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satellite

ANOTHER TWIN IS WORKING!

by

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NOAA-6, the second TIROS TWIN (Brandli and Orndorff, 1979), is operational. The spacecraft is shown in Fig. 1. The TIROS TWINS, the third generation of polar orbiting meteorological satellite systems (Hussey, 1977) contains new and greatly improved environmental instrumentation.

NOAA-6 was launched into an early-morning orbit with local equator crossing at about 0730 local (sun) time.

Channel 1 on NOAA-6 is 0.58-0.68 micrometers whereas TIROS-N's channel 1 was 0.55-0.90 micrometers .

A recent nighttime NOAA-6 infrared view is shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Harris Corporation of Melbourne FL (this does not constitute a commercial endorsement by the NWA) has developed new equipment for processing DMSP and TIROS imagery. Their MARK IV system grids, enhances, expands and even adds alpha-numerics to the photos. Other exotic functions are available; for example, acquiring histograms of any given locale. The climatological implications of this scheme are enormous!

References:

Brandli, H. W. and J. W. Orndorff, 1979. "TIROS-N Is Working", National Weather Digest, Vol. 4, pp. 32-34.

Hussey, W. J., 1978. "The TIROS-N Twins are Coming". NOAA Report, Vol. 8.

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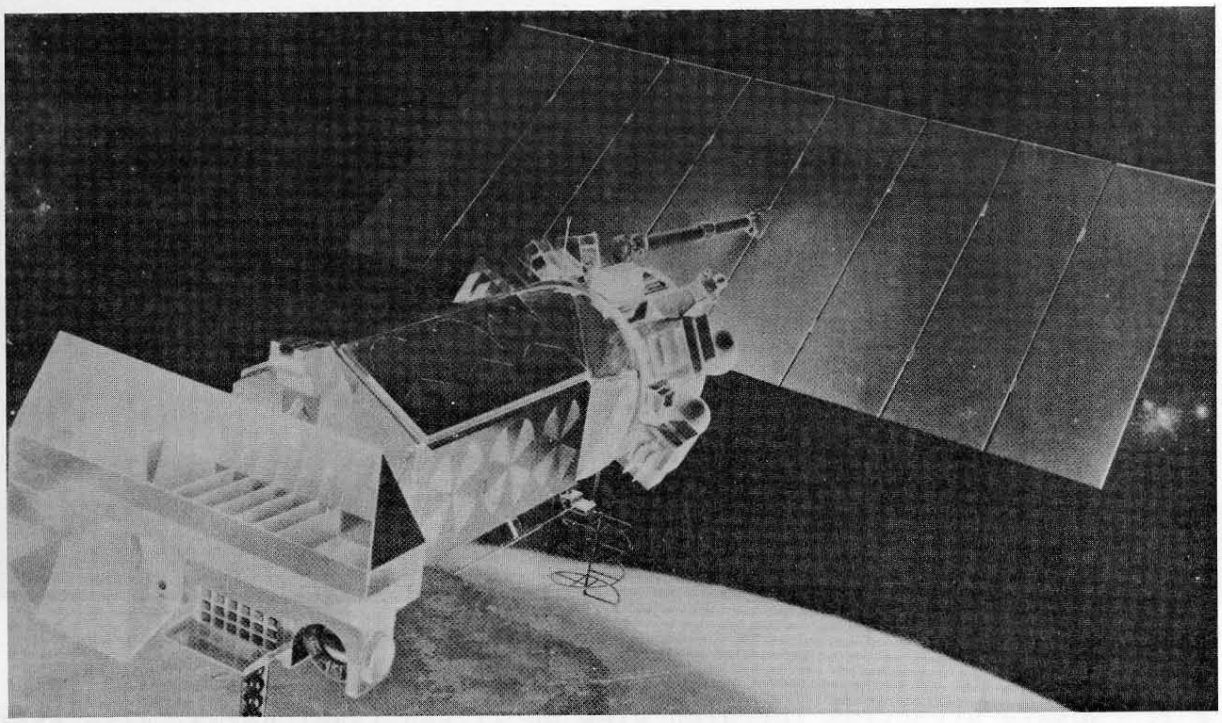

Figure 1. The NOAA-6 Spacecraft.

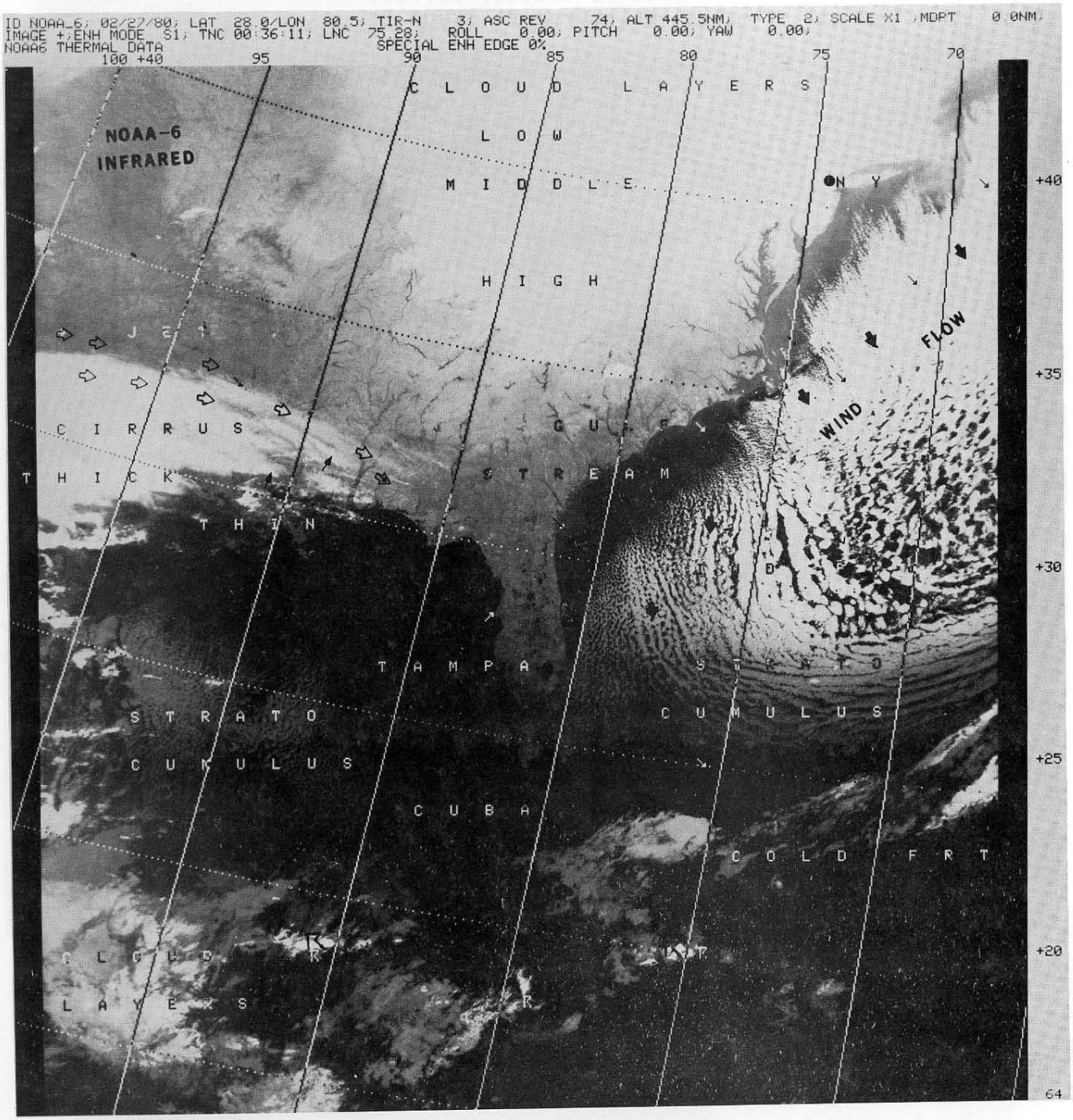

Figure 2. NOAA-6 nighttime infrared view on 27 Feb 1980; normal size scale, gridded and analyzed.

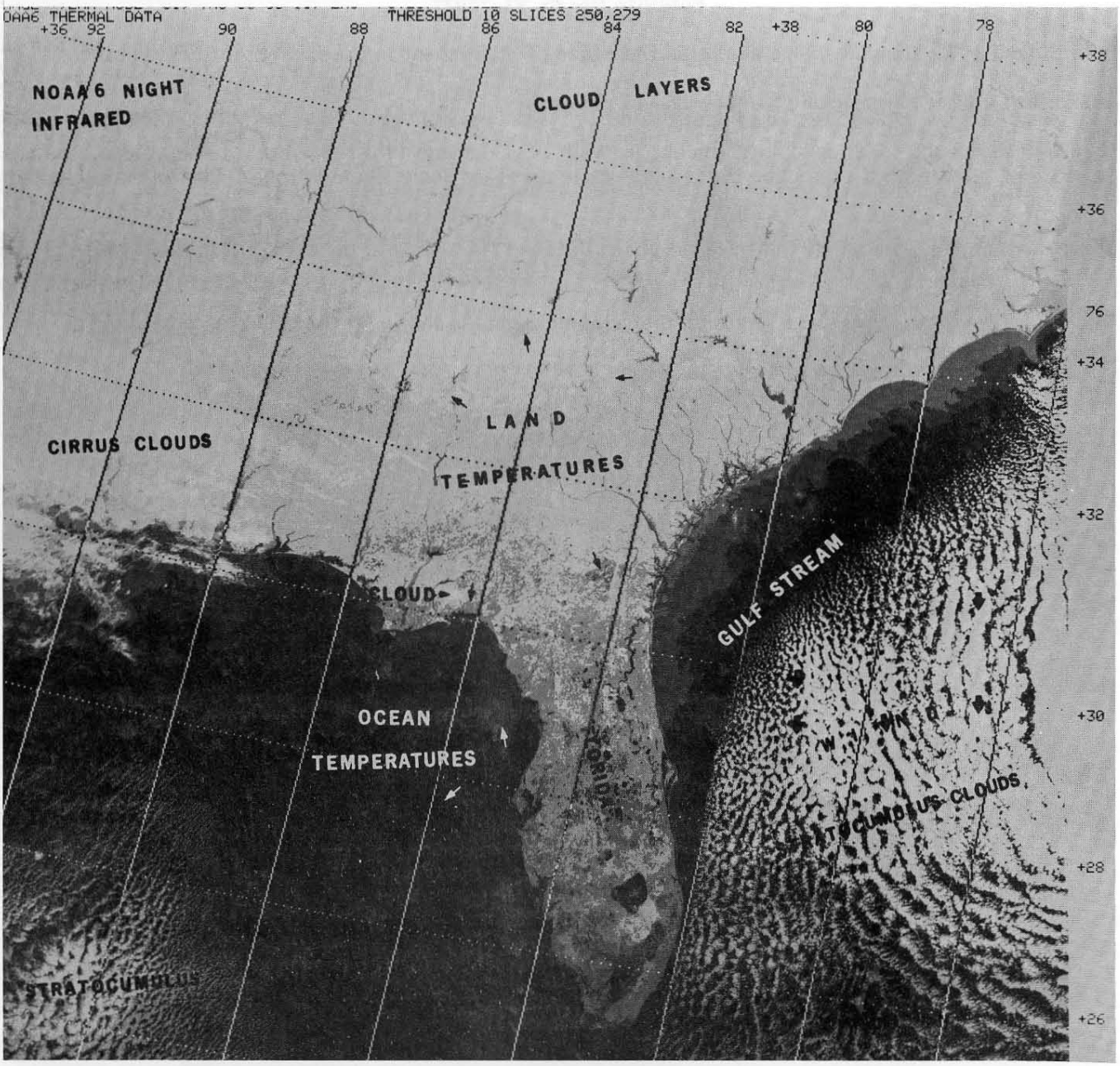

Figure 3. NOAA-6 nighttime infrared view on 27 Feb 1980; expanded twice, gridded, and enhanced for land/water features, and analyzed.