PLANS FOR THE PIPELINE, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1984

D.S. Retallack
October 18, 1984

1. RSX-11M+

Complete the work on 11M+ as soon as possible. Correct any remaining hardware problems with the Century disk drives and/or controllers. (AOB, RBM)

Test the application software on GRIDER, SORTER and DISPLY to make sure it all works (includes recompiling etc. under 11M+ too). (RRP, RTD, PPM)

Test the PIPELN program for access to application programs from the DEC-10. (RTD, RRP, AOB, GvM)

Revise user documentation to reflect the new operating systems. Mostly, this will require changes to the Pipeline Users Guide but other documentation made need updating too. (AHR,DSR)

2. SORTER

Thoroughly test the DBFILL and UVFITS data paths to determine the following:
  (a) are there significant bugs/inefficiencies in the current software and/or unreliable sections of the hardware which create the user frustration and operational difficulties seen this summer? What are they and how much effort will it take to fix them?
  (b) can we use a second tape drive on SORTER?
  (c) can we draw up a list of things that don't work and make some estimates of the amount of effort required to fix them?

I propose that we use the month of November for a push on the SORTER system to answer the above questions. The goal should be to thoroughly try every possible path for making maps, comparing them, and testing the whole operational system without the interference of users. A variety of data types (continuum, spectral line) should be tried with "standard" data sets. It will be necessary to keep track of what has been tried, what problems were encountered and what improvements should be made. This will require the creation and maintenance of a "project book" containing a record of all that has been learned.

I propose that the ONLY users of the SORTER data path should be Arnold and Gustaaf. As far as users are concerned, the SORTER part of the Pipeline will not be available at all - this includes UVFITS as well as DBFILL. Al Braun, Bob Duquet and Phil Dooley must consider their full time activity to be working on solutions to problems with SORTER.

I suggest that we start on November 1, when reconfiguration to the A-array begins, and come to some conclusions on Friday, November 30; a decision will be made at that time to either (i) continue work on the SORTER system as necessary or (ii) abandon it.

3. GRIDER

Bob Payne should continue to work on the GRIDER mapping system to implement and test the following:
(i)   fix the clipping problem;
(ii) clean up the MAPCON priority scheme and queue management;
(iii) implement user logs for GRIDER/BTMAP requests;
(iv) work on automatic procedures to detect and report hardware malfunctions as much as possible;

4. DISPLY

Pat Murphy should work on the DISPLY system full time. The first priority is to make sure that the existing DISPLY software works properly under RSX-11M+. New items or changes will be made according to the list of priorities in consultation with R. Ekers, A. Rots and myself. Emphasis will be placed first on those items which have a major effect on continuum users.