E, 4 D$ and 3 D , count down this clock to produce the basic 100 ms repetition cycle within the transmit portion of the unit.

The signal $\mathrm{S}(\overline{\mathrm{G} 5})$ produces two $10 \mu \mathrm{sec}$ positive pulses, one ms apart, that occurs every 50 ms (each time the $S$ portion of a command word is to be transmitted). The signal $Q(\overline{G 3})$ is a similar double pulse occurring 20 ms after the $S$ double pulse; that is, each time a $Q$ character is to be sent. These two signals are combined to make the signals $Q$ Or $S$, Xmit $Q$, $S$ Gate and Xmit $S$ Gate. The signal $Q$ Or $S$ loads register lf of card $H$ with an $S$ or a $Q$ in preparation of transmission, the signal Xmit $Q, S$ Gate will gate the $S$ character or $Q$ character unto the transmit bus, while the signal Xmit $S$ Gate loads the command register with command data to be transmitted when the $S$ character has been transmitted. IC's 5A9, 5D8, 1C12, and 5E8 yield proper signals for implementation of the single send function in the unit. The various signals above are interrupted in such a manner as to perform only the function desired when the SEND switch is depressed.

The signal C97.090 is divided down from the 1 MHz oscillator by divider string $3 \mathrm{~F}, 4 \mathrm{C}, 4 \mathrm{~B}$ and is a 97.090 Hz clock used on the rate cards.

The lower portion of logic diagram Di3500L33 is the receive timing portion of the unit. Receive 100 and 200 kHz clocks are divided down from the 1 MHz oscillator in 2F and is synchronized with the receive data by 1G3, 1G8 and 1G6 gates. The receive clocks are started by the leading edge of the first bit of the incoming $S$ character and will free-run for the remainder of that word. Receive clock initialization should be such that the positive going edge of 200 kHz clock occurs in the middle of receive $S$ character bits and the positive edge of 100 kHz clock occur in the middle of receive data bits.

Counters $2 E, 2 D, 2 C, 2 B$ and $2 A$ count down the receive clock to produce the various gates needed to break out the contents of the monitor word. S Gate is used to gate the received $S$ character into a register, Parity Gate is used to check the incoming data for correct parity, MUX Gate is used to gate off the MUX address bits of the monitor word and Data Gate is used to separate out the actual monitor word data bits.

## CARD G AND K, Az/E1 RATE CONTROL

The rate control card produces the two position command words from one of three sources - Front panel toggle switches; the external Stand-Alone Computer Control Unit (cards B and D); or the result of an on card integration involving the storage register at logic diagram top, the adder register in the middle and the EX-OR gates in the lower portion of the diagram. In INTERNAL or REMOTE modes this card provides storage for the parallel input data from front panel switches or the Stand-Alone Computer Control. In RATE position the last position cormand word (that before unit is switched into rate) is integrated at 97.090 Hz with the 12 bit binary rate word from the front panel toggle switches. EX-OR gates IE, IF and IG are provided to yield up and down integrations.

Card $G$ produces the azimuth command word and card $K$ the elevation.
CARD H, COMMAND WORD TRANSMIT CONTROL
This card produces the command data bus. Data for the four possible command words are applied to this card in parallel, are multiplexed, and shifted out
serially in sequence prefixed with proper $S$ characters and interspaced with $Q$ characters. Counter 1 A and 1 B sequence through the four command words amd steer the 4 into one multiplexers loading the parallel-in serial-out main register. These flip-flops are controlled via direct sets and resets in single send modes so as not to count. Parity encoding is also accomplished on this card. Odd parity is encoded except that bit 45 may be selected via the front panel PARITY SELECT switch for even or odd parity.

## CARD M, SERVO TESTER RECEIVE LOGIC

This card contains the receive bus optical coupler, $1 H$, which terminates the monitor bus and recovers monitor data. Three basic functions are accomplished on this card--checking incoming word parity, checking incoming word for a valid start character, and decoding the incoming word MUX address.

Parity check is accomplished in flip-flop $1 D$ and results are stored in 1C. The monitor word start character is checked in 2F and 2G with results stored in 1G8. The MUX address is stored in register $2 E$ and decoded in the associated combinational gates.

## CARDS F, L, MONITOR REGISTER

This card stores the data portion of monitor words for display and position error calculation.

Position monitor data is sifted serially into register $3 C, 3 B, 3 A$, which drives the adder reaister and the frnnt panel displays. The adder register subtracts the data response from the command word position to develop the positional error. This error is converted into analog by the D-A on this card and used to drive the respective position error meters. Over range detection logic is also contained on this card.

The register $2 \mathrm{C}, 2 \mathrm{~B}, 2 \mathrm{~A}$ shift in store and display the non-position monitor words. Card F stores the azimuth position monitor and the mode monitor word, card $L$ the elevation and 0 through 5 monitor words.

## INTERFACE

Two connectors at the unit rear panel are provided. Connector Pl is the servo interface and P2 is the Stand-Alone Computer Control Unit interface. Below is the Pl pin assignment. The monitor bus input is designed to terminate a twisted pair and looks like the Antenna Buffer monitor bus termination.

## Pl Pin Assignment

| Pin | Signal |
| :--- | :--- |
| 30 | Transmit Data |
| 31 | Transmit Data Return |
| 36 | Monitor Data |
| 37 | Monitor Data Return |

POWER REQUIREMENTS
All unit power is derived from the 120 VAC 60 Hz line. A 3 amp fuse is located in the back panel for short circuit protection. Internal cooling fans are driven from the 60 Hz line input. DC power for the Stand-Alone Computer Control Unit is derived from this unit.

