

COSMIC BACKGROUND RADIATION

The Earth is bathed in an ocean of radiation in addition to that from discrete sources in the sky. The radiation is of very low intensity; it is equivalent to the radiation expected from a blackbody at about 3°K. But we, and the known Universe, are "inside" that blackbody, it fills all space around us. The prediction of this cosmic blackbody radiation, and its subsequent discovery (or vice-versa) is one of the great milestones of cosmology.

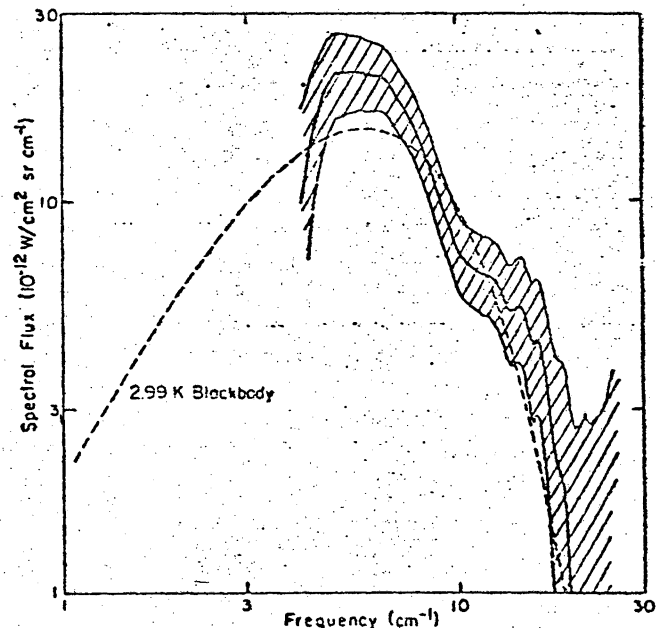
If we accept the current understanding of this radiation, then our observations give us a picture of the distant (and past) Universe - a look at the time before there were stars, galaxies, clusters, quasars, or anything else we now observe.

It has been an exciting year in the study of the cosmic background. Its fundamental characteristics have been laid out with great certainty. It is hoped that this cosmic laboratory will allow us to understand some of the history, and thus the future of the Universe.

This lecture will deal with the prediction and discovery of the background, its radiation spectrum, and its large and small-scale isotropy. Much of these notes has been unabashedly lifted from two excellent, and highly complementary sources - Gravitation and Cosmology, S. Weinberg, and Physical Cosmology, P.J.E. Peebles. I hope mostly to give you a flavor for this field of study - you can take it from there. A short bibliography is given at the end of the notes. See me for more detailed or current references.

HOT FLASH - -

F-2 SPECTRUM OF COSMIC BACKGROUND RADIATION
Frequency unit is number of waves per centimeter.
Hatched area shows UC-Berkeley balloon result.



Prediction

In 1934, Tolman studied the behavior of radiation in an expanding universe. At the time, the calculation was a theoretical one; there was no real reason to suspect that a radiation field filled the universe. The result of this calculation was that, given an initial blackbody spectrum of temperature T_0 at epoch t_0 , then there will exist a blackbody spectrum of temperature T_1 at time t_1 , such that

$$T_1 = T_0 R(t_0)/R(t_1),$$

where $R(t)$ is the scale factor of the expansion. We can understand this result in a heuristic way by the following argument, similar to one used in studying the thermodynamics of ideal gases. Imagine a cavity with perfectly reflecting walls. Let the size be much less than the size of the visible universe (i.e. $\ll cH^{-1}$). Then, if we allow the box to expand, without creating or destroying any photons, we find that the photon gas must cool. This can be thought of as the result of doing work in expanding the box. Another way to think of it is that, in a perfectly reflecting cavity, the radiation field can be expressed as made up of a superposition of normal modes, where each mode has an integral number of wavelengths in the box. But as the box expands, $\lambda_n(t) \propto R(t) \propto \frac{1}{\nu_n(t)}$ for each mode n . Since Planck's formula for a photon gas says that the number of photons per mode is given by $n_n = (e^{h\nu_n/kT} - 1)^{-1}$ then the temperature must decrease linearly with the frequency, and

hence, as the scale factor of the expansion.

Based on this theoretical background, Gamow and Alpher, in 1948, studied the problem of the production of the elements. There are a number of reasons why their analysis was wrong. However, the thought processes are interesting, and worth reviewing. Besides, they got the right answer. Some earlier treatments of the problem had been made, assuming that element formation took place in a static, equilibrium situation at some hot stage of the universe. With the current view of a continually expanding universe, Gamow and Alpher decided to attack the problem again. They suggested that, at high temperatures, only free neutrons, protons, and electrons could exist. The key factor in building up the heavy elements is the formation of deuterium, according to the reaction



However, at high temperatures, the reverse reaction (photodissociation) breaks up all the deuterium. At about 10^9 K, deuterium can begin to accumulate. Gamow argued that at around this temperature, there must be an appreciable chance of n's and p's colliding, so that the reaction could take place. Not too great, however, because we still want the universe to consist mainly of atomic hydrogen. The calculation they went through was somewhat like setting

$$\sigma n v t \sim 1$$

where σ is the neutron proton cross section, v , the mean thermal velocity, t , the time available at that temperature, and n , the density, all to be determined at the time when $T \approx 10^9$ K. Since radiation energy density varies as $R(t)^{-4}$, it dominates the matter energy density, which goes as $R(t)^{-3}$ at early times. Thus, the dynamics of the expansion can be found from the temperature of the radiation alone, and knowing σ and v , n was calculated to be $\approx 10^{18}$ nucleons cm^{-3} . By the time n gets down to $\approx 10^{-6}$ cm^{-3} ,

roughly the current density, $T \approx 10$ K. Alpher and Herman refined the calculation, and got $T \approx 5$ K. Problems with this argument include the objection that element building stops at the mass 5 gap above helium in simple expanding universe models, and that the neutron-proton ratio was probably only about 0.2 at the proper time. With the explanation of element formation as part of stellar evolution, this line of argument was dropped, and the idea of a primeval fireball neglected until the early 1960's.

In 1964, Dicke was concerned with the singularity at which all the mass energy of the universe originated, and at which the expansion began. He preferred to relegate the origin of mass energy to an earlier phase of the universe, which then goes through successive oscillations. However, in order to destroy the heavy elements from the previous oscillation, he needed a hot phase of the universe, around 10^{10} K. The fireball was reborn.

Discovery

At the Holmdel, N.J. laboratories of Bell Tel, Penzias and Wilson constructed a large horn antenna (Fig. 1) designed to receive signals from the Echo satellite, at a wavelength of 7.5 cm. They were trying to track down all possible contributions to the system noise, and were unable to account for about 3.5 K. The group at Princeton had already begun the search for the remnant of the fireball, and realized the significance of the Penzias and Wilson result. They visited the Holmdel labs, and in 1965, published companion papers, the first entitled "A Measurement of the Excess Antenna Temperature at 4080 MHz", and the second an explanatory one by Dicke, Peebles, Roll and Wilkinson. But was this excess radiation truly the remnant of a primeval fireball? A few critical experiments had to be done.

Spectrum

The first crucial test was to determine that the radiation followed the predicted Planck spectrum

$$I(\nu) = \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} (e^{h\nu/kT} - 1)^{-1}$$

For $\frac{h\nu}{kT} \ll 1$, this reduces to the form

$$I(\nu) \approx \frac{2kT\nu^2}{c^2}$$

This is the same as the definition of antenna temperature for radio astronomy, so that in the long wavelength (Rayleigh-Jeans) part of the spectrum, the confirmation of the blackbody nature of the background nature reduced to measuring a constant antenna temperature as a function of wavelength, i.e., ≈ 3 K. In Fig. 2 is plotted the intensity vs. frequency for blackbody radiation of different temperatures. In the region spanned by a 3 K blackbody, the antenna temperature from other sources of radiation is plotted in Fig. 3.

The first Princeton experiment was designed to work at a wavelength of 3.2 cm, and thus soon provided an independent confirmation of the Penzias and Wilson result. Today, the blackbody nature of the spectrum has been well established at wavelengths longer than that of peak intensity

$$\lambda_{\max} = 0.51 T_0^{-1}, \text{ which } \approx 0.19 \text{ cm at } 2.7 \text{ K.}$$

Table 1. gives a list of a number of determinations of the thermodynamic (as opposed to antenna) temperatures of the background radiation.. Most of the long wavelength results came from ground-based radiometers. Below about 3 cm wavelength, the antenna temperature drops exponentially (Wien region), and the emission from the earth's atmosphere becomes a major source of difficulty. The experiments are then often done at mountain altitudes, and in "windows" of the atmosphere at ≈ 0.9 and ≈ 0.3 cm. Shortward of that,

however, either balloons or rockets must be used.

In 1941, McKellar discovered that absorption lines in the cyanogen radical in the direction of Zeta Ophiuci came from both the ground state and the first excited rotational state. He could not rule out the possibility that collisional or pumping mechanisms, for example, were responsible for the excitation. So he quoted a value of $T \approx 2.3$ K for the equivalent blackbody temperature which would produce the excitation observed, in the absence of other processes. This result applied at a wavelength of 2.6 mm. It was not until after the measurements of the background at 7.5 and 3.2 cm that the significance of this measurement was realized. Further theoretical work dismissed all other possible rotational excitation mechanisms. In addition, data from a number of stars have all given results between 2.7 and 3.7 K. It is unlikely that local excitation mechanisms would be so uniform. CH and CH⁺ have also been used to set limits on the background temperature at wavelengths of 1.32, 0.56, and 0.36 mm.

All of this may have been superceded by a broadband spectral measurement over the top of the Planckian curve. This balloon experiment, by Woody and Richards at Berkeley, shows a generally blackbody spectrum --- but at a level about 15-20% too high!! Keep tuned for further developments

see cover page

Observing the 3 K Background

A picture of some of the early apparatus used at Princeton is shown in Fig. 4. In most other radio astronomical observations, we observe both the unknown source, and a reference in the sky, and subtract them to remove systematic effects. This is true in spectroscopy, where the off-of-line regions of the spectrum, and off-source spectra are used to determine the instrumental baseline.

This is also true of single dish measurements of continuum sources, where observations are taken on and off the source to determine its flux. Interferometry, by its very nature, is sensitive to differences in brightness over certain spatial scales. However, with such a broad spectrum, if the blackbody were indeed universal, then there is no astronomical "off". It was thus the task of the observers to account extremely carefully for all systematic effects in their instruments.

The basic procedure used was switching rapidly between a known and reference source, a technique developed by Dicke in 1945, and in common use today. The reference source in this case was a dewar of liquid helium, at 4.2 K. What was then measured was the difference between the sky temperature and 4.2 K. A block diagram of an early system is shown in Fig. 5.

It is an interesting point to realize that the size of the antenna does not affect the sensitivity of these measurements. This is always true, as long as the source of radiation is much larger than the beam size. Increasing the aperture size merely increases the forward gain, or directivity of the antenna, not the total power received. In fact, small aperture antennas were used to degrade the response to localized sources of radio flux, as well as to make the apparatus more manageable. A great deal of effort went into the design of the antennae, waveguides, switches, and cold loads in these experiments, and details can be found in the references. At around 1 cm, the biggest contributions to the atmospheric temperature are from water vapor and oxygen. The atmospheric contribution is subtracted out by tipping the antenna away from the zenith, and subtracting out the observed dependence on the secant of the zenith angle. The residual is the desired background temperature (hopefully).

Large Scale Isotropy

Another important test of the cosmic nature of the background radiation is its isotropy. Even as the galaxies recede from us in any direction we look, so should we see the redshifted fireball to be the same in all directions. The results of observations were that the radiation was amazingly isotropic.

Ideally, these observations are much easier to do than the absolute measurements because they measure only the difference between the radiation from different parts of the sky. Fig. 6 shows one of the instruments used to measure this isotropy. However, at some level, we expect to see an anisotropy from our peculiar motion through the universe, that is, our departure from the general Hubble expansion. By using the Lorentz transformation, it can be shown that an observer moving with a speed v with respect to the frame of blackbody radiation sees a blackbody spectrum described by

$$T(\Theta) = T_0 (1 - v^2/c^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} (1 - v/c \cos \Theta)^{-1},$$
$$\approx T_0 (1 + v/c \cos \Theta), \quad v/c \ll 1,$$

where Θ is the angle between the velocity vector and the direction of observation. Table 2 shows some of the possible contributions to our peculiar velocity, where the positive x-axis is defined by $\alpha = \delta = 0$, and the +y axis by $\alpha = 6^h, \delta = 0$. ϵ represents the fractional deviation from the Hubble flow because of the influence of the Virgo cluster. At any rate, the expected amplitude of the variation across the sky is of order

$$v/c \approx 200 \text{ km sec}^{-1} / 3 \times 10^5 \text{ km sec}^{-1} \approx 10^{-3},$$

or a few millidegrees Kelvin. This very small temperature is what makes the measurements so difficult. Earth-based observations often take place for over a year, in order to separate solar and sidereal effects. Balloon experiments, on the other hand, fly only at night,

and therefore cannot see the full 24 hr cosine behavior in a single flight.

This past year, a research group from Berkeley culminated a beautifully executed experiment with 10 flights in a U-2 former spy plane (see fig. 7). Their results are striking - the cosine curve has been pinned down - at least in the Northern hemisphere (see fig. 8). To the extent that other large scale anisotropies are not apparent, this experiment tells us that the Universe is expanding isotropically. It also puts limits on the rotation of the Universe. This last is another crucial result - Mach's principle tells us that the distant matter of the Universe determines the non-rotating frame of reference. If Mach's principle is valid, then no universal rotation can be observed.

Perhaps most exciting, however, is that, after correcting for the effects in Table 2 (and Fig. 9A), our velocity is about 600 km/s with respect to the Universe. But it is not just us - it is our whole neighborhood, including the Virgo cluster which is partaking in this "peculiar" motion - a deviation from the Hubble flow. But what is really perplexing is that measurements by Rubin and Ford of a sample of spiral galaxies up to about 30 Mpc away show a different motion with respect to the Earth. A geometrical interpretation of these observations is shown in Fig.9(B). These peculiar motions, if extrapolated back in time, have us moving with a velocity near the speed of light, with respect to the rest of the Universe. Alternatively, these motions could arise from some local turbulence (see the small-scale anisotropy discussion below). Alternatively, the whole interpretation could be wrong. Its an exciting problem. Watch this space.....

Small-Scale Isotropy

Measurements of isotropy on small angular scales help to rule out a more local origin from the background radiation, such as from a large number of small sources. Or, they can be used to place limits on the irregularities on the distribution of matter at the time of last scattering. This is usually assumed to be at the era of decoupling (around $z=1500$ or so), when hydrogen recombination took place. Results from a recent experiment of mine, done at 2 cm on the 140' telescope, show that

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T} \leq 2.3 \times 10^{-4}$$

If we identify ΔT as arising from the statistical fluctuations in the number of sources per beam, then the density required to give as smooth a distribution as observed is

$$n_s \geq 10^4 h^3 \text{ mpc}^{-3},$$

where $H_0 = 100 h \text{ km/sec / Mpc}$, and the mean distance between sources is

$$n_s^{-1/3} < 50 h \text{ kpc}$$

which is about 5 orders of magnitude greater than the number density of large galaxies, and the mean separation an order of magnitude less than our distance to Andromeda. In addition, the sources must be randomly distributed to high precision. In the distribution of galaxies, however, we see clustering and anisotropies on scales less than 10 Mpc, with some evidence for superclustering on larger scales as well. However, we only see optical objects out to a redshift around 4, and these constraints would be somewhat relaxed if the discrete sources were all at $z = 10$.

If we then look to models of the formation of galaxies and clusters, we find that they rely on turbulence early in the Universe. The amount of this turbulence, and its effect on the background radiation, is dependent on the mean mass density in the Universe. No small scale isotropy has yet been observed. This implies that there is at least 1/10 the mass needed to "close" the Universe around in some form (see Fig. 10). This is more mass than many optical workers think exists - another puzzle to be

(see Fig. 11 & notes there for further comments)

Other Effects and Implications of the Primeval Fireball

Below I simply list some other consequences of the background radiation. See the references for details.

1) Most important, perhaps, the thermal history of the universe, including the determination of the entropy per nucleon, is crucial to the formation of primeval helium and deuterium. This field has received great attention, and is still a subject of much debate.

2) Formation of the soft X-ray background by inverse-Compton scattering by relativistic electrons has been suggested.

3) Interaction with high-energy cosmic rays has been considered for its implications of the N(E) distribution, and the origin of cosmic rays in general.

4) Detailed measurements of the spectrum may help probe the departures from the simple isotropic and equilibrium picture studied so far. Fluctuations in the spectrum and in the background may contribute to our understanding of the growth of irregularities in the universe, and the formation of galaxies.

5) "Cold spots" in the directions of rich clusters of galaxies. This arises from inverse-Compton scattering of the background radiation by hot gas in the clusters. It offers a probe of the temperature and density content and distribution of the gas which is also giving off X-rays.

REFERENCES

{ COMING UP!! The Cosmic Background Explorer [COBE] - see Fig. 12 }

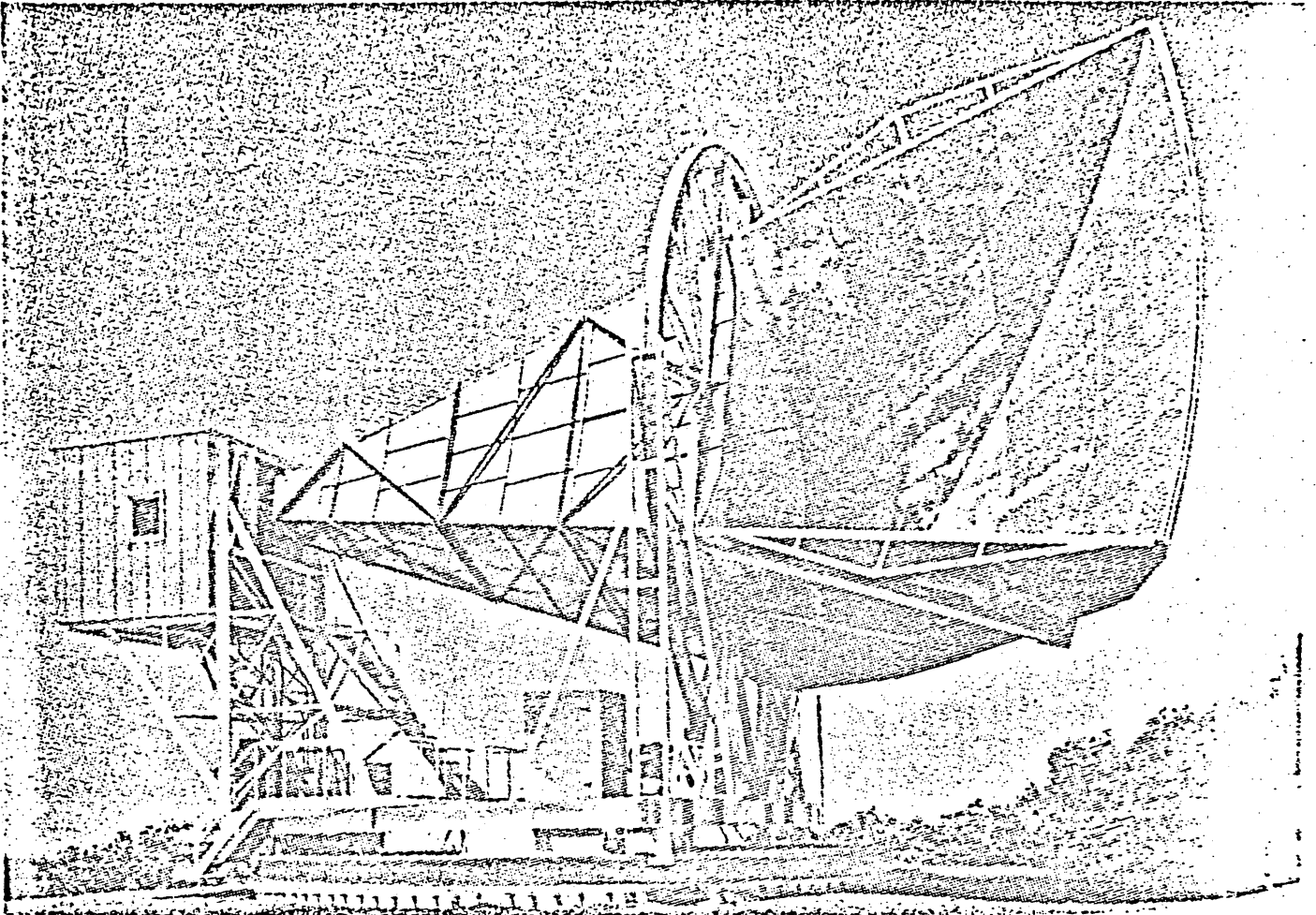
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} historical

} early results

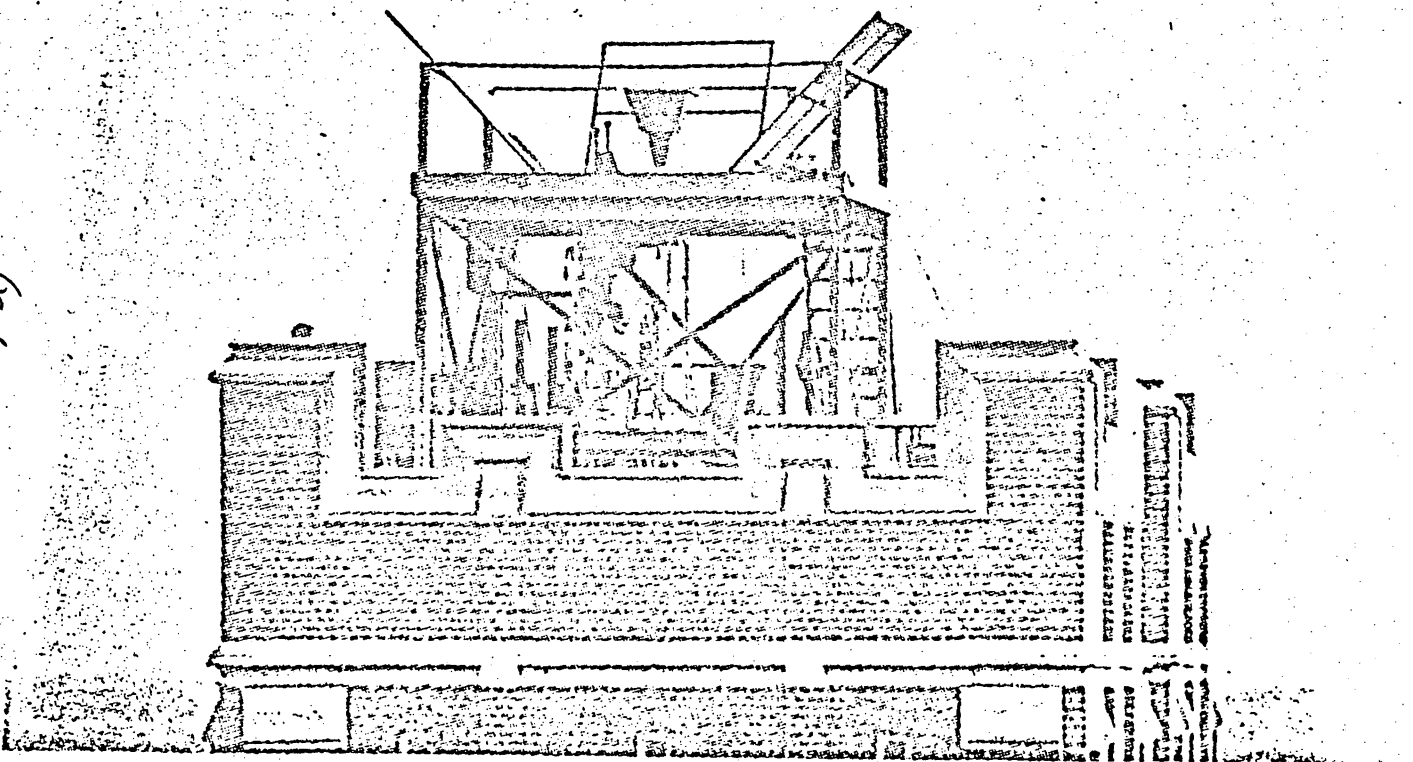
Recent review - IAU Sympos. #63, section III.
Books mentioned at beginning by Weinberg and Peebles.
Latest - *Sci. Am.*, May, 1978 (isotropy).

FIG. 1



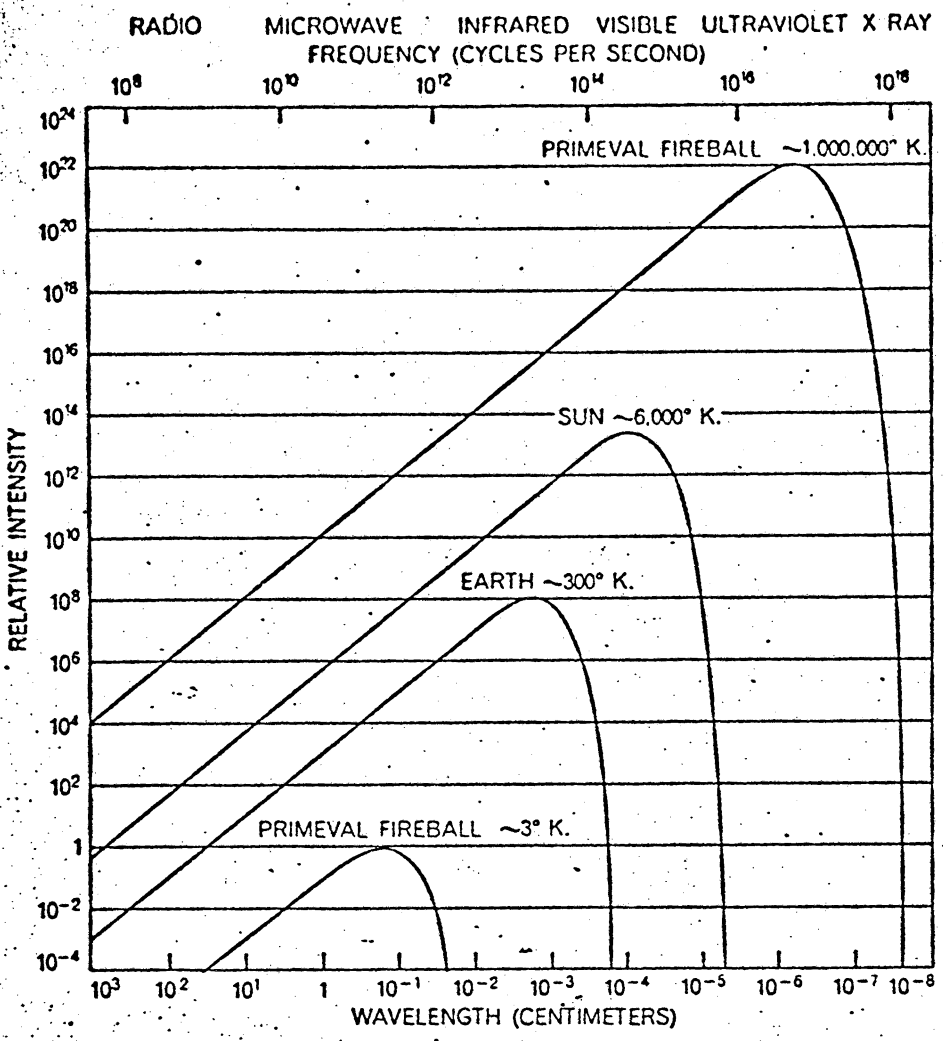
HORN ANTENNA of the Bell Telephone Laboratories receiver at Holmdel, N.J., was originally designed to collect signals reflected from Echo satellites. This was the antenna with which Arno A. Penzias and Robert W. Wilson first detected the fireball radiation.

FIG 4a)



PRINCETON GROUP'S first fireball observations were made with an earlier version of the radiometer, here shown in position on the roof of the geology building. The slanted panels around the base are wire-mesh screens that help to keep out ground radiation.

FIG 2



"BLACK BODY" SOURCES of thermal radiation emit across a broad spectrum, the intensity of the radiation varying with wavelength as shown here for several sources. The shape of the curve persists as its position changes according to the temperature of the source. The top curve is for the fireball radiation billions of years ago, the bottom one for the radiation now.

COSMIC BACKGROUND RADIATION

FIG 3

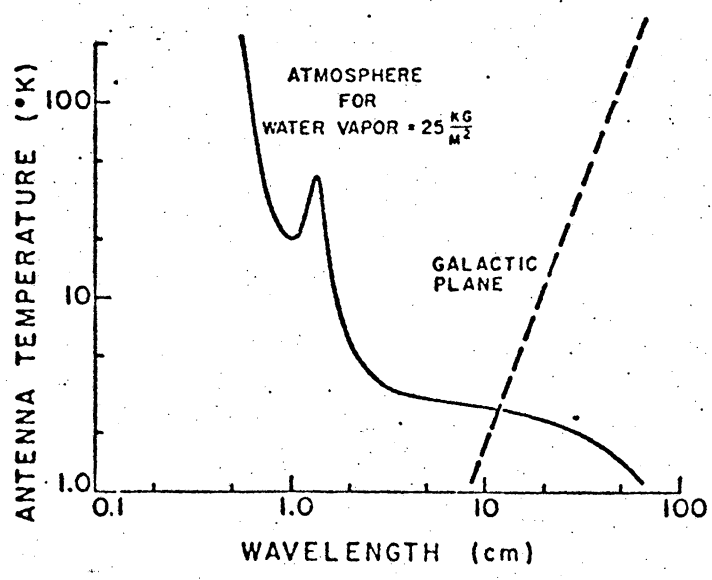
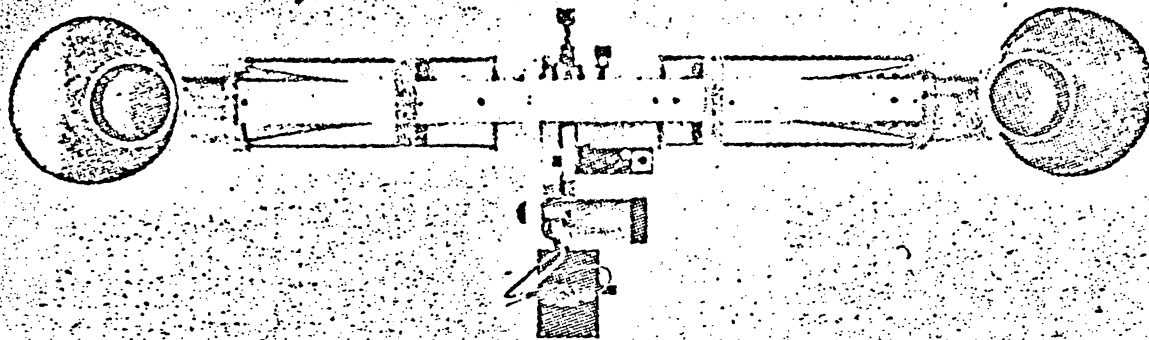
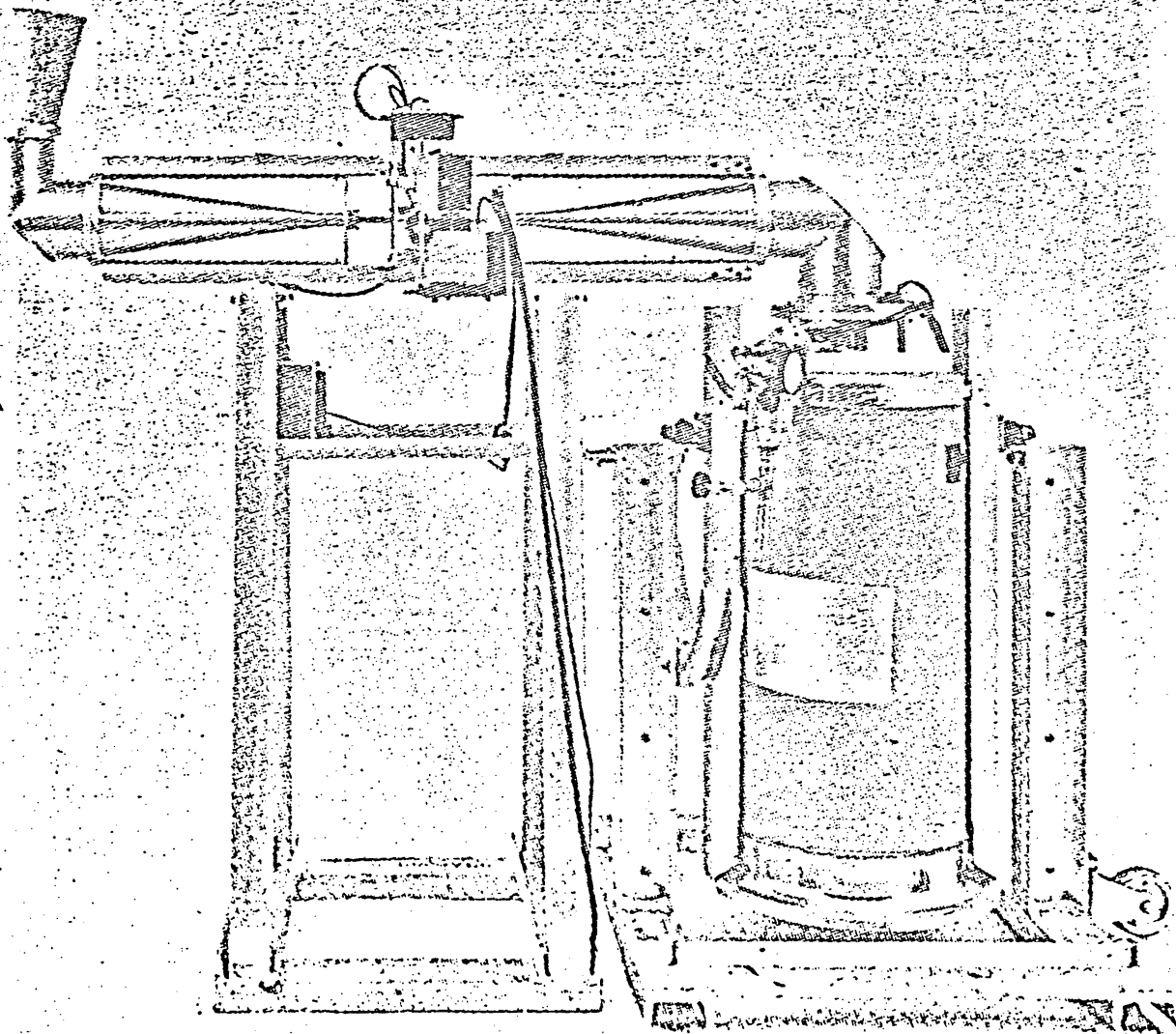


FIG. 2. The spectra of two sources of sky radiation which compete with the cosmic microwave background. Antenna temperature is the thermodynamic temperature of an extended blackbody source which would give an antenna power equal to that being received.



INSTRUMENT with which the primeval fireball is observed at Case Western University is a recent version of the Dicke radiometer, shown here from above. The antenna horns extend to the left and

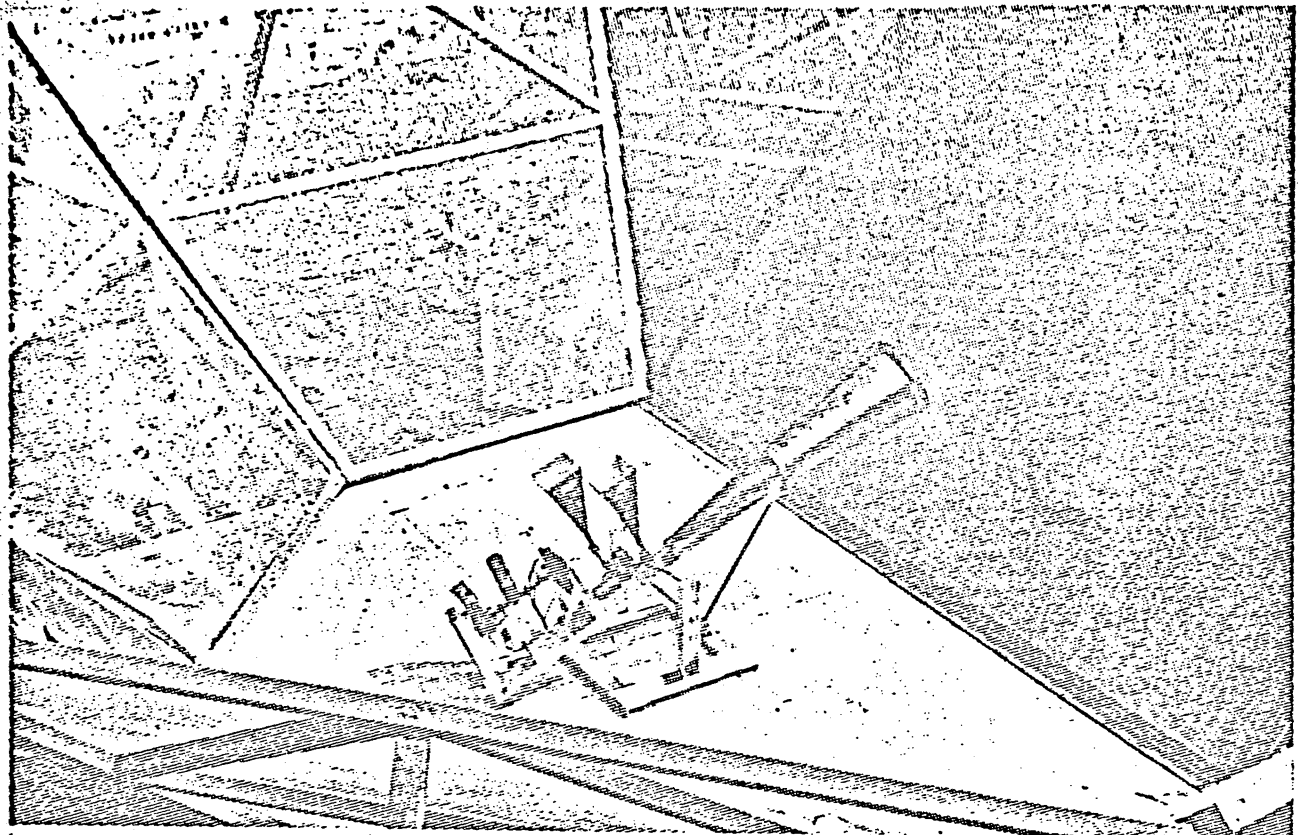
right and are directed upward to collect sky radiation; a switch, microwave receiver and amplifier are at the center. The instrument is operated both in this configuration and as illustrated below.



WATER is seen in a side view with one of the horns in position to receive radiation from the sky. The other horn of the instrument is coupled to a wave guide leading to a reference source inside the orange Dewar flask. The source is immersed in

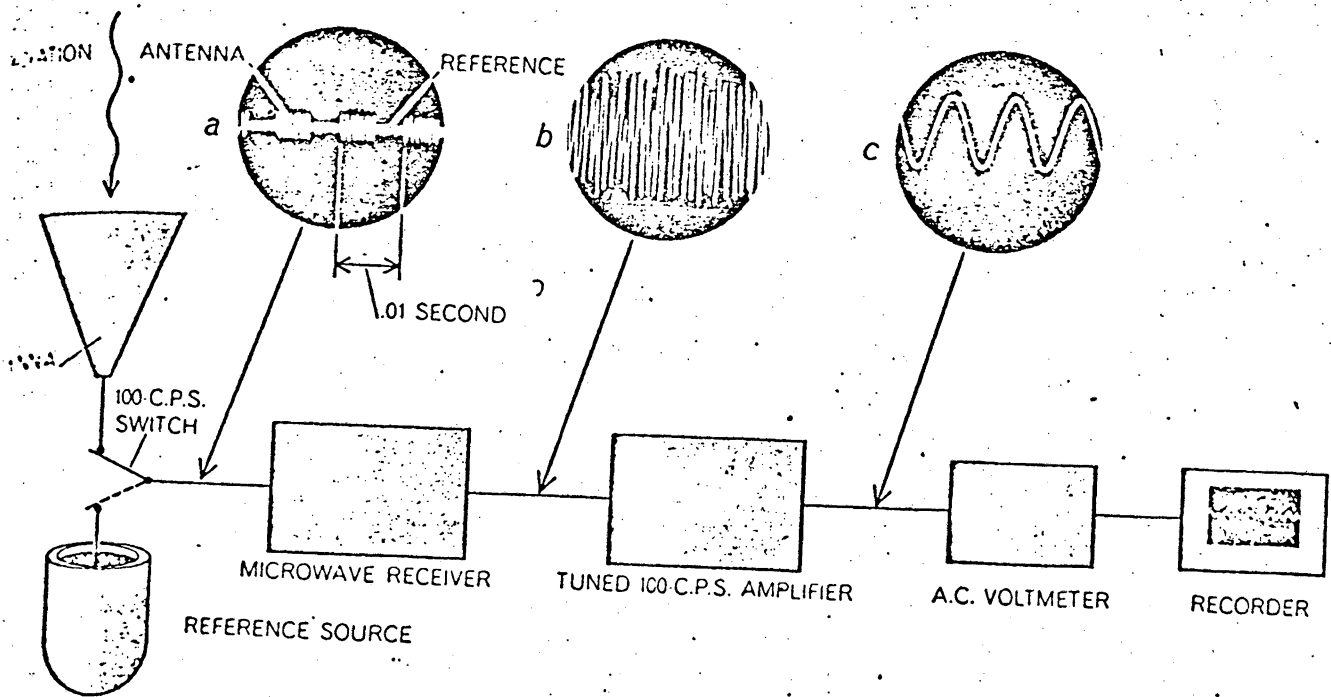
boiling liquid helium and is therefore known to be radiating at 4.2 degrees Kelvin (degrees centigrade above absolute zero). The receiver input is switched back and forth between sky antenna and reference source and the intensities of the two are compared.

4a)



a) THE 1.58 cm. RADIOMETER

FIG 5 (10)



General switched radiometer schematic

FIG 6 a)

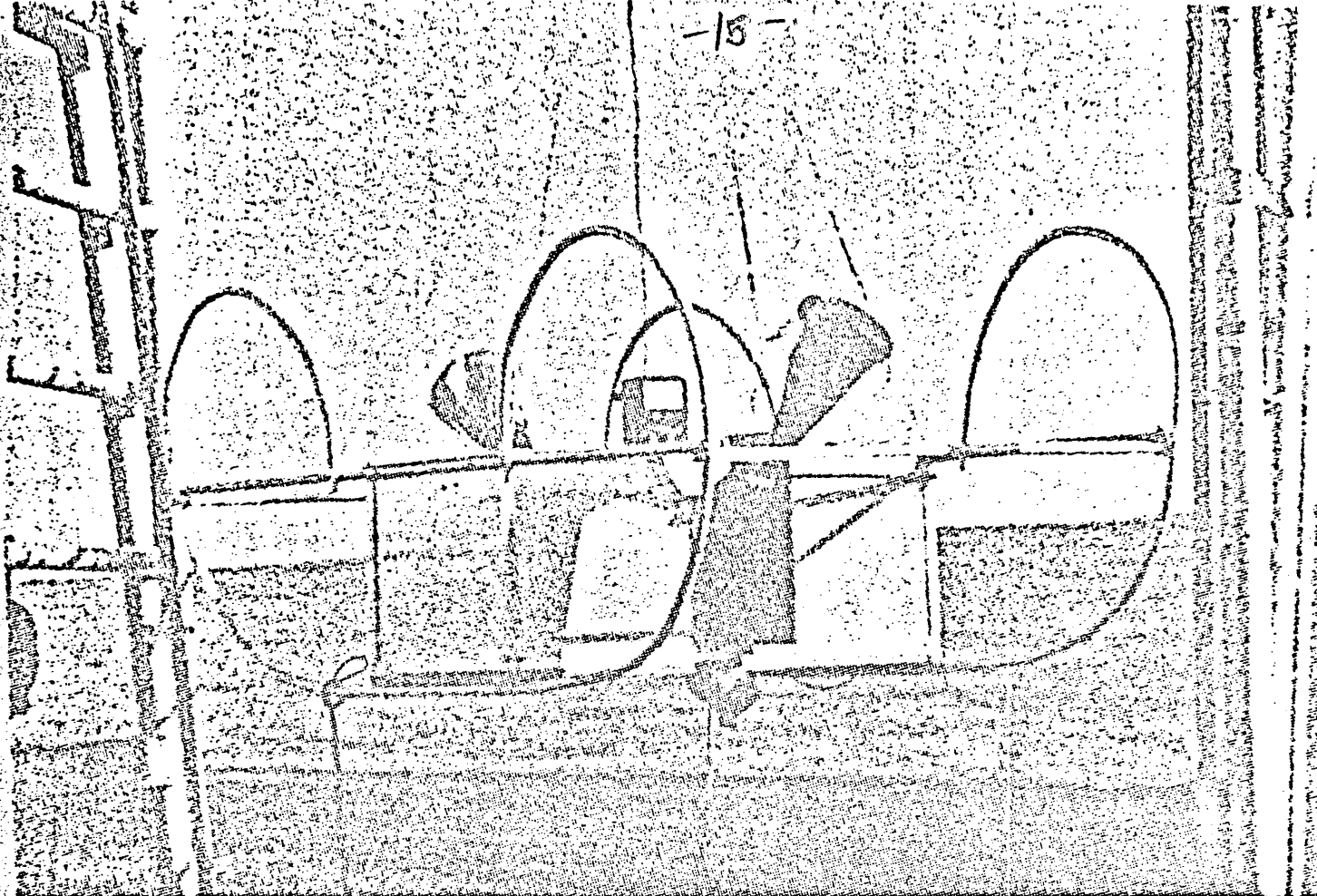
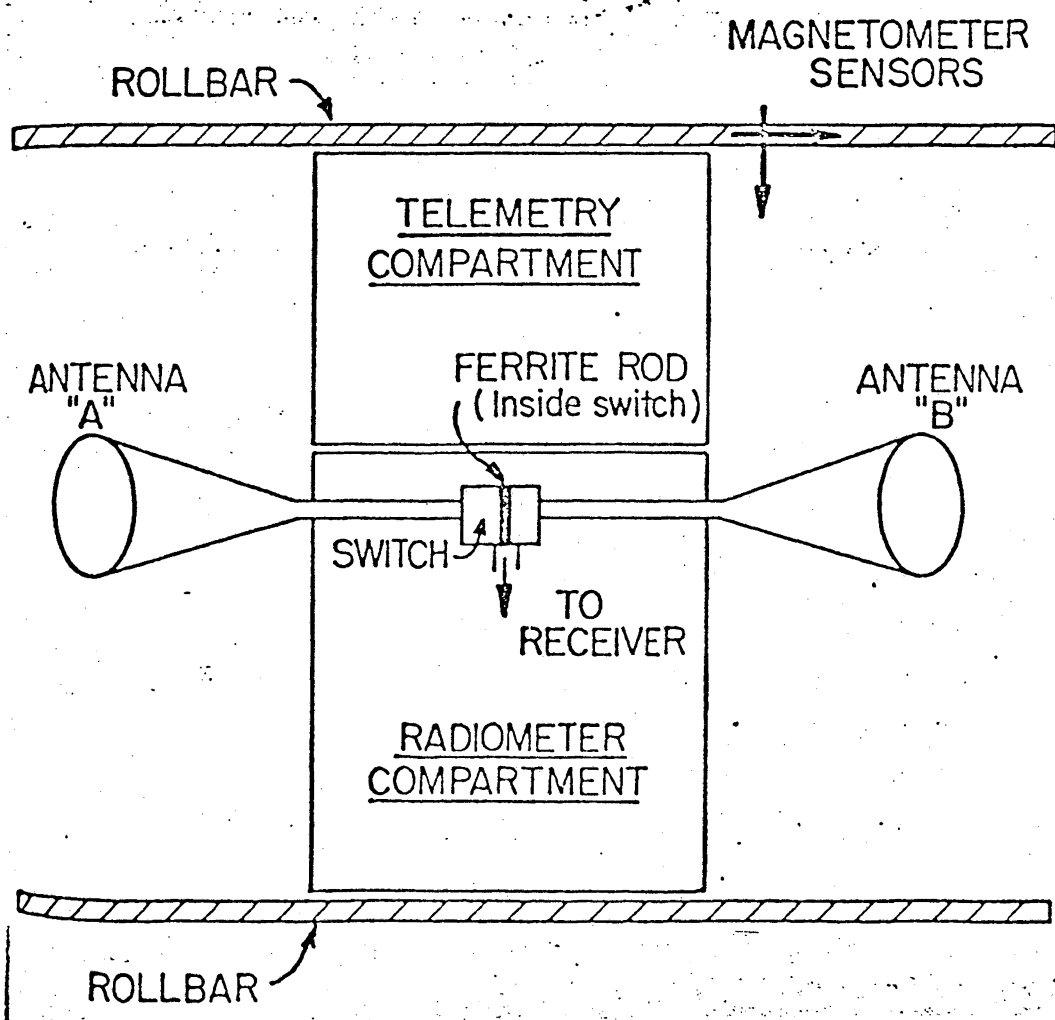


Figure 2.2 Radiometer On Test Stand

b)



THE RADIOMETER

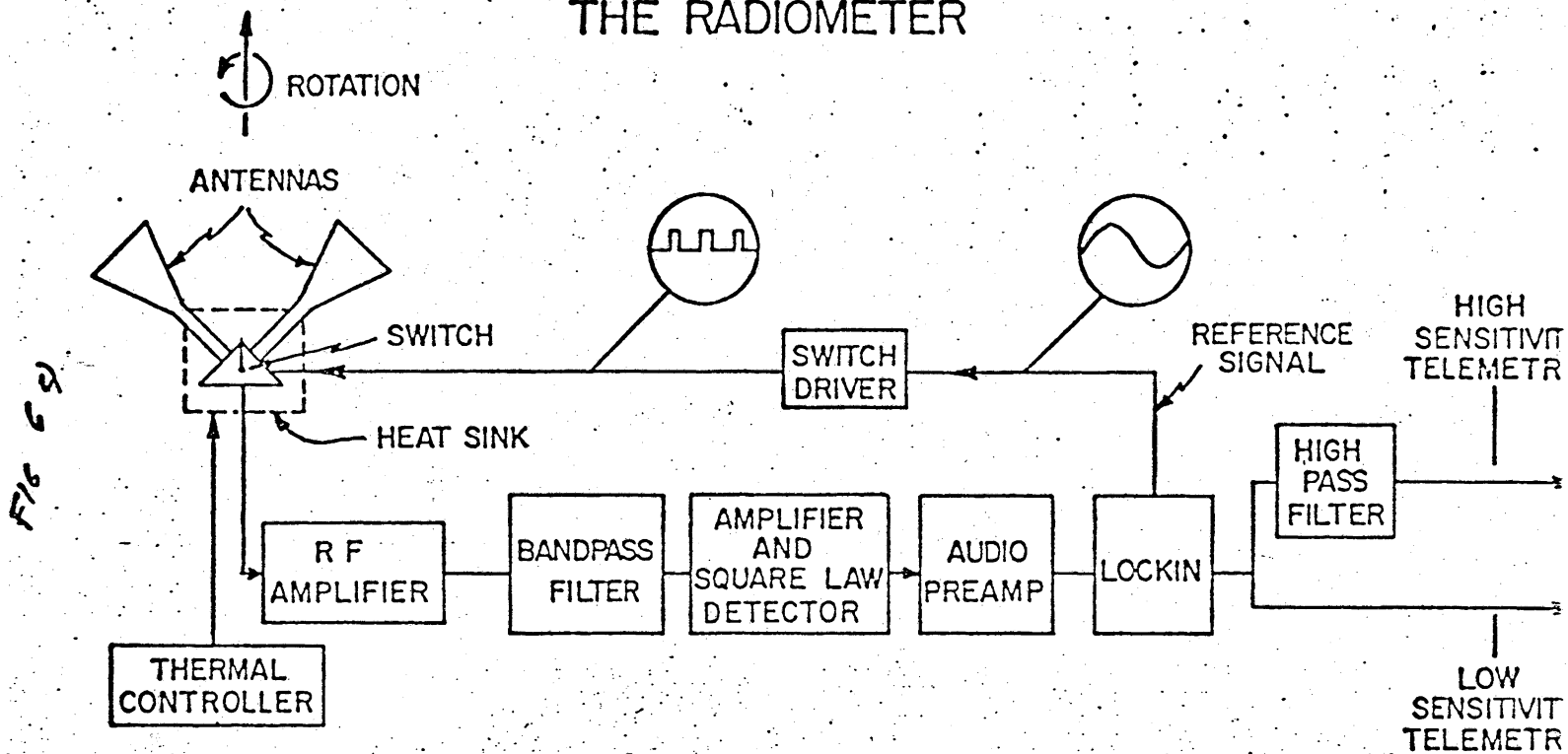


Fig 6h

BALLOON AT FLOAT ALTITUDE

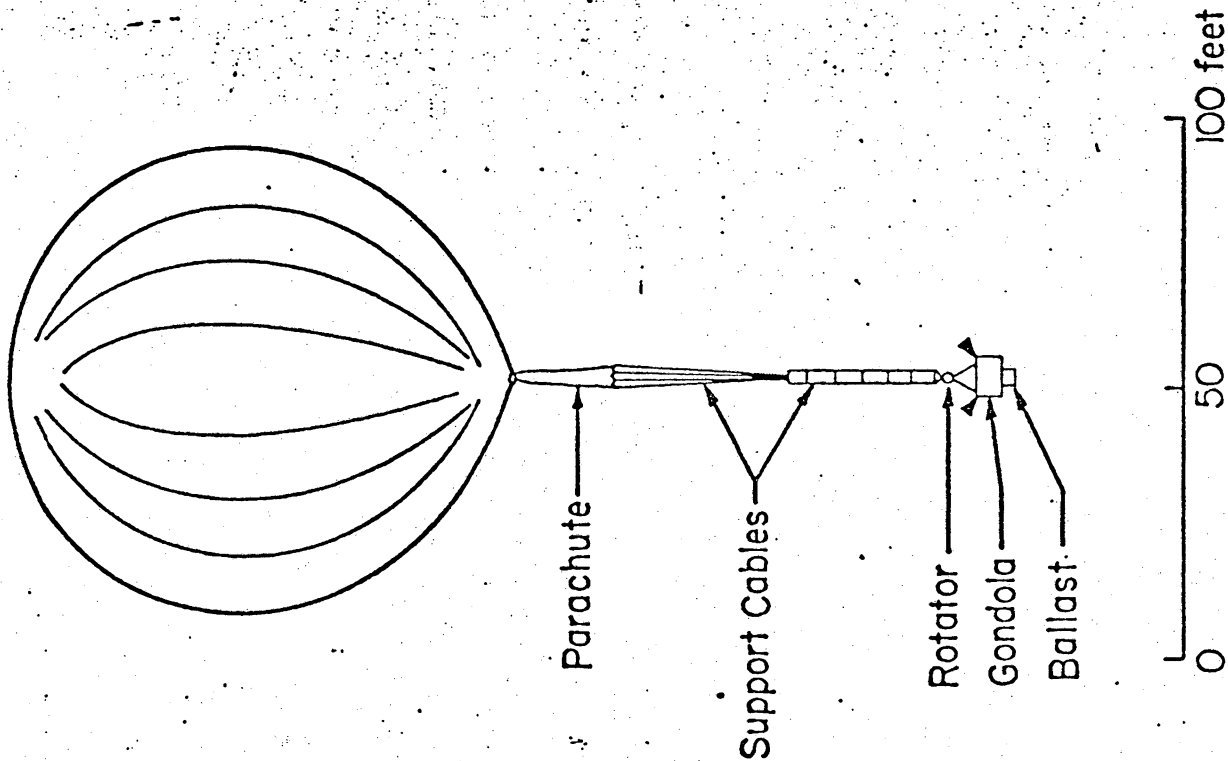


Table 15.1 Summary of Measurements of the Background Radiation Flux at Microwave and Far-Infrared Wavelengths.

(The temperatures listed are those for which black-body radiation would give the observed flux at the indicated wavelength.)

λ (cm)	Method	Reference	$T_b(\lambda)$ (°K)
73.5	Ground-based radiometer	a	3.7 ± 1.2
49.2	Ground-based radiometer	a	3.7 ± 1.2
21.0	Ground-based radiometer	b	3.2 ± 1.0
20.7	Ground-based radiometer	c	2.8 ± 0.6
7.35	Ground-based radiometer	d	3.5 ± 1.0
3.2	Ground-based radiometer	e	3.0 ± 0.5
3.2	Ground-based radiometer	f	2.69 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.16 \\ - 0.21 \end{array} \right.$
1.58	Ground-based radiometer	f	2.78 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.12 \\ - 0.17 \end{array} \right.$
1.50	Ground-based radiometer	g	2.0 ± 0.8
0.924	Ground-based radiometer	h	3.16 ± 0.26
0.856	Ground-based radiometer	i	2.56 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.17 \\ - 0.22 \end{array} \right.$
0.82	Ground-based radiometer	j	2.9 ± 0.7
0.358	Ground-based radiometer	j'	2.4 ± 0.7
0.33	Ground-based radiometer	k	2.46 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.40 \\ - 0.44 \end{array} \right.$
0.33	Ground-based radiometer	k'	2.61 ± 0.25
0.263	CN ($J = 1/J = 0$)	l	≈ 2.3
0.263	CN ($J = 1/J = 0$)	m	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3.22 \pm 0.15 \text{ } \zeta \text{ Oph} \\ 3.0 \pm 0.6 \text{ } \zeta \text{ Per} \end{array} \right.$
0.263	CN ($J = 1/J = 0$)	n	3.75 ± 0.50
0.263	CN ($J = 1/J = 0$)	o	≡ 2.82
0.132	CN ($J = 2/J = 1$)	n	< 7.0
0.132	CN ($J = 2/J = 1$)	o	< 4.74
0.0559	CH	n	< 6.6
0.0559	CH	o	< 5.43
0.0359	CH ⁺	o	< 8.11
0.04-0.13	Rocket-borne IR telescope	p	8.3 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 2.2 \\ - 1.3 \end{array} \right.$
> 0.05	Balloon-borne IR radiometer	q	≈ 3.6, 5.5, 7.0
0.6-0.008	Rocket-borne IR radiometer	r	3.1 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.5 \\ - 2.0 \end{array} \right.$
0.18-1.0	Balloon-borne IR radiometer	s	2.7 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} + 0.4 \\ - 0.2 \end{array} \right.$
0.13-1.0	Balloon-borne IR radiometer	s	2.8 ± 0.2
0.09-1.0	Balloon-borne IR radiometer	s	≡ 2.7
0.054-1.0	Balloon-borne IR radiometer	s	≡ 3.4

Table 1

TABLE V-2

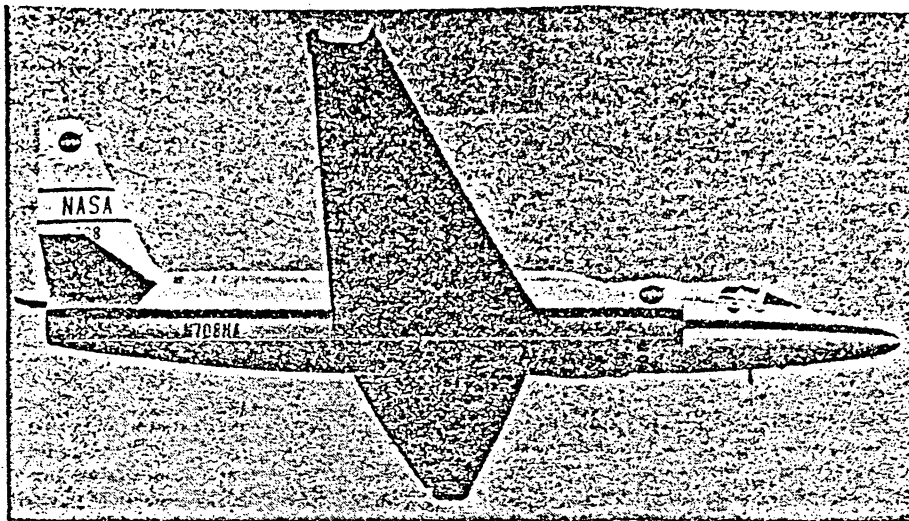
POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PECULIAR VELOCITY*

	v_x	v_y	v_z
Rotation ($\Theta = 250$)	123	-113	186
To M31, $v = 90$	67	12	59
To Virgo, $v = 1000c$	-970c	-120c	220c

*unit = km sec⁻¹

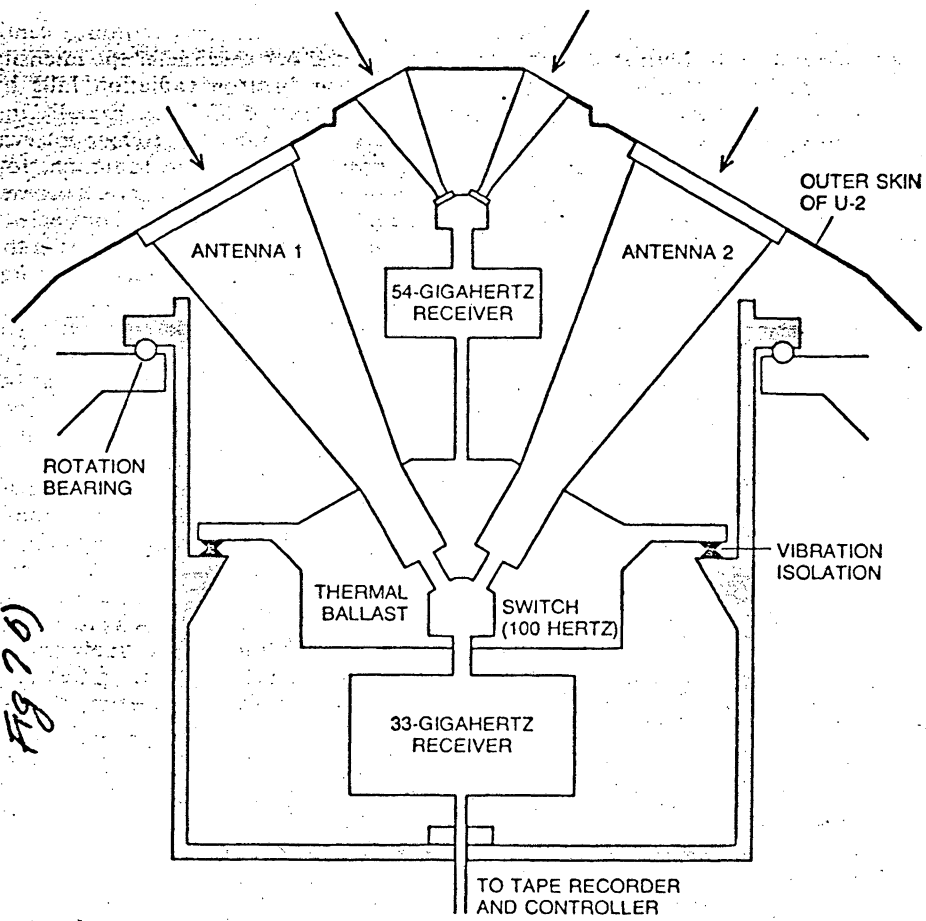
Table 2

Fig 7(a)



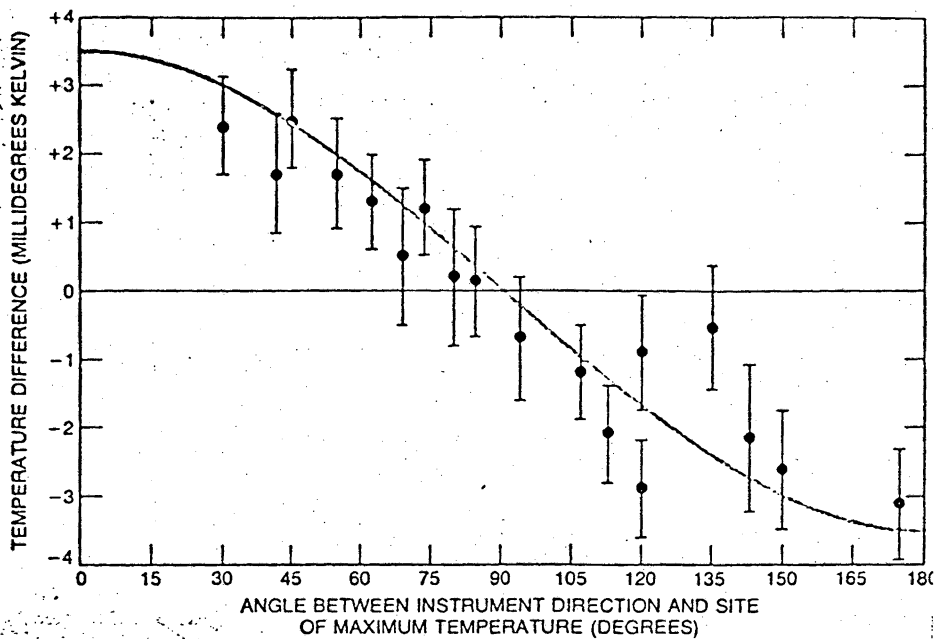
INSTRUMENT PLATFORM in the new aether-drift experiment was a U-2 aircraft operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Like the original aether-drift experiment performed nearly a century ago by A. A. Michelson and E. W. Morley, the new experiment was designed to measure the earth's motion with respect to a universal frame of reference, in this case the cosmic background radiation. That radiation, which is equivalent to the radiation emitted by a black body (a perfect radiator) with a temperature of about three degrees Kelvin (three degrees Celsius above absolute zero), is radiation left over from the fireball in which universe was created 15 billion years ago. U-2 has made 10 flights carrying an ultrasensitive microwave receiver designed by the author, George F. Smoot and Marc V. Gorenstein.

Fig 7(b)



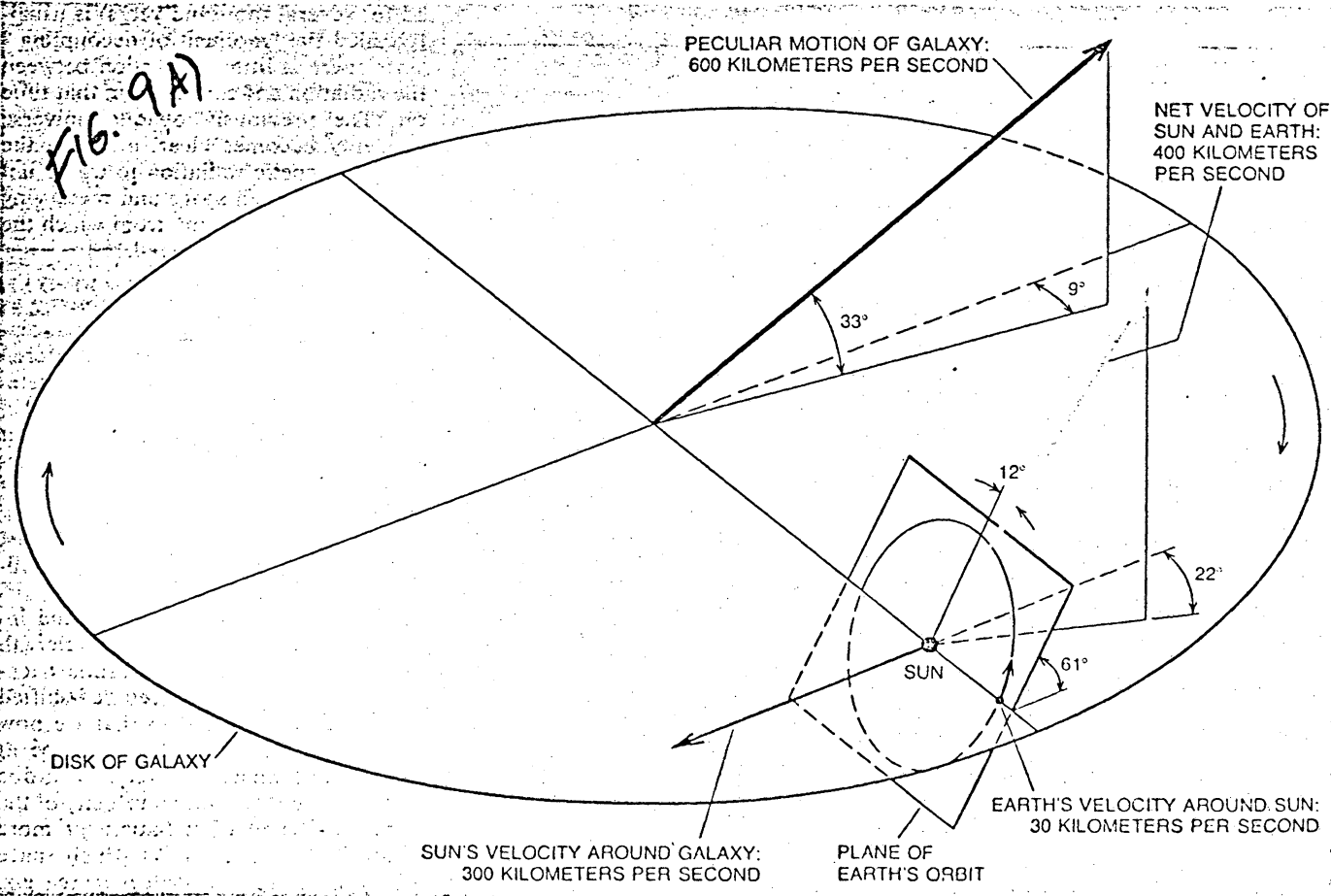
INSTRUMENT FOR MEASURING ANISOTROPY of the cosmic background radiation built by the author and his colleagues is shown schematically in cross section. The two large horn antennas are designed to collect cosmic background radiation in a narrow cone at a frequency of 33 gigahertz. The two smaller horns and their associated receiver monitor the emissions from atmospheric oxygen at 54 gigahertz. The apparatus is designed to measure not the absolute temperature of the cosmic background radiation but rather the difference in the temperature of the signals collected by the two large horns when they are switched alternately into a common receiver 100 times a second. To compensate for possible asymmetries in design and construction the apparatus is rotated 180 degrees every 64 seconds during collection of data.

Fig. 8



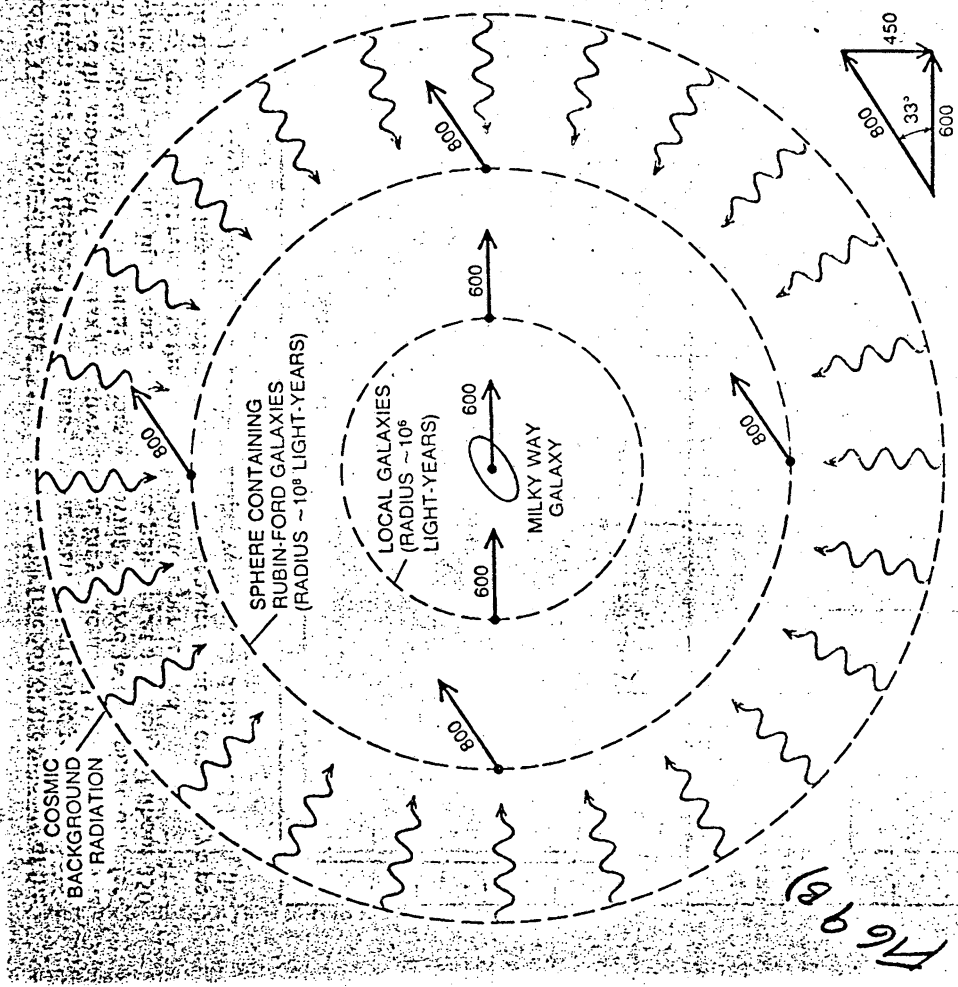
COSINE CURVE provides the best fit for the data (averaged into 18 points) taken by the author and his colleagues in the new aether-drift experiment. The horizontal axis represents the angle made by a line connecting the two horn antennas and the direction of maximum temperature in Leo. The cosine curve is temperature distribution to be expected in the cosmic background radiation if the solar system's peculiar velocity toward Leo is 400 kilometers per second.

Fig. 9A

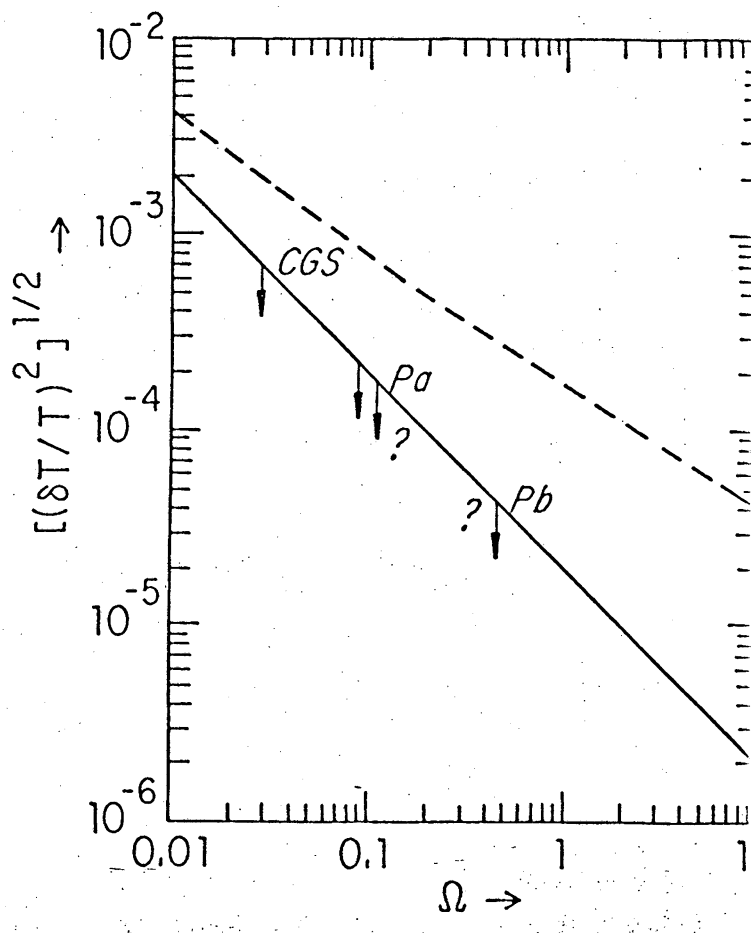
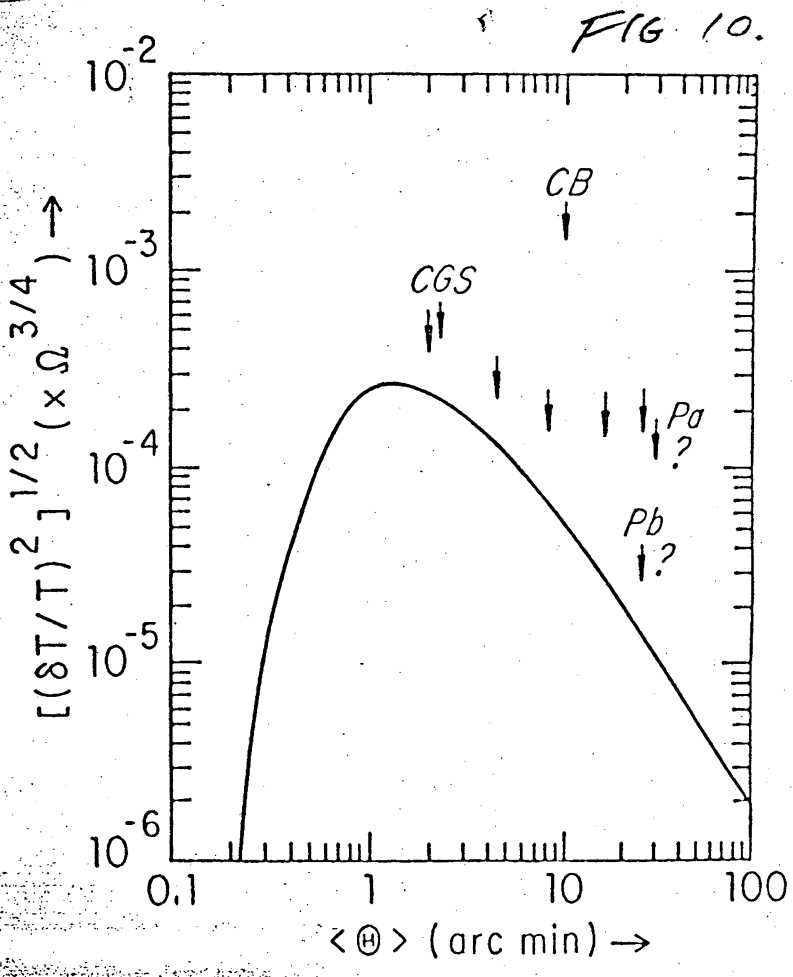


ABSOLUTE MOTION OF THE EARTH through space has been determined by measuring slight differences in the temperature of the three-degree cosmic background radiation reaching the earth from various directions. The earth travels in its orbit around the sun at 30 kilometers per second and, as the sun's gravitational captive, is being swept around the center of the galaxy at 300 kilometers per second. The new aether-drift experiment shows that the earth's net motion in space is about 400 kilometers per second. The vector of the earth's net motion lies in the same plane as its orbit around the sun and at an

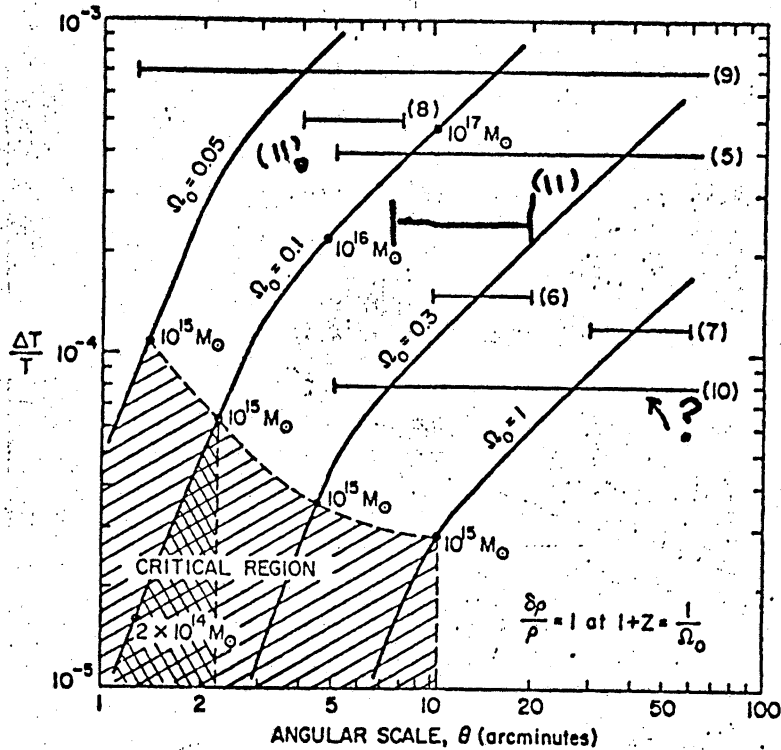
angle tilted sharply upward (northward) from the plane of the galaxy. In this diagram the vector of the earth's net motion is depicted as a colored arrow centered on the sun, since the two bodies travel together. Both are being carried along by the galaxy's own "peculiar" motion through space (the motion peculiar to the galaxy and not a part of the overall cosmic motion). In order to account for the earth's motion with respect to the three-degree radiation the galaxy must be traveling at about 600 kilometers per second, or more than 1.3 million miles per hour, in the direction shown by the heavy black arrow.



FANTASTIC VELOCITY PICTURE emerges when the peculiar velocity of our galaxy, evidently shared by all the members of the local cluster of galaxies, is plotted in relation to a sample of galaxies 10^8 light-years away whose velocities were analyzed spectrographically by Vera C. Rubin and W. Kent Ford, Jr., of the Carnegie Institution of Washington's Department of Terrestrial Magnetism. Their results imply that our galaxy is moving at 450 kilometers per second with respect to those in the reference sample. The diagram shows how the Rubin-Ford velocity can be reconciled with the peculiar velocity of 600 kilometers per second determined for our galaxy by the anisotropy in the cosmic background radiation. The Rubin-Ford sphere of galaxies would require a peculiar velocity of 800 kilometers per second displaced roughly 33 degrees from the direction in which our galaxy is moving. Diagram at right shows how our galaxy would then be carried toward the Rubin-Ford galaxies at 450 kilometers per second. In view of uncertainties in measurements the velocities are rounded to 50 kilometers per second.



A different look at the small-scale isotropy problem, which does not show the falloff at large masses - but explicitly shows the expected effects for $10^{15} M_{\odot}$, where we do observe mass concentrations. Later calculations show that in the case of isothermal perturbations, large scale coherence in the fluctuations may make this a difficult beam-switched experiment. Should we go to space and load-switch? Looks like yes.



Observers	Angular Scale	λ (cm)	$\Delta T/T^\dagger$
1. Conklin and Bracewell (1967)	10'	2.8	$<1.8 \times 10^{-3}$
2. Penzias et al (1969)	2'	0.35	$<6.0 \times 10^{-3}$
3. Boynton and Partridge (1973)*	1:5	0.35	$<1.9 \times 10^{-3}$
4. Carpenter et al (1973)	>2'	3.6	$<7.0 \times 10^{-4}$
5. Parijskij (1973)**	>5'	2.8	$<4.0 \times 10^{-4}$
6. Stankevich (1974)	10'-20'	11.1	$<1.5 \times 10^{-4}$
7. Caderni et al (1977)	30'	0.13	$<1.2 \times 10^{-4}$
8. Partridge (1977)***	4'	0.9	$<5.0 \times 10^{-4}$
9. Pigg (1977)	>1:25	2.0	$<7.0 \times 10^{-4}$
10. Parijskij (1977)****	>5'	2.8	$<8.0 \times 10^{-5}$
†11. Rudnick	8'-24'	2	$<2.5 \times 10^{-4}$

† Generally quoted as 2σ or 95% limit.

* Revised downward, see Partridge (1977).

** Revised upward, private communication (1977).

*** Tentative upper limit pending completion of analysis.

**** See paper by Parijskij in this volume.

COSMIC BACKGROUND EXPLORER

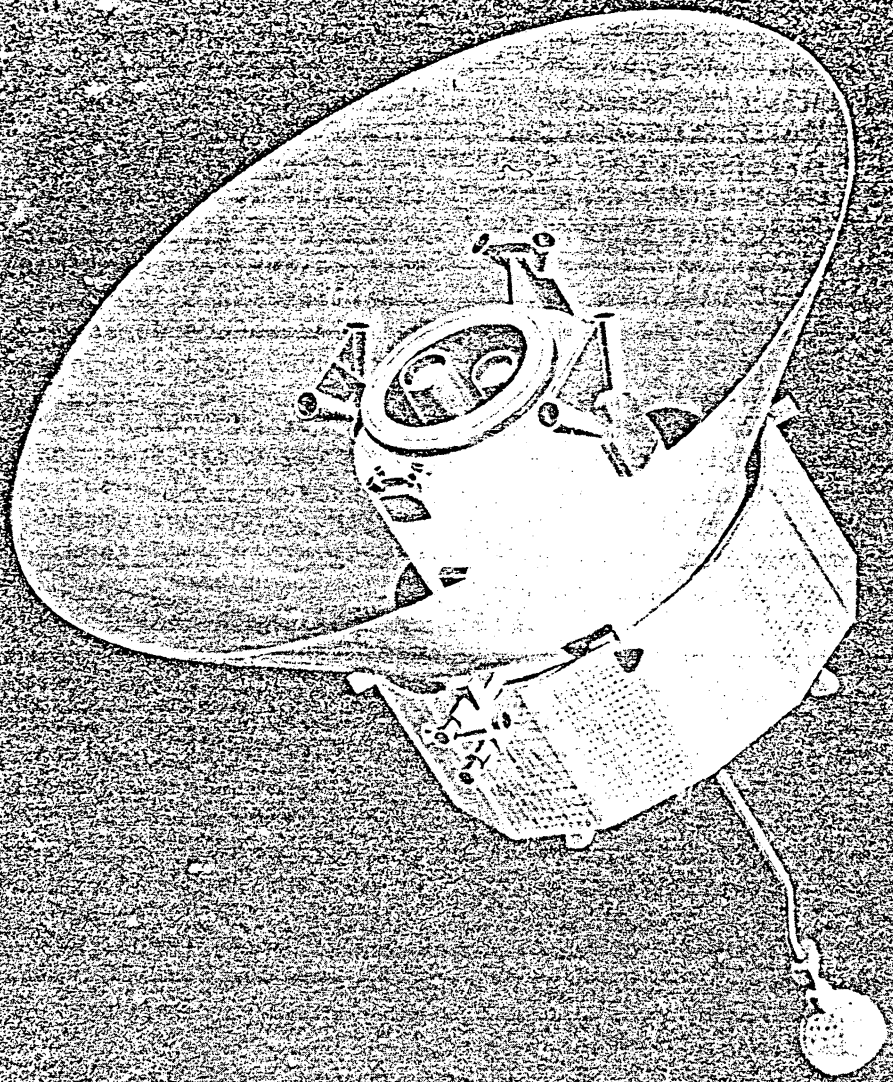


Fig. 12A

COSMIC BACKGROUND EXPLORER (COBE)

PROGRAM SUMMARY: Explorer Mission
Integrated Multiple
Experiment Payload

MISSION LIFETIME: One year

MASS ESTIMATES: Spacecraft - 600 kg
Instrument - 600 kg

FINAL ORBIT: Altitude-900 km
circular
Inclination-99° Sun
synchronous

LAUNCH VEHICLE: West Coast Shuttle

OBJECTIVE:

To further the knowledge of science in the area of observational cosmology by making definitive measurements of the cosmic background. Specifically it will:

(1) Measure the spectrum of the 3 K cosmic background over wavelength range 3.3 to 0.33 mm.

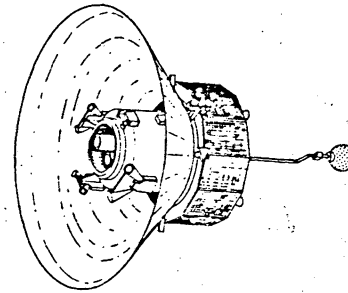
(2) Measure the isotropy of the 3 K cosmic background over the wavelength range 13 to 3.3 mm.

(3) Measure the spectrum and angular distribution of diffuse infrared background radiation at wavelengths from 8 to 300 micrometers.

Typical Instruments:

(1) Far Infrared Absolute Spectrophotometer*

(2) Four Differential Microwave Radiometers



(3) Diffuse Infrared Background Photometer*

MISSION DESCRIPTION:

The COBE will be launched from the Western Test Range on the Space Shuttle and placed in a 300-km, 99° inclination orbit. On-board propulsion will boost it to 900 km. Communications for commanding and data acquisition will be accomplished using the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRS) Multiple Access System.

STATUS:

COBE was selected from responses to NASA Announcements of Opportunity and has been approved as an Explorer scheduled to begin execution phase in FY 80. The preliminary study phase is complete and it has entered definition phase. All elements are technically feasible with low risk. The liquid helium Dewar is perhaps the most difficult new technology. COBE will use the Infrared Astronomy Satellite Dewar to minimize this risk. Launch will take place in Mid-1983.

ESTIMATED FUNDING:

Launch and Tracking and Data Acquisition costs are excluded.

R&D Funding

Fiscal Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
FY 79 Dollars (Millions)	8.0	8.3	9.1	5.5	1.7	1.4	34.0

*Cooled to 3 K in a liquid helium cryostat

FIG. 12B