


# A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE FOR AUTOMATIC COMPUTER EDITING OF BIODATA 

By Ram Swaroop and Kenneth A. West
Computing and Software, Inc. Field Team at Flight Research Center
and
Charles E. Lewis, Jr.
Flight Research Center
Edwards, Calif.

# A SIMPLE TECHNIQUE FOR AUTOMATIC COMPUTER EDITING 

## OF BIODATA

By Ram Swaroop and Kenneth A. West<br>Computing and Software, Inc.<br>Field Team at Flight Research Center

and
Charles E. Lewis, Jr.
Flight Research Center

## SUMMARY

Before any data are statistically analyzed, it is always necessary to edit the data to some extent. Furthermore, when large quantities of data are collected, the editing must be performed by automatic means. One common task in the editing process is the identification of observations which deviate markedly from the rest of the sample, commonly known as outliers. A simple statistical technique for identifying the outliers and the necessary computer program is presented in this report. The program requires as input only the data set, sample size, and preselected levels of significance at which outliers are to be identified. It is assumed that the data set is a random sample of size larger than two from a normal population. Two examples are presented to illustrate applications of the described technique.

## INTRODUCTION

The NASA Flight Research Center is engaged in an extensive research and development program aimed at advancing the state of the art in medical monitoring of humans in flight (ref. 1). Under this program, more biomedical information is collected in flight than is collected under the sum of all other known flight programs. An effort of this magnitude depends entirely on the Flight Research Center's capacity for collecting, reducing, and analyzing these data by automatic means, including development of new techniques for accomplishing this work. No matter how sophisticated the monitoring, collection, and reduction systems, some editing of the biodata is required before they can be analyzed statistically.

The reduced biodata may contain observations that deviate markedly from the rest of the sample, or from the trend of the data set. Such measurements are termed outlying observations, or outliers. An outlier may be subject to errors other than the usual random fluctuations characterizing the population to which the data belong, or may merely occur too infrequently to be considered in a particular analysis. Most of the statistical tests which are available to detect and decide whether an outlier is too
rare to be acceptable are either too complex or too cumbersome for general application. One method suggested originally by Cramér (ref. 2) is derived in this paper and its use demonstrated. This method was chosen because of its simplicity and easy applicability in editing biodata. A computer program for automatic editing was written in FORTRAN IV, based on Cramér's suggestion. The input to the program is sample data, sample size, and a preselected level of significance. The data sample is either a set of observations or the deviations of the observations from a model, whichever is appropriate. Before testing the outliers, the program computes and prints the mean and standard deviation. After the test is performed, the data are printed with each outlier identified by an asterisk. Then the mean, standard deviation, and sample size are recalculated and printed, excluding the outliers. Four repetitions of the test may be made for different levels of significance.

Two examples are presented. In the first example the observations meet the assumption of random sample from a normal population. In the second example the input data are deviations of the observations from a given model.

The program source listing, with instructions, and sample problems are presented in appendixes A to C. For convenience in manual computations, a related probability table of values (table I) is included.

SYMBOLS

| F(x) | distribution function at x |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\mathrm{f}_{\tau}(\mathrm{x})$ | density function of $\tau$ at point x |
| ${ }^{\mathrm{k}}$ |  |
| $\sum_{i}$ | summation starting from $i$ through $k$, where $i$ and $k$ are integers between 1 and $n$, and $i$ is less than $k$ |
| n | sample size |
| $s=\sqrt{\frac{(n-1)}{n}}$ (standard deviation of sample) |  |
| t | random variable of Student's distribution |
| $\mathrm{t}^{\prime}$ | random variable related to $t$ distribution |
| $\overline{\mathrm{x}}$ | arithmetic average of sample values |
| $\mathrm{x}_{1}, \mathrm{x}_{2}, \ldots, \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{n}}$ | elements of observed sample |

```
y
orthogonalized variables obtained from }\mp@subsup{x}{1}{},\mp@subsup{x}{2}{},\ldots,\mp@subsup{x}{n}{
\alpha level of significance between 0 and 1
\Gamma(r) gamma function at r. If r is an integer }\Gamma(r)=(r-1)
\sigma standard deviation
\tau random variable obtained from Student's t distribution
\tau* value of }\tau\mathrm{ at }\alpha\mathrm{ level of significance
```


## BRIEF TEST DESCRIPTION

The outlier test consists of computing a parameter $\tau^{*}$ for the data set and a value $\tau_{i}$ for each member in the data set, comparing each $\tau_{i}$ with the $\tau^{*}$, and identifying the members with a $\tau_{i}$ greater than $\tau^{*}$. The set parameter $\tau^{*}$ is a function of the sample and the level of significance at which outliers are to be identified. Each $\tau_{i}$ is a function of the value of the member and the mean and standard deviation of the data set. As previously stated, the members must constitute a random sample of size larger than two from a normal population.

## DERIVATION OF TEST

Let $x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}$ be a random sample of size $n$ from a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation $\sigma$. Then the variable

$$
t=\frac{x_{1}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{2}^{n} x_{i}^{2}}}
$$

has a Student's central $t$ distribution, but the variable

$$
\tau=\frac{x_{1}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{1}^{n} x_{i}^{2}}}
$$

dges not because here the numerator and denominator are not independent. Moreover, $\tau^{2} \leqq n$; therefore, the distribution of $\tau$ has a zero probability outside the interval ( $-\sqrt{\mathrm{n}}, \sqrt{\mathrm{n}}$ ). Defining

$$
\mathrm{t}^{\prime}=\sqrt{\frac{\mathrm{n}-1}{\mathrm{n}}} \frac{\tau}{\sqrt{1-\frac{\tau^{2}}{\mathrm{n}}}}=\frac{\tau \sqrt{\mathrm{n}-1}}{\sqrt{\mathrm{n}-\tau^{2}}}=\frac{\mathrm{x}_{1}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{\mathrm{n}-1} \sum_{2}^{n} x_{i}^{2}}}
$$

it is seen that $t^{\prime}$ is distributed as a central $t$ with ( $n-1$ ) degrees of freedom. From this the density function of $\tau$ is obtained as

$$
f_{\tau}(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{n \pi}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{n-1}{2}\right)}\left(1-\frac{x^{2}}{n}\right)^{\frac{(n-3)}{2}} \text { for }|x| \leqq \sqrt{n}
$$

for $n>2$. Replacing the $x_{i}$ variables with new $y_{i}$ variables by means of an orthogonal transformation such that the first two are

$$
\mathrm{y}_{1}=\sqrt{\mathrm{n}} \overline{\mathrm{x}}
$$

and

$$
y_{2}=\sqrt{\frac{n}{n-1}}\left(x_{1}-\bar{x}\right)
$$

it is found that

$$
n s^{2}=\sum_{1}^{n} x_{i}^{2}-n \bar{x}^{2}=\sum_{2}^{n} y_{i}^{2}
$$

Consequently, the variable

$$
\tau_{1}=\frac{\mathrm{x}_{1}-\overline{\mathrm{x}}}{\mathrm{~s}}
$$

which expresses the deviation of the sample value $\mathrm{x}_{1}$ from the sample mean $\overline{\mathrm{x}}$ in terms of measured units of the standard deviation of the sample, becomes

$$
\tau_{1}=\frac{y_{2}}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{2}^{n} y_{i}^{2}}}
$$

The variables $y_{i}, i=2 \ldots, n$ are independent and normally distributed with 0 mean
and standard deviation $\sigma$. The variable

$$
\frac{\tau_{1} \sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{n-1-\tau_{1}^{2}}}
$$

is then distributed as a Student's $t$ with ( $n-2$ ) degrees of freedom. These results hold irrespective of the value of the mean, and for any relative deviation

$$
\frac{x_{i}-\bar{x}}{s}
$$

## PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Given a sample of data $x_{1}, \ldots x_{n}$, compute the sample estimate of the mean

$$
\overline{\mathrm{x}}=\frac{1}{\mathrm{n}} \sum_{1}^{\mathrm{n}} \mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{i}}
$$

and

$$
s=\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{1}^{n} x_{i}^{2}-n \bar{x}^{2}}{n}}
$$

Then compute critical values of $\tau^{*}$ by the relation

$$
\tau^{*}=\frac{\mathrm{t} \sqrt{\mathrm{n}-1}}{\sqrt{\mathrm{n}-2+\mathrm{t}^{2}}}
$$

where $t$ is the Student's central $t$-value at $\alpha$ level with ( $n-2$ ) degrees of freedom and $n$ is the sample size. Next compute $\tau_{i}$ values for $n$ sample points

$$
\tau_{i}=\frac{x_{i}-\bar{x}}{s}
$$

If

$$
\left|\tau_{\mathrm{i}}\right|>\tau^{*}
$$

then $x_{i}$ is considered an outlier at significance level $\alpha$.
The program (appendix A) follows this method to detect and identify (by ${ }^{*}$ ) the outliers. An option of the program allows the user to repeat the test for different
levels of significance. The required input parameters are as follows:

1. Format of the data to be read.
2. The sample size $n$.
3. The significance level $\alpha$ values.
4. The data format is as specified.

The input procedure is completely described in the comments at the beginning of the source listing (appendix A).

EXAMPLES

Example 1
One-minute heart rates from a 71 -minute flight piloted by a student pilot from the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base are used to illustrate the described method of editing for outliers. The heart rates in this example satisfy the assumption of random sampling from a normal population. The sample output, including the outliers marked by asterisks and the standard deviations, is shown in appendix $B$. The results of the analysis are shown in the following table:

| Significance level, percent | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0.1 | Original <br> data |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\quad$ Reduced sample size | 61 | 67 | 70 | 71 | 71 |
| Standard deviation of reduced <br> $\quad$ sample | 4.593 | 5.711 | 6.371 | 6.749 | 6.749 |

## Example 2

In this example the outlier editing program is used on a flight profile from the Limited Vision Landing Accuracy Study (commonly known as "Cyclops") in progress at the Flight Research Center. The observations are the altitudes of the aircraft at fixed distances from the touchdown target point on the runway. The flight profile model is assumed to be a second-degree polynomial. The deviations of the observations from this flight profile are the inputs to this program. These deviations satisfy the requirements of random sampling from a normal population. The computer output identifying outliers with asterisks is presented in appendix C. The flight profile and outliers are shown in figure 1.


Figure 1.- Observations of aircraft altitude variation with distance from the runway touchdown target point for the Limited Vision Landing Accuracy Study.

The results of the analysis at four levels of significance are presented in the following table:

| Significance level, percent | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0.1 | Original <br> data |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| $\quad$ Reduced sample size | 33 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 35 |
| Standard deviation of reduced <br> $\quad$ sample | 0.453 | 0.475 | 0.475 | 0.475 | 0.564 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## REMARKS

Although the method of detecting and identifying the outliers described in this paper is being used for biodata editing at the Flight Research Center, its applicability in other areas is obvious. Results indicate that statistical analyses after removal of outliers have a lower standard deviation than when the outliers are not removed. The sample sizes are usually larger than 30 , so reduction in sample size did not affect the validity of the results.

Flight Research Center,
National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
Edwards, Calif., March 25, 1969,
127-51-03-01-24.

## APPENDIX A

## PROGRAM SOURCE LISTING



```
        DUTPUT
        1 MEAN
        2 STANDARD DEVIATION
        3 LIST OF DATA WITH THE OUTLIERS IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK
        4 ~ M E A N ~ W I T H ~ O U T L I E R S ~ D E L E T E D ~
        5 STANDARD DEVIATION WITH OUTLIERS DELETED
        6 ~ S A M P L E ~ S I Z E ~ W I T H O U T ~ T H E ~ O U T L I E R S
        NOTE STEPS 3 THRU 6 ARE REPEATED FOR EACH LEVEL OF ALPHA
        USED.
        DIMENSION X(1000), ITC(1000), ALPHA(5), FMT(20), TVAL(5)
        REAL*8 SUMI, SUMZ, SUMNEW, SUMNZ
        DATA IDUM1/4H /,IDUM2/4H* /
    1 SUMl = 0.0
        SUM2 = 0.0
        READ(1,100,END=999) FMT, NLIM, NT,(ALPHA(J),J=1,NT)
100 FORMAT(20A4/2I5.4F5.3)
        WRITE(3,200) FMT
200 FORMAT (1H1,3OX,'P R O G R A M T O T E S T O U T L I E R S
    1'///' FORMAT DF INPUT X VALUES IS '2OA4)
        READ(I,FMT)(X(I),I=I,NLIM)
        DO 20 I = 1,NLIM
        SUMl = SUMl + X(I)
20 SUM2 = SUM2 + X(I)*X(I)
        SDEV = (SUM2 -(SUM1*SUMI)/NLIM)/(NLIM)
        SDEV = SORT(SDEV)
        XMEAN = SUMI/NLIM
            ALIM = NLIM
            WRITE(3.160) XMEAN, SDEV
160 FORMAT(IH ,'MEAN = 'F10.4/' STANDARD DEVIATION =',
    1F10.4)
        DO 30 J=1,NT
        C.ALL STUDNT(TVAL(J),NLIM, ALPHA(J))
    30 TVAL(J)=(TVAL(J)*SQRT(ALIM-1.))/SQRT(ALIM-2. +TVAL(J)*TVAL(J))
        DO 70 J = 1. NT
        WRITE(3,130)
130 FIJRMAT(lHL,'LIST OF INPUT VALUES'//9X,'N',14X,'X VALUE',9X,'N',I3X
    a ,'X VALUE'/)
    SUMNEW = SUMI
        SUMN2 = SUM2
        NC.OUNT = NLIM
    DO 60 I= 1, NLIM
150 FORMAT(1HI)
            ITC(I)= IDUMI
    TAU = {X(I) - XMEAN)/SDEV
        IF(ABS(TAU).LE.TVAL(J)) GO TO 90
        ITC(I) = IDUM2
    SUMNEW = SUMNEW-X(I)
    SUMN2 = SUMN2 -X(I)*X(I)
    NCOUNT = NCOUNT -1
9 0 ~ c o n t i n u e
6 0 ~ C O N T I N U E ~
    WRITE(3,110)(I,X(I),ITC(I),I=1,NLIM)
110 FORMAT(1X,I10,F2C.5,A1,I`,F20.5,A1)
    WRITE(3,120) ALPHA(J)
```

```
    120 FORMATIIHO, ** INDICATES OUTLIER VALUE AT 'F5.3,' SIGNIFICANCE LEV
    1EL')
        EXPT = SUMNEW/NCOUNT
        SDEV1= (SUMN2-(SUMNEW*SUMNEW)/NCUUNT)/(NCOUNT)
        SDFV1= SORT(SOEV1)
        WRITE(3.170) EXPT, SDEV1,NCOUNT
    170 FORMAT('CPOPULATION PARAMETERS WITH OUTLIERS DELETED'/' MEAN
    1 =:FIO.4/' STANOARD DEVIATION='F10.4/: N
    2 ='15///1
    70 CONTINUE
        GO TO l
9 9 0 ~ R F T U R N
        END
        SUBROIITINE STUDNT(T,N,A)
        DIMENSIDN TABLE(4, 34),LTAB( 4),ATAB(4)
        DATA LTAR / 30.40,50.120/,ATAB/0.10,0.05,0.01,0.001/
        DATA TABLE/6.314,12.706,63.657,636.619,2.920,4.303,9.925,31.598,
    12.353,3.192,5.841,12.924,2.132,2.776,4.604,8.610,2.015,2.571,4.032
    2.6.869,1.943,2.447,3.707,5.559,1.895,2.365,3.499,5.408,1.860,2.306
    3,3.355,5.041,1.833.2.262,3.250,4.781,1.812,2.228,3.169.4.587.1.796
    4.2.201,3.106,4.437.1.782,2.179.3.055,4.318,1.771,2.160,3.012,4.221
    5.1.761,2.145,2.977,4.140,1.753,2.131,2.947,4.073,1.746,2.120,2.921
    6,4.015,1.740,2.110,2.898,3.965,1.734,2.101,2.878.3.922,1.729,2.093
    7,2.851,3.883,1.725,2.086,2.845,3.850,1.721,2.080,2.831,3.819,1.717
    8,2.074,2.819,3.792,1.714,2.069,2.807,3.767,1.711,2.064,2.797,3.745
    9,1.708,2.060,2.787,3.725,1.706,2.656,2.779,3.70.7,1.703,2.052.2.771
    A.3.690,1.701,2.048,2.763.3.674,1.699,2.045,2.756,3.659.1.697,2.042
    1,2.759,3.646,1.684,2.021,2.704,3.551,1.671,2.000,2.660,3.460,1.658
    2.1.980.2.617,3.373,1.645.1.960.2.576.3.291/
    DO 10 I= 1.4
    IF(A .EQ.ATAB(I)) GO TO 20
    10 CONTINUF
    WRITE(3,1) A
    1 FORMAT(IHO,'ALOHA VALUE = 'F5.4,' IS NOT a TABLED VALUE' )
    WRITE(3,167)
167 FORMATIIH .' ALPHA SET EQUAL TO 0.10')
        I = l
    20 II= I
        JF( N.LF.30) GO TO 40
        O\cap 30 I = 2,4
        IF(N-LTAR(I))50,4C,30
    3O CONTTNUE
C
    INTERDOLATE WITH DF 120, INFIN
    T= TABLE(I1.34) + (1.0/N)/(1.0/LTAB(4))*(TABLE(II.33)-TABLE(II,34
    1) 1
    RETURN
    40 T= TABLE(II,N)
    kFTURN
    50 T= TABLE(II,I+29) + (1.O/N -1.0/LTAB(I))/(1.0/LTAB(I-1)-1.0/LTAB(
    I I|)*(TABLE(Il,I+28) - TABLE(Il,I+29))
    RFTURN
    END
```


## APPENDIX B

## OUTPUT FOR EXAMPLE 1

$P R B G R A M$
T 0
T E S T
OUTLIERS

FQRMAT OF INPUT $X$ VALUES IS (14F5.3) MEAN $=98.5042$
STANDARD DEVIATION $=6.7494$
LIST OF INPUT VALUES

| $N$ | $x$ value | $N$ | x value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 101.20000 | 2 | 95.20000 |
| 3 | 85.79999* | 4 | 82.20000\% |
| 5 | 96.70000 | 6 | 95.29999 |
| 7 | 98.29999 | 8 | 101.59959 |
| 9 | 94.89999 | 10 | 90.79999 |
| 11 | 92.20000 | 12 | 97.00000 |
| 13 | 95.29999 | 14 | 94.79999 |
| 15 | 104.2000C | 16 | $118.20000 \%$ |
| 17 | 104.29999 | 18 | 110.50000* |
| 19 | 107.50000 | 20 | 104.7000C |
| 21 | 104.29999 | 22 | 103.39999 |
| 23 | 104.70000 | 24 | 101.59999 |
| 25 | 102.20000 | 26 | 105.39999 |
| 27 | 103.50000 | 28 | 98.c0000 |
| 29 | 165.00000 | 30 | 103.39999 |
| 31 | 104.00000 | 32 | 97.89999 |
| 33 | 100.39999 | 34 | 99.29999 |
| 35 | 16C.89999 | 36 | 98.79999 |
| 37 | 99.89999 | 38 | 106.39999 |
| 39 | 06.27999 | 40 | 102.70000 |
| 41 | 105.09999 | 42 | 110.29999* |
| 43 | 101.89999 | 44 | 96.89799 |
| 45 | 96.5000 c | 46 | 96.29999 |
| 47 | 95.7000 C | 48 | $98 . \mathrm{LJOOC}$ |
| 49 | 90.29999 | 50 | 88.89999 |
| 51 | 97.27999 | 52 | 86.2000 C |
| 53 | 86.50000\% | 54 | 96.29990 |
| 55 | 97.09990 | 56 | 96.50000 |
| 57 | 89.0000 C | 58 | 84.70000 * |
| 59 | 97.00000 | 60 | 88.59999 |
| 61 | 97.79999 | 62 | 95.20000 |
| 63 | 98.39999 | 64 | 112.79999* |
| 65 | 111.c7999* | 66 | 97.00000 |
| 67 | 95.50000 | 68 | 97.50000 |
| 69 | 93.00000 | 70 | 94.59999 |
| 71 | 93.000 CC |  |  |

* indicates outlier value at c. 100 Significance level
pIpulation parameters with outliers deleted
MEAN $=98.4508$
STANDARD DEVIATION = 4.5932
$\mathrm{N}=61$

LIST OF INPUT VALUES



## LIST OF INPUT VALUES



## APPENDIX C

## OUTPUT FOR EXAMPLE 2



```
FORMAT OF INPUT X VALUES IS (14F5.3)
MEAN =-0.0002
STANDARD DEVIATION = 0.5636
lIST OF INPUT VALUES
\begin{tabular}{rrrr}
\(N\) & XVILUE & \(N\) & XVALUE \\
1 & 0.25000 & 2 & 0.47400 \\
3 & 0.47000 & 4 & 0.39700 \\
5 & 0.38100 & 6 & 0.34300 \\
7 & 0.18700 & 8 & -0.13300 \\
9 & -0.77000 & 10 & -0.58000 \\
11 & -0.46500 & 12 & -0.24300 \\
13 & -0.10700 & 14 & -0.29200 \\
15 & -0.53800 & 16 & -0.06500 \\
17 & 0.06800 & 18 & 0.31000 \\
19 & \(1.82600 *\) & 20 & 0.90500 \\
21 & 0.45000 & 22 & 0.65400 \\
23 & 0.33600 & 24 & 0.08000 \\
25 & 0.41800 & 26 & \(-0.98900 \%\) \\
27 & 0.14000 & 28 & -0.88500 \\
29 & -0.88500 & 39 & -0.46500 \\
31 & -0.65300 & 32 & 0.29700 \\
33 & -0.24900 & 34 &
\end{tabular}
* INDICATES DUTlier value at o.loc significance level
population parameters with outliers deleted
MEAN \(=-0.0255\)
STANDARD DEVIATION \(=0.4533\)
N
33
```



## LIST OF INPUT VALUES



$$
\begin{array}{r}
x \text { VALUE } \\
0.47400 \\
0.39700 \\
0.34300 \\
-0.13300 \\
-0.58000 \\
-0.24300 \\
-0.29200 \\
-0.06500 \\
-0.31000 \\
0.90500 \\
0.01300 \\
0.65400 \\
0.08000 \\
-0.98900 \\
-0.88500 \\
-0.46500 \\
0.29700
\end{array}
$$

population parameters with outliers deleted
MEAN $=-0.0539$
$\mathrm{N}=34$

## REFERENCES

1. Roman, James: Long-Range Program to Develop Medical Monitoring in Flight. The Flight Research Program - I. Aerospace Medicine, vol. 36, no. 6, June 1965, pp. 514-518.
2. Cramér, Harald: Mathematical Methods of Statistics. Princeton University Press, 1961, pp. 240, 390.

TABLE I. - UPPER PERCENTAGE POINTS OF THE $\tau$ DISTRIBUTION


NOTE: To calculate $T^{*}$ values for sample sizes or significance levels not shown, use the relationship

$$
\tau^{*}=\frac{t \sqrt{n-1}}{\sqrt{n-2+t^{2}}}
$$

where $t$ is Student's $t$-value at significance level $\alpha$ and $n-2$ degrees of freedom and $n$ is sample size.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

official business

"The aeronautical and space activities of the United States shall be conducted so as to contribute .. . to the expansion of buman knowledge of phenomena in the atmosphere and space. The Administration shall provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof."

- National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958


## NASA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

TECHNICAL REPORTS: Scientific and technical information considered important, complete, and a lasting contribution to existing knowledge.

TECHNICAL NOTES: Information less broad in scope but nevertheless of importance as a contribution to existing knowledge.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUMS: Information receiving limited distribution because of preliminary data, security classification, or other reasons.

CONTRACTOR REPORTS: Scientific and technical information generated under a NASA contract or grant and considered an important contribution to existing knowledge.

TECHNICAL TRANSLATIONS: Information published in a foreign language considered to merit NASA distribution in English.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS: Information derived from or of value to NASA activities. Publications include conference proceedings, monographs, data compilations, handbooks, sourcebooks, and special bibliographies.

TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION PUBLICATIONS: Information on technology used by NASA that may be of particular interest in commercial and other non-aerospace applications. Publications include Tech Briefs, Technology Utilization Reports and Notes, and Technology Surveys.

Details on the availability of these publications may be obtained from:
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION DIVISION
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

