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A COMPUTER-BASED CASCADE IMPACTOR DATA REDUCTION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

This document describes a cascade impactor data reduction system written in the FORTRAN IV language. The overall system incorporates six programs: MPPROG, SPLIN1, GRAPH, STATIS, PENTRA, and PENLOG. Impactor design, particulate catch information, and sampling conditions from single impactor runs are used to calculate particle size distributions. MPPROG and SPLIN1 perform data analyses and make curve fits, while GRAPH is totally devoted to various forms of graphical presentation of the calculated distributions. The particle size distributions can be output in several forms. STATIS averages data from multiple impactor runs under a common condition and PENTRA or PENLOG calculate the control device penetration and/or efficiency. The plotting routines have been written for a PDP15/76 computer and are not compatible with other computing systems without modification.

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Cascade impactors have gained wide acceptance as a practical means of making particle size distribution measurements. These devices are regularly used in a wide variety of environments, ranging from ambient conditions to flue gas streams at 400°C (752°F). Specially fabricated impactors can be used for more extreme conditions.

Because of their usefulness, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has funded research which has explored the theoretical and practical aspects of impactor operation. As part of this research, an effort has been made to design a comprehensive data reduction system which will make full use of cascade impactor measurements.

This publication describes a cascade impactor data reduction system designed to automatically reduce data taken with any one of four commercially available round jet cascade impactors: The Andersen Mark III Stack Sampler, the Brink Model BMS-11 (as supplied and with extra stages), the University of Washington Mark III Source Test Cascade Impactor, and the Meteorology Research Incorporated Model 1502 Inertial Cascade Impactor. Provision is not made in this system for reducing data taken with slotted jet impactors. With modification the computer programs can accommodate any round jet impactor with an arbitrary number of stages and with more extensive revision data can be reduced for slotted jet impactors.

The computer programs which comprise this data reduction system are written in the FORTRAN IV language. The plotting subroutines used were written specifically for the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) PDP-15/76 computer and these programs are not compatible with other plotting systems. However, these programs can be used as a guide when revision is made for use with another operating system.

The data reduction system is made up of six major (mainline) programs and 34 subroutines. Section 2 contains a broad outline of the functioning of each mainline program along with an explanation of the rationale for their design. The mainline programs and subroutines are discussed in detail in Section 3. Section 4 is a user's guide for each of the mainline programs. Detailed instructions for the input to each of the mainline programs is given in this section. Section 5 is a set of example calculations which are meant to be used in program checkout. An example of each kind of output that can be produced by this system is provided. Section 6 contains a complete program listing along with simplified flowcharts for the mainline programs. In an Appendix, a description is given of the plotter software used with the DEC PDP-15/76 computer system.

CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	ii
Figures.	vii
Tables	viii
Acknowledgments.	x
1. Introduction	1
2. General Program Outline.	3
Individual Run Data Analysis	3
MPPROG	5
SPLIN1	18
Generation of Interpolated Points.	19
GRAPH.	30
Analysis of Grouped Data	31
STATIS	31
Programs PENTRA/PENLOG	34
3. Programming Details.	36
Program MPPROG	36
Breakdown of Program MPPROG.	37
Functions of the Called Subprograms.	59
Subroutine VIS	60
Subroutine MEAN.	61
Subroutine CUT	62
Subroutine CUM	68
Subroutine DMDNGD.	70
Block Data Subprogram COMBK1	74
Block Data Subprogram COMBK2	74
Input to Program MPPROG.	77
Card Input	77
File Input	86
Output from Program MPPROG	87
Graph Output	91
File Output.	91
Program SPLIN1	95
Breakdown of Program SPLIN1.	95
Subroutines Called by Program SPLIN1	107
Input to Program SPLIN1.	107
File Input	108
Output from Program SPLIN1	108
File Input	109
Program GRAPH.	110
Breakdown of Program GRAPH	110
Functions of the Called Subroutines.	120
Subroutine CUMPCT.	136
Subroutine WALLY2.	142

CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
Subroutine WALLY3.	152
Subroutine JOE2.	163
Input and Output for the Mainline Program GRAPH.	170
Card Input and Resulting Output.	170
File Input and Output.	179
Program STATIS	183
Breakdown of Program STATIS.	184
Functions of the Called Subroutines.	206
Subroutine STPLOT.	213
Subroutine STATPT.	224
Input for Mainline Program	228
Card Input	228
File Input	230
Output for Mainline Program STATIS	231
Graph Output	236
Program PENTRA	240
Functions of the Called Subroutines	254
Input to Mainline Program PENTRA	254
Card Input	254
File Input	255
Output from Mainline Program PENTRA.	258
Line Printer Output.	258
Graph Output	258
File Output.	258
Program PENLOG	259
General Subroutines and Functions.	261
Subroutine SYMBOL.	261
Breakdown of Subroutine SYMBOL	261
Function SLIM.	278
Breakdown of Function SLIM	278
Function XVAL.	282
Breakdown of Function XVAL	282
Function YVAL.	283
Subroutine CPLOT.	283
Breakdown of Subroutine CPLOT	283
Subroutine YPROB	288
4. User Instructions.	291
Mainline Program MPPROG.	291
Requirements for Program Execution	291
Card Format.	292
Sample Job Stream.	292
Mainline Program SPLIN1.	294
Requirements for Program Execution	294
Card Format.	294
Sample Job Streams	296
Mainline Program Graph	297
Requirements for Program Execution	297

CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
Card Format.	297
Sample Job Stream.	299
Mainline Program STATIS.	300
Requirements for Program Execution	300
Card Format.	300
Sample Job Streams	302
Mainline Program PENTRA.	303
Requirements for Program Execution	303
Card Format.	303
Sample Job Streams	303
File Reference Information	306
Program and Subprogram Calling List.	308
5. Example Calculations	310
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Hypothetical Andersen	312
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Hypothetical Brink.	316
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Hypothetical University of Washington	354
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Hypothetical Meteorology Research, Inc.	358
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Brink	362
Data Deck for Program SPLIN1	370
Data Deck for Program GRAPH.	371
Data Deck for Program STATIS	384
Data Deck for Program MPPROG-Andersen.	396
Data Deck for Program SPLIN1	402
Data Deck for Program GRAPH.	403
Data Deck for Program STATIS	416
Data Deck for Program PENTRA	428
Data Deck for Program PENLOG	431
6. Program Listings	434
Flow Chart of Program GRAPH.	435
Listing of Main Program GRAPH.	441
Flow Chart of Program MPPROG	447
Listing of Main Program MPPROG	448
Flow Chart of Program PENTRA	463
Listing of Main Program PENTRA	470
Listing of Main Program PENLOG	477
Flow Chart of Program SPLIN1	484
Listing of Main Program SPLIN1	486
Flow Chart of Program STATIS	491
Listing of Main Program STATIS	496
Listing of Subroutine AVCON.	508
Listing of Block Data Subprogram COMBK1.	511
Listing of Block Data Subprogram COMBK2.	512
Listing of Subroutine CPLOT	514
Listing of Subroutine CUM.	516
Listing of Subroutine CUMPT	517
Listing of Subroutine CUT.	521

CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
Listing of Subroutine DMDNGD	524
Listing of Subroutine FPLOT	527
Listing of Subroutine JOE1	529
Listing of Subroutine JOE2	531
Listing of Subroutine LABEL	534
Listing of Subroutine LGLBL	535
Listing of Subroutine MEAN	536
Listing of Subroutine NDTRI	537
Listing of Subroutine PIONT	538
Listing of Subroutine SIMQ	540
Listing of Function SLIM	542
Listing of Subroutine STAGE	543
Listing of Subroutine STATPT	544
Listing of Subroutine STPLOT	547
Listing of Subroutine SYMBOL	551
Listing of Subroutine VIS	554
Listing of Subroutine WALLY1	555
Listing of Subroutine WALLY2	560
Listing of Subroutine WALLY3	563
Listing of Subroutine XLOG	566
Listing of Subroutine XSLBL	567
Listing of Subroutine XVAL	568
Listing of Subroutine YLOG	569
Listing of Subroutine YPROB	570
Listing of Subroutine YVAL	573
References	574
Appendix	575