

THE CASSINI ION AND NEUTRAL MASS SPECTROMETER (INMS) INVESTIGATION

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Abstract. The Cassini Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS) investigation will determine the mass composition and number densities of neutral species and low-energy ions in key regions of the Saturn system. The primary focus of the INMS investigation is on the composition and structure of Titan's upper atmosphere and its interaction with Saturn's magnetospheric plasma. Of particular interest is the high-altitude region, between 900 and 1000 km, where the methane and nitrogen photochemistry is initiated that leads to the creation of complex hydrocarbons and nitriles that may eventually precipitate onto the moon's surface to form hydrocarbon–nitrile lakes or oceans. The investigation is also focused on the neutral and plasma environments of Saturn's ring system and icy moons and on the identification of positive ions and neutral species in Saturn's inner magnetosphere. Measurement of material sputtered from the satellites and the rings by magnetospheric charged particle and micrometeorite bombardment is expected to provide information about the formation of the giant neutral cloud of water molecules and water products that surrounds Saturn out to a distance of ~ 12 planetary radii and about the genesis and evolution of the rings.

The INMS instrument consists of a closed ion source and an open ion source, various focusing lenses, an electrostatic quadrupole switching lens, a radio frequency quadrupole mass analyzer, two secondary electron multiplier detectors, and the associated supporting electronics and power supply systems. The INMS will be operated in three different modes: a closed source neutral mode, for the measurement of non-reactive neutrals such as N_2 and CH_4 ; an open source neutral mode, for reactive neutrals such as atomic nitrogen; and an open source ion mode, for positive ions with energies less than 100 eV. Instrument sensitivity is greatest in the first mode, because the ram pressure of the inflowing gas can be used to enhance the density of the sampled non-reactive neutrals in the closed source antechamber. In this mode, neutral species with concentrations on the order of $\geq 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ will be detected (compared with $\geq 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the open source neutral mode). For ions the detection threshold is on the order of 10^{-2} cm^{-3} at Titan relative velocity (6 km sec^{-1}). The INMS instrument has a mass range of 1–99 Daltons and a mass resolution $M/\Delta M$ of 100 at 10% of the mass peak height, which will allow detection of heavier hydrocarbon species and of possible cyclic hydrocarbons such as C_6H_6 .



The INMS instrument was built by a team of engineers and scientists working at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (Planetary Atmospheres Laboratory) and the University of Michigan (Space Physics Research Laboratory). INMS development and fabrication were directed by Dr. Hasso B. Niemann (Goddard Space Flight Center). The instrument is operated by a Science Team, which is also responsible for data analysis and distribution. The INMS Science Team is led by Dr. J. Hunter Waite, Jr. (University of Michigan).

Keywords: Cassini, Titan, Saturn, Huygens, Mass Spectrometry

1. Introduction and Scientific Background

The Cassini spacecraft will enter Saturn orbit in July 2004. During Cassini's 4-year exploration of the Saturn system, the INMS instrument will acquire data needed to address two major scientific objectives: (1) characterize the composition, structure, and chemical behavior of Titan's upper atmosphere and its interaction with the plasma of Saturn's magnetosphere and (2) investigate the neutral and plasma environments of the rings and icy satellites and their interactions with the magnetosphere. Key mission events for the INMS investigation include Saturn Orbit Insertion (SOI), during which the spacecraft will pass at low altitude over the ring system and cross the ring plane, providing a unique opportunity for in-situ measurement of the ring environment; over 40 planned close encounters with Titan; and close flybys of the icy satellites Enceladus, Dione, and Rhea. The primary measurement objective during the icy satellite encounters will be the detection of neutral species that have been sputtered from the satellite surfaces by charged particle bombardment. Measurement of this material will provide information about the surface composition of the satellites and about the formation of the neutral water/water product cloud surrounding Saturn. Of the Titan flybys, the sixth, nearly 9 months after SOI, will be particularly important, as it will occur just 3 months after the descent of the Huygens Probe through Titan's nitrogen-methane atmosphere. INMS data acquired near 950-km altitude during this time (Flyby T5: April 16, 2005) will provide detailed composition data on the upper atmosphere, which can be compared with Probe data on the lower atmospheric composition.

1.1. THE INMS TITAN INVESTIGATION

During the Orbiter's Titan encounters, the INMS instrument will gather data on the composition, density, and temperature of Titan's upper neutral atmosphere and on the composition and density of the ionosphere. These data, together with complementary neutral atmosphere data from the Orbiter Radio Science Subsystem (RSS), UV Imaging Spectrograph (UVIS), Visible and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIMS), and Composite Infrared Spectrometer (CIRS) experiments and the Probe atmospheric experiments and ionospheric data from the Cassini Plasma

Spectrometer (CAPS), the Radio Plasma Wave Spectrometer (RPWS), and the RSS investigations, will be used (1) to characterize Titan's neutral atmosphere and ionosphere, with particular emphasis on the chemistry that initiates the formation of complex hydrocarbon and nitrile compounds present in the aerosol haze layers and perhaps in liquid and solid form on the surface; and (2) to study the interaction of Titan's upper atmosphere/ionosphere with Saturn's magnetosphere and, occasionally, the solar wind. In the following, we will review the science background for the INMS Titan investigation and outline the measurements that the INMS instrument will make to address the investigation's science objectives. Before turning to this discussion, however, we would like to note that the INMS measurements have operational as well as scientific importance. INMS data on neutral atmosphere densities acquired during the Orbiter's first pass (at a conservative altitude of 1200 km) will be used to assess possible atmospheric drag effects on the spacecraft and will be factored into planning Orbiter trajectories for subsequent Titan encounters. It is hoped that the analysis of the density measurements made during the first Titan encounter will indicate that the sixth Titan flyby can take place at a lower altitude, ~ 950 km, allowing for measurement deeper in the atmosphere at a time when the atmosphere will not have undergone significant changes since the Probe data were taken. This would provide a valuable basis for correlative studies, based on INMS and Probe data, of the upper and lower regions of Titan's atmosphere and of the processes coupling them.

1.1.1. *Titan's Neutral Upper Atmosphere*

Our present knowledge of Titan's neutral atmosphere rests wholly on remote-sensing (infrared imaging and radio and ultraviolet occultation) data acquired during the Voyagers 1 and 2 Saturn flybys and on observations with various ground-based telescopes, and, since 1997, with the European Space Agency's Infrared Space Observatory (ISO). The INMS instrument will make the first in-situ measurements of Titan's upper atmosphere and, with over 40 planned flybys of the moon, will achieve the extensive seasonal, spatial, and temporal coverage needed to understand the atmosphere's varying response to solar and magnetospheric energy inputs. The INMS data will provide altitude-dependent composition profiles both for the major atmospheric gases (N_2 and CH_4) and for the hydrocarbons and nitriles (e.g., C_2H_2 , C_2H_6 , HCN, etc.) created through methane and nitrogen photochemistry. The non-methane hydrocarbons significantly influence the energetics and thermal structure of the atmosphere and are sensitive probes of upper atmospheric chemistry. Such profiles will thus be of crucial importance in elucidating the coupled chemistry and dynamics of Titan's upper atmosphere. The INMS will also measure isotope ratios (H/D and $^{14}N/^{15}N$) and argon (if present). These data, together with information about atmospheric escape and loss resulting from the upper atmosphere's interaction with Saturn's magnetosphere and other processes, will provide evidence about the formation and evolution of Titan's atmosphere over geologic time. Finally, as presently planned, the INMS will not sample Titan's atmosphere below 950 km;

however, the information that the INMS can provide—both through direct measurement of neutral densities and through measurement of ion densities from which neutral densities can in some cases be deduced—on Titan's thermosphere will be of direct relevance to questions of aerosol formation, neutral composition and chemistry, atmospheric dynamics, and radiative transfer in the lower atmosphere. INMS measurements in the upper atmosphere will thus provide a valuable and necessary complement to data on the lower atmosphere from the Probe Aerosol Collector and Pyrolyser (ACP), Huygens Atmospheric Structure Instrument (HASI), and Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) and the Orbiter UV Imaging Spectrograph (UVIS), Visible and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer (VIMS), and Composite Infrared Spectrometer (CIRS) investigations.

1.1.1.1. Composition and Photochemistry. Titan has a massive neutral atmosphere, with a surface pressure of ~ 1.5 bar. The major neutral constituents are nitrogen, methane, and hydrogen. Nitrogen, with a mixing ratio in the troposphere of $\geq 90\%$, is the dominant species. Its presence in Titan's atmosphere was proposed by Lewis (1971) and Hunten (1972) on theoretical grounds and was established with the Voyager UVS instrument (Broadfoot *et al.*, 1981), which detected extreme ultraviolet emissions from molecular and atomic nitrogen.

Methane was the first constituent to be identified in Titan's atmosphere; its detection—by Kuiper (1944)—confirmed the suggestion made over three decades earlier by Comas Solá (1908) that Titan had an atmosphere. Based on their analysis of Voyager 1 IRIS data, Samuelson *et al.* (1997) posit a methane-supersaturated troposphere with a methane mixing near the surface of 0.057 at the equator and of 0.02 at higher latitudes. Courtin *et al.* (1995) estimate the stratospheric methane mole fraction to lie between 0.026 and 0.045. In the thermosphere, where the INMS measurements will be made, methane mixing ratios of 0.06 ± 0.01 and 0.20 ± 0.02 at altitudes of 1000 and 1400 km, respectively, have been inferred from solar EUV occultation measurements made with the Voyager 1 UVS (Strobel *et al.*, 1992). However, recent re-analysis of the Voyager UVS occultation results indicates lower CH_4 and higher N_2 densities than previously reported (Vervack, 1997; Vervack *et al.*, 1999). The implications of these new and not yet widely disseminated findings for the chemistry and thermal structure of Titan's atmosphere are still being investigated.

The presence of molecular hydrogen in Titan's troposphere, tentatively identified by Trafton (1972) on the basis of ground-based observations, was confirmed by IRIS spectra (Samuelson *et al.*, 1981). The most recent estimate of the tropospheric H_2 mole fraction, based on a re-analysis of the IRIS data by Samuelson *et al.* (1997), is ~ 0.0011 .

Although it has not been detected, argon is considered to be a possible major constituent of Titan's atmosphere, i.e., present at the few percent level. A wide range of abundances has been proposed. To account for the atmosphere's mean molecular mass of 28.6 Daltons estimated from the Voyager radio occultation and

IRIS data, Samuelson *et al.* (1981) invoked the presence of argon and estimated its mole fraction at the surface to be 11.6%. Based on Voyager UVS data, Broadfoot *et al.* (1981) estimated an upper limit of 6% for the argon mixing ratio in the thermosphere; extrapolation from this value yields a mixing ratio at Titan's surface of 30% for ^{36}Ar (Hunten *et al.*, 1984). Lellouch *et al.* (1989) consider a mole fraction of 21% to be the upper limit on argon abundance at the surface. Calculations by Strobel *et al.* (1993), based on the Voyager UVS solar occultation data, indicate that a value of $\leq 10\%$ represents a reasonable upper limit on the argon mixing ratio at the tropopause; and recent re-analyses of IRIS data by Courtin *et al.* (1995) and Samuelson *et al.* (1997) yield argon mole fractions in the troposphere of < 0.06 and 0.026 ± 0.045 , respectively. The measurement of argon is important because of its relevance to the question of the origin and evolution of Titan's atmosphere. A large argon-to-nitrogen ratio (0.01–0.1) would support the hypothesis (Owen, 1982; Strobel and Shemansky, 1982) that the N_2 component of Titan's atmosphere was derived from clathrates, and was thus present from the beginning, rather than the product—accumulated over geologic time—of NH_3 photodissociation (Courtin *et al.*, 1995, and references therein).

The Voyager IRIS data confirmed the presence of several non-methane hydrocarbons (C_2H_6 , C_2H_2 , and C_2H_4) that had been detected earlier with ground-based observations and revealed the presence of other hydrocarbons not previously detected (C_3H_4 and C_3H_8), along with presence of the nitriles HCN, HC_3N , and C_2N_2 (Hanel *et al.*, 1981; Maguire *et al.*, 1981; Kunde *et al.*, 1981). (Recent estimates of the abundances of these and other species are given in Table I.) Limited information about non-methane hydrocarbons in Titan's upper atmosphere was also provided by the Voyager UVS solar occultation data, which revealed a sharp increase in the $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2/\text{N}_2$ mixing ratio in the altitude range 725–825 km above Titan's surface from 0.1–0.3% below 725 km to 1–2% above 825 km (Smith *et al.*, 1982); however, as in the case of CH_4 , the re-analysis of these data by Vervack (1997) and Vervack *et al.* (1999) has yielded lower C_2H_2 densities than those retrieved by Smith *et al.* The UVS occultation data also indicated the possible presence of a polymer layer between 675 and 1025 km at both the evening and morning terminators.

The oxygen-bearing compounds CO_2 (Samuelson *et al.*, 1983), CO (Lutz *et al.*, 1983), and—most recently— H_2O (Coustenis *et al.*, 1998) have also been detected in Titan's atmosphere. The principal source of oxygen in Titan's atmosphere is believed to be water vapor released by sublimation from infalling icy meteoroids (Samuelson *et al.*, 1983; Yung *et al.*, 1984). Photolysis of the water vapor thus introduced yields H, which is lost from the atmosphere, and the hydroxyl radical. OH reacts with the methyl radical CH_3 (from the photodissociation of methane) to produce CO and molecular hydrogen. Some of the CO then reacts with OH to form CO_2 and H. Based on the data acquired with the ISO Short Wavelength Spectrometer, Coustenis *et al.* (1998) estimate the mole fraction of water vapor at 400 km to be $\sim 8 \times 10^{-9}$ and the meteoritic water influx at an altitude of 700 km to be $(0.8\text{--}2.8) \times 10^6 \text{ mol cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$.

TABLE I
Abundances of atmospheric constituents in Titan's atmosphere.

Species	Mole fraction	Reference
<i>Troposphere ($z \leq 40$ km)</i>		
N ₂	0.90–0.99	Gautier and Raulin (1997)
CH ₄	~0.057	Samuelson <i>et al.</i> (1997)
Ar	0.026 ± 0.045	Samuelson <i>et al.</i> (1997)
H ₂	~0.0011	Samuelson <i>et al.</i> (1997)
<i>Stratosphere ($z \sim 40$–325 km)</i>		
CH ₄	0.026–0.045	Courtin <i>et al.</i> (1995)
CO	2.9×10^{-5} at 60 km; 2.4×10^{-5} at 175 km	Hidayat <i>et al.</i> (1998)
C ₂ H ₆	9.4×10^{-6} at $z \sim 120$ –350 km	Kostiuk <i>et al.</i> (1997)
C ₂ H ₂	2.2×10^{-6} at 130 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
C ₃ H ₈	7.0×10^{-7}	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
HCN	3.5×10^{-7} at $z \geq 200$ km, decreasing below 200 km to $\sim 10^{-8}$ at the condensation level (~ 80 km)	Hidayat <i>et al.</i> (1997)
C ₂ H ₄	9.0×10^{-8} at 125 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
CO ₂	1.4×10^{-8} at 110 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
C ₃ H ₄	4.4×10^{-9} at 105 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
C ₄ H ₂	1.4×10^{-9} at 110 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
HC ₃ N	$\leq 1.5 \times 10^{-9}$ at 105 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
C ₂ N ₂	$\leq 1.5 \times 10^{-9}$ at 105 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1989)
<i>Mesosphere ($z \sim 325$–600 km)</i>		
CO	4.8×10^{-6} at 350 km	Hidayat <i>et al.</i> (1998)
H ₂ O	8×10^{-9} at 400 km	Coustenis <i>et al.</i> (1998)
<i>Thermosphere ($z \sim 600$ km)</i>		
CH ₄	0.06 ± 0.01 at 1000 km; 0.20 ± 0.02 at 1400 km	Strobel <i>et al.</i> (1992)
C ₂ H ₂	0.001–0.03 at ≥ 725 km; 0.01–0.02 at ≥ 825 km	Smith <i>et al.</i> (1982)

Note: Except for argon, which has not been detected but is postulated to be present, the values listed above are observation-derived estimates of the abundances of species that have been identified in Titan's atmosphere. For details of the models used to derive specific abundances from the data, and for uncertainties and differences from values reported in earlier studies, the reader should consult the references cited. The altitude ranges for the different atmospheric layers are based on the thermal structure model of Yelle *et al.* (1997). The mixing ratios given by Smith *et al.* (1982) for acetylene in the thermosphere are based on the N₂ density rather than the total atmospheric density. This table is a modified and updated version of Table I of Toubanc *et al.* (1995).

The interpretation of Voyager IRIS data has yielded some limited information about variations with latitude and altitude in the distribution of certain atmospheric constituents. Coustenis *et al.* (1991) find that the abundances of the hydrocarbons C₂H₂, C₄H₂, and C₃H₄ and of the nitriles HC₃N and C₂N₂ (and to a lesser degree of

HCN) are greater in Titan's north polar stratosphere than at the equator. (Coustenis *et al.*, speculate that the cold temperature of the polar stratosphere, compared to that of the equatorial stratosphere, may be attributable to increased IR cooling resulting from the enhanced hydrocarbon abundance.) No significant latitudinal differences were seen in the mixing ratios of the three most abundant hydrocarbons (ethane, acetylene, and propane), while the abundance of CO₂ was a factor of two lower at the pole than at the equator. The reason for these variations is not known but may have to do with seasonal and latitudinal variability in the solar ultraviolet flux at Titan and with differences in the photodissociation rates of the various species. Analysis of the north polar data (vertical distribution information cannot be derived from the equatorial data) also reveals an increase in the mixing ratio with altitude for the nitriles and some of the hydrocarbons. As Coustenis *et al.*, point out, the positive gradient in mole fraction with increasing altitude is explicable in terms of the photochemical production of these species in Titan's thermosphere.

The non-methane hydrocarbons and nitriles identified in the stratosphere by Voyager are created by complex photochemical reactions occurring among the products of CH₄ and N₂ dissociation (Strobel and Shemansky, 1982; Yung *et al.*, 1984; Yung, 1987; Toubanc *et al.*, 1995; Lara *et al.*, 1996; Wilson, 2002). In Titan's thermosphere and mesosphere, CH₄ is photolyzed directly by solar extreme ultraviolet photons. The principal products of direct methane photolysis at high altitudes are C₂H₂ (the most abundant non-methane hydrocarbon in Titan's atmosphere) and C₂H₄. In the stratosphere, where the bulk of the CH₄ destruction takes place, CH₄ dissociation occurs catalytically, in conjunction with the photodissociation of acetylene (transported downward from its production region in the upper atmosphere); the main products of methane photochemistry in the stratosphere are ethane and propane. The hydrogen produced by methane dissociation and in other reactions escapes from Titan's atmosphere to space and contributes to a cloud of neutral molecular and atomic hydrogen that extends from ~25 R_S inward to the top of Saturn's atmosphere (Shemansky and Hall, 1992). (Hydrogen escape makes possible the irreversible destruction of methane and its conversion to heavier hydrocarbons.) The principal loss process for the hydrocarbons produced by methane photolysis is condensation at the tropopause and precipitation onto Titan's surface, possibly resulting in the formation, over the age of the solar system, of a hydrocarbon ocean (Lunine *et al.*, 1983; Lunine, 1993, 1994).

N₂ is dissociated in Titan's upper atmosphere both photolytically, by EUV photons ($\lambda < 80$ nm), and by the impact of energetic electrons from Saturn's magnetosphere. (Prior to the re-analysis by Strobel *et al.* (1991, 1992) of Titan's EUV airglow emissions, electron impact was held to be the dominant mechanism for nitrogen dissociation. Recent calculations (Toubanc *et al.*, 1995, Table II and associated discussion) indicate that the dissociation rate for EUV photolysis is about five times that for electron impact). Nitrogen is also dissociated, in the stratosphere, by cosmic ray absorption (Capone *et al.*, 1983; Lara *et al.*, 1996). Nitrogen atoms produced by the dissociation of N₂ react with methyl and methylene radicals

produced by methane photolysis to form the most abundant nitrile, hydrogen cyanide (Yung *et al.*, 1984; Yung, 1987). HCN then participates in photochemical reactions that, together with reactions between dissociated nitrogen atoms and acetylene, lead to the formation of the nitriles HC_3N , C_2N_2 , C_4N_2 , and CH_3CN . Like the non-methane hydrocarbons, the nitriles are lost through condensation at the tropopause.

In addition to the creation of the lighter hydrocarbons, CH_4 and N_2 photochemistry is expected to lead to the synthesis, at altitudes above 500 km, of heavier, more complex molecules that may play an important role in aerosol formation. For example, polyacetylenes (C_{2n}H_2), created through insertion reactions involving ethynyl (C_2H) and butadiynyl (C_4H) radicals (from the photolysis of C_2H_2 and C_4H_2 , respectively), have been proposed as one source of the aerosols that constitute Titan's detached haze layer, which lies above the main layer at altitudes between 350 and 400 km (Chassefière and Cabane, 1995). Chassefière and Cabane also suggest that C–N oligomers synthesized from dicyanoacetylene (C_4N_2) may be an additional source of aerosols for the detached haze layer comparable in importance to the polyacetylenes. Production of both C_{2n}H_2 and C–N oligomers occurs at altitudes of ~ 500 – 800 km.

A further contribution to the detached haze layer may come from C–H–N polymers created at higher altitudes (900–1000 km) by energetic electron bombardment of Titan's upper atmosphere. According to Chassefière and Cabane's two-layer haze model, however, C–H–N polymers are primarily important for the formation of the main haze layer. This layer is distinct from the detached layer in terms of its composition, formation region, and formation mechanism and consists predominantly of aerosols created from C–H–N polymers produced by energetic-particle-initiated chemistry at altitudes between 350 and 400 km. (Such C–H–N polymers are conventionally termed "tholins" following the usage of the researchers at Cornell who have synthesized them in the laboratory under conditions approximating those at Titan and consider them likely to be a significant source for Titan's haze (e.g., Thompson *et al.*, 1994, and references therein.)

Photochemical models of Titan's neutral atmosphere have been developed by Yung *et al.* (1984), Toubanc *et al.* (1995), Lara *et al.* (1996), Wilson (2002), and, as a background atmosphere for their ionosphere model, by Fox and Yelle (1997) (cf. Figure 1). Coupled neutral-charged particle models have also been recently developed by Banaszkiwicz *et al.* (2000), as an extension of the Lara *et al.* model, and Wilson (2002). The model by Yung *et al.* (with updated nitrile chemistry; Yung, 1987) has until recently been the standard model for Titan photochemistry. Neutral abundances calculated with this model were in reasonable agreement with those determined from the early analyses of the data acquired during the Voyager encounters in 1980 and 1981. However, more extensive analysis of the Voyager data by Coustenis *et al.* (1989) indicated that, with the exception of CO_2 and C_2H_4 , the model predicted concentrations of minor species that were higher than the values observed in Titan's equatorial stratosphere. Coustenis *et al.* suggested that

the discrepancy between model-generated and observed values could be reduced by adjustment of the eddy diffusion coefficient or through adoption of a revised rate constant for the reaction $\text{H} + \text{C}_4\text{H}_2$ that would increase the concentration of atomic hydrogen available to suppress the formation of heavier hydrocarbons. Analysis of IRIS data for Titan's north polar stratosphere likewise showed that the model of Yung *et al.* overestimated the abundances of most minor species in that region (Coustenis *et al.*, 1991).

The recently published models by Toublanc *et al.* (1995) and Lara *et al.* (1996) attempt to achieve better agreement with the Voyager data than is possible with the Yung *et al.* model. Toublanc *et al.* incorporate a new scheme in their model for methane photolysis, improved photolysis rates and radiative transfer calculations, and a revised eddy diffusion coefficient constrained to fit an HCN profile derived from recent ground-based observations. The Wilson (2002) model uses updated rate coefficients, cross sections, and quantum yields, with a radiative transfer scheme used in the study of Jovian atmospheres (Edgington *et al.*, 1998), to obtain chemical abundances in a coupled ion-neutral environment. With this model, a best-fit eddy diffusion profile yields chemical abundances, with the exception of C_2H_4 , that are underpredicted by no more than a factor of three compared to observational constraints, which may be misinterpreted on the high end at the given altitudes as a result of uniform mole fraction assumptions inherent in the observations, as in the case of CO_2 (Coustenis *et al.*, 1989) and C_6H_6 (Coustenis *et al.*, 2002).

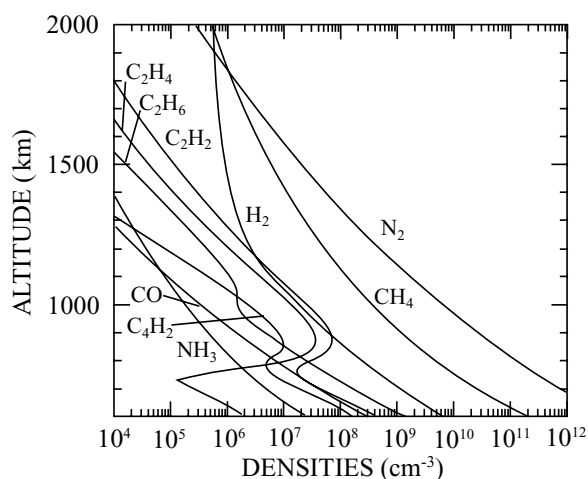


Figure 1. Neutral densities as a function of altitude in Titan's upper atmosphere (from Fox and Yelle, 1997). Hydrocarbon profiles are based on the neutral atmosphere model of Yung *et al.* (1984); N_2 and CH_4 profiles are from Strobel *et al.* (1992). The minimum altitude at which INMS measurements will be made is 950 km. In closed source mode, the INMS will be able to measure neutrals with concentrations $\geq 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$; in the open source, densities $\geq 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ can be measured.

These models obtained better fits to the observations for some species than were achieved by Yung *et al.* Numerous differences remain, however, both between observed values and those calculated by each model and between the models themselves. These differences are attributable to insufficient observational data, the lack of accurate rate coefficients for some key reactions, and uncertainty about the eddy diffusion coefficient. Reconciling these differences and obtaining improved agreement with observational constraints is important both for our understanding of Titan's neutral atmosphere and also for the development of model ionospheres (cf. Keller *et al.*, 1998). Thus, evaluation of existing neutral atmosphere models and development of improved models is one of the key tasks undertaken by the INMS Science Team as part of its planning for the neutral atmosphere and ion composition measurements to be made during the Orbiter's Titan flybys. (A preliminary list of target constituents, based on the present state of model development and currently available data, is shown in Table II.)

TABLE II
Expected neutral species in Titan's upper atmosphere.

Molecular weight	Closed source	Open source neutral
2	H ₂	
3	HD	
4	He	
14		N
15		NH
16	CH ₄	CH ₄ , O
17	¹³ CH ₄	OH
18	H ₂ O	H ₂ O
26	C ₂ H ₂	
27	HCN	HCN
28	N ₂ , C ₂ H ₄ , CO	N ₂ , C ₂ H ₄ , CO
29	¹⁵ N ¹⁴ N, ¹³ C ₂ H ₄	
30	C ₂ H ₆	
36	(³⁶ Ar)	
39		CHCN
44	CO ₂ , C ₃ H ₈	
50		C ₃ N
51	CH ₃ CN, HC ₃ N	
52	C ₂ N ₂	
74		C ₆ H ₂
76	C ₄ N ₂	
78	C ₆ H ₆	

1.1.1.2. Thermal Structure. The temperature of Titan's upper atmosphere between 1265 and 1525 km above the surface has been inferred from Voyager UVS measurements of N₂ density variations to be 186 ± 20 K (Smith *et al.*, 1982). Below an altitude of 200 km, the thermal profile can be derived from RSS and IRIS data, while constraints on temperatures in the region between 200 and 450 km are provided by IRIS measurements and stellar occultation data (cf. Lellouch *et al.*, 1990, and references therein). Analysis of these data and modeling studies reveals an atmospheric structure characterized by negative temperature gradients in the troposphere and mesosphere and positive gradients in the stratosphere and thermosphere. The principal heat source for the stratosphere is the absorption of solar radiation by organic haze particles, while the thermosphere and exosphere are heated by the absorption of solar UV radiation by CH₄ and, above ~ 1000 km, by nitrogen (Lellouch *et al.*, 1990; Yelle, 1991). Magnetospheric electron precipitation is expected to contribute to thermospheric heating as well, but to a lesser and still undetermined degree (cf. Strobel *et al.*, 1991, 1992 on thermospheric energy sources). (The relative contributions of the solar EUV and magnetospheric energy inputs to Titan aeronomy will vary with Titan's orbital position and degree of exposure to the magnetospheric electron flux, which is maximized on the wake side). The thermally active hydrocarbons CH₄, C₂H₂, and C₂H₆ serve both as heating agents and coolants, their particular role varying with altitude. HCN has been shown to be an extremely important coolant.

Four models of the vertical structure of Titan's upper atmosphere have been developed to date. Friedson and Yung (1984) made the first attempt to interpret the Voyager UVS measurements of Titan's exospheric temperature by constructing an aeronomical model that included solar EUV and FUV radiation, thermal conduction, and non-LTE cooling by hydrocarbons (principally C₂H₂) in the mid-IR. Hydrocarbon cooling rates were estimated by assuming that the emissions were optically thin. Friedson and Yung were able to match the Voyager measurements quite well; however, the solar heating rates used in their model were later discovered to be in error (Lellouch *et al.*, 1990). The correct solar heating rates were found to yield a temperature near the exobase of ~ 300 K, which is in serious disagreement with the observations. Using an aeronomical model similar to Friedson and Yung's, Lellouch *et al.* succeeded in producing a thermospheric temperature profile with an exospheric temperature consistent with that derived from Voyager UVS data, but only by adopting unreasonably low heating efficiencies (0.015–0.20) and an unreasonably large C₂H₂ cooling rate.

The third model of the thermal structure of Titan's upper atmosphere is a sophisticated aeronomical model by Yelle (1991) that includes non-LTE radiative transfer in the mid-IR vibration–rotation bands of CH₄, C₂H₂, and C₂H₆, a detailed treatment of vibrational chemistry, and, most importantly, cooling by rotational emissions from HCN (Figure 2). Neither HCN nor ethane was included in the models of Friedson and Yung and Lellouch *et al.* Yelle's model predicts that HCN rotational cooling is sufficient to balance solar UV heating of the thermosphere and

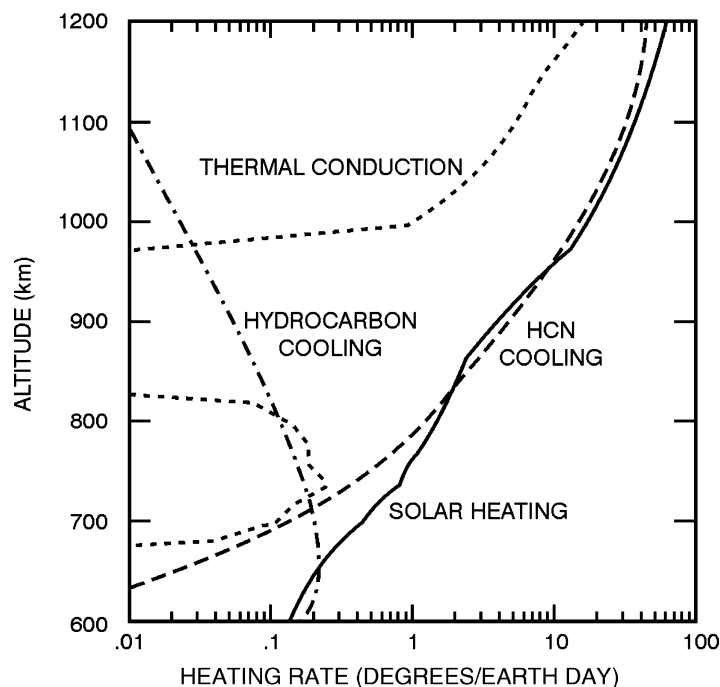


Figure 2. Plot illustrating the contributions of various heating and cooling processes to the thermal structure of Titan's atmosphere (Yelle, 1991).

to maintain the thermospheric temperature near the value derived from the Voyager UVS data (186 ± 20 K) and that neither low heating efficiencies nor enhanced C_2H_2 cooling rates are required. This result suggests that Titan's thermal structure is radiatively controlled at all levels and distinguishes Titan's atmosphere from most other atmospheres, whose thermospheres are dominated by thermal conduction. The important influence of HCN cooling on Titan's thermospheric structure predicted by the Yelle model can be confirmed and characterized with INMS measurements of HCN abundance and its variability with time and latitude.

The fourth model is the engineering model developed by Yelle *et al.* (1997). It is an empirical model based on the Yelle (1991) physical model (Figure 3).

All four of the above models predict a well-developed mesopause. Friedson and Yung (1984) calculated a very cold mesopause temperature of ~ 110 K at an altitude of 736 km. As Lellouch *et al.* (1990) point out, however, if hydrostatic equilibrium is to be maintained, such a low mesopause temperature requires higher stratospheric temperatures than are consistent with the IRIS data. In the model of Lellouch *et al.*, the mesopause occurs at an altitude of ~ 800 km and has a temperature of 135 K. Yelle's model predicts a comparable mesopause temperature (135–140 K) but locates the mesopause at an altitude of ~ 600 rather than 800 km. The Yelle model indicates that CH_4 —not acetylene, as assumed by Friedson and Yung and Lellouch *et al.*—is the primary coolant near the mesopause and, surprisingly, that

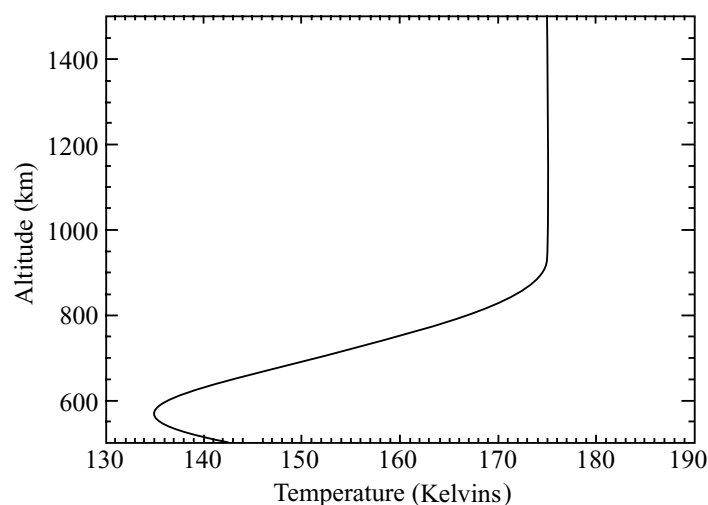


Figure 3. Temperature profile with altitude for Titan's upper atmosphere ($z > 500$ km), according to the engineering model of Yelle *et al.* (1997). The mesopause, with a temperature of ~ 135 K, is located at around 570 km. The model atmosphere above 900 km is isothermal; in actuality, thermospheric temperature will show both temporal and spatial variations. The engineering model uses a nominal altitude of 1040 km for the homopause. It should be noted, however, that there is some disagreement among the models, with some models indicating that Titan does not have a homopause. The exobase is located at an altitude of 1400 km.

ethane—not considered by either Friedson and Yung or Lellouch *et al.*—is the dominant heating agent in this region.

The 1D models described above are useful for identifying important physical processes and representing a global average atmosphere, but Titan's atmosphere is three dimensional and 3D Thermospheric General Circulation Models (TGCMs) are needed to study the full complexity of the upper atmosphere. Such models have been presented by Müller-Wodarg *et al.* (2000) and Müller-Wodarg and Yelle (2002) while initial estimates on the importance of dynamics have been presented by Rishbeth *et al.* (2000). The models incorporate heating and cooling processes, dynamical processes, and simplified chemistry. The comprehensive nature of the models makes them ideal for interpretation of INMS measurements of temperature and densities across Titan's globe. They predict variations in latitude and local time that are well within the INMS measurement capability.

Müller-Wodarg *et al.* (2000) presented the first Titan TGCM and calculated a circulation pattern with upwelling slightly after local noon, horizontal flow from the day to night side, and subsidence at night (see Figure 4). These authors calculated day/night temperature difference of 20 K and a maximum wind speed of 60 m sec^{-1} , of the same order as winds in the Earth's thermosphere. Dynamics strongly affect the temperature field, greatly reducing gradients over radiative solutions; however, the predicted temperature differences of 20 K are easily measured by INMS. On

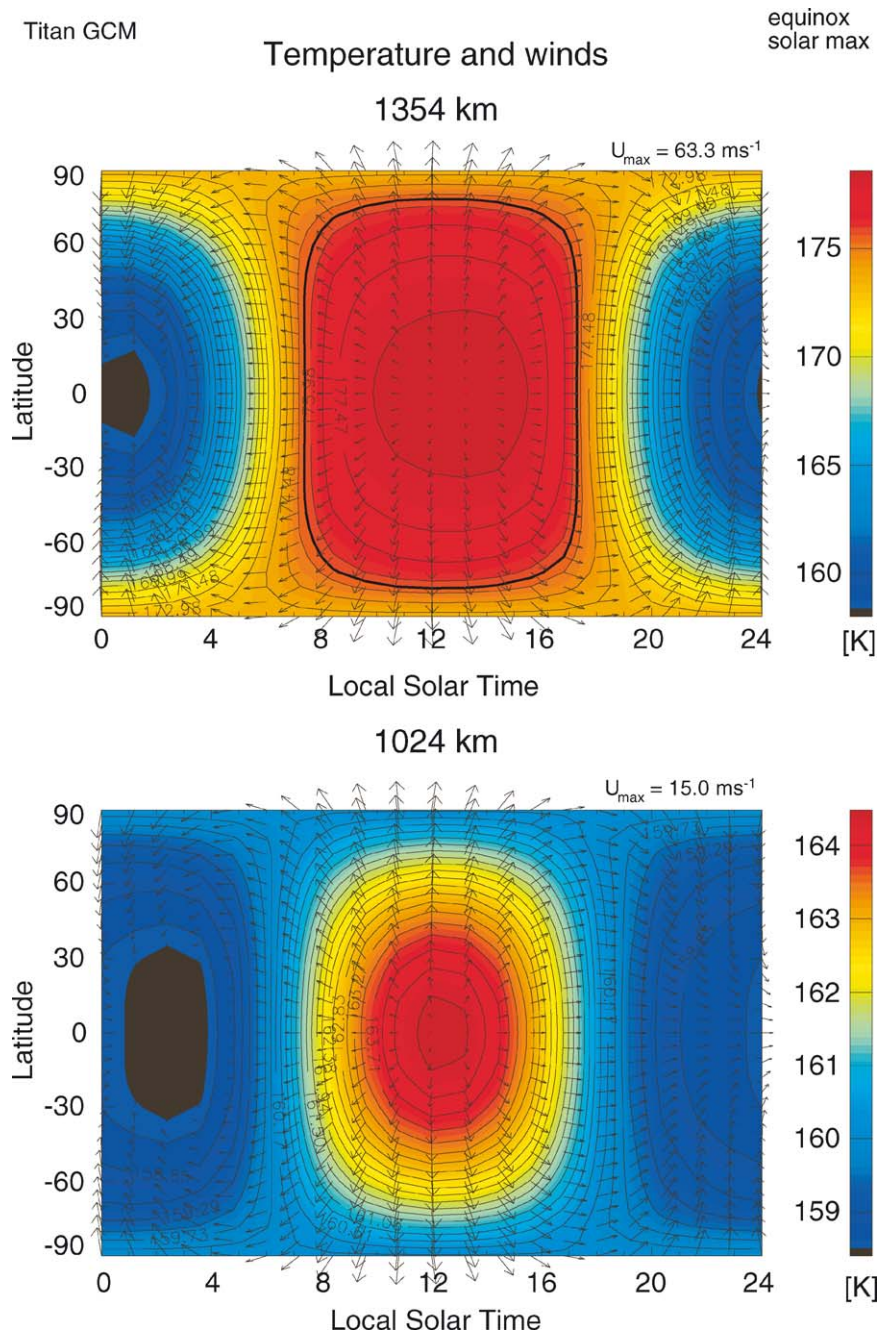


Figure 4. Simulations of temperature and wind fields at two altitudes in Titan's thermosphere. The temperatures and winds are calculated with a 3D thermospheric general circulation model that solves the continuity, momentum, and energy equations, including only solar input.

Earth, pressure gradient forces are balanced by molecular viscosity and ion drag. On Titan, molecular viscosity is weak because of the low temperature and densities while ion drag is weak because of the weak or absent magnetic field (Rishbeth *et al.*, 2000). Thus, despite the low solar heating rate, Titan has strong winds which will strongly affect the distribution of molecular constituents in its atmosphere.

Extension of the Titan TGCM to include composition shows that the dynamics in the upper atmosphere cause large changes in the distribution of minor constituents. Müller-Wodarg *et al.* (2000) show that solar driven dynamics can cause a factor of several change in the CH₄ mole fraction with local time. This is caused primarily by the interaction of the wind field with diffusive flows in the upper atmosphere. Similar phenomena have been seen in the upper atmospheres of the Earth and Venus. The calculated CH₄ distribution exhibits a maximum in late afternoon over the region of maximum subsidence and a minimum in early morning over the region of maximum upwelling. These variations also alter the heating rates in the upper atmosphere. Horizontal variations are likely for other species as well with species whose mean molecular weight differs substantially from N₂ showing the greatest variation. Analysis of horizontal variations of long-lived constituents will provide the best means for diagnosing winds in the upper atmosphere.

Fortunately, because N₂ and CH₄ are nonreactive gases, the more accurate closed source INMS mode can be used to make the measurements from which the thermal structure will be derived. Closed source measurements have the further advantage of being less dependent than the open source measurements on instrument pointing direction. An exospheric temperature of 175 K is used for present planning purposes. This value gives an atmospheric scale height of 81 km near 1000 km. The tangent path of the geometry increases the path length through the atmosphere by a factor of approximately 10, which, with a spacecraft velocity of $6.1 \pm 0.3 \text{ km sec}^{-1}$, gives a time of $\sim 150 \text{ sec}$ for traversing one scale height near closest approach. Determination of the temperature requires a minimum of five samples over this time interval or, in other words, a sample of major constituent densities every 30 sec. This temporal/spatial resolution can be increased 1000 fold if required.

1.1.2. Titan's Ionosphere

The characterization of Titan's ionosphere, and of the interaction of the ionosphere and neutral upper atmosphere with Titan's plasma environment, is a major objective of the INMS investigation and the Cassini mission. To achieve this objective, the INMS instrument will measure ionospheric composition as a function of altitude at various locations on Titan (day side, night side, ram side, wake side). Most of these data will be acquired within Saturn's magnetosphere; however, measurements may also be made when Titan, at times of high solar wind dynamic pressure, lies outside the subsolar magnetopause, in Saturn's magnetosheath or the solar wind. The INMS measurements, along with CAPS/Ion Beam Spectrometer (IBS) ion velocity and temperature measurements and CAPS/Ion Mass Spectrometer composition measurements, will be the first in situ measurements of the ionosphere of an outer

planetary body. INMS ion composition and density data, together with complementary data from other Orbiter investigations (e.g., CAPS, UVIS, MAG, RSS, RPWS, etc.), will be used to address questions relating to the composition, chemistry, structure, and dynamics of Titan's ionosphere; the interactions between the ionosphere and neutral atmosphere; the relative roles of solar EUV and magnetospheric energy inputs in ion production and in ionospheric energetics and dynamics; and the loss of atmospheric material through hydrodynamic outflow, scavenging by the magnetospheric plasma flow, and the production of fast neutrals through ionospheric photochemistry. Finally, it is possible that the densities of important but difficult-to-measure neutrals—such as CH_3 —can be deduced from ion densities measured with the INMS and CAPS, allowing important chemical pathways to be distinguished by which, for example, HCN and polyacetylenes are formed in the upper atmosphere.

1.1.2.1. Structure and Composition. Observational data on Titan's ionosphere are limited to Voyager 1 radio occultation measurements. No definitive detection of an ionosphere was reported; however, initial analysis of these data placed an upper limit on the peak ionospheric electron density of $3 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ near the evening terminator and of $5 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ near the morning terminator (Lindal *et al.*, 1983; McNutt and Richardson, 1988). Re-analysis of the Voyager ingress data by Bird *et al.* (1997) indicates that the Voyager measurements yield a “marginal detection” of an ionosphere with an electron density peak of $2400 \pm 1100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at an altitude of $1180 \pm 150 \text{ km}$. These values (for the evening terminator) are consistent with those computed by Keller *et al.* (1992) for the terminator ionosphere (3030 cm^{-3} at an altitude of 1175 km). On the dayside, with an average solar zenith angle of 60° , the electron density maximum is predicted to be larger and the altitude of the density peak lower. For the dayside case, Keller *et al.* calculated a density maximum of 6150 cm^{-3} at 1055 km, which compares well with the $7.5 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 1040 km from the recent model by Fox and Yelle (1997).

The composition of Titan's ionosphere is determined by a complex chemistry involving neutrals, ions created by photoionization and electron impact (e.g., N_2^+ , N^+ , CH_4^+ , CH_3^+ , etc.), and ions formed in ion–neutral reactions. Recent modeling studies (by Fox and Yelle, 1997; Keller *et al.*, 1998) indicate that the major ionospheric constituents are N_2^+ , hydrocarbon ions (including higher-mass ions with three or more carbon atoms), and ions containing H, C, and N. Of the nitrile ions, HCNH^+ is the most common and is predicted by several ionospheric models to be the dominant ion species near the ionospheric peak ($\sim 1100 \text{ km}$). The dominance of HCNH^+ is questioned by Fox and Yelle, whose model provides for relatively rapid loss of HCNH^+ through ion–neutral reactions not included in earlier models and predicts an HCNH^+ density in the ionospheric peak region several times lower than that previously computed (e.g., Ip, 1990; Keller *et al.*, 1992). Keller *et al.* (1998) incorporate similar chemistry in an updated version of their 1992 model and calculate a somewhat lower density for HCNH^+ as well (compared with their

earlier calculation). However, the inclusion of the new loss channels notwithstanding, HCNH^+ remains the major ion near the ionospheric peak in their model, with a density three times that estimated by Fox and Yelle. As Keller *et al.* point out, this disagreement results from differences between the neutral background atmospheres used in the two models.

The discrepancy between the Fox/Yelle and Keller *et al.* models regarding the density of the important ionospheric species HCNH^+ illustrates the sensitivity of Titan ionosphere models to assumptions about the neutral atmosphere. Our limited knowledge of the latter is a major source of uncertainty in the former. A further source of uncertainty is the lack of laboratory data on important ion–neutral reactions (see Anicich and McEwan, 1997 for a summary of the relevant laboratory data currently available). Thus new observational data on the structure and composition of Titan's neutral atmosphere, together with new laboratory data on the relevant ion–neutral and neutral–neutral chemistry, are essential for developing more accurate models of the ionosphere. Conversely, new observational data acquired with the INMS instrument on ionospheric composition (e.g., on HCNH^+ density at the peak) will help constrain models of the neutral atmosphere. As in the case of the neutral atmosphere models discussed in the preceding section, assessment of existing model ionospheres and development of improved models (e.g., through the incorporation of new laboratory data on key ion–neutral reaction rates and pathways) will be an integral part of the planning of INMS operations during the Titan flybys. For initial planning purposes, both the Fox and Yelle model and the updated Keller *et al.* model will be used. Representative ionospheric density profiles from both models are shown in Figure 5, and a list of the most abundant species expected to be present in Titan's ionosphere is given in Table III.

1.1.2.2. Ionization Mechanisms. Titan's ionosphere is produced by both solar EUV photoionization and electron impact ionization. Magnetospheric electron impact was originally considered to be the dominant ionization mechanism (e.g., Ip, 1990). However, later modeling studies (Keller *et al.*, 1992, 1994; Keller and Cravens, 1994) have demonstrated that solar EUV photons and photoelectrons are in many cases more important than magnetospheric electrons in ion production and that the relative roles of photoionization and magnetospheric electron impact ionization vary according to the degree of insolation and the extent to which magnetospheric electrons have access to Titan's lower ionosphere. The former depends on Titan's orbital position (Figure 6). The latter is thought to be a function of the geometry of the Saturnian field lines that drape around Titan and will be greater on the wake side than on the ram side (Keller and Cravens, 1994), as the radial orientation of the field lines in the wake region allows magnetospheric electrons to reach the lower ionosphere without significant attenuation from extended passage through the neutral atmosphere. Model calculations indicate that the rate of ion production by magnetospheric electron impact can be as much as 100 times greater on the wake side than on the ram side and is comparable to the rate of ion

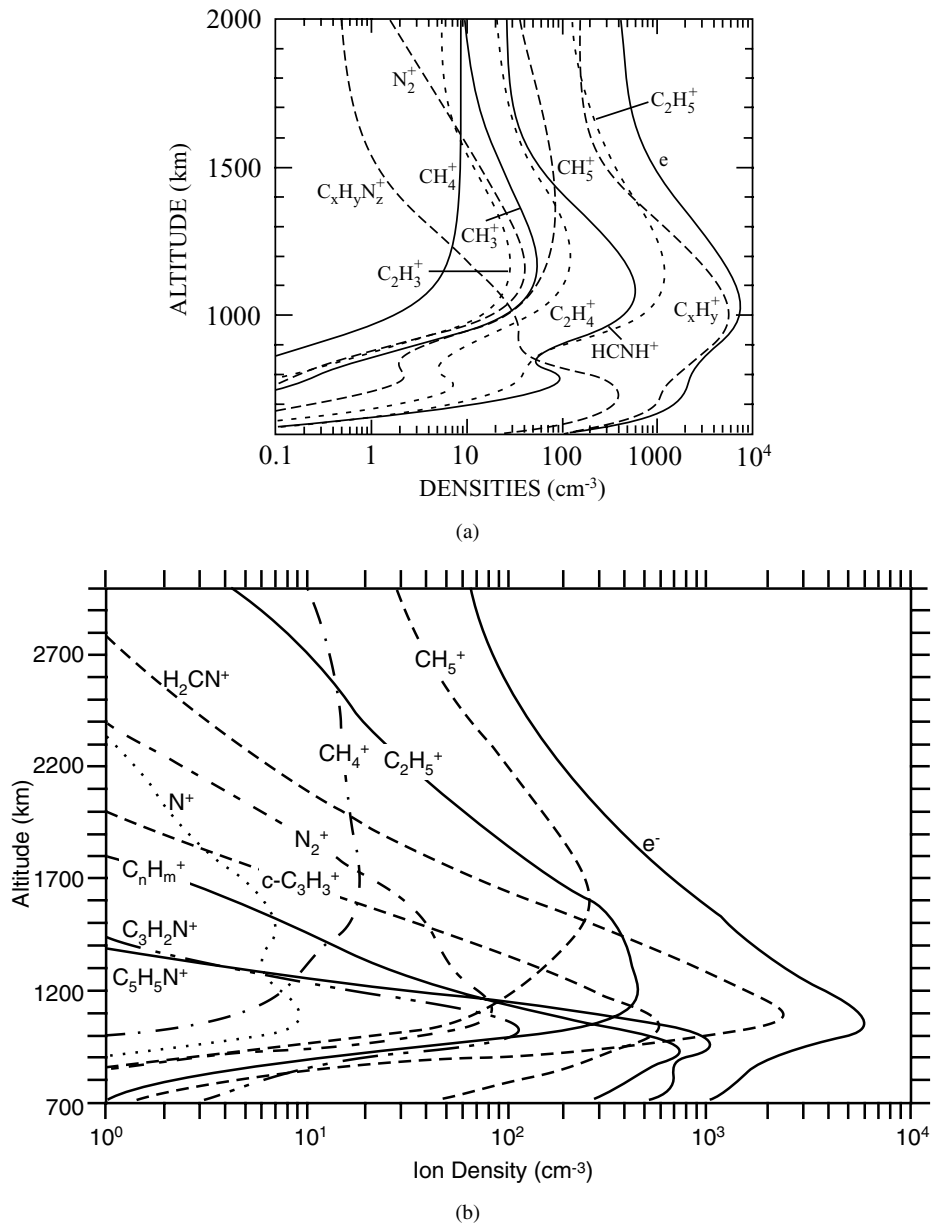


Figure 5. Density vs. altitude profiles for the major ion species in Titan's ionosphere as calculated with the models of (a) Fox and Yelle (1997) and (b) Keller *et al.* (1998). Both models use neutral atmospheres based on the model of Yung *et al.* (1984). (Keller *et al.* also calculate ion profiles—not shown here—using a more recent neutral atmosphere model developed by Toublanc *et al.*, 1995). Both models predict that heavy hydrocarbons (with three or more carbon atoms) are important ionospheric species. Fox and Yelle obtain a lower value for the HCNH^+ density near the ionospheric peak than do Keller *et al.* because the background atmosphere used in their model contains three times less HCN than is contained in the neutral atmosphere used by Keller *et al.*

TABLE III
Most abundant ion species in Titan's ionosphere.

Mass Group	Mass Number	Species
Light	1	H ⁺
	2	H ₂ ⁺
	3	H ₃ ⁺
Medium	14	N ⁺ , CH ₂ ⁺
	15	CH ₃ ⁺ , NH ⁺
	16	CH ₄ ⁺
	17	CH₅⁺
Heavy	27	C ₂ H ₃ ⁺
	28	N ₂ ⁺ , C ₂ H ₄ ⁺ , HCNH⁺
	29	N ₂ H ⁺ , C₂H₅⁺
Very heavy	39	<i>cis</i> -C ₃ H ₃ ⁺
	41	C ₃ H ₅ ⁺
	51	C ₄ H ₄ ⁺
	52	C ₃ H ₂ N ⁺
	53	C₄H₅⁺
	65	C₅H₅⁺
	67	C₅H₇⁺
	69	C ₅ H ₉ ⁺
	77	C ₆ H ₅ ⁺
	79	C ₆ H ₇ ⁺ , C₅H₅N⁺
91	C ₇ H ₇ ⁺	

Note: Bold type identifies the major species. Recent modeling studies by Fox and Yelle (1997) and Keller *et al.* (1998) indicate that higher mass hydrocarbons are important constituents, accounting for approximately 50% of the predicted ion density.

production by EUV photoionization on the day side (Gan *et al.*, 1992; Keller *et al.*, 1994; Keller and Cravens, 1994; Cravens *et al.*, 1992). Auger electron spikes in the measured (CAPS) superthermal electron fluxes can help distinguish magnetospheric electrons from solar radiation-produced photoelectrons. Auger electrons will be produced by K-shell ionization from carbon (electron energies near 280 eV) and nitrogen (electron energies near 400 eV) (Craven *et al.*, 2004). C and N are found in the CH₄, and N₂ molecules, respectively.

Maximum ionization occurs when the wakeside ionosphere is in sunlight, i.e., when both magnetospheric electrons and solar EUV photons contribute comparably to ion production (Roboz and Nagy, 1994). In the case of the sunlit ramside ionosphere, on the other hand, 80% of the ionization at the ionospheric peak is due to photoionization. The remaining 20% results predominantly from photoelectron

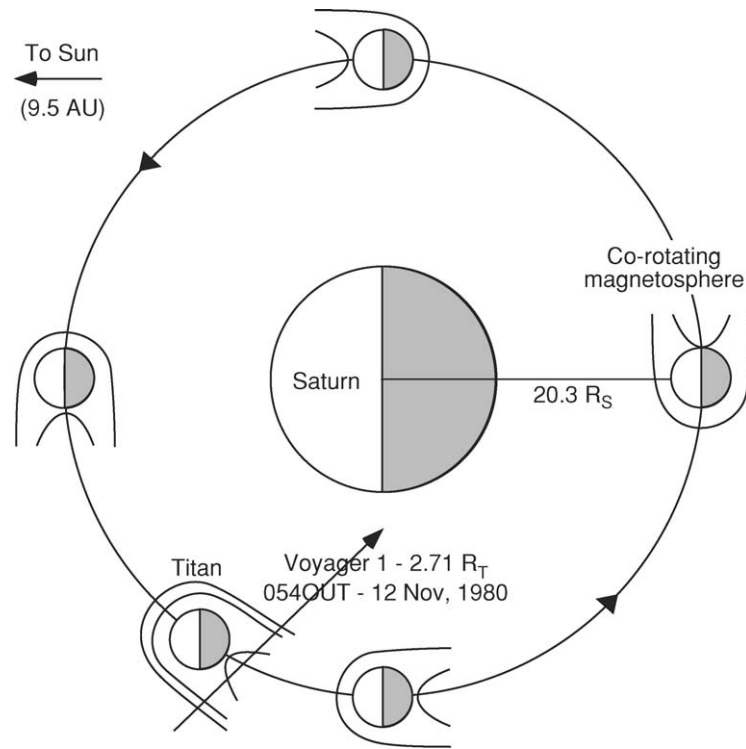


Figure 6. Solar EUV radiation and magnetospheric electron precipitation provide the energy that drives the chemistry and dynamics and determines the structure of Titan's atmosphere. Although solar EUV radiation is thought to be the dominant energy source for heating, ion production, and photochemistry, magnetospheric electrons also play an important role. The relative contributions of the two energy sources to Titan aeronomy will vary according to the intensity of the solar radiation, which is a function of latitude and Titan's orbital phase, and the degree of exposure to magnetospheric electron flux, which studies have shown to be maximized on the wake side (Keller and Cravens, 1994). The sketch above (based on Keller and Cravens, 1994) illustrates the changing geometry of solar zenith angle, ram direction, and orientation of the draped field lines (shown here rotated 90° out of their actual plane for ease of illustration). Maximum ionization will occur when both solar EUV and magnetospheric electrons contribute to ion production. Magnetospheric electrons will be the sole energy source for Titan's atmosphere when Titan is in Saturn's shadow.

impact, with a small contribution (1%) from magnetospheric electrons (Keller *et al.*, 1992). When Titan is outside Saturn's magnetosphere (see below), the solar EUV flux is the principal ionization source; the contribution from solar wind electrons is minor. (This case has recently been modeled by Galand *et al.* (1999), who also consider the case where Titan is in Saturn's shadow and magnetospheric electron impact is the sole ionization source.) Changes in the intensity of the solar EUV flux (with orbital phase) and the magnetospheric electron flux (from ram side to wake

side) and in their relative contribution to ion production will lead to variations in ionospheric densities, temperatures, and dynamics (Keller *et al.*, 1994; Roboz and Nagy, 1994; Nagy and Cravens, 1998). To adequately characterize this variability it will be necessary to acquire INMS data at a variety of local times, latitudes, and plasma ram angles. Thus INMS measurements during a number of low-altitude Titan passes are required (cf. Section 3.3.4 and Table VII).

1.1.2.3. Titan's Interaction with Its Plasma Environment. Titan's interaction with the surrounding plasma is highly complex, and its details depend on the state of the ionosphere and the plasma environment. As discussed above, the former varies according to changing fluxes of solar EUV photons and magnetospheric electrons incident on Titan's upper atmosphere. The latter, as discussed by Wolf and Neubauer (1982), varies with Saturn local time and solar wind conditions. At its orbital distance of $\sim 20 R_S$, Titan usually remains within Saturn's outer magnetosphere and thus interacts with the partially co-rotating magnetospheric plasma. However, whenever increased solar wind ram pressure compresses Saturn's magnetosphere, Titan may be located for a portion of its orbit outside the dayside magnetopause. In this case, the interaction is with the magnetosheath or the upstream solar wind. (Under relatively undisturbed interplanetary conditions, the stagnation point is located at a nominal standoff distance of $\sim 23 R_S$. When conditions are disturbed, the magnetopause can move inward as far as $\sim 17 R_S$, as observed during the Pioneer 11 encounter; Schardt *et al.*, 1984.) Even within the magnetosphere, Titan's plasma environment can be expected to vary according to the satellite's location in the magnetosphere. Estimated parameters for four representative plasma environments (solar wind, magnetosheath, outer magnetosphere, magnetotail) are given by Wolf and Neubauer (1982); however, observational data are available only for the case when Titan was located in the dayside outer magnetosphere.

Our picture of Titan's interaction with its surrounding plasma environment (Figure 7) is based on data acquired by Voyager 1 during a single pass downstream of Titan and on theoretical models of the interaction of a flowing magnetized plasma with an unmagnetized body possessing a significant atmosphere/ionosphere. During its traversal of the Saturn magnetosphere in November 1980, Voyager flew within $<3 R_T$ of Titan. The plasma science (PLS) instrument detected a wake of relatively cool, dense plasma that may have been dominated by mass 28 ions of N_2^+/H_2CN^+ (Hartle *et al.*, 1982). The magnetometer revealed perturbations in the Saturnian magnetic field near Titan that have been interpreted as the signature of draped field lines that form a Venus-like bipolar induced magnetic tail; there was no clear evidence for the presence of an intrinsic magnetic field (Ness *et al.*, 1982; Kivelson and Russell, 1983; Luhmann *et al.*, 1991). The plasma wave (PWS) instrument observed plasma wave emissions apparently associated with the acceleration of pickup ions and the escape down the tail of plasma from Titan's ionosphere (Gurnett *et al.*, 1981, 1982). PLS data also indicated a significant slowing of the magnetospheric plasma flow near the tail as a result of mass loading by the

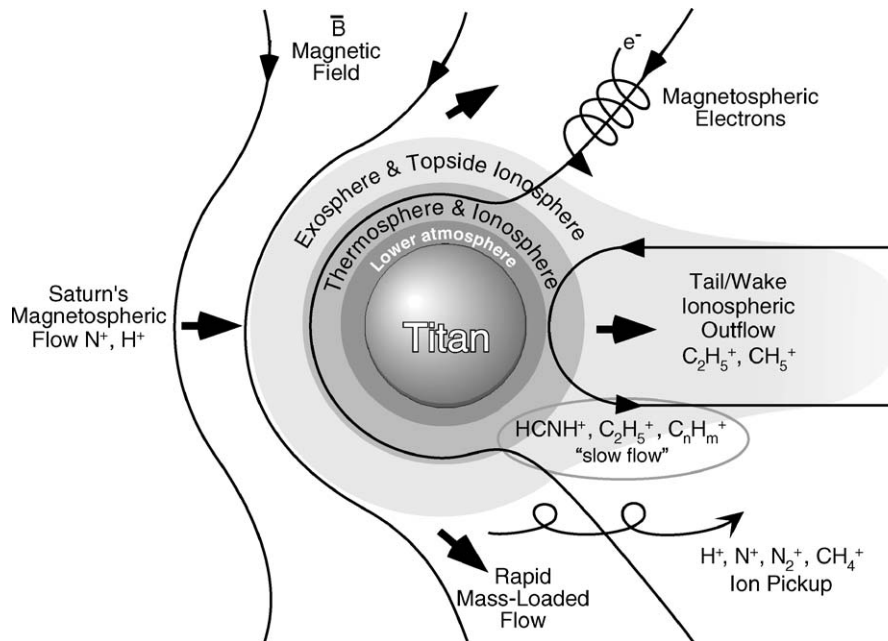


Figure 7. Sketch of Titan's interaction with Saturn's subsonic co-rotating magnetospheric plasma. Horizontal transport moves cold ionospheric plasma (principally N^+ , N_2^+ , and CH_4^+) from altitudes above 1700 km toward the downstream side of Titan, where it can become entrained in the flowing plasma, while a polar wind-type hydrodynamic outflow is responsible for the escape of ionized material down the wake. N^+ and H^+ are produced by the photoionization of neutral atomic nitrogen and hydrogen in Titan's extended exosphere and picked up by the external plasma flow. At altitudes of 2500 km and less, ion-neutral friction and mass loading slow the external plasma flow, resulting in strong field line draping and the production of a magnetic barrier on Titan's ram side (Cravens *et al.*, 1998).

addition of heavy ions such as N_2^+ , $HCNH^+$, and/or N^+ . The velocity differential between the mass-loaded flow and the faster flow of the background plasma is thought to lead to the draping of Saturn's magnetic field lines, which are frozen into the background plasma, around Titan to form the induced tail. Asymmetries observed in the orientation and structure of the tail are likely due to the day-night differences in Titan's ionosphere on the ram side or to the influence of finite pickup ion gyroradii (Ness *et al.*, 1982; Gurnett *et al.*, 1981; Luhmann, 1996; Brecht *et al.*, 2000). As revealed by the Voyager observations, Titan's interaction with Saturn's magnetospheric plasma is similar to the interaction of Venus with the solar wind. There are important differences, however. No bow shock forms at Titan because the co-rotating magnetospheric plasma is submagnetosonic (Ness *et al.*, 1982), and there is little draping of the field observed in the "magnetosheath" region compared to that in the induced magnetotail.

Models developed to examine the effects of Titan's interaction with the magnetospheric plasma flow on the dynamics and structure of the ionosphere predict that the piling up of field lines forms a magnetic barrier around Titan's ramside and

flanks from which magnetic flux convects downward into the ionosphere (Keller *et al.*, 1994; Cravens *et al.*, 1998). As a result, the ionosphere down to relatively low altitudes is expected to be magnetized. Under some conditions, the entire ionosphere may be magnetized, in which case magnetic flux may “leak” into the lower atmosphere and the field strength may be non-zero at Titan’s surface. (It should be noted that the models of the Titan interaction with Saturn’s magnetospheric plasma assume that the ionospheric magnetic fields and tail are induced by the interaction. The presence of an intrinsic magnetic field at Titan must still be considered a possibility, however, in light of the Galileo discovery of an internally generated field at Ganymede and possibly at Io; Kivelson *et al.*, 1996; Khurana *et al.*, 1997.)

Based on the in-situ Voyager data, the magnetospheric plasma incident on Titan’s neutral atmosphere and ionosphere is thought to consist of H^+ and N^+ (in the number ratio $\sim 1:2$) flowing at a velocity of $\sim 80\text{--}150\text{ km sec}^{-1}$ (Hartle *et al.*, 1982). According to a recent two-dimensional MHD modeling study of the plasma interaction (Cravens *et al.*, 1998), at radial distances from Titan’s center of $<2.5 R_T$ this flow is slowed by ion–neutral friction and mass loading to

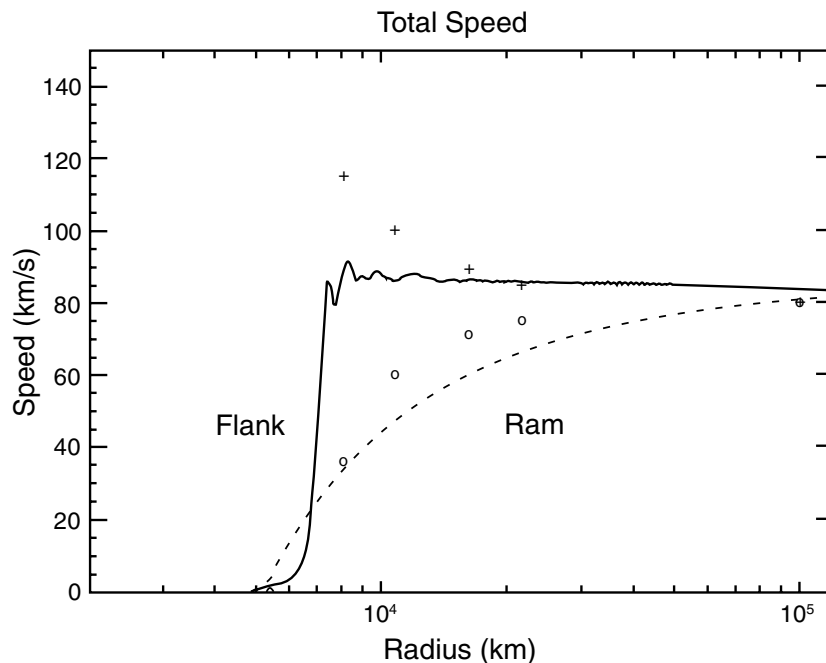


Figure 8. Predicted plasma flow speed vs. radial distance from Titan for the magnetospheric plasma ram direction (dashed curve) and the flank direction (solid line), calculated from the 2D plasma interaction model of Cravens *et al.* (1998). According to this model, the flow speed inside $2 R_T$ is $<1\text{ km sec}^{-1}$, so that ions should enter the INMS instrument essentially in the Orbiter ram direction ($2 R_T$ is about 5000 km). At greater distances, alteration of the incoming plasma direction from the ram direction may complicate the alignment of the INMS open source look direction with the ion flow direction.

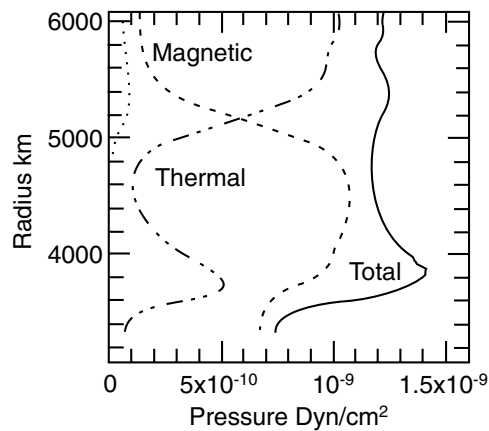


Figure 9. Comparison of the contributions of magnetic pressure and ionospheric thermal pressure to the momentum balance at Titan (from Cravens *et al.*, 1998). At radial distances of $<2 R_T$, the magnetic field on Titan's ram side and flanks is enhanced as a result of the draping and pile up of the Saturnian magnetic field lines. As this plot indicates, within $\sim 2 R_T$ it is the enhanced magnetic field strength rather than the thermal pressure of the ionosphere that makes the greater contribution to the obstacle that Titan presents to the external plasma flow.

velocities of under 1 km sec^{-1} (Figure 8). The slowing of the external plasma flow results in the piling up of field lines on the ram side, producing the magnetic barrier, which forms the principal obstacle to the flow (Figure 9). The induced magnetic fields are found to have little effect beyond $2 R_T$, in the fast flow region upstream of Titan, but according to three-dimensional MHD models of the plasma interaction (Ledvina and Cravens, 1998; Kabin *et al.*, 1999), they produce effects many radii downstream. The actual length of Titan's wake is not yet known.

Within the ionosphere, below an altitude of around $2000 \pm 500 \text{ km}$, plasma flow speeds are on the order of a few meters per second and the flow direction is principally vertical (Keller *et al.*, 1994; Cravens *et al.*, 1998). At these altitudes, horizontal transport plays a relatively unimportant role, and the chemical lifetimes of the ionospheric species are much shorter than the time scales for vertical transport. In other words, photochemistry is more important than dynamics in determining ionospheric density distributions. In the topside ionosphere, however, horizontal flows (of more than a kilometer per second) are expected to dominate over photochemistry. Ionospheric material—consisting of the primary ionization products (N^+ , N_2^+ , CH_4^+) rather than ions produced at lower altitudes by photochemical processing—will be removed as a result of pick up and entrainment in the external plasma flow (Keller *et al.*, 1994). The extent to which this is a fluid-like, as opposed to a kinetic pick-up process, remains to be determined (e.g., Luhmann *et al.*, 1996), but new “hybrid” models of the Titan–plasma interaction that preserve the particle aspects of the ion motion are beginning to address this question (Brecht *et al.*, 2000).

1.1.3. Atmospheric Loss: Titan as a Source of Material for Saturn's Magnetosphere

Titan supplies both neutrals and plasma to Saturn's outer magnetosphere (Figure 10). Neutral hydrogen, produced by the photolytic destruction of methane, is rapidly lost from Titan's atmosphere, principally by Jeans escape. Photochemical modeling by Yung *et al.* (1984) predicts global escape rates for H and H₂ of $4.6 \times 10^{27} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ and $1.2 \times 10^{28} \text{ sec}^{-1}$, respectively. Nonthermal removal of nitrogen and other neutrals occurs as well, through the sputtering of Titan's neutral atmosphere by magnetospheric or solar wind particles and/or pickup ions and through production of fast neutrals by ion and ion-neutral chemistry. The rate of neutral loss due to sputtering has been estimated to be $3 \times 10^{25} \text{ N atoms sec}^{-1}$ (for sputtering by solar wind protons) and $7 \times 10^{26} \text{ N atoms sec}^{-1}$ (for sputtering by magnetospheric N⁺ and protons) (Lammer and Bauer, 1993). The escape of fast neutrals produced by electron impact dissociation, dissociative recombination, and certain ion-neutral reactions within the ionosphere is predicted to lead to a global loss of $2.5 \times 10^{25} \text{ N atoms}$ (in the form of N, N₂, HCN, NH, and CN) and 1.7×10^{25} carbon atoms

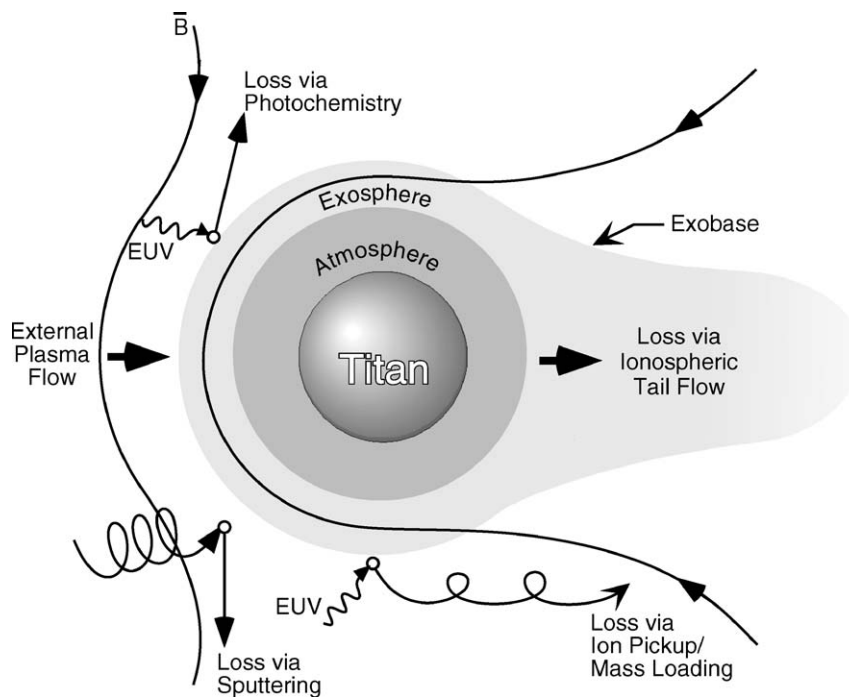


Figure 10. Sketch illustrating the principal mechanisms by which neutrals and ions are lost from Titan's atmosphere: sputtering by charged particle impact, escape of hot, non-thermal neutrals created by dissociative recombination and ion-neutral chemistry, pick-up and scavenging by the external plasma flow, and hydrodynamic escape down the tail. Determining the relative efficiency of each loss process and assessing the strength of Titan as a source of neutrals and plasma for Saturn's magnetosphere are two objectives of the INMS Titan investigation.

(principally in the form of CH_4) per second (Cravens *et al.*, 1997). Additional loss occurs as a result of the photoionization of hot exospheric neutrals and their subsequent pickup and removal by the external plasma flow. Lammer and Bauer (1991) calculate a loss of 10^{24} heavy ions (N_2^+ or H_2CN^+) s^{-1} as a result of pickup by Saturn's co-rotating magnetospheric plasma and a loss of 2.5×10^{22} N_2^+ s^{-1} as result of solar wind scavenging when Titan is outside Saturn's magnetosphere. (These values are upper limits.) More is said about loss due to ion pickup below.

Atomic hydrogen that has escaped from Titan's exosphere contributes to a cloud of neutral hydrogen atoms that occupies a sizeable region within Saturn's magnetosphere. Initial analysis of Voyagers 1 and 2 UVS observations of resonantly scattered H Lyman α appeared to indicate that the escaping hydrogen atoms form a symmetrical torus with well-defined inner and outer boundaries at 8 and 25 R_S , respectively, a vertical thickness of 14–16 R_S , and a density of $\sim 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (Broadfoot *et al.*, 1981; Sandel *et al.*, 1982). However, a more recent analysis using a larger UVS data set indicates that the neutral cloud is neither symmetrically toroidal nor predominantly Titanogenic. The distribution of atomic hydrogen in the neutral cloud appears instead to be highly nonuniform, with strong enhancements in the dusk and dawn sectors, and to extend inward, with increasing density, to the top of Saturn's atmosphere (Shemansky and Hall, 1992). Shemansky and Hall conclude that Saturn rather than Titan is the major source of the neutral atomic hydrogen cloud, although Titan is the dominant source at 18 R_S and beyond. According to a numerical simulation of the orbital behavior of hydrogen atoms originating in the Titan exosphere (Smyth and Marconi, 1993), some of the features of the neutral cloud noted by Shemansky and Hall—the dusk sector enhancement and the increasing density toward Saturn—can in part be accounted for in terms of the effect of solar radiation pressure, which deforms the torus and pushes the atomic hydrogen distribution toward the dusk side of the planet. This model predicts that a significant fraction (27%) of the Titanogenic atomic hydrogen will be lost through collision with Saturn's duskside atmosphere rather than through ionization and charge exchange.

Escaping molecular hydrogen and atomic nitrogen are expected to form neutral tori as well (e.g., Eviatar and Podolak, 1983; Hilton and Hunten, 1988; Ip, 1992; Smyth and Marconi, 1993). Such tori have not been observed, however. It is believed that solar radiation pressure will have little effect on the spatial distribution of these species in the magnetosphere so that the corresponding tori will be approximately symmetrical, in contrast to the atomic hydrogen torus (Smyth and Marconi, 1993).

Titan supplies plasma to Saturn's magnetosphere both directly, through the removal of ions from the topside ionosphere as the result of a polar wind type hydrodynamic outflow from Titan's wakeside ionosphere (Keller and Cravens (1994) calculate a total ion loss by this process of $(6\text{--}20) \times 10^{24} \text{ sec}^{-1}$. This rate is consistent with earlier Voyager-based estimates of Titan's plasma source strength by Bridge *et al.* (1981), Gurnett *et al.* (1982), and Neubauer *et al.* (1984)), and indirectly, through the ionization of material contributed to the neutral atomic hydrogen

cloud and in the H₂ and N tori. As noted above, Lammer and Bauer (1991) estimate that ions created from “hot” exospheric neutrals (mass 28) are lost due to the pick-up process at a rate of 10^{24} sec^{-1} , which is comparable to the estimated rate of loss by hydrodynamic outflow. Direct removal of plasma occurs through pick up by Saturn’s co-rotating magnetospheric plasma flow (or by the solar wind, when Titan is outside the magnetosphere).

The contribution of ionized Titanogenic neutral cloud/torus material to Saturn’s magnetospheric plasma has received relatively limited attention in the literature and has been addressed principally in two papers by Barbosa (1987, 1990). Assuming that ions are produced at the same rates at which the corresponding neutrals escape from Titan’s atmosphere, Barbosa (1990) uses production rates of 10^{27} and 10^{26} sec^{-1} for H⁺ and N⁺, respectively, in his study of diffusive ion transport in Saturn’s magnetosphere. In the earlier study, Barbosa (1987) proposes that the ions created by ionization of Titan’s postulated atomic nitrogen torus “supply the bulk of the mass and energy input to the magnetosphere at a power level of $2 \times 10^{11} \text{ W}$ ”.

Finally, we note that assessing the efficiency of the various loss processes is important for our understanding not just of the present state of Titan’s upper atmosphere but also of its evolution. Lammer and Bauer (1993) estimate, for example, that sputtering by magnetospheric charged particles may have resulted in the loss of 20% of the mass of Titan’s atmosphere over the age of the solar system.

1.1.4. *Titan Science Questions and Measurement Objectives*

The reference tour selected by the Cassini Project Science Group (tour T18-5, reference trajectory 041001) provides for 44 targeted flybys of Titan. Forty-three of the Titan encounters take place at altitudes below 8000 km; as currently planned, the altitude of closest approach for over half the passes will be 950 km. (The actual minimum altitude will be established on the basis of the atmospheric densities determined from measurements made during the initial flyby.) It is possible that the closest approach altitude will be decreased to 850 km for a few of the Titan passes. Orbiter velocities during Titan flybys will range from 5.8 to 6.2 km sec⁻¹.

Three orbital sequences (cf. Sections 3.3.2–3.3.4) have been designed for INMS measurements during the Titan encounters: a Titan Exploratory Sequence for the initial two passes, a High-Altitude Sequence for flybys with closest approach altitudes above the exobase ($\sim 1465 \text{ km}$), and a Low-Altitude Aeronomy Sequence for passes with a closest approach at 950 km, below the homopause and ionospheric peak (Strobel *et al.*, 1992; Fox and Yelle, 1997). The Titan orbital sequences provide for a combination of mass survey scans and scans of selected neutral and ion species. Neutral species with densities $\geq 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ can be measured in the INMS closed source mode, and with densities $\geq 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the open source neutral mode; positive ions with densities above 10^{-2} cm^{-3} can be measured in the open source ion mode (cf. Figures 1 and 5, which indicate predicted neutral and ion densities over the lower part of the altitude range that the Orbiter will traverse during the Titan encounters).

When the INMS is operating in the open source ion mode, optimal sampling requires that the inflowing ions enter the instrument within 8.6° of the ram direction. According to the recent modeling study of Titan's interaction with the external plasma flow cited above (Cravens *et al.*, 1998), the plasma is expected to flow rather slowly ($<1 \text{ km sec}^{-1}$) inside a radial distance of $2.5 R_T$ (altitude = 3800 km), and ions should enter the INMS instrument essentially in the Orbiter ram direction. Outside this distance, however, INMS thermal plasma measurements will be complicated by plasma flow directions that lie outside the open source acceptance angle and by ion flow speeds that exceed the instrument's upper energy limit (100 eV). CAPS will be the more appropriate instrument for measurements in this region. Understanding Titan's interaction with the external plasma flow and the effects of this interaction on the dynamics, structure, and energetics of Titan's upper atmosphere will require a combination of INMS data from the region inside $2.5 R_T$, CAPS data on external ion flow velocities and on ion and electron temperatures, and magnetic field data from the MAG experiment. For example, both INMS and CAPS data will be needed, together with models, to calculate escape rates from both dissociative recombination of ionospheric ions and ion pickup.

Key specific science questions to be addressed by the INMS Titan investigation and measurement requirements are summarized in the following.

- What is the thermal structure of Titan's upper atmosphere? (*Needed measurements: high-time-resolution INMS measurements of densities as a function of altitude for the principal neutral and ion species known or expected to be present in Titan's atmosphere; complementary UVIS and RSS data.*)
- What is the bulk composition of Titan's neutral upper atmosphere and ionosphere? What are the key chemical processes determining the composition of the ionosphere and neutral upper atmosphere? How does the ionosphere affect the composition of the neutral atmosphere and vice-versa? For example, how is the ion composition determined by the densities of neutral species such as C_2H_2 , HCN, and nitriles? What neutrals, including complex hydrocarbon species, are produced by the ion chemistry? How does the chemistry occurring in Titan's upper atmosphere contribute to the production of aerosol hazes in the stratosphere? More specifically, how are complex hydrocarbons and nitriles generated in Titan's upper atmosphere and ionosphere, and do magnetospheric inputs affect this? (*Needed measurements: detailed INMS ion and neutral composition measurements over the complete mass range (1–99 Daltons); complementary UVIS occultation measurements and VIMS and CIRS data on the composition of the lower atmosphere.*)
- How do Saturn's magnetosphere (when Titan resides in it) and the solar wind (when Titan is located outside Saturn's magnetopause) interact with Titan?

How are the structure and dynamics of Titan's ionosphere affected by this interaction? How are the energetics of the ionosphere, and upper atmosphere as a whole, affected by this interaction? Is the magnetospheric interaction or solar EUV radiation a more important energy source for Titan's ionosphere and upper atmosphere? How does this depend on location on Titan (that is, versus solar zenith angle, on the ram or wake side, etc.)? How does the plasma interaction depend on the relative angles of the subsolar and subflow points on Titan? (*Needed measurements: measurements of total ion density versus altitude for a wide range of solar zenith angles and ram angles; energetic particle measurements from CAPS and MIMI, complementary MAG and PWS data, and RSS occultation measurements of the ionosphere; INMS, CAPS, MAG, PWS measurements at Titan whenever Titan is near noon Saturn time in the event that high solar wind dynamic pressure compresses magnetopause, placing Titan in the magnetosheath or solar wind.*)

- Is Titan's ionosphere magnetized? And if so, by a small intrinsic field or by fields induced by the interaction with Saturn's magnetosphere? How does this field interact with the thermal plasma in the ionosphere? (The ionospheric electrical conductivity will determine whether or not an induced magnetic field can penetrate into the lower atmosphere.) (*Needed measurements: INMS neutral and ion density measurements to determine ionospheric electrical conductivity as a function of altitude, local time, ram angle, etc.; complementary MAG and RSS data.*)
- How is the upper boundary of the ionosphere affected by the plasma interaction? Is the scale height altered by plasma erosion on the ram side? Are there ionospheric "tail rays" in the wake as seen at comets, Venus, and Mars? (*Needed measurements: global coverage of the upper ionosphere region to examine 3D shape of the ionosphere boundary; CAPS data; PWS Langmuir Probe measurements and MAG measurements to understand geometry of plasma interaction-related features.*)
- What are the relative contributions of various loss processes—ion scavenging, sputtering by co-rotating particles, the escape of hot, non-thermal neutrals produced by ion-neutral and dissociative recombination reactions, and the bulk flow of ionospheric plasma out the tail/wake—to the loss of material from Titan's neutral upper atmosphere and ionosphere? What are the evolutionary consequences for Titan? (*Needed measurements: INMS measurements of neutral and ion densities vs. altitude and location, e.g., ram side versus wake side; CAPS measurements of flux and composition of the incident particles.*)
- How many and what neutrals and ions does Titan supply to Saturn's magnetosphere and how does this Titan source affect the outer magnetosphere of Saturn? How does Titan's ionosphere contribute to the extended exosphere of that satellite as well as to the neutral torus around Saturn near Titan's orbit? (*Needed measurements: same as in preceding paragraph.*)

1.2. SATURN'S INNER MAGNETOSPHERE: RINGS AND ICY SATELLITES

A secondary focus of the INMS investigation is on the neutral and thermal plasma environment of Saturn's inner magnetosphere ($L < 10$) and its association with the rings and icy satellites. Sputtering of material from the rings and the surfaces of the moons by charged particle and micrometeorite bombardment is believed to create an extensive neutral cloud of water molecules and water dissociation products in the inner magnetosphere. Subsequent ionization of this neutral material through electron impact, EUV radiation, and charge exchange is the primary source for the thermal plasma (protons and heavy ions) observed in the inner magnetosphere by Pioneer 11 (Frank *et al.*, 1980) and Voyagers 1 and 2 (Bridge *et al.*, 1981, 1982; Lazarus and McNutt, 1983). The relative contributions of the neutral sources, their adequacy to account for neutral densities determined from recent HST observations, and the contributions and efficiencies of different production mechanisms (e.g., plasma sputtering, photosputtering, micrometeoroid bombardment) have been the subject of several modeling studies. Such studies, together with the HST observations and new analysis of Voyager plasma data, have added significantly to our understanding of the neutral and plasma environment of Saturn's inner magnetosphere. There remain a number of important questions, however, whose resolution must await the arrival of Cassini in the Saturn system. (For a review of the relevant observations and model results, see Richardson (1998). See also the recent studies by Jurac *et al.* (2001a,b).)

INMS measurements in the inner magnetosphere will be challenging because of the low neutral densities, intense radiation background, and the co-rotational energy acquired by the thermal ions. However, long accumulation periods and the co-adding of mass scans will be used to increase counting statistics, and thermal ion energies will be low enough in certain regions of interest (e.g., above and at the ring plane during Saturn Orbit Insertion, icy satellite wakes) to permit useful data to be acquired.

1.2.1. *The Neutral and Plasma Environment of the Main Ring System*

Prior to the deployment of the Hubble Space Telescope, the only direct information on the neutral gas population in the inner magnetosphere was provided by remote-sensing observations of Lyman α radiation resonantly scattered by neutral atomic hydrogen. These observations were interpreted as evidence for the presence of a tenuous ring atmosphere with an atomic hydrogen number density of 400–600 cm^{-3} (Weiser *et al.*, 1977; Judge *et al.*, 1980; Carlson, 1980; Broadfoot *et al.*, 1981). Such a neutral atmosphere is thought to be created and maintained by the ejection of water vapor and water products from the icy ring particles as a result principally of micrometeorite bombardment and is expected to consist of H_2O , OH, and O in addition to atomic hydrogen (Ip, 1984, 1995; Pospieszalska and Johnson, 1991). In addition to the atomic hydrogen associated with the rings, atomic hydrogen apparently originating in Saturn's exosphere also exists within the inner magnetosphere in significant amounts and with densities as high as 100 cm^{-3}

(Shemansky and Hall, 1992). As Hall *et al.* (1996) point out, the presence of this exospheric component and of contributions from Titan and other sources makes it difficult to distinguish an atomic hydrogen population uniquely associated with the ring system. Thus estimates of the density and properties of the ring atmosphere based on the Lyman α data (e.g., Broadfoot *et al.*, 1981) should be used with caution.

The signature of an OH component of the ring atmosphere was detected with the HST Faint Object Spectrograph (FOS) during edge-on observations made at the time of the Earth's ring plane crossing in August 1995 (Hall *et al.*, 1996). Five observations of UV fluorescence emissions from the OH A–X band were made close to the ring plane, at altitudes ranging from 0.28 to 0.60 R_S above the plane and at equatorial distances between 1.9 and 2.3 R_S . Emission brightness was found to decrease with altitude above the ring plane and to increase with increasing equatorial distance, with the brightest emissions occurring at an altitude of 0.28 R_S and an equatorial distance of 2.3 R_S . Based on the brightness of these emissions, Hall *et al.* estimate a scale height of 0.45 R_S and a number density of 150–700 cm^{-3} for the OH component of the ring atmosphere. (The larger value for the OH number density represents an upper limit because it may include an OH contribution from non-ring sources in the inner magnetosphere.) A much lower OH density ($\sim 30 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) near the rings has been calculated by Richardson *et al.* (1998), whose model is constrained by HST OH observations from three epochs (1992 and 1994 as well as 1995) and Voyager atomic hydrogen and plasma data (see their Figures 2 and 4). The higher value obtained by Hall *et al.* (1996) may reflect the preliminary nature of their analysis.

According to the Richardson *et al.* model (their Figure 8), OH accounts for $\sim 50\%$ of the neutral density in the vicinity of the rings (at a radial distance of 2.3 R_S), which implies a total neutral density of $\sim 60 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. This value is consistent with that given by Ip (1995) for the density near 2.5 R_S but is lower than that predicted by the ring neutral cloud model of Pospieszalska and Johnson (1991) ($\sim 300 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at 2.3 R_S and at an altitude of 0.28 R_S above the ring plane; see their Figure 1a). The differences among the model predictions are attributable in part to uncertainties in our knowledge of the micrometeorite flux at Saturn and of the rate of gas production by hypervelocity impact.

Indirect evidence for the existence of a neutral ring atmosphere was provided by the detection of a population of cold (10 eV), dense (100 cm^{-3}) heavy ions during the Voyager 2 ring plane crossing at an equatorial distance of $\sim 2.7 R_S$, just outside the outer edge of the main rings ($\sim 2.3 R_S$) (Bridge *et al.*, 1982; Lazarus and McNutt, 1983; Gan-Baruch *et al.*, 1994). It is probable that this cold dense plasma consists of water group ions (O^+ , OH^+ , H_2O^+ , and H_3O^+) created by the ionization of the water vapor and water dissociation products that make up the neutral atmosphere of the ring system. The ring atmosphere—which one model has shown can extend well beyond the edge of the main rings—would thus constitute the “missing” source of the thermal plasma that exists inside the orbit of Enceladus and is inadequately accounted for by other sources (Pospieszalska and Johnson, 1989,

1991). In addition to the creation of plasma through the ionization of the sputtered neutrals, some plasma will also be produced directly by the micrometeorite impacts upon the ring material (Morfill *et al.*, 1983).

Eviatar and Richardson (1990, 1992) suggest that the cold dense plasma associated with the rings and lying between the outer edge of the main rings and the orbit of Mimas ($\sim 3 R_S$) should be considered the outer “ionosphere” of the ring system, a population distinct from the warmer plasma associated with the icy satellites. Voyager 2 plasma measurements in the ring plane at $2.7 R_S$ indicate that the ring ionosphere in this region is rather dense ($\sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$). No observational data exist on the density of the plasma in the immediate vicinity of the main rings (i.e., between 1.2 and $2.3 R_S$); however, extrapolation from the Voyager data suggests a density of ~ 30 heavy (e.g., O^+ , OH^+ , H_2O^+ , and H_3O^+) ions cm^{-3} (25–50 Daltons) at altitudes between 0.2 and $0.4 R_S$ above the ring plane (Richardson and Sittler, 1990, Figure 9).

Because the rings are magnetically connected with Saturn’s ionosphere, it is expected that plasma transport between the ionosphere and the ring system (and between the ring system and the ionosphere) will occur and that the plasma in the vicinity of the rings will thus consist of both ring-generated plasma (mainly water group ions) and ionospheric plasma (principally H^+) (Wilson and Waite, 1989). Model calculations by Wilson and Waite indicate that the relative proportions of the two populations will vary according to radial distance and source strength; for example, for one set of model parameters, ionospheric H^+ (densities $\geq 1.0 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) is found to be the dominant species near the C ring, while the plasma environment of the B and A rings is dominated by heavy ions with densities as high as 50 cm^{-3} . The Wilson and Waite model also demonstrates that the flux of ring-generated water group ions from the B ring into the ionosphere can be significant, $> 2 \times 10^7 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ sec}^{-1}$, and could contribute to the low electron densities observed in the ionosphere at latitudes magnetically connected to the B ring (cf. Connerney and Waite, 1984). Since absorption of ionospheric material by the rings can also produce such features (Luhmann and Walker, 1981), in-situ measurements are needed to determine what exchanges between the rings and ionosphere are taking place.

1.2.2. *The E Ring and Icy Satellite Environments*

Neutrals produced by micrometeorite bombardment of the main rings are likely to contribute significantly to the neutral population inside the orbit of Enceladus (Pospieszalska and Johnson, 1991). However, the principal source of neutral gas and thermal plasma in Saturn’s inner magnetosphere is the sputtering of water products from the surfaces of the icy satellites and from the icy particles of the diffuse E ring ($3\text{--}8 R_S$) (Shi *et al.*, 1995; Jurac *et al.*, 2001a). Neither Pioneer 11 nor Voyagers 1 and 2 were instrumented to make in-situ neutral measurements during their passes through the inner magnetosphere. However, the measurement of heavy ions with the Pioneer and Voyager plasma instruments near the orbits of the icy satellites implied the presence of an extended neutral cloud of water molecules and water

dissociation products that could serve as the source for the observed ions. Using Voyager LECP particle flux data and laboratory data on the sputtering of water ice, Lanzerotti *et al.* (1983) demonstrated that the sputtering of the inner moons by charged particle bombardment could produce such an extended neutral source. Calculations of neutral and plasma densities surrounding the inner moons were reported by Richardson *et al.* (1986), and a model of neutral cloud morphology and of the inner heavy ion torus was developed by Johnson *et al.* (1989). In both models, charged particle bombardment was assumed to be the primary means by which water and water products are sputtered from the satellite surfaces to form the neutral cloud. Both models predicted relatively low neutral densities in the inner magnetosphere: $<7 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the Tethys–Dione torus (Richardson *et al.*, 1986, Table Vb) and $44\text{--}60 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at the orbit of Tethys ($4.88 R_S$) (Johnson *et al.*, 1989, Figure 5). In contrast, Shemansky and Hall (1992, Table V) estimated the densities of water group neutrals (H_2O , OH, O) to be as high as $\sim 470 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at a distance of $4.5 R_S$.

The first direct observation of neutral gas associated with the inner moons was the detection with the HST FOS of a surprisingly large abundance of OH (mean density = $160 \pm 50 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) at $4.5 R_S$ —near the orbit of Tethys—by Shemansky *et al.* (1993). Model calculations constrained by these and subsequent HST observations (from 1994 and 1995) indicate even higher OH densities, $>700 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ at $4.5 R_S$ and on the order of 500 cm^{-3} at $3 R_S$ (Richardson *et al.*, 1998; S. Jurac, private communication, 2001). These findings confirm the prediction by Shemansky and Hall (1992) of large amounts of heavy neutrals in Saturn’s inner magnetosphere and call into question the adequacy of the principal neutral source mechanism—charged particle sputtering—assumed by the earlier models of Richardson *et al.* (1986) and Johnson *et al.* (1989). By using revised yields for sputtering by keV O^+ and including sputtering of the icy E-ring grains as an important neutral source in the region between Enceladus and Tethys, Shi *et al.* (1995) were able to increase the total source rate for charged particle sputtering by a factor of two compared with that used by Johnson *et al.* (1989). Even so, the new production rate ($1.7 \times 10^{26} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) is roughly 10 times smaller than the source rate required by Shemansky *et al.* (1993) ($2 \times 10^{27} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) and more recently by Richardson *et al.* (1998) ($1.4 \times 10^{27} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) to account for the HST OH observations.

The discrepancy between the neutral densities implied by the OH observations and those predicted by models that invoke charged particle sputtering as the major neutral source may be attributable in part to underestimates of the actual sputter yields from the icy satellites and/or of the magnitude of energetic particle fluxes between 4 and $8 R_S$ (cf. Shi *et al.*, 1995). This discrepancy may also be partly accounted for in terms of the contribution of processes other than charged particle sputtering to the formation of the neutral cloud. For example, vapor production by micrometeorite impact is usually considered a relatively minor source of neutrals at the inner moons (as opposed to at the rings) (Johnson *et al.*, 1989). There is great uncertainty about micrometeorite fluxes at Saturn, however, and thus Shemansky

et al. (1993) suggest that, with sufficiently large fluxes, micrometeorite bombardment of the satellites could be a plausible additional source of neutrals for the inner magnetosphere.

Following up on a suggestion by Hamilton and Burns (1993), Ip (1997) considers as another possible source the impact of E-ring particles, in highly eccentric orbits, on Enceladus and suggests that this mechanism could contribute substantially to the neutral cloud in the vicinity of this satellite. According to Ip's model, a combination of charged particle sputtering and sputtering of Enceladus by E-ring particles (estimated source strength = $6 \times 10^{25} \text{ sec}^{-1}$) gives an OH density at $4.5 R_S$ of 300 cm^{-3} and a total heavy neutral density of $4 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. In addition, Ip notes that E-ring particles in eccentric orbits could also collide with the A ring and contribute to the production of a dense ring system atmosphere (cf. the OH densities at $2.3 R_S$ reported by Hall *et al.*, 1996).

Another possible solution to the problem of the discrepancy between the modeled sources and the observed OH densities is offered by Jurac *et al.* (2001a,b), who posit the existence of a population of submicron-sized ice grains distributed among the larger E ring grains near the orbit of Enceladus. According to their model, this population represents a stronger source of sputtered neutrals than either the satellites or the regular E ring grains, and the three sources together are sufficient to account for the measured OH densities.

Models show that neutral densities peak close to the icy moons (Johnson *et al.*, 1989; Ip, 1997). For example, estimated densities of sputtered H_2O and O_2 at an altitude of 560 km above the surface of Dione are $\sim 7 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and 10^4 cm^{-3} , respectively (Johnson, 1998, Figure 9). This is approximately the altitude of closest approach during the Dione encounter as specified in the Cassini reference tour T18-5. Thus some direct sampling with the INMS of satellite neutral atmospheres may be possible during targeted (i.e., low-altitude) icy satellite encounters. Data acquired during these encounters can be used to assess the neutral source strength of a particular moon and to obtain some information about satellite surface composition. Determination of satellite surface composition from sputter products will be significantly improved by the high-sensitivity CAPS measurements of sputter-produced plasma (cf. Johnson and Sittler, 1990).

1.2.3. *INMS Inner Magnetosphere Science Objectives and Measurement Requirements*

The Cassini Orbiter is the first outer planet probe instrumented to make in-situ neutral composition measurements. It thus has the potential to provide unique data on the neutral gases that recent HST observations have shown to be abundant in Saturn's inner magnetosphere. Such data would be of extraordinary value in our efforts to characterize the neutral environments of the rings and icy satellites, to understand the interactions of these bodies with the magnetospheric plasma or, in the case of the rings, with Saturn's ionosphere, and to assess the relative contributions of the ring system and inner moons to the neutral and thermal plasma populations

of the inner magnetosphere. INMS neutral (and thermal plasma) data would contribute as well to efforts to address planetological questions, e.g., relating to the age and evolution of the rings, the composition of the surfaces of the icy satellites, etc.

INMS measurements of neutral gases in the inner magnetosphere are expected to be challenging, however, because, as is evident from the discussion in the preceding sections, available data and modeling results indicate that neutral densities in the inner magnetosphere do not exceed a few times 10^3 cm^{-3} at the most. Neutral densities are thus generally below the detection level of the INMS in both the closed source (10^4 cm^{-3}) and open source neutral (10^5 cm^{-3}) modes. These measurements are further complicated by the intense radiation background in the inner magnetosphere. To mitigate this latter problem, the INMS was modified to include a 0.23-cm-thick tantalum shield around the detectors (cf. Section 2.1). To address the problem of densities below the neutral detection threshold, long accumulation periods of up to 50 min will be employed to allow for the co-adding of mass scans. Five mass spectra consisting of 15–255 co-added mass scans each will be acquired during each of the four measurement cycles (at least one in each INMS operating mode) that constitute the inner magnetosphere orbital sequence (cf. Sections 3 and 3.3.6).

The INMS can also provide, under certain circumstances, valuable data on the thermal ions in the inner magnetosphere. Although thermal plasma densities in the equatorial plane near the rings and satellites (e.g., heavy ion densities of 20–25 cm^{-3} and proton densities of 2 cm^{-3} near the orbit of Dione; Richardson, 1986) lie above the detection threshold (10^{-2} cm^{-3}), the co-rotational energy acquired by the ions places them at times outside the instrument's energy range (1–100 eV) at radial distances greater than $\sim 3.5 R_S$. (Co-rotational energy is approximately given by $E \sim AR^2/2$ eV, where A is the atomic mass unit and R is radial location in Saturn radii. However, this general rule must be supplemented by information on the spacecraft's orbital velocity to set the actual limit on detection.) Following Saturn Orbit Insertion (SOI), the Orbiter will cross the ring plane through the gap between the F and G rings, at $\sim 2.5 R_S$. Prior to this, the Orbiter will fly over the ring plane at altitudes ranging from 0.5 to 0.13 R_S for ~ 1.5 hr after the main engine burn associated with SOI. The ring plane crossing and, depending on the plasma scale height, the ring overflight thus offer a key opportunity for INMS open source ion measurements of the ring plasma environment. Additional opportunities for thermal ion measurements are expected to occur during targeted flybys of the icy satellites, whenever the Orbiter is located in plasma stagnation regions in the satellite wakes.

Representative science questions to be addressed with INMS data acquired in the inner magnetosphere and measurement requirements include the following:

- What is the composition and density of the neutral atmosphere and ionosphere of the ring system? How are the rings coupled to the Saturnian ionosphere? Is

there active water injection from the ring systems into Saturn's atmosphere? (*Needed measurements: ion composition, density, and temperature and open source neutral measurements during ring overflight and at ring plane crossing; complementary ion measurements with CAPS.*)

- What are the interactions between icy satellites and the magnetospheric plasma? Do Enceladus, Dione, and/or Rhea have exospheres and ionospheres? If so, how are they generated, by charged particle sputtering or micrometeorite bombardment? What can be inferred from the neutral/plasma environment of the satellites about their surface composition? Is there any current outgassing activity (cyro-volcanism) on these icy satellites (i.e., Enceladus and/or Dione)? Which satellite is most important in supplying neutral material to the magnetosphere? What is the contribution of the E ring to the neutral cloud? What are the density distribution and composition of the neutral gas cloud in the vicinity of the satellites? (*Needed measurements: ram-pointed neutral density and composition measurements at closest approaches to icy satellites for possible detection of exospheres and to set limits on exosphere sizes; ion density and composition measurements at wake crossings; complementary measurements with CAPS, MAG, and plasma wave experiments; MIMI imaging of neutral tori.*)

1.3. PLASMA OUTFLOW FROM SATURN'S HIGH-LATITUDE IONOSPHERE

Hamilton *et al.* (1983) reported the detection with the Voyager LECP instrument of H_2^+ and H_3^+ in Saturn's magnetosphere and postulated that such ionized molecular hydrogen most likely originates in Saturn's high-latitude ionosphere. Outflows of thermal ions from the Earth's high-latitude ionosphere are known to be a major source of plasma for the terrestrial magnetosphere (cf. Chappell *et al.*, 1987), and calculations by Nagy *et al.* (1986) demonstrated that polar ion outflows could in principle supply substantial amounts of plasma to the Jovian magnetosphere as well. Evidence for an ionospheric plasma source at Jupiter was provided by the observation of Doppler-shifted Lyman α emissions from the Jovian auroral zone, which Clarke *et al.* (1989) attributed to fast atomic H produced by interactions with upflowing 10–20 eV protons and possibly H_2^+ and H_3^+ as well. If similar outflows occur at Saturn, ion flow energies would likely be <10 and <1 eV in the case of a polar-wind-type outflow. Such energies fall within the energy range of the INMS for open source ion measurements. Thus an additional objective of the INMS investigation is to attempt to detect the postulated H_2^+ and H_3^+ outflows from Saturn's ionosphere during the Orbiter's passes through the polar magnetosphere and, if such outflows are detected, to assess the strength of the ionospheric source. INMS measurements will be coordinated with CAPS observations, which will provide information on plasma flow directions and energy distributions.

2. Instrument Description

2.1. OVERVIEW

The INMS instrument (Kasprzak *et al.*, 1996) is a modification of the Neutral Gas and Ion Mass Spectrometer (NGIMS) instrument designed for the Comet Rendezvous Asteroid Flyby Mission (CRAF). Its heritage includes similar sensors designed by GSFC for such missions as Atmospheric Explorer, Dynamics Explorer, Pioneer Venus, and the Galileo Probe. The Cassini instrument consists of two separate ion sources for sampling ambient neutrals and ions, an ion deflector/trap, four hot-filament electron guns, an electrostatic quadrupole switching lens that selects between the sources, various focusing lenses, a quadrupole mass analyzer, and two secondary electron multiplier (SEM) detectors. Instrument control is provided by the Flight Computer, according to the values entered in various software tables (Section 3.1). A sketch of the key INMS components is shown in Figure 11, and the primary instrument parameters are listed in Table IV.

The gas densities at Titan and other INMS targets are nearly optimal for direct sampling without ambient pressure reduction. Two separate ion sources—a closed source and an open source—rather than a single combined quasi-open ion source are used in the INMS instrument in order to optimize interpretation of the neutral species (Figure 12). In the closed source mode, the ram pressure of the inflowing gas creates a density enhancement in the source antechamber, allowing the sampled species to be measured with relatively high precision and sensitivity. This mode will be used to measure species, such as N_2 and CH_4 , which do not react with the antechamber surfaces. The open source has the advantage that it can measure reactive neutral radicals, such as atomic nitrogen, and ions. In this mode, the ambient neutral gas density is sampled directly with no stagnation enhancement and no collisions with the surfaces of the instrument. For open source ion measurements, the INMS angular response can be increased beyond the geometric view cone (8.6° cone half angle) by adjusting the voltages on the plates in the ion deflector/trap and the exit aperture lens (top plate lens). For neutral sampling in the open source mode, the ion trap removes incoming ions and electrons, which could cause spurious ionization of neutral species, and allows only neutrals to pass into the ionization region. In both the closed and open source modes, impacting electrons emitted from the hot-filament electron guns ionize the sampled neutrals.

Electrostatic lenses are used to focus the ambient ions and those created from ambient neutrals by electron impact into the quadrupole switching lens (Mahaffy and Lai, 1990), an electrostatic device that steers ions from either the closed or open source through a system of focusing lenses into a dual radio frequency (RF) quadrupole mass analyzer. The mass analyzer selectively filters the ions according to their mass-to-charge ratio. Two secondary electron multipliers operating in pulse-counting mode cover the dynamic range required. The INMS mass range was increased from its initial value of 1–66 to 1–99 Daltons (atomic mass units)

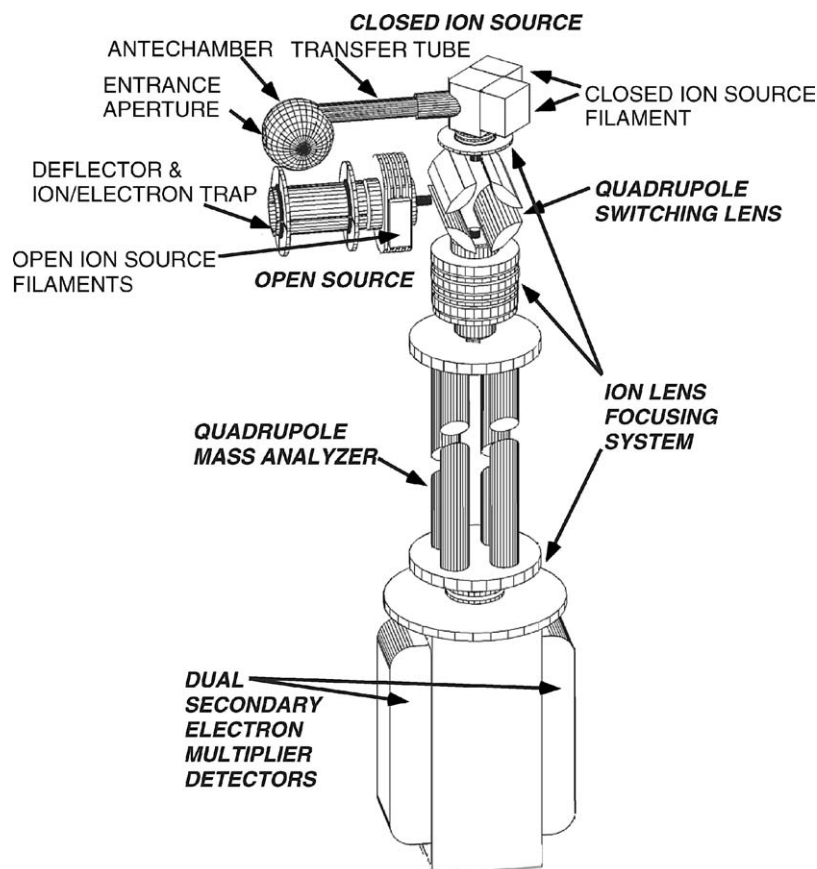


Figure 11. Schematic illustrating the principal components of the Cassini Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS).

to allow detection of heavier hydrocarbon species and possible pre-biotic cyclic hydrocarbons such as C_6H_6 . Using two different radio frequencies and scanning the mass-to-charge ratios from 1 to 8 and then from 12 to 99 Daltons accomplish this.

The INMS instrument is mounted on the Cassini's Fields and Particles Pallet (FPP). The outward normal to both the open and closed source INMS apertures lies in the spacecraft $-X$ direction. The open source geometric field of view is about 8.6° cone half angle. This limits the angular response for neutrals and ions measured in the open source mode, although, as noted above and discussed in greater detail below, the angular response for the measurement of ambient ions can be improved by adjusting the voltage applied to the open source ion deflectors. In contrast, the closed source has a much wider geometric field of view of approximately 2π steradians. The open source is vented to lower the ion source and analyzer pressures (increasing the ion mean free path) during a Titan pass when the spacecraft ram is

TABLE IV
Cassini Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS) parameter summary.

Neutral gas sampling systems	(1) Open source (molecular beaming) with energy discrimination; (2) closed source
Ion sampling system	Thermal and suprathemal positive ions
Sample system switching	Electrostatic quadrupole deflector
Viewing angle (angle of response)	(1) Open source 8.6° cone half angle; (2) closed source $\sim 2\pi$ steradians; (3) exhaust vent $\sim 2\pi$ steradians
Neutral mode ionization sources	Electron impact ionization; for the primary filament Open source: 25 and 70 eV; Closed source: 27 and 71 eV
Mass analyzer	Quadrupole mass filter, 0.5 cm field radius, 10 cm rod length Radio frequencies: 1.64 and 3.57 MHz
Mass range	1–8, 12–99 Daltons nominal; high pass filter mode
Scan modes	(1) Survey: scan mass range in 1/8 or 1 Dalton steps; (2) adaptive mode: select mass values
Resolution/crosstalk	10^{-6} for adjacent masses
Detector system	Two secondary electron multiplier detectors operating in pulse counting mode (detector noise < 1 count per minute in laboratory) Dynamic range of two detector system for 1 integration period sample $\sim 10^8$
Sensor sensitivity	(1) Ion flux sensitivity for nominal 3 eV energy, entrance aperture diameter 0.864 cm $\text{He}^+ \sim 9 \times 10^{-4}$ (counts/sec)/(ions/cm ² /sec) $\text{Ar}^+ \sim 7 \times 10^{-4}$ (counts/sec)/(ions/cm ² /sec) $\text{Kr}^+ \sim 5 \times 10^{-4}$ (counts/sec)/(ions/cm ² /sec) (2) Neutral mode sensitivity for mass 28, N ₂ , primary filament Closed source, detector 1 $\sim 6 \times 10^{-4}$ (counts/sec)/(particle/cm ³) Closed source, detector 2 $\sim 3.6 \times 10^{-7}$ (counts/sec)/(particle/cm ³) Open source, detector 1 $\sim 1.9 \times 10^{-4}$ (counts/sec)/(particle/cm ³) Open source, detector 2 $\sim 1.3 \times 10^{-7}$ (counts/sec)/(particle/cm ³) (3) Maximum energy for ion beaming mode: 54 eV; for neutral beaming mode: 103 eV.
Density/flux for 1 count per integration period, no background	Minimum neutral ion source density Closed source $\sim 5 \times 10^4$ particles/cm ³ Open source $\sim 2 \times 10^5$ particles/cm ³ Maximum neutral ion source density $\sim 10^{12}$ particles/cm ³ Maximum closed source ram enhancement factor for N ₂ at 6 km/sec = 50 Minimum ion flux and density for 3 eV ions $\sim (7-10) \times 10^3$ ions/cm ² /sec for nom. 3 eV ions $\sim 10^{-3}$ particles/cm ³ (6 km/sec speed)

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE IV
(Continued).

Data rate	Sample integration period = 31.1 ms; total sample period = 34.0 ms
Spatial resolution	~200 meters along spacecraft track per sample period
Instrument control	Microprocessor: MA31750, RAM: 64 Kbytes, IORAM: 32 Kbytes, PROM: 64 kbytes
Telemetry	Science data rate: 1498 bps; housekeeping data rate: 12 bps Reduced science packet production mode implemented
Deployment mechanism	Metal ceramic breakoff cap, pyrotechnically activated
Power (current best estimate)	Neutral mode: average 23.3 W Ion mode: average 20.9 W Sleep: average 13.1 W Off: 4 W replacement heater
Size	Maximum envelope (cruise): height 20.3 cm (8.0 in), length 42.2 cm (16.6 in), width 36.5 cm (14.4 in)
Weight (current best estimate)	10.29 kg including ~1.4 kg for tantalum radiation shield 0.23 cm (0.090 in) thick

approximately along the $-X$ direction. Venting occurs at right angles to the $-X$ axis.

The INMS sensor and supporting electronics are packaged as shown in Figures 13 and 14. The aluminum electronics box is mechanically strong and lightweight and provides electrostatic shielding for the instrument as well as protection against micrometeoroids and high-energy particles. A 0.23-cm (0.09-in) thick tantalum shield shields the secondary electron multipliers (SEM) against magnetospheric background radiation, which could interfere with the measurement of low-density gases in the vicinity of Saturn's icy satellites. The tantalum shielding reduces the modeled background radiation flux to an acceptable level of less than 10^{-11} particles $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$. Multilayer insulation (MLI) is used for thermal shielding and micrometeoroid protection of the sensor and electronics package, and is attached to the brackets as shown in Figure 13. A thermal radiator panel is used to dissipate internally generated heat and is not covered by the MLI. The package design is such that the entrance apertures of the sensor protrude beyond the edge of the FPP platform and MLI insulation. This configuration prevents contamination from spacecraft out gassing and provides the maximum field of view.

The INMS sensor is made of titanium and is free of organic materials. It was baked to about 280°C for vacuum clean up. During the launch and cruise phases, a getter pump is used to maintain the sensor interior at a low pressure; internal pressure is monitored with a miniature ion gauge and a thermistor. In this sealed configuration the INMS retains a residual gas atmosphere (composed primarily of helium, argon, methane, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, hydrogen, and water).

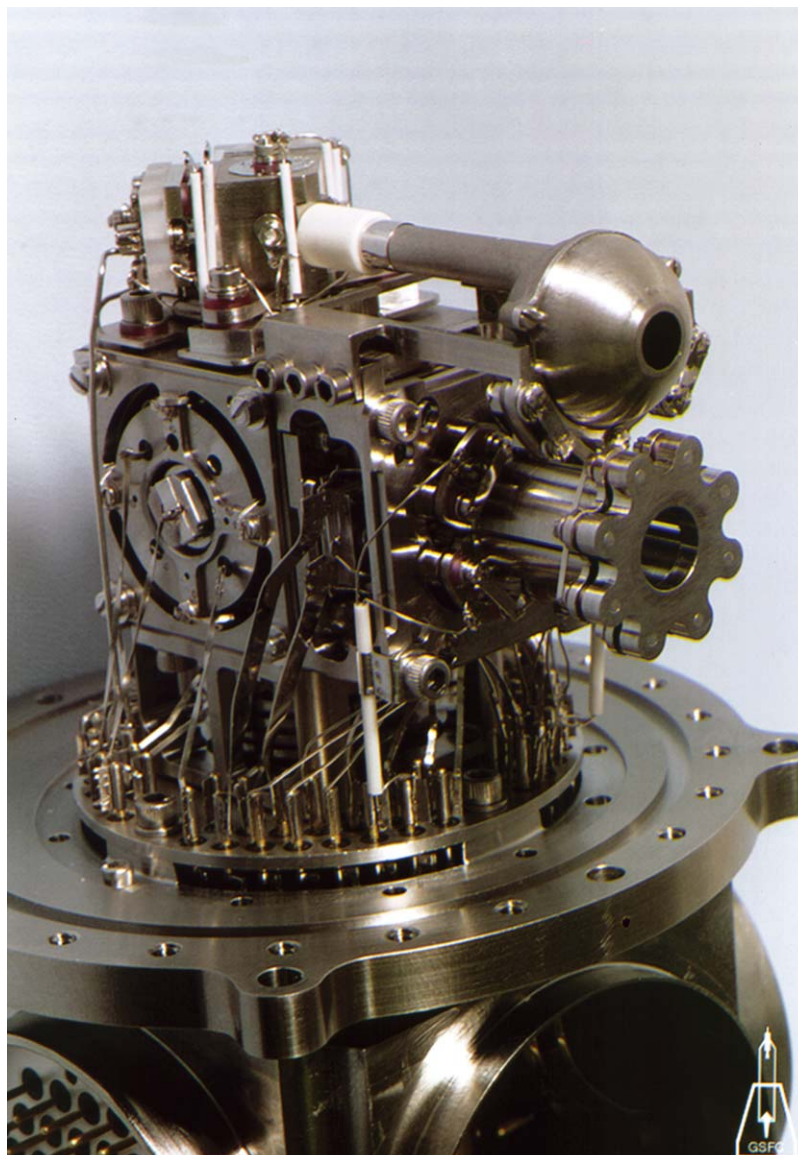


Figure 12. Photo showing the INMS closed and open ion sources.

This residual atmosphere can be used for sensor testing. The INMS will remain sealed and at near vacuum interior pressures to preserve instrument cleanliness until ambient atmosphere measurements can be made.

The INMS entrance apertures are masked by a single plate and are covered by a metal–ceramic break-off hat that can be pyrotechnically separated from the main sensor. Ejection of the break-off hat and opening of the sensor to the external

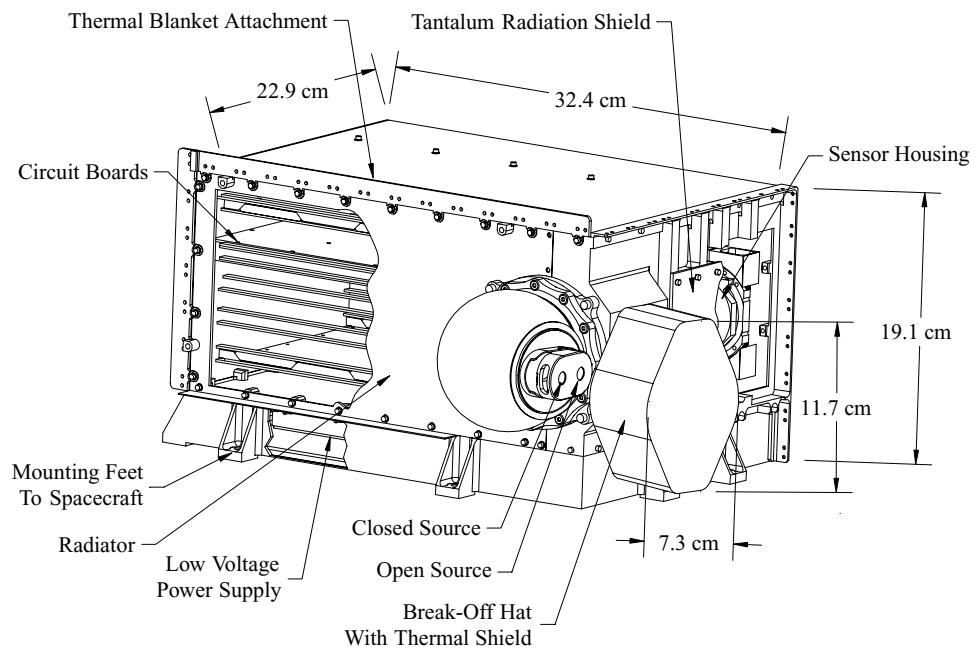


Figure 13. Schematic showing the INMS with the electronic and mechanical subsystems.

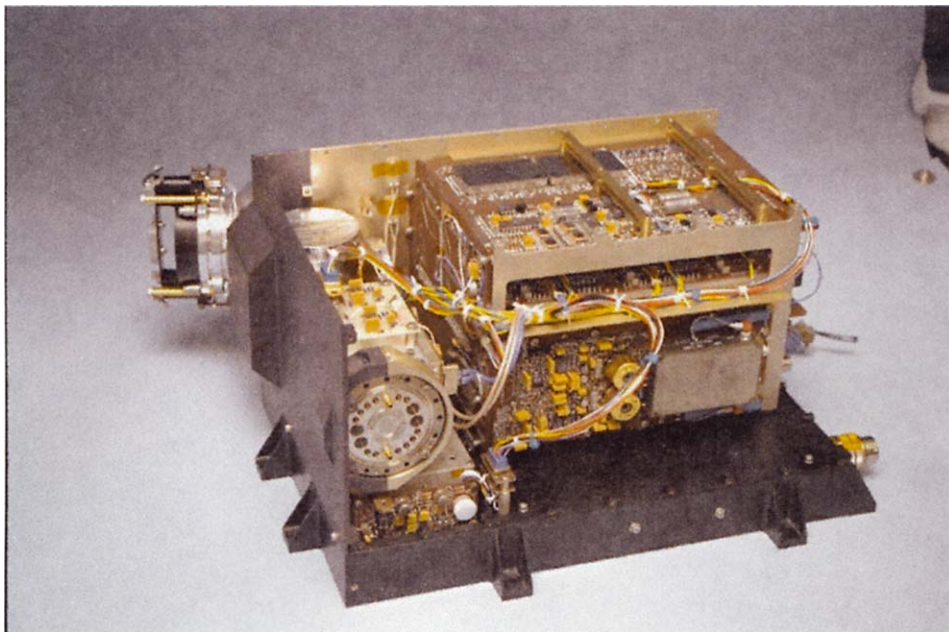


Figure 14. The INMS sensor and electronics.

environment are planned to occur after SOI main engine burn but prior to the descending ring plane crossing. The break-off device has been used successfully on Earth-orbiting satellites as well as on the Pioneer Venus Orbiter.

2.2. INMS COMPONENTS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES

As discussed above, the INMS instrument uses two ion sources, a closed source for the measurement of non-reactive neutrals and an open source for the measurement of reactive neutrals and ions. The INMS is thus operated in three basic modes: neutral closed source, open source neutral beaming, and open source ion. In this section, we describe in detail the major INMS components and the principles of operation for each of the three modes. (A fourth mode, open source thermal neutral, is possible but would only be used as a backup in the event that the closed source fails. It will not be discussed in this paper. In the following, whenever reference is made to the “open source neutral mode,” the “neutral beaming mode” is meant unless otherwise specified.)

2.2.1. *Closed and Open Ion Sources*

The closed source for ionization of neutrals consists of a spherical antechamber with an entrance orifice for the ambient gas flux and a cylindrical tube that connects this antechamber to the entrance of the ionization region (Figure 15). The incoming gas makes many collisions with the antechamber surfaces and thermally accommodates to the surface temperature. A ram enhancement of the antechamber pressure above that of the ambient gas is achieved by limiting gas conductance from the antechamber into the ion source while maintaining a much higher gas conductance through the entrance aperture. Once in the ion source, an electrostatically collimated electron beam emitted from one of two redundant electron gun assemblies ionize the neutral gas. The ions thus formed are focused into the quadrupole mass analyzer by a series of cylindrical electrostatic lenses and by the quadrupole switching lens.

The entrance aperture of the open source ion (Figure 15) leads into the ion deflector/trap, a cylindrical antechamber that contains four electrodes in equally spaced segments. The four deflectors can be used to trap incoming ions and electrons during neutral measurements or to focus incoming ions into an aperture in the top plate lens (TPL). In the ion mode, the deflectors and TPL are set at ground potential as the default setting; the deflector electrode and TPL lens potentials can be programmed to vary as a function of species mass and angle of attack to improve the instrument’s angular response (see Section 2.3). The open source ionization region contains two redundant opposing hot-filament electron guns that are used to ionize the neutral beam; in the open source ion mode, the electron gun filaments are switched off. Four open source lenses (designated OL1–4) focus the ion beam into the quadrupole-switching lens. OL4 serves as the entrance lens to the switching lens; its potential is set at -5 V in the open source neutral mode and at -30 V

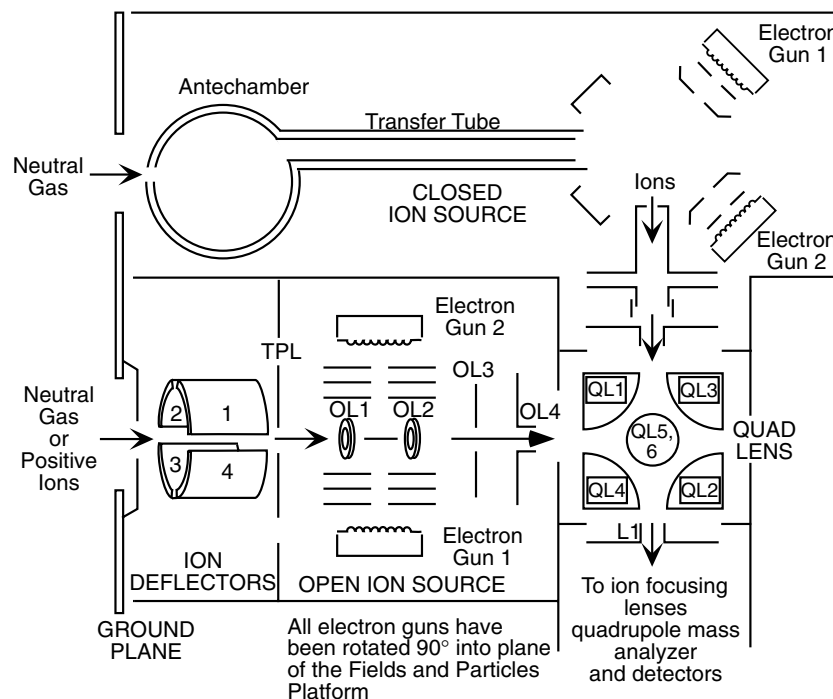


Figure 15. Schematic showing both INMS ion sources, the deflector plates in the ion trap, the open source focusing lens (OL1–4), and the switching lens electrodes (QL1–4).

in the ion mode. These settings reflect the different requirements for measuring neutrals or ions and determine the mean energy of the ions being transmitted into the switching lens.

In both the closed source and open source neutral modes, impacting electrons emitted from hot-filament electron guns ionizes sampled neutrals. Electron impact ionization offers significant efficiency for almost all neutral species and produces unique fractionation patterns that aid in the identification of molecules. In some cases, fragment ions created by the dissociative ionization of the more abundant primary species can mask the presence of trace constituents. However, this difficulty can, to a large degree, be overcome by using two ionization energies to produce different fractionation patterns that can be exploited to minimize interference. Nominal electron energies of 70 and 25 eV have been selected for INMS operation. The electron guns have filaments made of a tungsten–rhenium alloy (0.0076 cm diameter; 97% tungsten, 3% rhenium) in a coiled configuration, which are heated to emit an electron beam. The beam is collimated and focused by electrostatic lenses.

The electron guns are controlled according to information stored in the Cycle Tables (Section 3.1). These tables specify whether the filaments are on or off and indicate the ionization energy to be used. Normally the higher electron energy is used; however, sometimes the lower energy may be used to obtain simpler fractionation

patterns. Changing ionization energies requires that the filaments be switched off while the energy is being changed and then turned back on again. This prevents the filaments from being driven to their maximum current during the transition. The process takes about 10 sec.

2.2.2. *Quadrupole Switching Lens*

The quadrupole switching lens (Mahaffy and Lai, 1990) consists of four circular rod sectors (QL1-4) mounted in a cube assembly and two end plates (OL 5/6). As commanded by the Flight Computer, the switching lens selects ions from either the closed source or the open source and directs them into the common entrance lens system of the quadrupole mass analyzer. When the INMS is operating in the closed source mode, the quad lens simply serves as part of a straight-line focusing lens system. In the open source mode, the switching lens provides a nearly hyperbolic electrostatic field that deflects by 90° ions entering the mass analyzer from the open source. The switching lens rod potentials can be set to voltages ranging from -103 to $+101$ V as commanded by the Flight Computer according to the relevant parameters in the flight software control tables (cf. Section 3.1). Because the deflection angle of the incoming ions is influenced by ion mass, spacecraft velocity, and charge, the voltages applied to the switching lens rods must be adjusted to compensate for these factors. In the open source ion mode, the switching lens can be used to provide estimates of ion energy distributions (over the energy range 1–100 eV) by varying the rod voltages while dwelling on a particular mass to selectively direct particles of varying kinetic energies into the analyzer. The energy resolution ($\Delta E/E$) is albeit a rather coarse 0.3 (see Figure 37).

In the open source mode, the switching lens rods 1–4 are slaved such that $QL1 = QL2$ and $QL3 = QL4$. Voltages on the rods are adjusted to allow transmission of an ion beam of a given energy according to the equation $QL1 = QL2 = -(QL3 + 2K)$, where K is the absolute value of the potential applied to the entrance lens OL4 (and also to the exit lens L1), i.e., K equals approximately 5 V in the neutral beaming mode and 30 V in the ion mode. The potential (in volts) applied to QL3 varies with the ion energy. In the closed source mode, switching lens voltages are set as follows: QL1 and 3 = -88 V; QL2 and 4 = 0 V. End plate voltages are set at 0 V in the open source mode and at $+2.59$ V in the closed source mode.

Laboratory studies using an ion beam (see Section 4.2) with energies ranging from several eV to about 20 eV were performed to characterize switching lens operation in the open source neutral and open source ion modes (see Section 4.3), and the results were incorporated in the Switching Tables (Section 3.1).

2.2.3. *Quadrupole Mass Analyzer*

The quadrupole mass analyzer (or mass filter) allows ions transmitted through the switching lens and ion focusing lens to a limited range of mass-to-charge ratios, typically a fraction of a mass unit. It consists of four precision-ground hyperbolic rods mounted in a mechanical assembly. The rod spacing parameter, r_0 , is 0.58 cm

and the rod length is 10 cm. The quadrupole rods are excited by radio frequency (RF) and direct current (DC) potentials that together create a dynamic electrostatic field within the quadrupole region that controls the transmitted mass (mass/charge ratio), the resolution, and the transmission efficiency. A mass scan is effected by varying the RF potential amplitude, V_{ac} , to satisfy the relationship $M = 0.55 V_{ac}/f^2$; V_{ac} is in Volts, f is the RF frequency in MHz, and M is mass in atomic mass units (Daltons). The nominal mass range for the INMS is 1–99 Daltons. Two separate RF frequencies are used; a high frequency (3.57 MHz) for the mass range 1–8 Daltons and a low frequency (1.64 MHz) for the mass range 12–99 Daltons. The control voltages (V_{ac} and V_{dc}) applied to the quadrupole filter rods are calculated by the flight software as a function of Daltons and the RF frequency selected. Because frequency drift can cause mass peaks to be slightly offset, RF frequency is monitored, allowing the control voltages to the rods to be corrected for drift. Resolution is controlled over each mass range by programming the V_{dc}/V_{ac} ratio to maintain the resolving power as defined by a cross-talk criterion appropriate for that mass range. The resulting flat-topped peaks and narrow widths allow a mass scan mode in which each mass is monitored by a single step to achieve the lowest detection limit in a specified period. In addition to performing mass scans, the quadrupole analyzer also operates in “total transmission” or high-pass filter mode in which V_{dc} is reduced to zero and all masses above a specified Dalton/charge ratio are transmitted to the detectors.

When the INMS is operating in the open source mode, a quadrupole bias voltage, as specified in the Focus Table (Section 3.1), is added to the DC voltage applied to the RF mass analyzer rods to slow down incoming ions and increase their residence time in the analyzer’s RF field. In the case of ions transmitted from the closed source, the ion energy is similar for all species because the gas has been thermalized in the antechamber. In the case of the open source, the ion energy is a function of the species mass and the relative velocity vector, and is higher than that of the closed source ions. This higher energy into the analyzer results in a wider mass peak width (Kasprzak *et al.*, 1987). Slowing the ions down by applying a quadrupole retarding bias potential increases the mass resolution by reducing the peak width (Figure 16). In the open source neutral and ion modes, the quad bias voltage = $KE - 1$ V (KE is the ion energy in eV); in the closed source mode, a quad-bias voltage of -1 V is applied.

2.2.4. Secondary Electron Multipliers

Ions exiting the quadrupole mass filter are detected by one of two secondary electron multipliers (continuous channel electron multipliers). They are electronically biased such that most of the ions are deflected into the primary detector with a much smaller fraction (on the order of several per thousand) being scattered into the secondary detector. This dual system is identical to that used in the GC/MS instrument on the Huygen’s probe (Niemann *et al.*, 1997) and is used to increase the overall dynamic range of signal detection by about a factor of ~ 1500 for INMS (see Table IV). Charge pulses at the anode of the multiplier are amplified and counted.

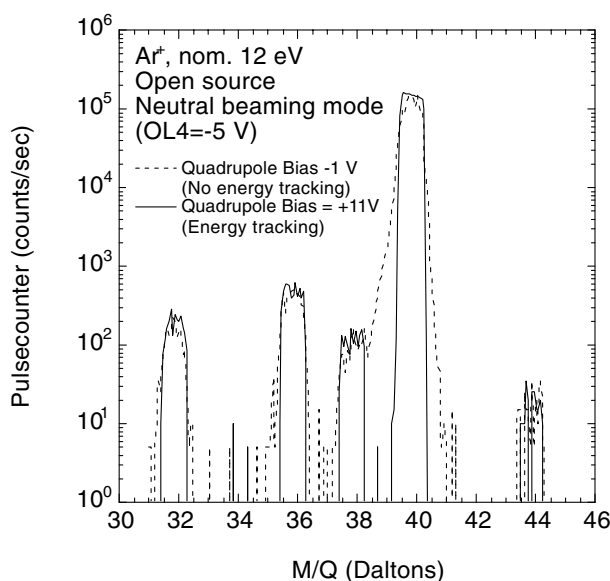


Figure 16. Spectrum showing the reduction in the width of the mass peak for Ar^+ that results from the application of a +11 V quad bias to the mass analyzer. The quad bias compensates for the energy of the ion in the open source and equals KE (the kinetic energy of the ion) -1 V.

The detection threshold is determined by the background noise in the multiplier (approximately 1 count per minute in the laboratory). The upper count rate of each detector system is about 10 MHz, limited by the product of the multiplier pulse width and gain bandwidth of the pulse amplifier counter system. (There is a non-linear response that occurs in the range of 1–10 MHz). Ion counts above this value can be measured directly as an analog current. Multiple sample periods can be combined to lower the detection threshold to the background noise level (signal/noise ratio = 1). Assuming a maximum 1 MHz counting rate, the dynamic range of the two detector system is $\sim 10^8$.

2.3. SENSOR SENSITIVITY AND DETECTABILITY THRESHOLDS

The sensitivity to neutral species varies with species because of the different ionization efficiencies for neutrals in the ion sources, the differential transmission of the quadrupole switching lens and mass filter, and the conversion efficiency at the secondary electron multiplier. In general, when INMS is operated in the neutral closed source mode, neutrals with densities of $\sim 5 \times 10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ can be detected; in the open source neutral mode, the detection threshold is higher, $\sim 2 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-3}$. In the case of ions, the instrument's sensitivity varies with ion species because of different spacecraft equivalent energies for the different masses, the differential transmission of the quadrupole switching lens and filter, and conversion efficiency

at the secondary electron multiplier detector. Spacecraft potential will also influence INMS sensitivity to ions by modifying the incoming flux and ion trajectory directions relative to the spacecraft. At a spacecraft velocity of 6 km sec^{-1} , the minimum ion density is $\sim 10^{-2} \text{ cm}^{-3}$.

In the neutral closed source mode, the background count rate due to gases adsorbed onto the surface of the source may be comparable to the minimum detectable density in certain regions of the spectrum, particularly below about 50 Daltons. For both the closed and open sources, interference at some mass numbers by other ambient gases present in high concentrations also presents a problem (cf. Section 4.2 and Figure 32). In the closed source, the calculated ambient density is lower than the ion source density because of the velocity ram enhancement. The maximum ion source density is limited by mean free path conditions in the ion source and analyzer regions.

There are several potential sources of a detector background. Section 2.1 discusses the use of an external tantalum shield around the secondary electron multiplier section of the sensor housing to reduce the effect of magnetospheric particle radiation. For high-energy electrons and ions, the physical geometry of the path from the open or closed source entrance apertures to the detectors involves a right angle bend, conducting surfaces with many constricting apertures and positive voltages that are a fraction of a keV. The probability that a photon or a high-energy particle will make it to the detectors is extremely difficult to estimate or simulate in the laboratory, but is quite low. The net effect of either photons or highly energetic ions/electrons is that they will not be mass/charge separated in the quadrupole section of the sensor because of their high energy or uncharged condition. This will create a mass independent background in the detectors. In performing a full range mass scan (1–99 Daltons), those mass slots not occupied by ambient ions or neutrals can be used to estimate the effect of this mass-independent background, which can be subtracted off from the ambient mass peaks.

2.4. INSTRUMENT RESPONSE

In order for the INMS to make valid ion and neutral density measurements, the spacecraft velocity vector plus the drift velocity of any neutral or plasma flows (crosswinds) must be within the field of response of the appropriate source.

2.4.1. *Closed Source Mode*

The closed source response for several gas species and different molecular masses as a function of the angle of attack (angle between the aperture normal and the spacecraft velocity vector) is given in Figure 17. Particles entering through the aperture collide many times with the surfaces of the ion source electrodes and enclosure, and thermally accommodate to the surface temperature before leaving through the transfer tube. For angles of attack $< 90^\circ$ this results in an enhancement of the number density in the antechamber over that in the ambient atmosphere.

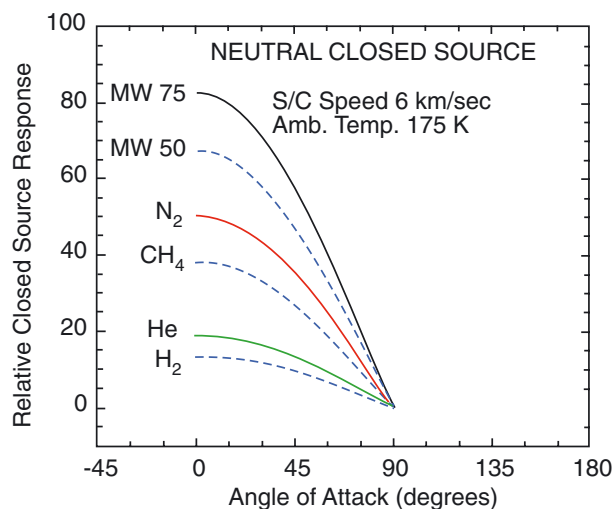


Figure 17. Plot showing the response of the INMS in the closed source mode as a function of the angle of attack. MW: molecular mass (in Dalton).

The maximum ram enhancement factor for N₂ and a spacecraft velocity of ~ 6 km sec⁻¹ is 50. The signal varies approximately with the cosine of the angle of attack, and is proportional to the product of the spacecraft speed and the square root of the ratio of the molecular weight divided by the gas temperature. A balance of the incoming number flux at the spacecraft speed and the outgoing gas flux at the antechamber wall temperature determines the number density in the antechamber. The relationship between the ion source density, incoming flux, and ambient density is predictable from kinetic theory. Non-reactive species (e.g., N₂ and CH₄) will be measured in this mode. In the closed source mode, ambient density measurements can be made at angles of attack ranging from about 0 to 90°, depending on the gas background.

2.4.2. Open Source Neutral Mode

In the open source neutral mode, the ambient particle density is measured directly. The quasi-open source geometry allows ambient gas to enter the ionization region directly and permits measurement of chemically active species. The angular response is limited by the geometric field of view. The theoretical response of the open source neutral mode as a function of angle of attack is given in Figure 2.4.2 for a view cone half angle of 8°. Optimum open source neutral mode measurements will occur at Titan closest approach, where the density is sufficiently large and the angle of attack is approximately within the geometric view cone. During many Titan flybys the spacecraft will provide tracking of local nadir for the Radar instrument. In this case the INMS angle of attack needed for the open source operation ranges

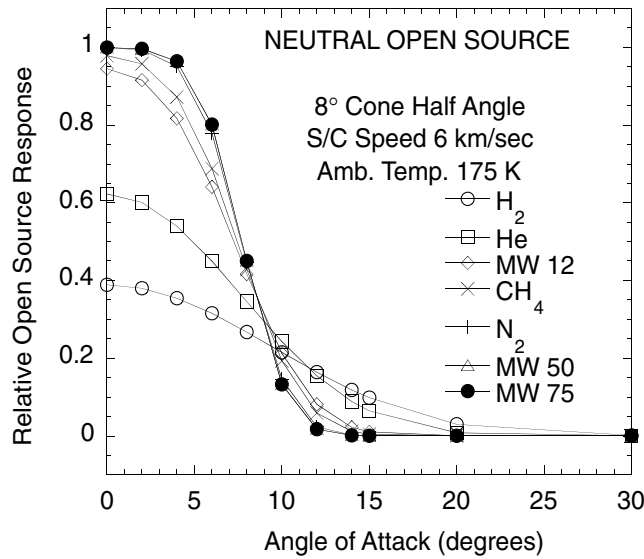


Figure 18. Plot showing the response of the INMS in the open source neutral beaming mode as a function of the angle of attack.

from 0 to 8° within about 1.4 min of closest approach at a spacecraft speed of 6 km sec⁻¹ (see Figure 2.4.2).

For measurements in open source neutral mode, neutrals that have been thermally accommodated to the ion source walls must be distinguished from the direct beaming component. This is achieved by (1) maximizing the gas conductance from the ionizing region into the vent region at right angles to the open source axis, which reduces the velocity ram stagnation density enhancement; (2) minimizing the ion acceleration into the switching lens; and (3) using the quadrupole switching lens transmission, which is a function of energy, to filter the ion energy.

Numerical studies (Swaminathan *et al.*, 1996) indicate that <2% of mass 28 ions from thermally accommodated N₂ gas are transmitted through the mass analyzer. This is with the switching lens potential set to transmit a 28-Daltons ionized neutral beam at spacecraft energies (the spacecraft equivalent energy for a 6 km sec⁻¹ spacecraft velocity is 5.22 eV compared to 0.015 eV for a thermally accommodated gas at 300 K temperature). A laboratory estimate of this ratio was made using thermal gas ions and operating the switching lens in neutral beaming mode with the entrance lens potential (OL4) set to -5 V. The mass was set at 28 in the total mode ($V_{dc} = 0$ V and V_{ac} set for mass 28). Figure 20 shows the energy scans for a thermalized neutral gas, with the open source lenses OL1 and OL2 set at 0 V, and for a simulated neutral beam (OL1 = OL2 = 2 V). The contribution of the thermal ions to the more energetic 2 V ions at signal maximum is about 10⁻⁴ for equal signal amplitudes. Comparison of the overlap area of the two curves with the total area under the neutral beaming curve yields a similar value, 7 × 10⁻³. As in

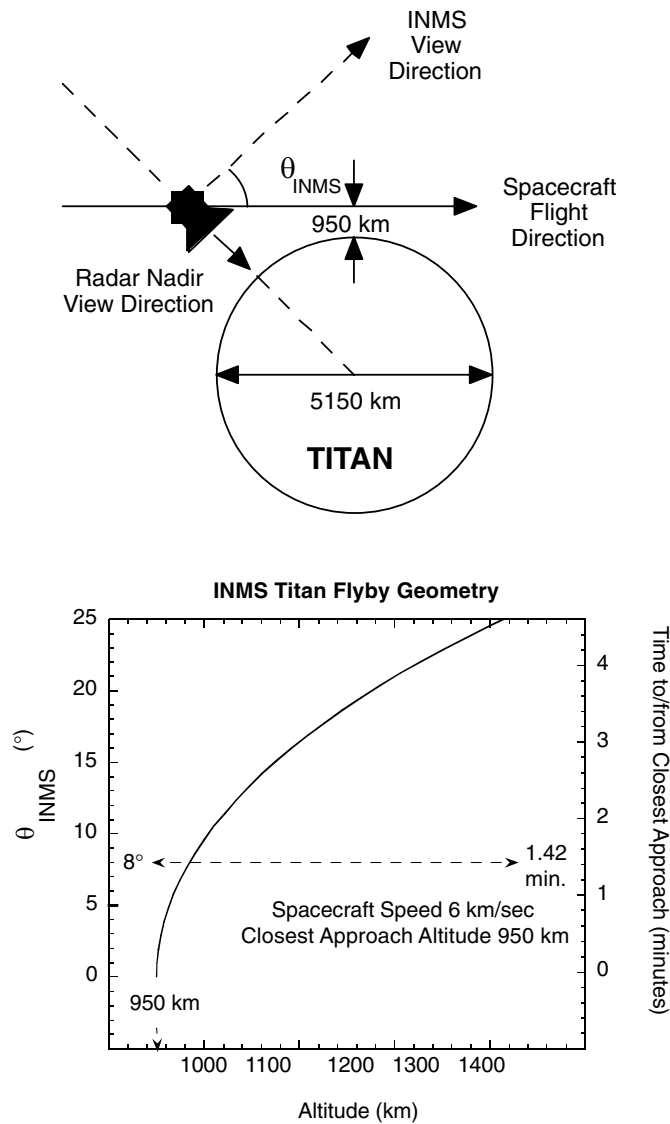


Figure 19. Titan flyby geometry and the change in INMS angle of attack as function of altitude with the Orbiter in Radar Mode.

the closed source, the thermalized gas component is formed in the open source by scattering off the walls of the ion source; little ram enhancement occurs because the gas is vented. If we assume, as an extreme case, that the density of the open source thermalized component is equivalent to the maximum ram enhancement of about 50 (for N_2 at an angle of attack of 0°), the thermal contribution would be less than or equal to $50 \times 10^{-4} = 5 \times 10^{-3}$, which is negligible for mass 28. Neutral

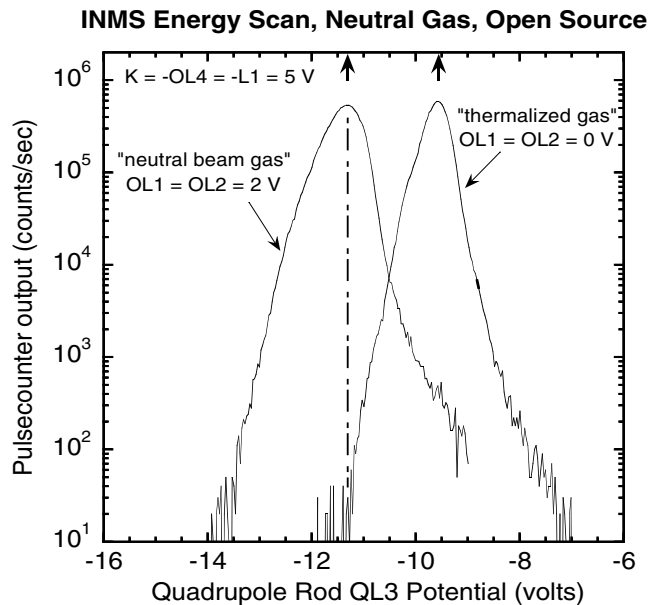


Figure 20. Results of an energy scans performed in the neutral thermal (OL1 = OL2 = 0 V) and simulated neutral beaming (OL1 = OL2 = 2 V) modes. The contribution of the thermalized population to the beaming population, at signal maximum (dashed line), is about 10^{-4} .

beam tests on the engineering unit will provide more complete data for this and other species.

2.4.3. Open Source Ion Mode

To determine the response of the INMS in the open source ion mode, a laboratory study was performed of the angular response with the deflector electrodes 1–4, the top plate lens, OL1 and OL2 set at ground potential. Figure 21 shows the relative transmission as a function of angle for two ion masses (Ar^+ and Kr^+) and two energies (8 and 13.9 eV) that closely correspond to a 6-km sec^{-1} spacecraft speed for these masses. The open source ion mode response has also been studied by numerical simulation using the Sarnoff BEAM 3D (Swaminathan *et al.*, 1996) software to model the lens system from the entrance aperture to the entrance of the quadrupole mass analyzer. Results of that simulation are also shown in Figure 21. Although the conditions of the simulation and the laboratory data are not exactly identical, both sets of data show a similar decrease of transmission with increasing angle except for the Ar^+ Z-axis rotation (X's), which most likely reflects experimental difficulties. The INMS scale is arbitrary, while for the numerical simulation data it is the total lens system transmission.

A more advanced numerical study of the angular response (Swaminathan *et al.*, 1996) is shown in Figure 22 (left-hand scale) for a spacecraft speed of 6 km^{-1} and

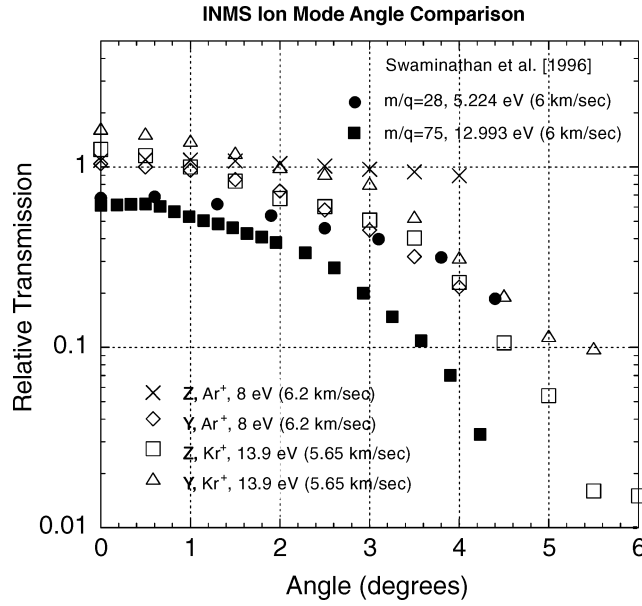


Figure 21. Laboratory data showing the relative transmission in the open source ion mode for Kr⁺ and Ar⁺ corresponding to a spacecraft velocity of 6 km sec⁻¹. The laboratory data are compared with similar data from a numerical study by Swaminathan *et al.* (1996). The INMS Y and Z correspond to rotations about the space Y and Z axes (outward INMS source normal is -X).

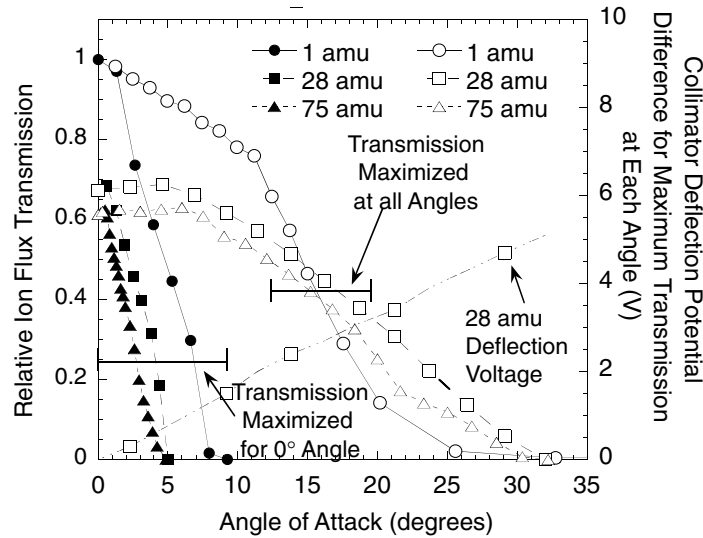


Figure 22. Results of a numerical study (Swaminathan *et al.*, 1996) of the angular response of the open source in the ion mode. The deflector plate voltages were adjusted to optimize the transmission for various angles of attack. Adjusting the voltages on the deflector plates makes it possible to increase open source acceptance beyond the nominal 8.3° half angle. Ion energies for 1, 28, and 75 Dalton were 0.187, 5.224, and 12.993 eV, respectively.

no thermal ion energy spread. If the transmission is optimized only at 0° angle of attack, then the half-width half-maximum (HWHM) point is about 3° for 28 Daltons. Optimizing the transmission by adjusting the potential on paired deflectors at each angle of attack results in a HWHM of about 15° for 28 Daltons. The difference in potential between opposite pairs of deflector electrodes needed to optimize the transmission is approximately linear with increasing angle of attack (Figure 22, right-hand scale). The advantage of being able to program the deflector voltages to increase the angular response beyond the geometric view cone is important for increasing the coverage in altitude of thermal ions during a Titan pass. For example, optimization of the angle coverage for N_2^+ for a 950 km closest approach altitude to Titan is sufficient to permit measurements over the ionospheric peak (Keller *et al.*, 1998) up to about 1050 km. In evaluating the use of the four-deflector electrodes to steer low-energy ions, it was found that the digital-to-analog converters (DAC) for the plates did not have adequate voltage resolution. A post-characterization change was made to introduce a non-linearity into the response (Figure 23) such that there is higher voltage resolution around 0 V as might be required by the Figure 22 tracking.

The INMS can also measure suprathermal ions with energies up to about 100 eV. Ion energy and direction can only be inferred by scans of the deflector electrodes and switching lens that require a substantial number of data samples. The suprathermal

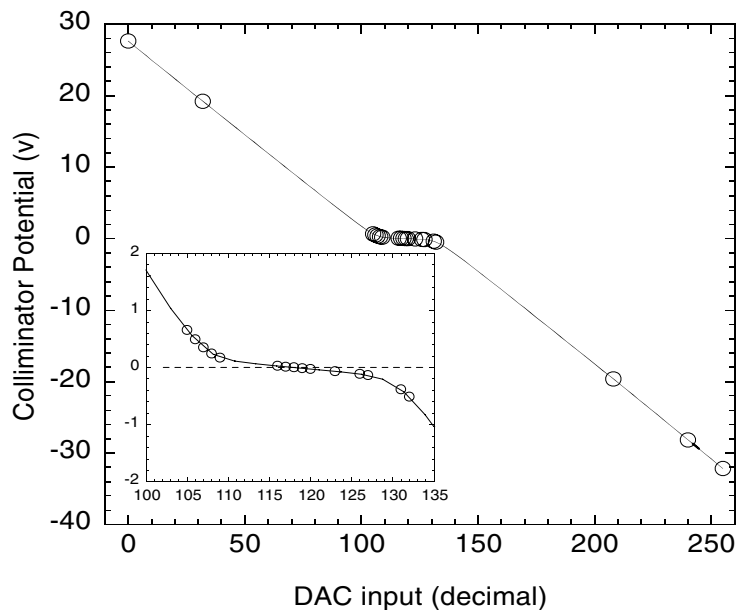


Figure 23. Deflector plate potentials as a function of the decimal values in the software table that controls digital-to-analog converters (DAC) that supply the voltage to the deflectors. (See Section 3 for a discussion of software control tables.) A nonlinearity was introduced into the response to improve the voltage resolution around 0 V.

ion mass-to-charge ratio can, however, be uniquely determined on a per sample basis by the quadrupole analyzer fields. Even if the particles are energetic and cause mass peak spreading, the peak center will be at the appropriate mass-per-charge value for each 34-ms sample period. This unique mass determination will complement measurements with the CAPS/IBS, which, for trans-sonic plasma regimes, will have difficulty resolving closely spaced mass groups.

2.5. INMS ELECTRONICS

The INMS electronics system (Figure 24) is based on designs used for the Huygen's Probe GC/MS instrument. A low-voltage (LV) power supply converts spacecraft power to well-regulated DC voltages that are supplied to the instrument electronics. A pulse-width-modulated converter allows efficient generation of multiple secondary voltages while providing secondary-to-primary isolation. A large number of voltages are required to bias the various focus electrodes as well as to supply DC voltages for the secondary electron multipliers. Analog modules are used for regulating the emission of the electron guns, for providing fixed and programmable voltages to set lens potentials, for supplying RF and DC for the quadrupole mass

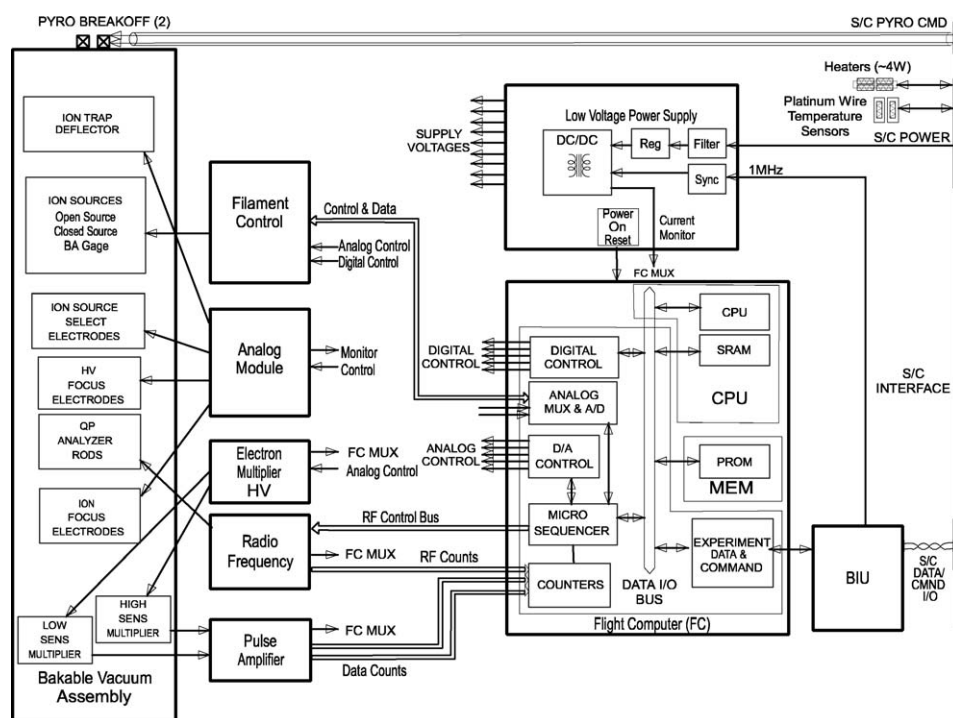


Figure 24. Schematic of the INMS electronic subsystems.

analyzer, for supplying high voltages for the detectors, and for the pulse-counting circuits. The digital electronics includes a single microprocessor, a spacecraft bus interface circuit, and an interface between the CPU and the analog modules. Major portions of the electronics are packaged in hybrid circuits to save weight and space.

A radio frequency generator drives the quadrupole at two resonant frequencies in order to reduce the need for large amplitude potential for the required mass range (1–99 Daltons). A solid-state switched bandpass filter performs frequency selection. The DC voltage is created by high-voltage operational amplifiers and is superimposed on the RF amplitude. Digital-to-analog converters program both the RF and DC amplitudes.

Charge pulses at the anode of the electron multiplier are converted by a pulse amplifier into voltage pulses that are counted if they are above a pre-set threshold. Analog measurement of the multiplier current is used to determine the in-flight multiplier gain.

The Flight Computer uses a 16-bit Marconi MA31750 microprocessor running at 10 MHz, with 64 K primary RAM, 64 K ROM, and 32 K “extra” RAM (used only for data storage, not for execution of flight software). The computer controls the INMS measurement sequence, counts the detector pulses, provides analog-to-digital conversion of the detector current, and monitors instrument housekeeping parameters. The computer is programmed in Ada as the target language with some use of assembly language to handle time-critical functions, input/output, and interrupts. The instrument ROM/RAM contains the default measurement and test sequences without requiring memory upload.

The INMS has a number of different states (Figure 2.5) which determine what information is returned from the instrument. After startup, the INMS typically waits in the Sleep_0 state for further commands. The Test and ALF states are used for configuration, memory loads, and testing. The Pressure Check is a short test to determine the pressure in the chamber while the cover is still on. Default Science is equivalent to running Science Sequence number 1 (described in Section 3.3.1). All modes except Reset return housekeeping packets, but not all modes return science packets.

Telemetry data transmitted from the INMS to the Orbiter consist of (1) housekeeping packets that contain normal analog-to-digital converter channel data or memory dump data if science packets are not being collected and (2) science packets, which contain normal science data, memory dump data, or special test data. Standard CCSDS packetization formats are used for both housekeeping and science data.

3. Science Operations: Measurement Strategies and Sampling Methods

INMS measurement strategies and sampling methods are determined by the investigation’s science objectives and must take into account the region and species

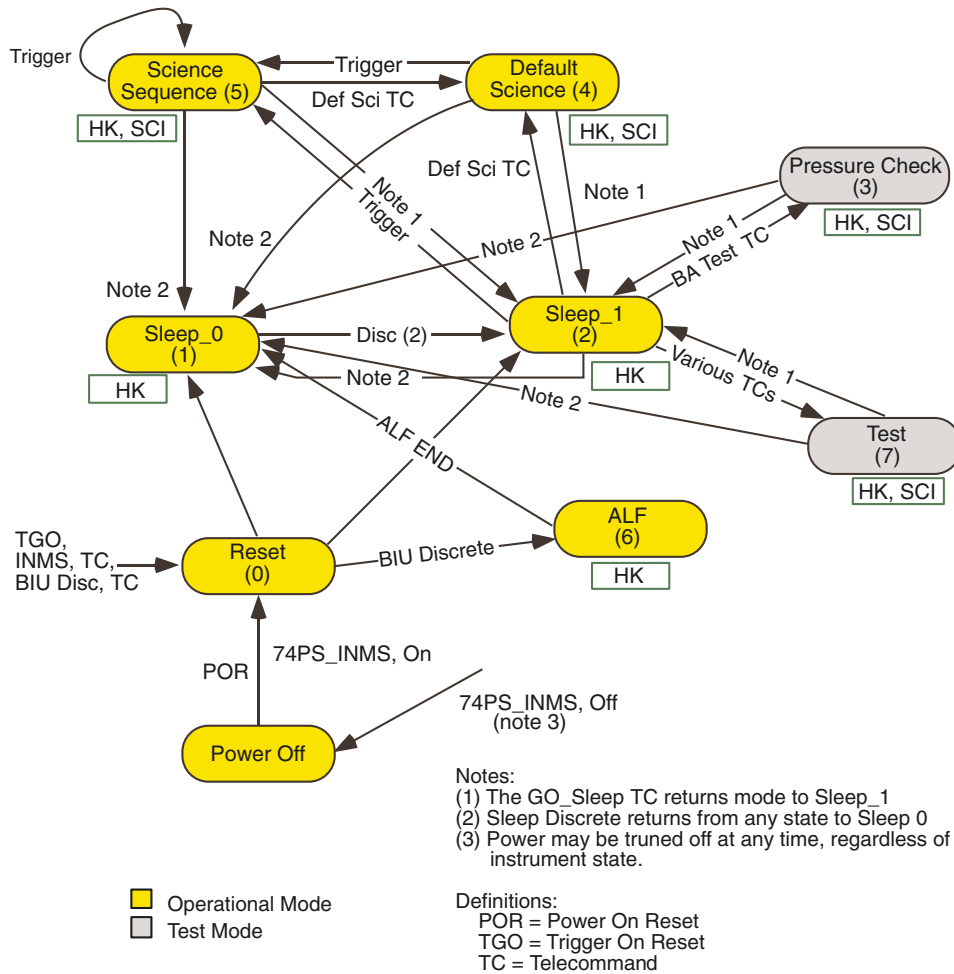


Figure 25. Diagram of the INMS instrument states. The values in parentheses correspond to the internal state number. Arrows denote allowed state changes and the commands which produce those changes, and boxes denote the types of packets that are produced.

being sampled. The basic sampling sequence is the “scan,” which is a series of 68 mass/charge measurements; the mass numbers to be sampled in each scan are specified by a particular “Mass Table” (see the following section for a discussion of the INMS software tables). Each measurement period or “integration period” (IP) lasts 34 ms (a 31-ms counting period + ~3 ms for set up and read out). Each scan therefore requires 2.3 sec (= 34 ms per sample × 68 IPs or samples). The different types of scans and the rationale for each will be discussed below. A scan or series of scans to be repeated constitutes a “cycle.” The operation of the instrument for each scan in a cycle is defined by a “Cycle Table” which indicates the Mass Table and other control tables to be used for a particular scan. One or more

cycles make up a “science sequence.” A science sequence is initiated by receipt of a time-tagged “trigger” command from the Orbiter. Trigger commands will be sent from the ground to the Orbiter and stored in the Solid State Recorder (SSR) for later execution; under some circumstances, it may be possible to command an orbital sequence from the ground in real time. The cycles to be performed during the sequence are identified in a “Sequence Table,” which also specifies a velocity constant used to modify the quad lens voltages for velocity compensation in the open source mode. Several science sequences were defined prior to SOI. These are discussed in Section 3.3. Additional sequences are expected to be designed and uploaded to the INMS flight computer once exploration of the Saturn system is under way.

3.1. INMS SOFTWARE TABLES

The information needed by the Flight Computer to command INMS operations is contained in eight different types of software tables stored in the computer’s memory. In addition to the Mass, Cycle, and Sequence tables mentioned above, the software tables include Ion Trap tables, Switching tables, Focus tables, D/A tables, and a single Velocity table. The Velocity table contains velocity constants (256 constants of which 64 are distinct velocity values) used in calculations performed to determine voltage adjustments required for velocity (energy) compensation in the open source mode. The Trap, Switching, Focus, and D/A tables are “control tables” (Table V) which contain control parameters. These values are read by the Flight Computer, which writes them to the digital-to-analog converters (DAC) that control the voltages applied to the INMS optics (or, in the case of the D/A tables, to the detectors).

Mass tables, too, are control tables. Instead of voltages, however, they specify the masses to be selected by the quadrupole mass analyzer (see Table VI) and the science mode to operate in, when velocity compensation is used. Mass Table values are used by the software to calculate the AC and DC voltages and RF oscillator frequency required to “tune” the quadrupole analyzer rods to select a particular mass. Up to 96 Mass Tables, each containing 68 records, can be stored in the Flight Computer’s memory. Each one-word record contains three fields to indicate the science operating mode—open source ion (OSI), open source neutral thermal (OSNT), open source neutral beaming (OSNB) or closed source neutral (CSN)—energy scan mode, and mass number, quantized to 1/8 Daltons.

There are 64 Cycle and 64 Sequence tables. As indicated above, Sequence tables define the cycles that constitute a particular measurement sequence, and Cycle Tables define the scans to be performed during a particular cycle. A single Sequence table record contains 1–31 cycles, and each cycle contains the number of scans to perform per cycle, the velocity value to use for velocity compensation calculations, and the Cycle Table number to execute in that cycle. Each Cycle table

TABLE V
INMS control tables.

Table Type	No. of Table	Records/ Table	Words/ Record	No. of Words	Function
Sequence	64	31/1 ^a	2/1	4032	Controls execution of all tables through the Cycle Tables (see Figure 3.1)
Cycle	64	31/1 ^a	3/1	6016	Controls execution of trap, switching, mass, focus and D/A tables (see Figure 3.1)
Mass	64	68	1	4352	Controls mass selection
Trap	32	68	3	6528	Controls collimator/deflector, TPL, and OL4 voltages
Switching	32	68	3	6528	Controls quad lens rod voltages
Focus	32	68	3	6528	Controls OL 1–3, end plate, ion lenses and quad bias voltages
D/A	16	1	3	48	Controls electron multiplier, detector threshold settings
Velocity	1	256	1	256	Used in voltage calculations for velocity compensation in open source mode

^aSequence and Cycle Tables have one header record per table.

contains 1–31 scans, and each scan is a record with the numbers of the Mass, Switching, Trap, Focus, and D/A tables to be used during the scan. Additional fields in the record indicate whether the open and/or closed source electron gun filaments are to be on during the scan and specify the electron energy to be used. The relationships among the various software tables are illustrated schematically in Figure 26.

3.2. MASS SCANS

The basic INMS sampling sequence is a scan consisting of 68 mass/charge measurements as specified in a Mass Table. Masses to be measured during a scan are entered into the Mass Table for that scan either as integers from 1 to 8 and from 12 to 99 Daltons or, in 12 tables, as fractional values, in increments of 1/8 Dalton, from 0.5 to 8.5 and 11.5 to 99.5. The Mass Tables include, in addition to the mass numbers for the primary species, mass numbers for isotopic species as well as those for possible cracking products. (A summary of currently defined Mass Tables is presented in Table VI. References to a particular Mass Table in this and the following section and in Table VII refer to this table.) During one 68-step scan, the INMS can either (i) sequentially sweep or survey, in increments of 1 or 1/8 Dalton, the entire mass range covered by the instrument or a portion of that range, or (ii) sample selected masses. The first type of scan is known as a “survey” scan and can

TABLE VI
(Continued).

IP	SOM0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
28	0	31	3.875	14.875	22.875	30.875	38.875	46.875	54.875	62.875	70.875	78.875	86.875	94.875	23	28	21	69	14.750	27.750	8	59
29	0	32	4.000	15.000	23.000	31.000	39.000	47.000	55.000	63.000	71.000	79.000	87.000	95.000	24	28	22	70	14.875	27.875	12	60
30	0	33	4.125	15.125	23.125	31.125	39.125	47.125	55.125	63.125	71.125	79.125	87.125	95.125	25	28	23	71	15.000	28.000	13	61
31	0	34	4.250	15.250	23.250	31.250	39.250	47.250	55.250	63.250	71.250	79.250	87.250	95.250	26	28	24	72	15.125	28.125	14	62
32	0	35	4.375	15.375	23.375	31.375	39.375	47.375	55.375	63.375	71.375	79.375	87.375	95.375	27	28	25	73	15.250	28.250	15	63
33	0	36	4.500	15.500	23.500	31.500	39.500	47.500	55.500	63.500	71.500	79.500	87.500	95.500	28	28	26	74	15.375	28.375	16	64
34	0	37	4.625	15.625	23.625	31.625	39.625	47.625	55.625	63.625	71.625	79.625	87.625	95.625	13	28	27	75	15.500	28.500	17	65
35	0	38	4.750	15.750	23.750	31.750	39.750	47.750	55.750	63.750	71.750	79.750	87.750	95.750	14	28	2	2	2	2	18	66
36	0	39	4.875	15.875	23.875	31.875	39.875	47.875	55.875	63.875	71.875	79.875	87.875	95.875	15	28	16	16	16	16	19	67
37	0	40	5.000	16.000	24.000	32.000	40.000	48.000	56.000	64.000	72.000	80.000	88.000	96.000	16	28	17	17	17	17	20	68
38	0	41	5.125	16.125	24.125	32.125	40.125	48.125	56.125	64.125	72.125	80.125	88.125	96.125	17	28	28	28	28	28	21	69
39	0	42	5.250	16.250	24.250	32.250	40.250	48.250	56.250	64.250	72.250	80.250	88.250	96.250	18	28	29	29	29	29	22	70
40	0	43	5.375	16.375	24.375	32.375	40.375	48.375	56.375	64.375	72.375	80.375	88.375	96.375	19	28	28	76	15.625	28.625	23	71
41	0	44	5.500	16.500	24.500	32.500	40.500	48.500	56.500	64.500	72.500	80.500	88.500	96.500	28	28	29	77	15.750	28.750	24	72
42	0	45	5.625	16.625	24.625	32.625	40.625	48.625	56.625	64.625	72.625	80.625	88.625	96.625	29	28	30	78	15.875	28.875	25	73
43	0	46	5.750	16.750	24.750	32.750	40.750	48.750	56.750	64.750	72.750	80.750	88.750	96.750	30	28	31	79	16.000	29.000	26	74
44	0	47	5.875	16.875	24.875	32.875	40.875	48.875	56.875	64.875	72.875	80.875	88.875	96.875	31	28	32	80	16.125	29.125	27	75
45	0	48	6.000	17.000	25.000	33.000	41.000	49.000	57.000	65.000	73.000	81.000	89.000	97.000	32	28	33	81	16.250	29.250	28	76
46	0	49	6.125	17.125	25.125	33.125	41.125	49.125	57.125	65.125	73.125	81.125	89.125	97.125	33	28	34	82	16.375	29.375	29	77
47	0	50	6.250	17.250	25.250	33.250	41.250	49.250	57.250	65.250	73.250	81.250	89.250	97.250	34	28	35	83	16.500	29.500	30	78
48	0	51	6.375	17.375	25.375	33.375	41.375	49.375	57.375	65.375	73.375	81.375	89.375	97.375	35	28	36	84	16.625	29.625	31	79
49	0	52	6.500	17.500	25.500	33.500	41.500	49.500	57.500	65.500	73.500	81.500	89.500	97.500	12	28	37	85	16.750	29.750	32	80
50	0	53	6.625	17.625	25.625	33.625	41.625	49.625	57.625	65.625	73.625	81.625	89.625	97.625	13	28	38	86	16.875	29.875	33	81
51	0	54	6.750	17.750	25.750	33.750	41.750	49.750	57.750	65.750	73.750	81.750	89.750	97.750	14	28	39	87	17.000	30.000	34	82
52	0	55	6.875	17.875	25.875	33.875	41.875	49.875	57.875	65.875	73.875	81.875	89.875	97.875	15	28	2	2	2	2	35	83
53	0	56	7.000	18.000	26.000	34.000	42.000	50.000	58.000	66.000	74.000	82.000	90.000	98.000	16	28	16	16	16	16	36	84
54	0	57	7.125	18.125	26.125	34.125	42.125	50.125	58.125	66.125	74.125	82.125	90.125	98.125	17	28	17	17	17	17	37	85
55	0	58	7.250	18.250	26.250	34.250	42.250	50.250	58.250	66.250	74.250	82.250	90.250	98.250	18	28	28	28	28	28	38	86
56	0	59	7.375	18.375	26.375	34.375	42.375	50.375	58.375	66.375	74.375	82.375	90.375	98.375	19	28	29	29	29	29	39	87
57	0	60	7.500	18.500	26.500	34.500	42.500	50.500	58.500	66.500	74.500	82.500	90.500	98.500	36	28	40	88	17.125	30.125	40	88
58	0	61	7.625	18.625	26.625	34.625	42.625	50.625	58.625	66.625	74.625	82.625	90.625	98.625	37	28	41	89	17.250	30.250	41	89

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VI
(Continued).

IP	SOM0	SOM1	SOM2	SOM3	SOM4	SOM5	SOM6	SOM7	SOM8	SOM9	SOM10	SOM11	SOM12	SOM13	SOM14	SOM15	SOM16	SOM17	SOM18	SOM19	SOM20	SOM21	
59	0	62	7.750	18.750	26.750	34.750	42.750	50.750	58.750	66.750	74.750	82.750	90.750	98.750	98.750	38	28	42	90	17.375	30.375	42	90
60	0	63	7.875	18.875	26.875	34.875	42.875	50.875	58.875	66.875	74.875	82.875	90.875	98.875	98.875	39	28	43	91	17.500	30.500	43	91
61	0	64	8.000	19.000	27.000	35.000	43.000	51.000	59.000	67.000	75.000	83.000	91.000	99.000	99.000	40	28	44	92	17.625	30.625	44	92
62	0	65	8.125	19.125	27.125	35.125	43.125	51.125	59.125	67.125	75.125	83.125	91.125	99.125	99.125	41	28	45	93	17.750	30.750	45	93
63	0	66	8.250	19.250	27.250	35.250	43.250	51.250	59.250	67.250	75.250	83.250	91.250	99.250	99.250	42	28	46	94	17.875	30.875	46	94
64	0	67	8.375	19.375	27.375	35.375	43.375	51.375	59.375	67.375	75.375	83.375	91.375	99.375	99.375	43	28	47	95	18.000	31.000	47	95
65	0	68	8.500	19.500	27.500	35.500	43.500	51.500	59.500	67.500	75.500	83.500	91.500	99.500	99.500	44	28	48	96	18.125	31.125	48	96
66	0	69	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	28.000	45	28	49	97	18.250	31.250	49	97
67	0	70	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	16.000	46	28	50	98	18.375	31.375	50	98
68	0	71	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	47	28	51	99	18.500	31.500	51	99

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VI
(Continued).

IP	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
SOM3	SOM3	SOM3	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2
1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.500	27.500	12	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
2	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.625	27.625	13	16	16	16	16	4	4	2	12	12	12
3	14	13	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.750	27.750	14	17	17	17	17	7	7	4	14	14	13
4	16	14	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.875	27.875	15	28	28	28	28	12	12	7	16	16	14
5	27	15	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.000	28.000	16	29	29	29	29	13	13	12	27	27	15
6	28	16	0	0	0	0	0	6	1.125	28.125	17	1	52	12.625	25.625	14	14	13	28	28	16
7	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	7	1.250	28.250	18	2	53	12.750	25.750	15	15	14	2	2	17
8	12	18	0	0	0	0	0	8	1.375	28.375	19	3	54	12.875	25.875	16	16	15	12	12	18
9	14	26	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.500	28.500	1	4	55	13.000	26.000	24	24	16	14	14	26
10	16	27	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.625	28.625	2	5	56	13.125	26.125	25	25	24	16	16	27
11	27	28	0	0	0	0	0	14	1.750	28.750	3	6	57	13.250	26.250	26	26	25	27	27	28
12	28	32	0	0	0	0	0	15	1.875	28.875	4	7	58	13.375	26.375	27	27	26	28	28	32
13	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	16	2.000	29.000	5	8	59	13.500	26.500	28	28	27	2	2	44
14	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	17	2.125	29.125	6	12	60	13.625	26.625	29	29	28	12	12	2
15	14	12	0	0	0	0	0	18	2.250	29.250	7	13	61	13.750	26.750	30	30	29	14	14	12
16	16	13	0	0	0	0	0	19	2.375	29.375	8	14	62	13.875	26.875	36	36	30	16	16	13
17	27	14	0	0	0	0	0	20	2.500	29.500	12	15	63	14.000	27.000	37	37	36	27	27	14
18	28	15	0	0	0	0	0	21	2.625	29.625	13	2	2	2	2	38	38	37	28	28	15
19	2	16	0	0	0	0	0	22	2.750	29.750	14	16	16	16	16	39	39	38	2	2	16
20	12	17	0	0	0	0	0	23	2.875	29.875	15	17	17	17	17	40	40	39	12	12	17
21	2	18	0	0	0	0	0	24	3.000	30.000	16	28	28	28	28	1	52	40	14	2	18
22	14	26	0	0	0	0	0	25	3.125	30.125	17	29	29	29	29	2	53	76	16	14	26
23	17	27	0	0	0	0	0	26	3.250	30.250	18	16	64	14.125	27.125	3	54	1	27	17	27
24	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	27	3.375	30.375	19	17	65	14.250	27.250	4	55	2	28	28	28
25	29	32	0	0	0	0	0	28	3.500	30.500	20	18	66	14.375	27.375	5	56	4	2	29	32
26	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	29	3.625	30.625	21	19	67	14.500	27.500	6	57	7	12	2	44
27	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	30	3.750	30.750	22	20	68	14.625	27.625	7	58	12	14	14	2

TABLE VI
(Continued).

43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
IP	SOM3	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM0	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2	SOM2
59	28	17	0	0	0	0	62	7.750	34.750	38	42	90	17.375	30.375	42	90	29	16	28	17
60	29	18	0	0	0	0	63	7.875	34.875	39	43	91	17.500	30.500	43	91	30	27	29	18
61	2	26	0	0	0	0	64	8.000	35.000	40	44	92	17.625	30.625	44	92	36	28	2	26
62	14	27	0	0	0	0	65	8.125	35.125	41	45	93	17.750	30.750	45	93	37	2	14	27
63	17	28	0	0	0	0	66	8.250	35.250	42	46	94	17.875	30.875	46	94	38	12	17	28
64	28	32	0	0	0	0	67	8.375	35.375	43	47	95	18.000	31.000	47	95	39	14	28	32
65	29	44	0	0	0	0	68	8.500	35.500	44	48	96	18.125	31.125	48	96	40	16	29	44
66	28	18	0	0	0	0	69	28.000	28.000	45	49	97	18.250	31.250	49	97	76	27	28	18
67	29	18	0	0	0	0	70	16.000	16.000	46	50	98	18.375	31.375	50	98	28	28	29	18
68	28	16	0	0	0	0	71	14.000	14.000	47	51	99	18.500	31.500	51	99	28	28	28	16

SOM: science operating mode; 0: OSNT, 1: CSN, 2: OSNB, 3: OSL.

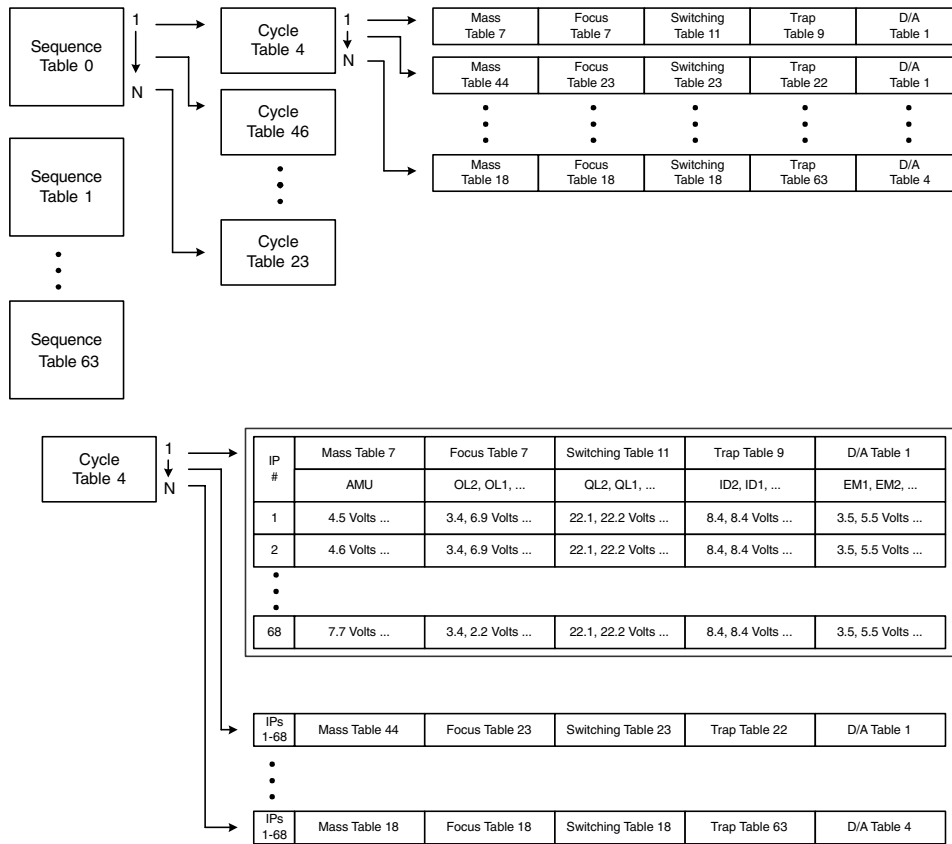


Figure 26. Schematic illustrating the relationships of various INMS software tables.

take the form of either a unit or 1/8-Dalton scan. Survey scans will allow detection of species not predicted by models to be present (or expected to be present only at subdetectable levels) in Titan’s upper atmosphere or Saturn’s magnetosphere. One-eighth-Dalton surveys are principally engineering scans performed to check instrument tuning and resolution; however, they also help provide ground-truth verification of mass peaks identified in the INMS data. The second type of scan is known as an “adaptive” scan and will be used for high-time-resolution sampling of species known to be present in a particular region of interest. Adaptive scan data will allow scale heights to be established with a spatial resolution of ~3 km or less and will thus be especially important for studies of Titan’s atmospheric structure. In an adaptive scan, either a set of selected masses (e.g., Mass Table 25: “Outer Magnetosphere CSN”) or just one mass (e.g., Mass Table 15: “Only Mass 28 CSN”) will be repeatedly sampled throughout the entire 2.3-sec scan. The INMS may also perform adaptive scans in which the measurement of a given set of selected masses alternates with sweeps in 1-Dalton increments during the same

TABLE VII
INMS science sequences.

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
1: Default Science—1498 bps						
1	1: Unitary survey—CS and OSI	CS	0.000	778	1	Default Science, scaled to 6 bps. Note that this sequence takes ~5 hr to run once through. The co-added result will be 5 Unitary scans followed by one of each 1/8-Dalton survey scan in CS then in OSI.
		OSI			26	
2	2: 1/8-Dalton survey—OSI and CS	OSI	0.000	24	27	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
		OSI			28	
		OSI			29	
		OSI			30	
		OSI			31	
		OSI			32	
		OSI			33	
		OSI			34	
		OSI			35	
		OSI			36	
		OSI			37	
		OSI			38	
		CS			2	
		CS			3	
		CS			4	
		CS			5	
		CS			6	
		CS			7	
		CS			8	
		CS			9	
		CS			10	
		CS			11	
		CS			12	
		CS			13	
4: Default Science—100 bps						
1	21: Unitary survey—CS	CS	0.000	300	1	Default Science, scaled to 100 bps. Note that this sequence takes ~35 min to run once through.

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Velocity Mode	(km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
						The co-added result will be 20 Unitary scans followed by one of each 1/8-Dalton survey scan in CS then in OSI.
2	35: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (1 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	2	
3	36: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (2 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	3	This should be used with a co-add rate of 15 scans = 34 sec.
4	37: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (3 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	4	
5	38: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (4 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	5	
6	39: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (5 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	6	
7	40: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (6 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	7	
8	41: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (7 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	8	
9	42: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (8 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	9	
10	43: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (9 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	10	
11	44: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (10 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	11	
12	45: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (11 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	12	
13	46: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (12 of 12)	CS	0.000	15	13	
14	22: Unitary survey—OSI	OSI	0.000	300	26	
15	23: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (1 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	27	
16	24: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (2 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	28	
17	25: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (3 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	29	
18	26: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (4 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	30	
19	27: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (5 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	31	

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
20	28: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (6 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	32	
21	29: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (7 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	33	
22	30: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (8 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	34	
23	31: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (9 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	35	
24	32: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (10 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	36	
25	33: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (11 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	37	
26	34: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (12 of 12)	OSI	0.000	15	38	
6: Default Science—50 bps						
1	21: Unitary survey—CS	CS	0.000	600	1	Default Science, scaled to 50 bps. Note that this sequence takes ~70 min to run once through. The co-added result will be 20 Unitary scans followed by one of each 1/8-Dalton Survey scan in CS then in OSI.
2	35: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (1 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	2	
3	36: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (2 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	3	This should be used with a co-add rate of 30 scans = 69 sec.
4	37: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (3 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	4	
5	38: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (4 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	5	
6	39: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (5 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	6	
7	40: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (6 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	7	
8	41: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (7 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	8	
9	42: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (8 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	9	
10	43: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (9 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	10	

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
11	44: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (10 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	11	
12	45: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (11 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	12	
13	46: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (12 of 12)	CS	0.000	30	13	
14	22: Unitary survey—OSI	OSI	0.000	600	26	
15	23: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (1 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	27	
16	24: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (2 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	28	
17	25: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (3 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	29	
18	26: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (4 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	30	
19	27: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (5 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	31	
20	28: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (6 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	32	
21	29: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (7 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	33	
22	30: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (8 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	34	
23	31: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (9 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	35	
24	32: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (10 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	36	
25	33: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (11 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	37	
26	34: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (12 of 12)	OSI	0.000	30	38	
9: Default Science—6.2 bps						
1	21: Unitary survey—CS	CS	0.000	1200	1	Default Science, scaled to 6 bps. Note that this sequence takes ~5 hr to run once through. The co-added result will be 5 Unitary scans followed by one of each 1/8-Dalton Survey scan in CS then in OSI.

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
2	35: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (1 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	2	
3	36: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (2 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	3	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
4	37: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (3 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	4	
5	38: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (4 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	5	
6	39: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (5 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	6	
7	40: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (6 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	7	
8	41: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (7 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	8	
9	42: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (8 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	9	
10	43: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (9 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	10	
11	44: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (10 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	11	
12	45: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (11 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	12	
13	46: 1/8-Dalton survey CS (12 of 12)	CS	0.000	240	13	
14	22: Unitary survey—OSI	OSI	0.000	1200	26	
15	23: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (1 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	27	
16	24: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (2 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	28	
17	25: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (3 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	29	
18	26: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (4 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	30	
19	27: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (5 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	31	
20	28: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (6 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	32	
21	29: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (7 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	33	

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
22	30: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (8 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	34	
23	31: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (9 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	35	
24	32: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (10 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	36	
25	33: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (11 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	37	
26	34: 1/8-Dalton survey OSI (12 of 12)	OSI	0.000	240	38	
10: Titan Exploratory—TA Sequence—1498 bps						
1	47: Adaptive survey—CS and OSNB for TA	CS	5.625	620	16	This is the sequence that will be used during TA. It should be started at 1611 sec before CA (10,000 km): start 2004-300T15:03:51 and end 2004-300T15:56:55 based on current trajectory information. 1498 bps data rate required.
		CS			17	
		OSNB			54	
		OSNB			55	It performs a combined adaptive and 1–99 scan between CS and OSNB until ~18 sec before closest approach, then follows a more complicated sequence (see Cycle Table 4) for ~30 sec, then switches back to the first cycle.
2	47: Adaptive survey—CS and OSNB for TA	CS	5.875	68	16	
		CS			17	
		OSNB			54	
		OSNB			55	The velocities are selected to attempt to match the radial velocity over different parts of the period, while keeping velocity compensation constant through the expected location of the magnetosphere/thermal crossing.

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments	
3	4: 1/8 Adaptive—CS and OSNB—TA	CS	6.000	16	18		
		CS			16		
		OSNB			56		
		CS			17		
		CS			19		
		CS			16		
		OSNB			57		
		CS			17		
4	47: Adaptive survey—CS and OSNB for TA	CS	5.875	68	16		
		CS			17		
		OSNB			54		
		OSNB			55		
5	47: Adaptive survey—CS and OSNB for TA	CS	5.625	620	16		
		CS			17		
		OSNB			54		
		OSNB			55		
11: Titan High-Altitude Ionosphere Flyby—1498 bps							
1	3: Adaptive survey—CS and OSI—Titan high altitude	CS	5.875	4	16	This is a very simple sequence, to be repeated over the course of all high-altitude flybys (>1500 km). It contains a combined adaptive and 1–99 scan. 1498 bps data rate required.	
		CS			17		
		OSI			40		The currently selected velocity is 5.875 km/sec, which is ideal for T4.
		OSI			41		
12: Titan Low-Altitude 006TL.T5—1498 bps							
1	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	5.500	778	44	This sequence has been worked to match the timing of the 006TL.T5 Titan pass. It should be started 1 hr before closest approach: 2005-106T18:05:57 by the current ephemeris information. 1498 bps data rate required.	

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments	
2	48: Unitary survey—CS and OSNB for T5	CS	5.750	520	1	(Times are before closest approach, altitudes given in height from surface)	
		OSNB			50		
		OSNB			62		Cycle 1: 1 hr (18449 km) → 30 min (8439 km)
		CS			24		Cycle 2: 30 min (8439 km) → 10 min (2400 km)
3	7: Unitary and adaptive—CS and OSNB for T5	CS	5.875	144	1	Cycle 3: 10 min (2400 km) → 263 sec (1260 km)	
		OSNB			50	Cycle 4: 263 sec (1260 km) → 52.5 sec (962 km)	
		CS			23	Cycle 5: 52.5 sec (962 km) → 34 sec (950.5)	
		OSNB			62	Cycle 6: 34 sec (950.5) → CA	
4	8: Adaptive and 1-99—CS and OSNB for T5	CS	6.000	90	20	Going out is exactly the reverse, except that Cycle Table 6 (switching to CSN/OSI) starts at CA + 492 sec (~2000 km) and the later timings are shifted accordingly.	
		CS			21		
		OSNB			54		
		OSNB			55		The selected velocities are for T5 specifically, to match the changing radial velocity.
		CS			22		
		OSNB			60		
5	9: Adaptive—CS and OSNB for T5 pre-CA	CS	6.000	8	20		
		OSNB			58		
		CS			21		
		OSNB			59		
6	10: Adaptive large and 1/8 Dalton—CS and OSNB	CS	6.000	32	2		
		CS			22		
		OSNB			51		
		OSNB			60		
		CS			5		
		CS			22		
OSNB	52						

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
		OSNB			60	
7	9: Adaptive—CS and OSNB for T5 pre-CA	CS	6.000	8	20	
		OSNB			58	
		CS			21	
		OSNB			59	
8	8: Adaptive and 1-99—CS and OSNB for T5	CS	6.000	90	20	
		CS			21	
		OSNB			54	
		OSNB			55	
		CS			22	
		OSNB			60	
9	7: Unitary and adaptive—CS and OSNB for T5	CS	5.875	100	1	
		OSNB			50	
		CS			23	
		OSNB			62	
10	6: Unitary survey—CS and OSI for T5	CS	5.750	261	1	
		OSI			26	
		OSI			43	
11	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	5.500	1082	44	
20: Outer magnetosphere—ion 1498 bps						
1	20: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	2.750	1	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, not scaled.
2	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	10.000	1	44	This should be used with no co-adding.
23: Outer magnetosphere—ion 100 bps						
1	20: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	2.750	15	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, scaled to 100 bps.
2	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	10.000	15	44	This should be used with a co-add rate of 15 scans = 34 sec.
25: Outer magnetosphere—ion 50 bps						
1	20: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	2.750	30	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, scaled to 50 bps.

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
2	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	10.000	30	44	This should be used with a co-add rate of 30 scans = 69 secs.
28: Outer magnetosphere—ion 6.2 bps						
1	20: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	2.750	240	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, scaled to 6 bps.
2	5: OSI for outer magnetosphere and low altitude Titan	OSI	10.000	240	44	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
30: Outer magnetosphere—neutral 1498 bps						
1	11: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	2.750	1	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, not scaled.
2	12: OSNB outer magnetosphere	OSNB	2.750	1	63	This should be used with no co-adding.
33: Outer magnetosphere—neutral 100 bps						
1	11: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	2.750	15	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 100 bps.
2	12: OSNB outer magnetosphere	OSNB	2.750	15	63	This should be used with a co-add rate of 15 scans = 34 sec.
35: Outer magnetosphere—neutral 50 bps						
1	11: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	2.750	30	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 50 bps.
2	12: OSNB outer magnetosphere	OSNB	2.750	30	63	This should be used with a co-add rate of 30 scans = 69 sec.
38: Outer magnetosphere—neutral 6.2 bps						
1	11: CS outer magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	2.750	240	25	Outer magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 6 bps.
2	12: OSNB outer magnetosphere	OSNB	2.750	240	63	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
40: Inner magnetosphere—ion 1498 bps						
1	18: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	4.000	1	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, not scaled.

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TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
2	19: OSI inner magnetosphere	OSI	10.000	1	39	This should be used with no co-adding.
43: Inner magnetosphere—ion 100 bps						
1	18: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	4.000	15	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI scaled to 100 bps.
2	19: OSI inner magnetosphere	OSI	10.000	15	39	This should be used with a co-add rate of 15 scans = 34 sec.
45: Inner magnetosphere—ion 50 bps						
1	18: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	4.000	30	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, scaled to 50 bps.
2	19: OSI inner magnetosphere	OSI	10.000	30	39	This should be used with a co-add rate of 30 scans = 69 sec.
48: Inner magnetosphere—ion 6.2 bps						
1	18: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil off	CS	4.000	240	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSI, scaled to 6 bps.
2	19: OSI inner magnetosphere	OSI	10.000	240	39	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
50: Inner magnetosphere—neutral 1498 bps						
1	14: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	4.000	1	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, not scaled.
2	13: OSNB inner magnetosphere	OSNB	4.000	1	53	This should be used with no co-adding.
53: Inner magnetosphere—neutral 100 bps						
1	14: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	4.000	15	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 100 bps.
2	13: OSNB inner magnetosphere	OSNB	4.000	15	53	This should be used with a co-add rate of 15 scans = 34 sec.
55: Inner magnetosphere—neutral 50 bps						
1	14: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	4.000	30	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 50 bps.
2	13: OSNB inner magnetosphere	OSNB	4.000	30	53	This should be used with a co-add rate of 30 scans = 69 sec.

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE VII
(Continued).

Cycle	Cycle Table: Description	Mode	Velocity (km/sec)	Total Scans	Mass Table	Comments
58: Inner magnetosphere—neutral 6.2 bps						
1	14: CS inner magnetosphere OS fil on	CS	4.000	240	14	Inner magnetosphere sequence, alternating CS and OSNB, scaled to 6 bps.
2	13: OSNB inner magnetosphere	OSNB	4.000	240	53	This should be used with a co-add rate of 240 scans = 554 sec.
60: Ring Overflight for SOI—1498 bps						
1	17: SOI: magnetic field particles—CS and OSI	CS OSI	20.000	156	14 39	To be started at 2004-183T03:54:30 and ended at 04:14:15. This sequence is designed to have 705 sec of B-field pointing (neutrals and ions) followed by 480 sec of neutral ram pointing (only neutrals). 1498-bps data rate required.
2	17: SOI: magnetic field particles—CS and OSI	CS OSI	15.000	150	14 39	This mode may not be correct for the entire SOI period. It is correct for the SOI INMS prime period pointing. For time outside that region, careful use of the inner magnetosphere scans should suffice. Also note that the OS filament should be on (warmed up) prior to this observation, because it is on for the second cycle, which is after > 12 min of being off.
3	16: SOI: corotation/ RAM—OSNB and CS	CS OSNB	5.000	108	14 53	The velocities selected are designed to attempt to catch a range of particles, moving relative to the spacecraft.
4	16: SOI: corotation/ RAM—OSNB and CS	CS OSNB	6.000	100	14 53	

CS: closed source (neutral); OSI: open source ion; OSN: open source neutral; CA: closest approach. A velocity of 0 represents the use of lens values precomputed at 6.0 km/sec.

scan (e.g., Mass Tables 16: “Titan low/high altitude part 1—CSN” and 17: “Titan low/high altitude part 2—CSN”). Finally, a third type of scan is the “high-pass” scan, in which the total signal above a given mass number (mass-to-charge ratio) is measured using the total transmission operation of the quadrupole analyzer. As noted in Section 2.2.3 above, for high-pass scans the DC mass filter voltage is set to zero. High-pass scans are used to extend the mass range of the INMS instrument.

In the case of regions where densities are expected to be very low, long accumulation periods will be required and mass scans will be co-added. The INMS software allows co-adding of up to 255 mass scans. The actual number of scans that can be co-added is determined by the count rate. That is, if the count rate is high, then fewer scans will be co-added. Otherwise, the capacity of the counter (32 bits) will be exceeded and data will be lost. However, count rates in the regions where co-adding of mass scans will be employed (e.g., the inner magnetosphere) will likely be sufficiently low that the maximum allowable number of scans can be co-added without risk of exceeding counter capacity.

3.3. SCIENCE SEQUENCES AND CYCLES

Twenty-four science sequences have been defined. These sequences and their constituent cycles are discussed in the following and summarized in Table VII. Because of the exploratory nature of the Cassini mission, it is expected that new science sequences will be defined in response to discoveries made during the orbital tour phase. In this case, the appropriate Sequence and Cycle tables will be uploaded.

3.3.1. *Default Science Sequence*

The “Default Science—1498 bps” Sequence is the basic sequence executed by the INMS unless another orbital sequence has been commanded. This sequence comprises two cycles. In Cycle 1, the instrument performs two unitary survey scans from 1 to 8 and 12 to 70 Daltons (Mass Table I for CSN and 26 for OSI), the first in the closed source mode and the second in the open source ion mode. Cycle 1 is performed in 4.6 sec and repeated for ~30 min (389 scans in each mode). Cycle 2 consists of alternating survey scans in the open source ion mode and in the closed source mode. Mass Tables 2–13 for CSN and 27–38 for OSI, covering the mass ranges 0.5–8.5 and 11.5–99.5, are used for both surveys in Cycle 2. Cycle 2 takes 55.2 sec to execute. The sequence is looped until a different sequence is commanded.

There are three other Default Science Sequences, each tailored to a specific data rate: 100, 50 and 6.2 bits per second (bps). These rates are designed to make use of the co-adding function of the INMS, while keeping a very similar measurement order and timing to the full rate Default Science mode. The 100 and 50-bps modes are co-added 15 and 30 times, respectively, and each will return 20 packets each containing one unitary scan, followed by a complete 1/8-Dalton scan before changing to the other scan mode. The data rates most commonly assigned to the INMS

during the mission are 100 and 50 bps. The 6.2-bps mode is co-added 240 times and will return five packets, each containing one unitary scan, before performing a complete 1/8-Dalton scan. This data rate was selected to allow bursting to full rate when the data volume allocated to the INMS is small.

3.3.2. Titan Exploratory—TA Sequence

The “Titan Exploratory—TA” Sequence will be executed during the Orbiter’s first two flybys of Titan (Ta: October 2004, Tb: December 2004) and will occur at an altitude of approximately 1250 km. The initial flybys will take place prior to the descent of the Huygens Probe (Tc: January 2005). Execution of this sequence will initiate the INMS investigation of Titan’s thermosphere and ionosphere, which is the primary science objective of the INMS experiment. As noted earlier (Section 1.1), INMS measurements of atmospheric density made during the initial flybys will be operationally as well as scientifically important because they will allow assessment of atmospheric drag effects on the Orbiter during subsequent flybys at lower altitudes. Initial INMS measurements at relatively high altitudes (1250 km) will determine densities and temperatures at and above this altitude. This information will be used to extrapolate densities to lower altitudes, which will be verified on subsequent flybys. If the extrapolated densities are found to be too high or too low, the orbital tour will need to be re-designed to protect the spacecraft while at the same time ensuring adequate science return. (Based on current atmospheric models, a minimum operational altitude of 950 km has been assumed for planning purposes.) A preliminary run of this extrapolation process has been completed using simulated INMS data from an atmospheric model. The results were satisfactory: density and temperature values extrapolated using two different methods agreed with the simulated density to within 15%. A more detailed run is planned for March.

The Titan Exploratory Sequence is composed of five cycles and is designed to characterize the major neutral species in Titan’s upper atmosphere. The INMS will execute Cycle 1 from an altitude of ~10,000 km until ~180 sec before Titan closest approach. Two scans will be performed in sequence, first in the closed source mode (using Mass Tables 16 and 17) and then in the open source neutral mode (using Mass Tables 54 and 55). As specified by these two tables, the INMS will alternate sampling of masses 2, 16, 17, 28, and 29 with mass surveys in 1-Dalton increments until the entire mass range of 1–99 Daltons (excluding 9–11 Daltons) has been covered. Repeated measurement of masses 2, 16, 17, 28, and 29 during the two scans will provide high-temporal-resolution data on the density profiles of the principal neutral and ion species known or expected to be present in Titan’s atmosphere: H₂ (2), CH₄ (16), N₂ (28), H₂CN⁺ (28), CH₅⁺ (17), and C₂H₅⁺ (29). With these data, scale heights can be calculated with a resolution of ≤3 km, thus allowing the detailed structure of Titan’s upper atmosphere to be determined. After ~1435 sec, Cycle 2 will start, performing the same mass scans as Cycle 1 but with a slightly different velocity compensation value to reflect the changing Titan-relative radial velocity of Cassini. Cycle 3 will start ~18 sec before closest approach. In

Cycle 3 the INMS will perform an alternating sequence of adaptive/unitary scans (Mass Tables 16 and 17 for CSN) and adaptive/fractional scans (Mass Tables 18/19 for CSN and 56/57 for OSNB). Throughout all of these scans, masses 2, 16, 17, 28, and 29 will be sampled at the same rate, to keep a consistent measurement of the primary constituents of Titan's atmosphere. At ~ 18 sec after closest approach the INMS will perform Cycle 2 followed by Cycle 1 ~ 160 sec later in an exact mirror of the beginning of the sequence.

3.3.3. *Titan High-Altitude Ionosphere Flyby*

The "Titan High-Altitude Ionosphere Flyby" Sequence will be used during Titan flybys at altitudes above 1500 km, i.e., above the exobase (~ 1425 km). This sequence consists of a single repeated cycle identical to Cycle 1 in the "Titan Exploratory—TA" Sequence with OSI replacing OSNB mode. It will thus provide both the survey data needed to characterize the composition of Titan's exosphere and ionosphere and the high-temporal-resolution data on the expected major constituents (masses 2, 16, 17, 28, and 29) needed to establish the structure of the upper atmosphere. The neutral composition measurements will complement Probe in situ data and Orbiter remote-sensing data on atmospheric composition at lower altitudes. The ion measurements will yield insights into the photochemical and energetic-particle-induced processes occurring in Titan's upper atmosphere. Because Titan's upper atmosphere, and especially the ionosphere, are expected to exhibit day/night, plasma ram/wake, and latitude/longitude asymmetries, high-altitude flybys of Titan at several points in its orbit about Saturn will be required to obtain the coverage needed to adequately characterize Titan's upper atmosphere and understand its variability.

The region in which the INMS will invoke this orbital sequence is the site of the interaction between Titan's upper atmosphere (cf. Section 1.1.2) and the external plasma environment, as well as the region from which atmospheric escape occurs as the result of several different loss processes, including sputtering, scavenging by the external plasma flow, and photochemical loss by ion-neutral reactions (cf. Section 1.1.3). INMS data acquired during the Orbiter's high-altitude passes will thus be particularly important for characterizing Titan's interaction with its external plasma environment, establishing the relative importance of different atmospheric loss mechanisms, and assessing Titan's role as a source of neutrals and plasma for the Saturnian magnetosphere. Moreover, knowledge of atmospheric escape processes and rates acquired through the analysis of high-altitude INMS data, as well as from other Cassini investigations, will be of significant value in our efforts to understand the origin and evolution of Titan's atmosphere.

3.3.4. *Titan Low-Altitude 006TLT5*

The "Titan Low-Altitude 006TLT5" Sequence is designed for composition measurements at altitudes as low as is consistent with Orbiter safety (this version is specifically tailored to the 5th Titan Pass). As explained above, minimum safe altitudes will be determined on the basis of INMS density and temperature data obtained

during the initial Titan flybys. Several such low-altitude passes, with spacecraft orientation optimized to point the open source aperture into the spacecraft ram direction, are required for successful completion of the INMS science investigation. A minimum flyby altitude of 950 km has been selected for these passes, based on densities predicted by theoretical models. Flybys at this altitude will allow for data acquisition well below the ionospheric peak and the homopause—both of which are predicted to occur at ~ 1050 km (Strobel *et al.*, 1992; Fox and Yelle, 1997; Keller *et al.*, 1998)—and well into the region where the photochemical production of complex hydrocarbons and nitriles is initiated. At this altitude, the INMS will be able to measure with maximum sensitivity minor species, including short-lived chemically active neutral and ion species that play an important role in Titan's photochemistry and ion-neutral chemistry.

A minimum of 18 low-altitude aeronomy passes are needed to fully achieve INMS Titan science objectives. Low-altitude flyby scenarios proposed by the INMS Science Team provide for sampling of the atmosphere and ionosphere at noon, midnight, dusk, and dawn and at varying latitudes on both the ram side and the wake side (see Table VIII). Detailed ion and neutral composition measurements under these different conditions will yield a comprehensive picture of variability

TABLE VIIIA

INMS combined latitude coverage—open source ion measurements.

	Day	Dusk	Dawn	Night
Ram		T26out T32out		T5out T21out
Flank	T18out T36out T39out T40out T42out			
Wake	T17out T37out		T40in	

TABLE VIIIB

INMS combined ram/wake coverage—open source neutral measurements.

	Day	Dusk	Dawn	Night
North		T18in	T5in	T32in
South	T39in T42in		T36in	
Equatorial		T17in	T37in	T26in

in the composition and structure of Titan's upper atmosphere, including possible seasonal effects, and will help elucidate the relative roles of solar EUV radiation and magnetospheric electron precipitation in neutral chemistry and ion production.

The INMS science team has determined that, as a minimum set, INMS must have control of primary spacecraft axis pointing on nine low-altitude passes (nine half passes each for neutral and ions). This plan relies on INMS having secondary axis pointing on many of the other low-altitude flybys to complete its science objectives. The nine passes are a revised minimum established by the INMS science team to cover season and latitude, as well as extremes of solar and magnetospheric production of ions and radicals that lead to the complex chemistry seen in the lower atmosphere. The flybys currently allocated to INMS comprise four separate phases of the mission: investigation validation (flyby 5), northern latitude survey (flybys 17, 18, 21), terminator study (flybys 26, 32) and southern latitude survey (flybys 36, 37, 39, 40, 42) (see Figure 27).

One of the major issues identified to date through the Titan Orbiter Science Team (TOST) process is the pointing conflict between INMS and RADAR. The INMS closed source field of view is such that in some cases it may be possible to take measurements during the same encounter, most likely within ± 8 min of closest approach. In this case the angle of attack of the closed source sensor would be changing throughout the measurement period. The INMS team is performing a study to determine the angular dependency of the closed source. The results of this study will determine in part the extent of INMS Closed Source/RADAR compatibility.

The INMS open source geometrical field of view cone half-angle is 8.6° . An assessment of the geometry of an INMS/RADAR pass suggests that INMS is in a preferred pointing direction only for ± 1 min near closest approach (out of a required ± 12 min) if RADAR is optimally pointed. Furthermore, mutually and maximally compromised pointing of both INMS and RADAR increases that window to only ± 2 min. Therefore, geometrically there is no way to satisfy the open source pointing requirements of INMS and RADAR at the same time. Two remaining possibilities are "dithering" from an INMS-optimum to a RADAR-optimum pointing continuously through a pass or using the electrostatic deflection built into the open source to obtain the ion portion of the data set. However, both of these options will require extensive calibration and simulation by both teams to demonstrate feasibility.

There has been extensive discussion within the MAPS, atmospheres, and INMS working groups to examine the INMS ionospheric and neutral atmospheric requirements. The current list of flybys includes: 5 (INMS inbound, ride with RADAR outbound), 17 outbound, 18 (full), 21 (outbound), 26 (full), 32 (outbound), 36 (full, although INMS may lose this flyby to atmospheres), 37 (starting -7 min through outbound), 39 (outbound), 40 (full) and 42 (still under discussion as to which leg will be INMS). Below is an attempt to demonstrate the importance of each of

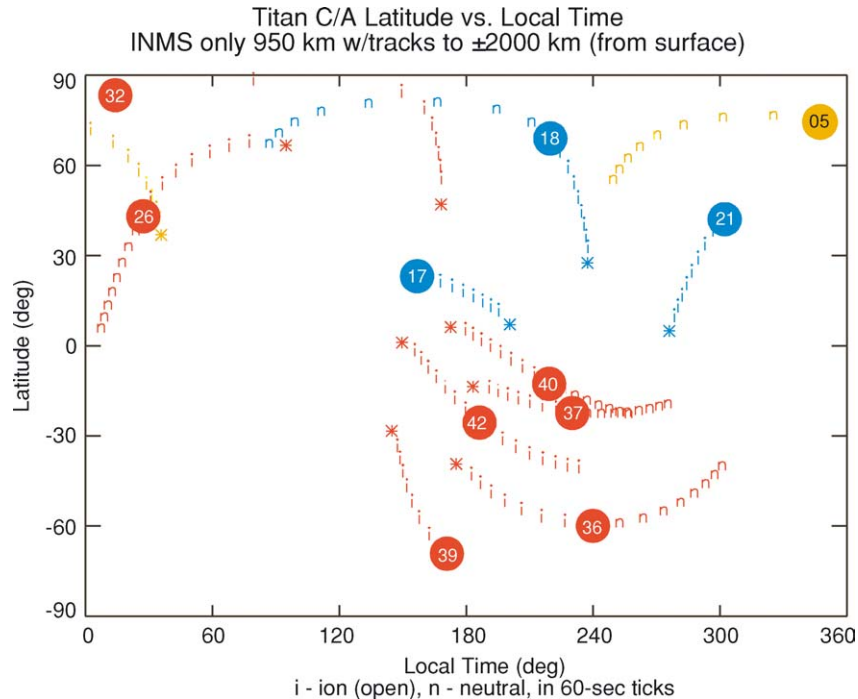


Figure 27. This figure shows latitude versus local time (Titan sub-spacecraft longitude relative to the Titan sub-sun longitude) of the Cassini spacecraft for all Titan encounters. The local time (X -axis of the plot), is expressed in degrees. The circular points indicate where closest approach occurs. The number within the circle indicates which Titan encounter it represents. The Cassini orbit track is shown for periods when the spacecraft is 2000 km or less from Titan's surface. The '*' indicates which is the outbound leg.

these orbits on a per flyby basis, throughout the discussion reference is made to the color-coded figure of Titan's orbital phases.

1. *Investigation validation phase—Pass 5.* Pass 5 is the first low-altitude pass in the tour that is available for INMS operations. Therefore, it is extremely important for determining the minor neutral and ion densities. Pass 5 is also important as a first step in sampling the global composition of the thermosphere and ionosphere and the thermal structure as a function of local time and latitude under varying conditions of magnetospheric input. It occurs during the "yellow" (a) segment of Titan's orbit (see Figure 28), which is of primary importance for studying magnetic induction in subsurface layers. From a magnetospheric point of view, it is a good flux tube crossing (see Table VIII and Figure 29). The team thought that it was imperative from both a technical and a scientific point of view to

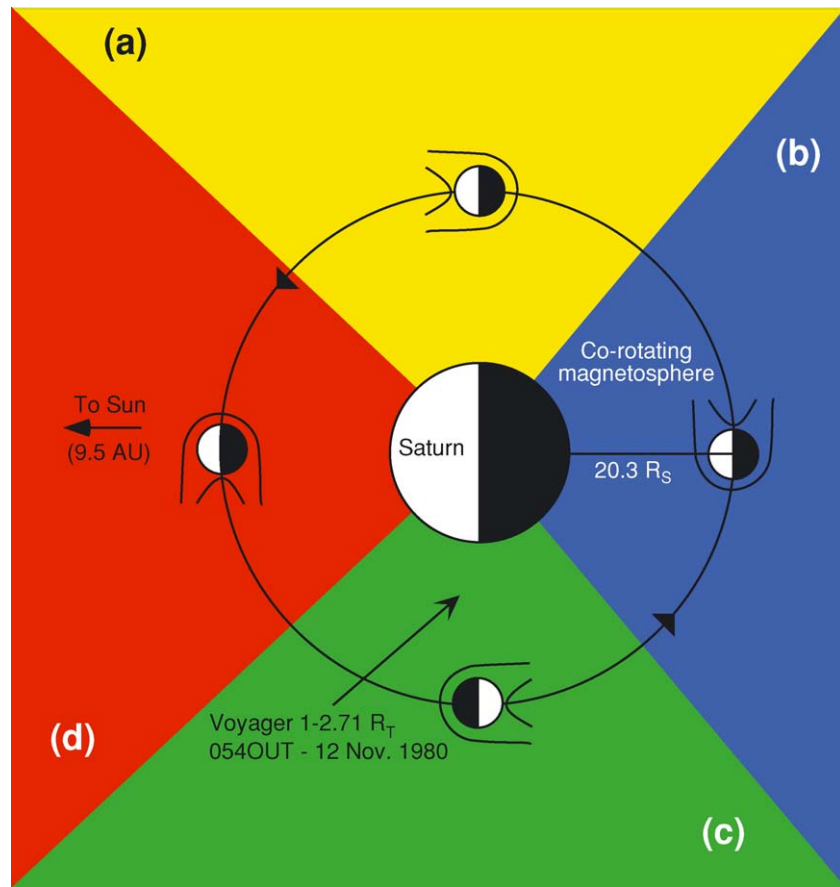


Figure 28. Shows four quadrants of Saturn's magnetosphere in sun-fixed coordinates.

have a full pass early in the mission to perform both open ion and open neutral measurements in a similar environment. This approach will best determine the performance of the instrument and will also make possible the study of the complex chemical coupling between the atmosphere and ionosphere needed to optimize the instrument performance for the rest of the mission.

2. *Northern latitude survey—Passes 17, 18, and 1/2 of 21.* Passes 17 and 18 are both passes within several hours of noon local time that provide coverage of the northern latitude under the same conditions of magnetospheric interaction (see Figures 27 and 29). They are both representative of the “blue” (b) orbital phase (see Figure 28). They occur near local noon and provide an excellent sampling of the flank of the magnetospheric interaction region where local ion pickup is thought to maximize, which will provide significant loss to the ionosphere and modification of the ion neutral chemistry (see Figure 29 and Table VIII). Pass 21

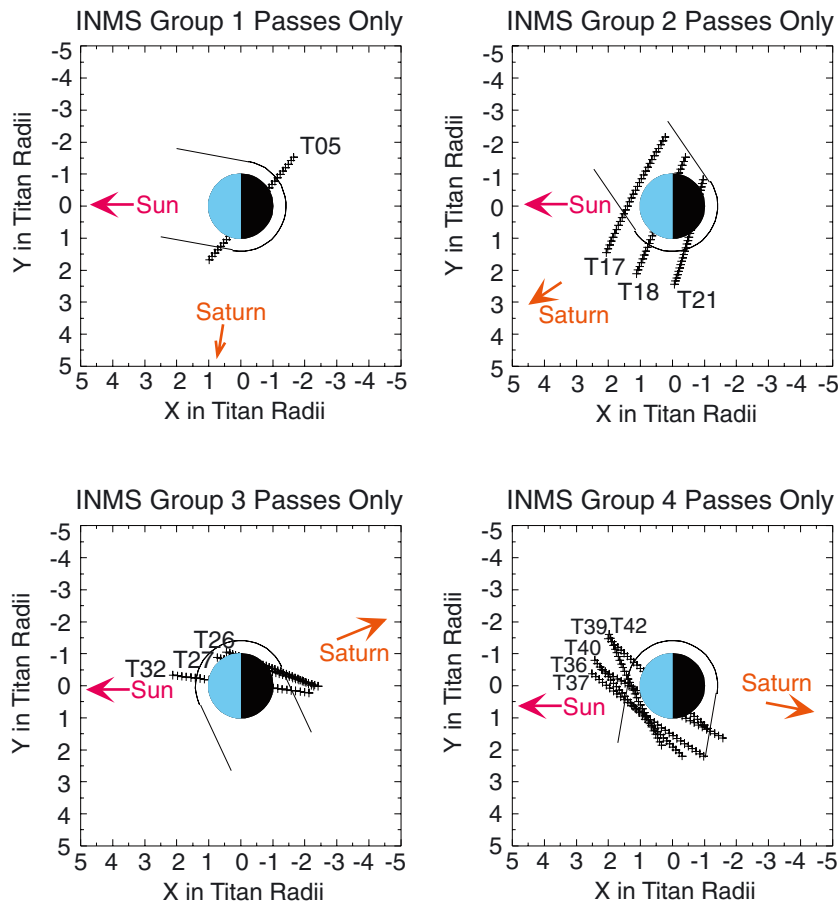


Figure 29. The position of Cassini and where it crosses the magnetospheric boundaries relative to Titan (in Titan-centered coordinates) broken up into four groups based on Titan's local time relative to Saturn.

fills in the latitude sampling, but more importantly, samples the ramside and flux tube of the magnetospheric interaction region at a local time near dusk and thus provides important measurements of the production and loss of ions and radicals that drive the ion neutral chemistry (see Table VIII and Figure 29). This subset will provide a fairly complete assessment of the factors affecting the northern latitude thermosphere and ionosphere.

3. *Terminator study—Passes 26, and 1/2 of Pass 32.* These passes are a two-orbit survey of the mid- to high-latitude terminator. Pass 26 takes place near 40° latitude and pass 32 occurs near 75° latitude (see Figure 27). They are both from the “red” (d) orbital phase (see Figure 28) and sample the flux tube where electron precipitation may have strong effects on the

heating and chemistry of the thermosphere and ionosphere (see Table VIII and Figure 29).

4. *Southern latitude survey—Passes 36, 37, 1/2 of 39, 40, and 42.* The set of passes 36, 37, 39, and 42 provides an adequate sampling of the southern latitudes for the “red” (d) orbital segment (see Figure 28) in both the open ion and open neutral modes (see Figure 27). They occur again all within an hour or two of local noon and thus sample the flank of the magnetospheric interaction region (see Figure 29), where energetic ion precipitation will have maximum effect on the thermosphere and ionosphere. Here pickup and energetic ion precipitation will be very different owing to the asymmetry produced by finite gyro radius effects of the magnetospheric ion interaction. Pass 40 is also important because it provides sampling of the low-latitude southern hemisphere (see Figure 27), which will provide continuity between the northern and southern latitude surveys. Pass 36 is unique in that it is the only pass selected for INMS that provides sampling of the important magnetospheric wake region where ion loss and electron influx will strongly affect the topside ionosphere and thermosphere (see Figure 29).

The Aeronomy Sequence used in these low-altitude flybys is the most complex of the INMS science sequences. It consists of seven cycles (1–11), each for a different altitude region through which the Orbiter will pass on its approach to Titan. The cycles are presented in Table VII in the order in which they will be executed during the entire flyby. Note that the inbound and outbound legs are not symmetric. The cycles prescribe a combination of unitary survey scans (for bulk composition measurement) and adaptive scans (for high-temporal-resolution measurement of key neutral and ion species expected to be present within a given altitude range). The target species for the adaptive scans to be performed during this sequence are summarized in Table IX.

3.3.5. *Outer Magnetosphere Sequence*

The INMS instrument will provide compositional information on neutral and ionized species in Saturn’s outer magnetosphere. Of particular interest is the region near the orbit of Titan, as data acquired here will be used to assess Titan’s contribution of neutrals and plasma to the outer magnetosphere (cf. Section 1.1.3). Because densities are expected to be low, long accumulation periods will be used and the mass scans co-added to improve counting statistics. Mass Tables 25 (CSN) and 44 (OSNB) are used for exclusively neutral measurements and 25 (CSN) and 63 (OSI) are used to sample ions; masses of particular interest are 14 (N, N⁺), 16 (O, O⁺), 17 (OH, OH⁺), 18 (H₂O, H₂O⁺), and 28 (N₂/H₂CN, N₂⁺/H₂CN⁺).

There are two different versions of the Outer Magnetosphere Sequence, one for purely neutral measurements (used during the inbound leg of the orbit) and one for ion and neutral measurements (used during the outbound leg of the orbit). Each of these measures the same mass values in the same order, but uses OSNB or OSI mode,

TABLE IX

This table lists the Dalton range, and in some case the species sampled, for scans executed during the various INMS orbital sequences detailed in Table VII.

Mass Table(s)	Scan Type	Description (source listed where applicable)
1, 26, 50	Unitary	1–8 and 12–70 Daltons
2–13, 27–38	Survey	Closed source/open source ion: 1/8-Dalton surveys covering the mass range 0.5 to 99.5
14, 39, 53 (inner magnetosphere)	Adaptive	Four water fragmentation product scans from 12 to 19 Daltons embedded in a unitary scan from 1 to 48 Daltons
16/17, 40/41, 54/55 (Titan low/high altitude parts 1 and 2)	Adaptive	Eight scans of N ₂ , CH ₄ and H ₂ embedded in unitary scans from 1 to 8 and 12 to 99 Daltons
18/19, 56/57 (TA adaptive and 1/8)	Adaptive/Survey	Closed source/open source neutral: eight scans of N ₂ , CH ₄ and H ₂ embedded in 1/8 Dalton scans from 12.625 to 18.500 and 25.625 to 30.500. Used in TA to check the mass peak selection accuracy
20/21, 58/59 (Titan low altitude parts 1 and 2)	Adaptive/Unitary	Closed source: H ₂ , He, CH ₄ , C ₂ H ₂ , HCN, N ₂ /C ₂ H ₄ /H ₂ CN/(CO), ¹⁵ N ¹⁴ N/ ¹³ C ₂ H ₄ , C ₂ H ₆ , ³⁶ Ar, C ₄ N ₂ , cracking products (12–15, 24–25, 37–40 Daltons); sweep of 1–51 and 52–99 Daltons Open source neutral: same species as are measured in closed source mode plus N, NH, O, CHCN; sweep of 1–51 and 52–99 Daltons
25, 44, 63 (outer magnetosphere)	Adaptive	Open source ion: H ₂ ⁺ , C ⁺ , CH ⁺ , N ⁺ /CH ₂ ⁺ , CH ₃ ⁺ , CH ₄ ⁺ /O ⁺ , CH ₅ ⁺ /OH ⁺ , H ₂ O ⁺ , C ₂ H ₂ ⁺ /CN ⁺ , HCN ⁺ /C ₂ H ₃ ⁺ , N ₂ ⁺ /H ₂ CN ⁺ /C ₂ H ₄ ⁺ /(CO ⁺), C ₃ H ₈ ⁺ /(CO ₂ ⁺) Closed source/open source neutral: same species as above, but neutrals
22, 60 (Titan low altitude adaptive large)	Adaptive	Closed source: H ₂ , He, CH ₄ , C ₂ H ₂ , HCN, N ₂ /C ₂ H ₄ /H ₂ CN/(CO), ¹⁵ N ¹⁴ N/ ¹³ C ₂ H ₄ , C ₂ H ₆ , ³⁶ Ar, C ₄ N ₂ , cracking products (12–15, 24–25, 37–40 Daltons) Open source neutral: same species as are measured in closed source mode plus N, NH, O, CHCN
23, 42, 61 (Titan low altitude adaptive 1)	Adaptive	Closed source/open source neutral: H ₂ , CH ₄ , HCN, N ₂ /C ₂ H ₄ /H ₂ CN/(CO), cracking products (12 and 14 Daltons) Open source ion: same species as above, but neutrals.

(Continued on next page.)

TABLE IX
(Continued).

Mass Table(s)	Scan Type	Description (source listed where applicable)
24, 43, 62 (Titan low altitude adaptive 2)	Adaptive	Open source ion: H_2^+ , C^+ , N^+/CH_2^+ , CH_4^+/O^+ , $\text{CH}_3^+/\text{OH}^+$, $\text{HCN}^+/\text{C}_2\text{H}_3^+$, $\text{N}_2^+/\text{H}_2\text{CN}^+/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4^+/(CO^+)$, $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5^+/\text{N}_2\text{H}^+/(HCO^+)$ Closed source/open source neutral: H_2 , N , CH_4/O , $\text{OH}/^{13}\text{CH}_4$, HCN , $\text{N}_2/\text{C}_2\text{H}_4/(CO)$, $^{15}\text{N}^{14}\text{N}$, $^{13}\text{C}_2\text{H}_4$

Parentheses indicate species whose presence is possible but unlikely.

respectively, for the second set of measurements. Velocity compensation values were selected to account for expected spacecraft-relative velocities of particles in Keplerian, corotating or magnetic-field-aligned orbits. There are also four different data rate modes currently available, just as there are for Default Science: 1498, 100, 50, and 6.2 bps, with 1, 15, 30, and 240 co-added scans, respectively.

3.3.6. Inner Magnetosphere

While Cassini will spend most of its time in the outer magnetosphere of Saturn, the higher densities in the inner magnetosphere will be much more conducive to INMS measurements. As discussed in Section 1.2, the inner magnetosphere is characterized by the presence of water group neutrals and ions associated with the rings and icy satellites and believed to be produced from these bodies by charged particle sputtering and micrometeorite bombardment. With predicted densities as high as $4 \times 10^3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ near the orbit of Enceladus (Ip, 1997), this material, through the complex plasma–gas–dust interactions in which it participates, is thought to play an extremely important role in the chemistry, dynamics, and structure of the inner magnetosphere. The Mass Tables used—14 for CSN, 39 for OSI and 53 for OSNB—involve repeated measurement of masses 12–19 interleaved with measurements of the mass ranges 1–8, 20–27, 28–35, and 26–47 Daltons. This provides for the repeated sampling during each scan of the water group neutrals O (16), OH (17), and H_2O (18), and ions O^+ (16), OH^+ (17), H_2O^+ (18), and H_3O^+ . Although the densities of these species are expected to be at a maximum near the predicted source regions, they will still be at the lower end of the INMS sensitivity.

The organization of these sequences is very similar to that of the “Outer Magnetosphere” sequences: a single mass range sampled alternately in CSN and OSNB or CSN and OSI modes. The choice of neutral or ion and neutral is the same as described above—neutral for inbound and ion and neutral for outbound—and the four data rates are organized in the same way. Neutral particles in Keplerian orbits closer to Saturn will move faster, and the velocity compensation values were increased accordingly.

3.3.7. Ring Overflight for SOI

The “Ring Overflight for SOI” Sequence is designed to sample the neutral and plasma environments of the rings and icy satellites in Saturn’s inner magnetosphere and will be executed during the overflight of the rings following SOI. A modified version of this sequence could also be used during the planned flybys of Iapetus, Enceladus, Dione, and Rhea. Because the INMS team has primary spacecraft axis control during a period after SOI, a specific sequence was designed to cover this period. The Mass Tables used are the same as those used in the “Inner Magnetosphere” sequences, but the timing is different. The first ~700 sec of the measurement period centers on magnetic-field-aligned and corotating ions, while the next ~480 sec will measure neutrals corotating and in Keplerian orbits. Velocity compensation values were chosen to match the Cassini-relative velocities of particles in each type of orbit at that time period, based on estimated particle masses and energies.

4. Flight Unit Characterization

4.1. GENERAL

The characterization of the INMS flight unit was performed at Goddard Space Flight Center using a high-vacuum test station with both thermal neutral and ion sources (Figure 30). A neutral beam system was not available at the time of the INMS

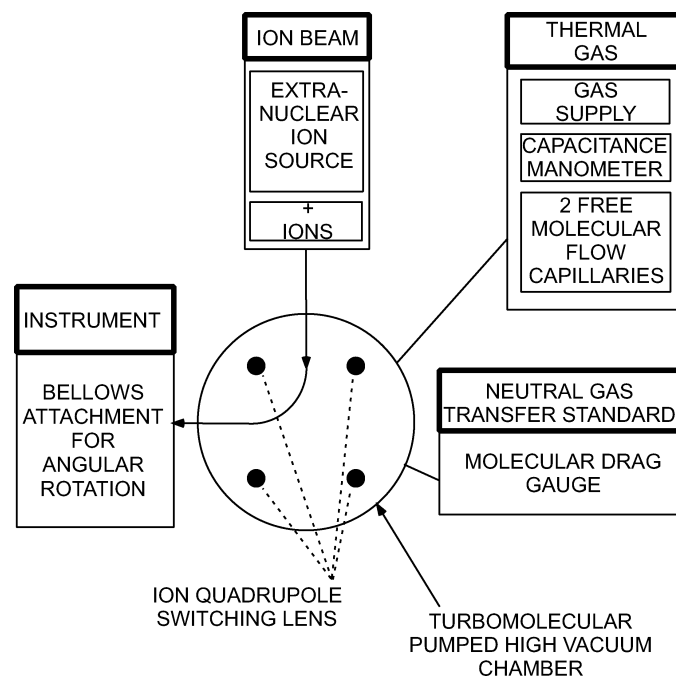


Figure 30. Schematic of the high-vacuum test station used for INMS characterization.

testing. Thus the ion beam was also used to characterize instrument performance in the open source neutral mode; for these tests, however, the INMS entrance lens (OL4) potential was set at -5 V, as required for the neutral beaming mode (cf. Section 2.2.1). The test station was designed so that all the INMS operational modes could be characterized without breaking the vacuum and thus necessitating re-baking the sensor. Neutral gases and ions used for characterization testing were introduced into the main vacuum chamber, to which the INMS was attached by a flexible bellows with two degrees of rotational freedom for angles up to about 5° . The instrument could be translated to allow appropriate positioning of the source being tested (i.e., of the open source with respect to the ion beam). Pressures inside the main vacuum chamber were kept below $\sim 10^{-6}$ hPa in order to prevent possible damage to the secondary electron multipliers. Thus the operation of the instrument at higher pressures, i.e., up to mid- 10^{-5} hPa, the estimated ram pressure at Titan closest approach, was not tested. Laboratory support electronics were used for early testing; flight electronics were used for the final characterization. The characterization of INMS performance will continue during the post-launch period with testing of the engineering unit.

4.2. NEUTRAL MODE CHARACTERIZATION

INMS performance in the closed source and open source neutral thermal modes was characterized using the principal nonreactive species expected to be encountered at Titan: H_2 , He, N_2 , CH_4 , C_2H_2 , C_2H_4 , and Ar. Tests were performed with both individual target gases and gas mixtures. Pure Kr was used as a high-mass reference gas, and a noble gas mixture was used to check instrument tuning. Because the geometries and efficiencies of the primary and secondary filaments in the ionization region are slightly different, test runs were conducted for both sets of filaments. Tests were also performed at both high and low electron energies. In each test run, the first measurements—both unit and 1/8-Dalton survey scans—were made at main chamber gas background pressure with no inflow of gas from the thermal gas source. Following acquisition of these background data, both survey (unit and 1/8-Dalton) scans and programmed mass scans were performed for various gas samples at different pressure levels up to 10^{-6} hPa. Representative results from thermal gas characterization tests are presented in Figures 31–36 and are discussed in the following paragraphs.

The INMS mass range is from 1 to 8 and 12 to 99 Daltons. The capability of the INMS to measure high-mass species is important because of the expected presence of long-chain hydrocarbons (e.g., polyacetylenes) in Titan's upper atmosphere. To investigate the instrument's performance up to mass numbers near 100, data were acquired using the closed source for a sample consisting of Ne (10%), Ar (10%), Kr (10%), Xe (10%), and He (60%). The resulting spectrum, with clearly defined mass peaks for He^+ and singly and doubly charged Ar and Kr, is shown in Figure 31. Xe is not measured at the parent peak near mass 132, but is observed as a doubly

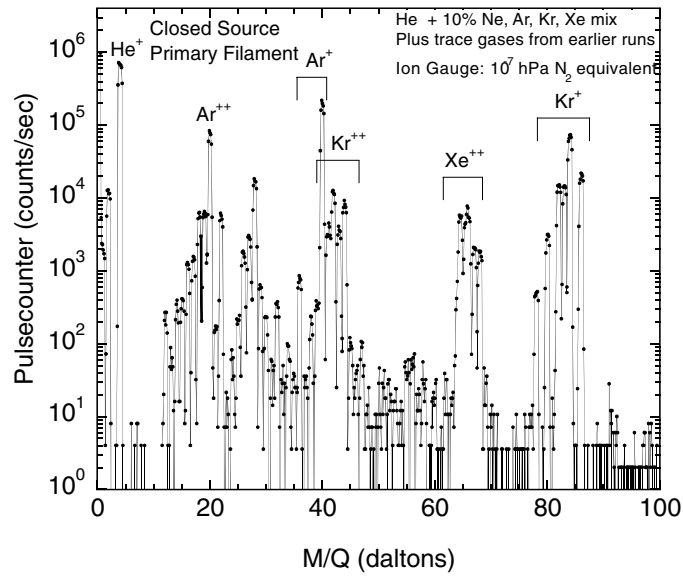


Figure 31. Mass spectrum for a mixture of noble gases illustrating the INMS performance at high mass numbers. Data were acquired in the closed source mode.

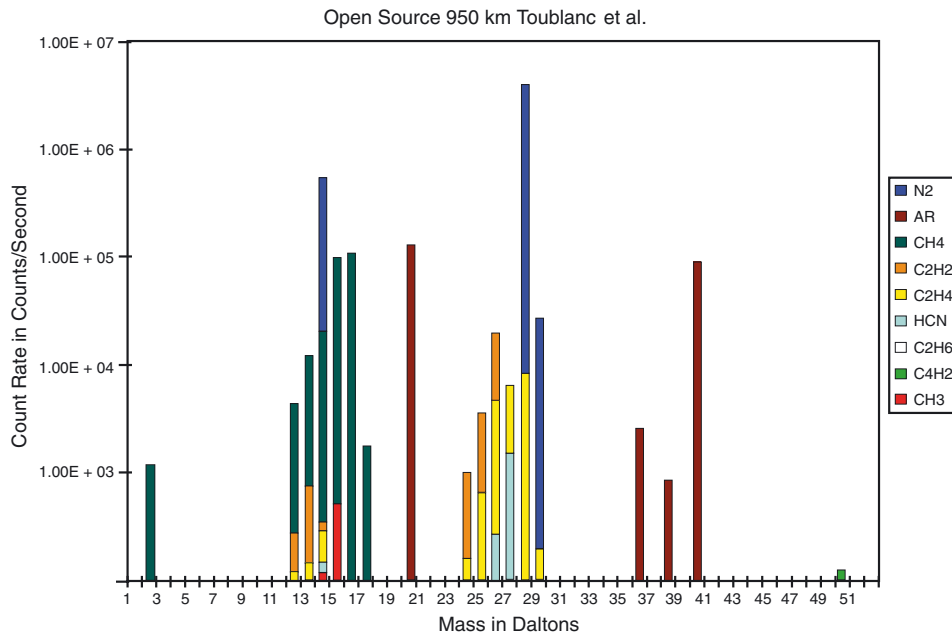


Figure 32. Simulated open source spectrum illustrating the masking of parent species and cracking products by other more abundant species with the same mass numbers. Concentrations are based on densities at Titan closest approach according to the neutral atmosphere model of Toublanc *et al.* (1995).

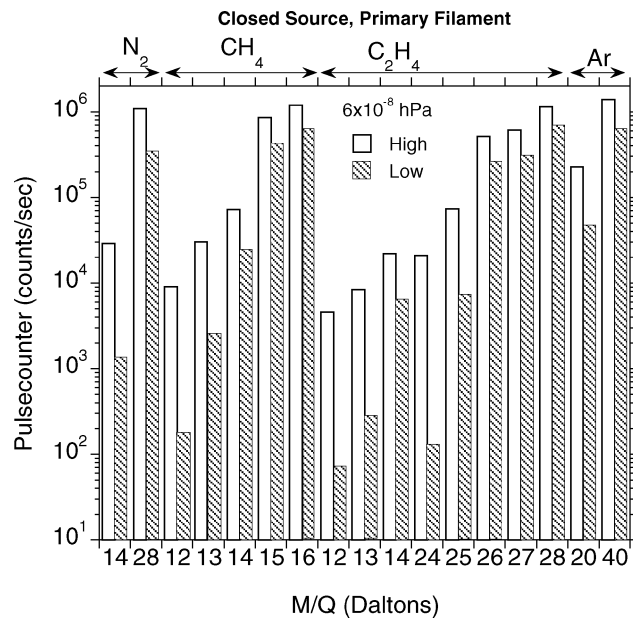


Figure 33. Counts obtained with the INMS closed source using both high and low electron energies for N_2 , CH_4 , C_2H_4 , and Ar at a nominal pressure of 6×10^{-8} hPa. Low electron energy reduces the signal amplitude and changes the relative pattern of the various mass peaks. The ionization cross sections at low electron energy change more rapidly than at higher electron energy. The ionizing electron beam energy has an energy spread of several eV, so using low electron energy does not create a sharp cutoff of some mass peaks that might be expected otherwise.

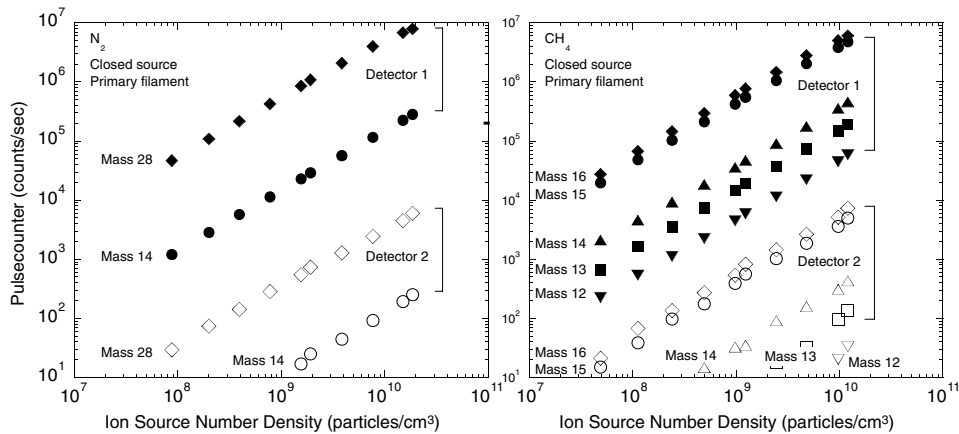


Figure 34. Pulse counter output for Detectors 1 and 2 as a function of ion source density (=main chamber density). Mass peaks for N_2 and CH_4 (both parent species and fragments) are shown.

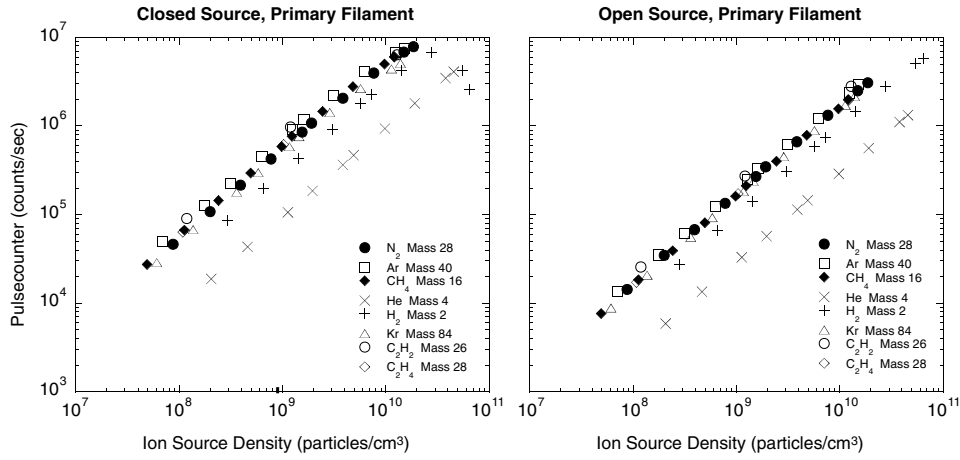


Figure 35. Summary of the pulse counter output as a function of ion source density (=main chamber density) for the parent species of all gases used in the characterization of the INMS closed source and open source neutral thermal mode. The data points for CH₄ and C₂H₄, which have about the same sensitivity, overlap. Only three data points were obtained for C₂H₂ and C₂H₄ because of time limitations.

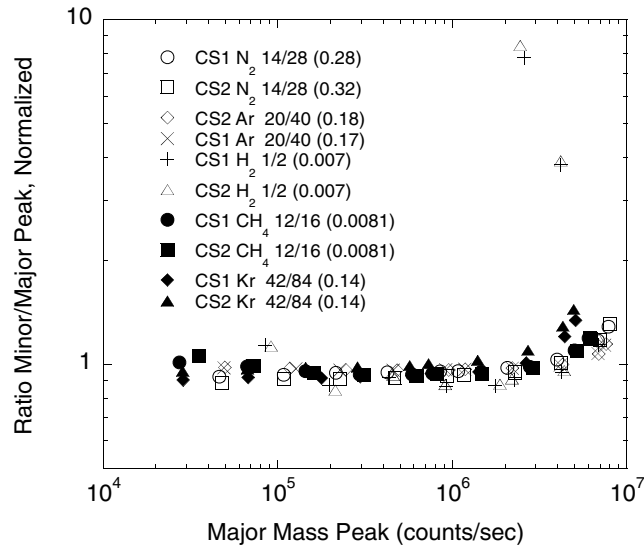


Figure 36. Minor peak to major peak ratios for several species plotted as a function of the parent peak count rate. Data were taken in the closed source (CS) mode using both the primary (CS1) and secondary (CS2) filaments. The ratios have been divided by the numbers in parentheses. The increase in the ratio evident above a count rate of 1–2 MHz reflects a loss of counts at high count rates (the “pile up” effect).

ionized smear around mass 65. In addition, peaks for some residual gases from earlier runs are evident near mass 28.

Distinguishing between species—whether parent species or cracking products—with the same molecular mass poses a challenging problem for the INMS investigation. This difficulty is illustrated by the simulated mass spectrum shown in Figure 32, which shows the spectral position and concentration of the primary species and the various cracking products resulting from ionization in the open source (concentrations based on densities at 950 km derived from the model of Toubanc *et al.*, 1995). N_2 is present at higher concentrations than C_2H_4 (both mass 28) and masks the latter, for example, while a cracking product of C_2H_4 (C_2H_3) masks HCN at mass 27. As noted above (Section 2.2.1), however, the masking problem can be addressed by using two different electron energies (70 and 25 eV) in the INMS ion sources. Because of the energy dependence of the efficiencies and cross-sections for dissociative ionization, different electron energies yield different spectra, with different peak heights and different fractionation patterns, for the same gas sample, as can be seen in Figure 33, a spectrum based on closed source calibration data for both high and low electron energies. Comparative analysis of such laboratory calibration data and of the mass spectra acquired in the Saturn system can be performed using standard techniques (Kiser, 1965) to deconvolve the contributions of the various species to the mass spectra.

Figures 34 and 35 illustrate the differences in sensitivity between the two detectors and between the closed and open ion sources. Figure 34 shows a plot of the pulse counter output from detectors 1 and 2 as a function of ion source density (=main chamber number density) for N_2 and CH_4 , the major neutral gases in the upper atmosphere of Titan. Data presented in this figure were acquired in the closed source mode using the primary filament. In the left-hand panel (N_2), mass 28 is the parent peak; in the right-hand panel (CH_4), mass 16 is the parent peak, and the remaining peaks are those of the cracking products. As noted above (Section 2.2.4), the use of two detectors that differ in signal detection level by about a factor of 1500 yields the needed dynamic range of $\sim 10^8$.

Count rates as a function of ion source density for each of the neutral gas species used in the characterization of the closed and open sources (using the primary filaments) are shown in Figure 35. Only the counts for the parent species are given. The higher sensitivity of the closed source is evident from a comparison of the two panels. (The lower sensitivity of the open source is due to the geometry of the open source ionization region and the complexity of the ion optics.) With the exception of H_2 and He, most species have about the same sensitivity in a given source. The lower count rates for H_2 and He result from the lower ionization cross sections for these gases. Note: only three data points instead of the usual 10 were acquired per run for C_2H_2 and C_2H_4 because of time constraints.

As can be seen in Figures 34 and 35, the count rate as a function of ion density increases linearly up to a rate of about 4×10^6 counts sec^{-1} (4 MHz). Above

this value, however, the secondary electron multiplier pulses begin to “pile up” and several ion pulses are counted as a single pulse by the pulse counter and discriminator circuits. This loss of counts at the higher count rates changes the slope of the mass 28, 16 and 15 peak data in Figure 34 and, most noticeably, in the closed source data for H₂ in Figure 35. The pile up effect is also evident in Figure 36, which shows the normalized ratio of a minor peak to the parent peak for several gases in the closed source (both filaments) plotted as a function of the count rate of the major peak. Above a count rate of 1–2 MHz, this ratio, which should be a constant based on the ratio of the ionization cross sections, increases. The increase occurs because there is a loss of counts in the major peak and very little, if any, in the minor peaks. The pile up effect—i.e., the loss of counts at high count rates—can, in principle, be mitigated by using the output from the second detector once the count rate from the primary detector is larger than 1–2 MHz. A secondary detector count rate of 10³ counts sec⁻¹ is equivalent to 31 counts per sample period and the statistical error is (31)^{1/2}/31 or ~0.2. Outputs from both detectors are put into the telemetry packet so that the ratio of the output of the primary detector to that of the secondary detector can be tracked over a Titan pass and that ratio used to predict the primary value based on the secondary detector output.

4.3. OPEN SOURCE ION/NEUTRAL BEAMING MODE CHARACTERIZATION

An ion beam system was used to characterize the performance of the INMS in the open source ion mode and, in the absence of a neutral beam, in the open source neutral beaming mode as well. An extranuclear ion source in a separately pumped chamber supplied the ions, which were created from He (mass 4), Ar (mass 40), and Kr (mass 84). These particular gases were selected because ion transmission over the INMS mass range (1–99 Daltons) was of primary interest. The ions were focused electrostatically and transmitted from the extranuclear source into the main vacuum chamber, where they were deflected through a quadrupole switching lens into the INMS open source (cf. Figure 30). No magnetic field was used to separate mass-to-charge ratios; so all ions generated in the extranuclear source from a particular gas were present, including fragmentation ions and background gas ions. During the characterization runs, considerable difficulty was encountered with drift effects in both energy and angle for low-energy ions. These most likely resulted from charging effects in the ion source and at the main chamber quadrupole deflector electrodes.

During initial characterization using laboratory electronics, data were taken on the operation of the INMS switching lens in the open source ion mode, with the entrance lens (OL4) set at -30 V, and in the open source neutral beaming mode, with OL4 set at -5 V. Ten ion energies (nominally 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 20 eV) plus “0 eV” (thermal gas in the ion source) were used for the initial tests. The ion beam was centered in the INMS aperture by moving the carriage on

which the INMS was mounted. The ion flux into the aperture was determined by measuring the current on the top plane lens (TPL). Energy scans were performed by varying the potential on QL3 and setting the other switching lens voltages to $QL4 = QL3$ and $QL1 = QL2 = -(QL3 + 2K)$, where K is the absolute value of the voltage applied to the entrance lens. QL3 was set to the voltage corresponding to the maximum count rate in the energy scan, and the quad bias voltage was set at -1 V. The ion energy was determined by scanning the quad-bias voltage and determining the voltage value (mean energy value) for which the signal dropped by half its value (the “pseudo-RPA cutoff curve”). (Plots of the results of the energy scans and quad bias scans are shown in Figure 37.) The energy scan was repeated with the quad bias set at -0.5 V below the half-amplitude point as determined by the quad bias scan. Only Ar^+ was used for the initial characterization tests. Spectra were obtained with 1/8-Dalton survey scans.

Characterization tests with the flight electronics were performed using only three energies (3, 8, and 14 eV for Ar^+ and Kr^+ and 3 eV for He^+) at three different flux levels. In addition to test runs with the ion beam centered in the instrument aperture, angle scans around an axis in the horizontal direction and the vertical direction were performed in 0.5° steps out to the maximum range ($\pm 5^\circ$) of the carriage system on which the INMS was mounted. For each ion flux and energy level, the switching lens was scanned, and the value for QL3 obtained. The switching lens was frequently re-set if the maximum signal did not occur at the anticipated point as determined from earlier laboratory studies. Quad-bias scans were performed, and, if needed, the voltage was re-set at -1 V below the half-amplitude value. Once the correct voltages had been set and verified, normal mass scan and dwell data were taken. A representative spectrum from a 1/8-Dalton mass scan is shown in Figure 38.

During the laboratory characterization tests, the INMS switching lens and quad bias voltages were set to transmit ions of known, fixed energy. For actual measurements at Titan and elsewhere in the Saturn system, however, the energy of the ions (both ambient and those created from neutrals in the open source ionization region) will vary as a function of mass and spacecraft velocity. (The latter will be the same for all masses.) The switching lens and quad bias settings will thus have to vary with ion energy. The switching lens voltages for a given ion energy can be determined from the relationship, established during instrument characterization, between the QL3 voltage corresponding to the maximum signal obtained in an energy scan and the quad bias scan half-amplitude point. As shown by the plot in Figure 39, the QL3 voltage at signal maximum is a linear function of the voltage at the half-amplitude point of the quad bias scans. In Figure 39, the solid and dashed lines represent a linear fit to the data points (circles and squares). The lines are used to predict the appropriate switching lens potential QL3 needed to track the incoming species' kinetic energy as represented by the quad bias half amplitude voltage. For the neutral beaming mode $QL3 = (-9.8754 - 0.90428 \times KE)$ volts. For the ion mode $QL3 = (-54.296 - 0.90646 \times KE)$ volts. KE is the species'

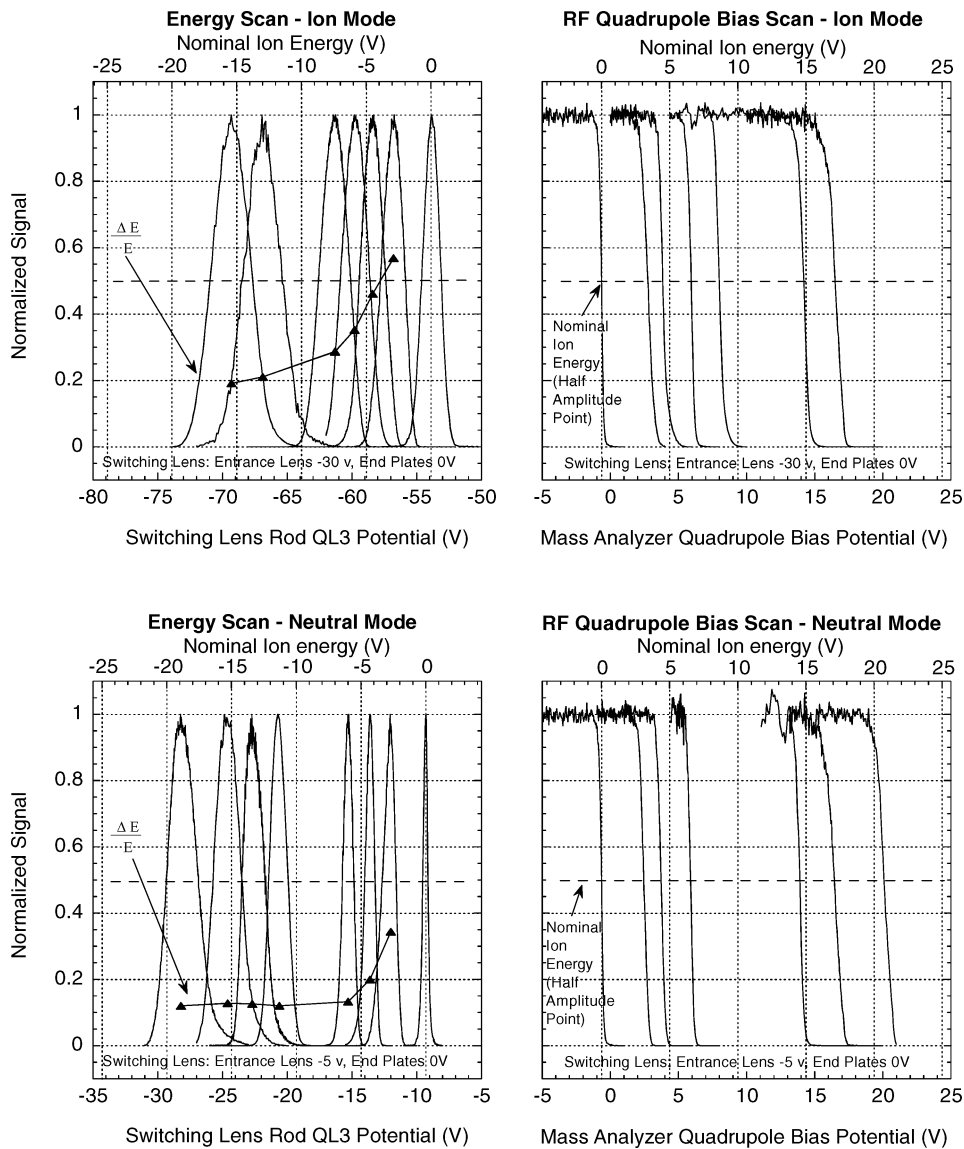


Figure 37. Energy and quadrupole bias scans for various ion energies with INMS operating in the open source ion mode (top) and neutral beaming mode (bottom). The energy scans are obtained by varying the voltage on QL3 and determining the potentials on the other switching lens rods according to the following equations: $QL4 = QL3$ and $QL1 = QL2 = -(QL3 + 2K)$, where K is the absolute value of the OL4 (and exit lens L1) voltage (i.e., either 5 or 30 V). The half-amplitude value obtained in the quad bias scans is used to establish mean ion energy. The end plate (OL5/6) potentials are set at 0 V rather than at the mean ion energy (=OL4) as in Mahaffy and Li (1990). The INMS $\Delta E/E$ values shown are not constant but decrease with higher ion energy.

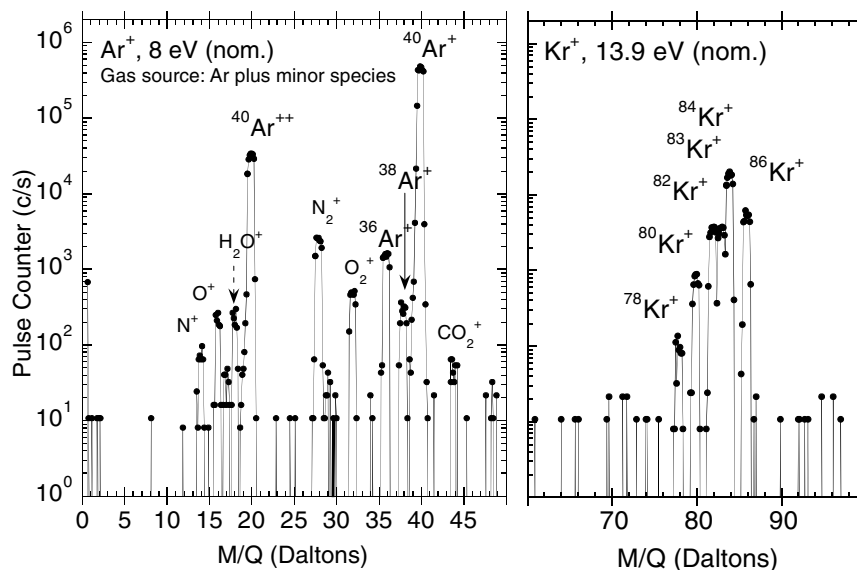


Figure 38. Spectra for Ar^+ and Kr^+ from a 1/8-amu scan in the open source ion mode. Peaks for minor species can be seen in the Ar^+ spectrum and for isotopes in both spectra. A quadrupole bias voltage was applied to retard the mass-analyzed ions and reduce the peak widths (cf. Section 2.2.3).

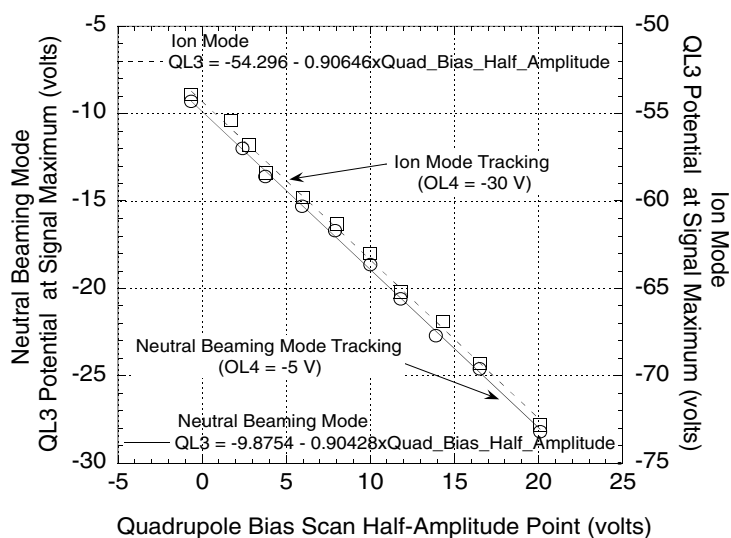


Figure 39. QL3 voltage corresponding to the maximum count rate obtained in energy scans in both the open source ion and neutral beaming modes plotted as a function of the voltage of the quadrupole bias half-amplitude point (=mean ion energy). Data used in generating this plot were taken from Figure 37.

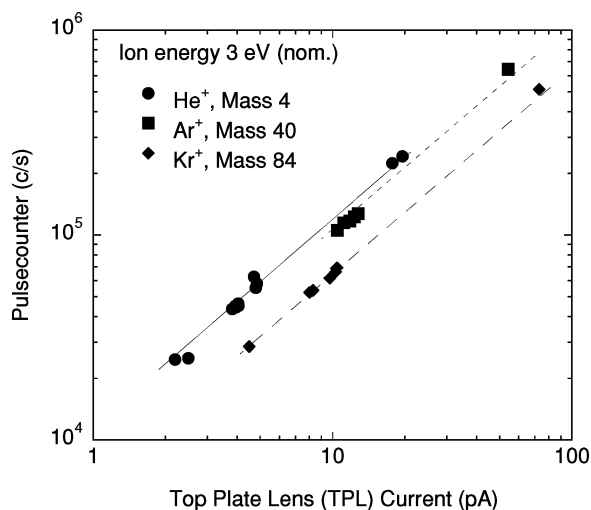


Figure 40. Counts for He⁺, Ar⁺, and Kr⁺ as a function of the top plate lens current, which serves as a proxy for the ion flux into the instrument. Kr data have been corrected to remove isotopic contributions; only the mass 84 contribution is shown. The slope of the lines shown is 1; however, the fits of the data imply slopes ranging from 1.03 to 1.1. It is believed that this discrepancy is due to yet unknown experimental difficulties.

kinetic energy in electron volts as observed in the spacecraft reference frame. For a Titan flyby, with a nominal spacecraft speed of 6 km/sec, $KE = (0.191 \text{ eV/Dalton}) \times (\text{species' mass in Daltons})$. The previous equations are suitable for singly ionized species. In the case of double ionized species, the tracking voltages need to be set to a KE value equivalent to half the species' mass.

The ion flux into the INMS was determined by measuring the TPL plate current at 0° angle. Figure 40 is a plot of the count rates for the three ion species as a function of TPL current. The current to the deflectors was not measured during characterization because earlier measurements had shown them to be negligible for small beam angles.

The rejection of ions by the ion deflector/trap was tested during ion mode characterization. No ion counts were detected for a 20-eV ion beam with the switching lens set to transmit 20 eV ions (OL4 = -30 V, OL1 = OL2 = 0 V) and the deflectors set at D1 = D4 = +30 V and D2 = D3 = -30 V or D2 = D3 = 0 V. Lowering the voltage to D1 = D4 = +5 V and D2 = D3 = -5 V yielded about 1 count per integration period. With D1 = D4 = +1 V and D2 = D3 = -1 V about 530 counts sec^{-1} were observed (compared with 1.2×10^6 counts sec^{-1} with the deflectors and TPL set at ground). With ± 30 V on the deflectors, only the thermal gas peak was present when the switching lens was set for open source neutral thermal mode; no ion beam ions were transmitted. For neutral beam conditions (OL1 = -1 V, OL2 = +1 V) and a 20 eV ion beam, no signal was detected. Tests (at ion beam

energies of 2.8 eV) indicated that secondary ions were not being created on the deflectors and contributing to the signal.

4.4. SECONDARY ELECTRON MULTIPLIER CHARACTERIZATION

During characterization, tests using both ion sources were performed usually once a day at a nominal N_2 chamber pressure of 10^{-7} hPa to track possible changes in secondary electron multiplier (SEM) sensitivity. Pulse-height distributions were obtained at reasonably low count rates using low electron energy. A pseudo-secondary electron multiplier gain (SEM) was computed from measurements of the multiplier analog current, and the corresponding count rate using the open source. Three SEM high-voltage levels were used: (1) low, used during the characterization period; (2) medium, corresponding to a SEM voltage that would be needed following pulse-height distribution changes in thermal vacuum and vibration qualification testing; and (3) high, corresponding to possible future changes in the pulse-height distribution during the orbital tour. For the primary detector, the SEM voltages are 2500, 2700, and 2900 V, while for detector 2 they are 2800, 2900, and 3000 V. There are 16 discriminator levels; level 4 is used as the nominal setting. Figure 41 shows the mass-28 peak sensitivity referenced relative to an ion gauge on the main chamber for both the open and closed sources (filament 1), and the computed

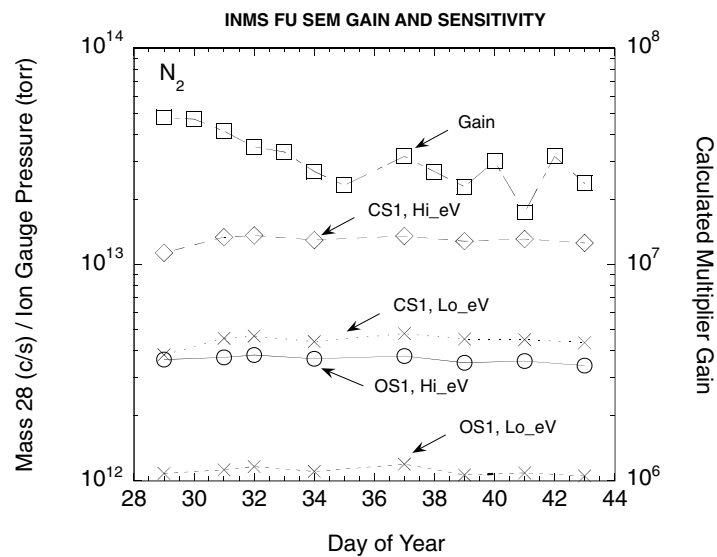


Figure 41. The mass-28 sensitivity relative to reference ion gauge for N_2 at nominally 10^{-7} hPa. OS1: open source, filament 1; CS1: closed source, filament 1; Hi_eV: high electron energy; Lo_eV: low electron energy. Day of year refers to 1997. Multiplier gain is computed from the accumulated SEM counts and the analog current.

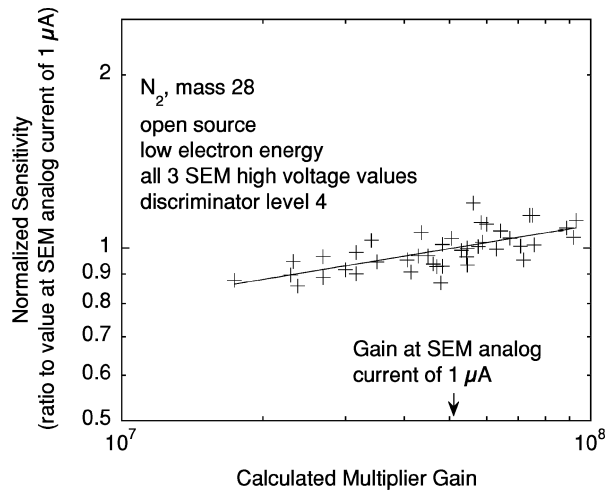


Figure 42. The relative change in sensitivity for a change in multiplier gain.

SEM gain for the low high-voltage setting and discriminator level 4. Figure 42 shows the relative sensitivity change for all three SEM high-voltage levels at discriminator level 4. A factor of 5 change in gain results in about 20% change in sensitivity.

Figure 4.4 shows a plot the integrated pulse-height distributions measured during characterization, after vibration and thermal vacuum testing, and during one of the last spacecraft baseline tests for the three SEM high-voltage settings. Data were taken for each of the discriminator levels except for level 0. As noted above, discriminator level 4 is the normal level used; it was originally chosen to discriminate against the noise counts (upturn in the curve below discriminator level 3 for day 970130), while not severely curtailing the real ion counts above this level. After characterization, SEM voltage was raised to the medium level for the instrument environmental tests. It can be seen from the plot that the slope of the curves above discriminator level 4 changed with time, with the maximum change occurring for the SEM low high-voltage level and the least change for SEM high high-voltage level. It is anticipated that the high high-voltage level will be used for the orbital tour at Saturn. The computed SEM gain during characterization, environmental testing, and baseline testing on the spacecraft is plotted in Figure 44. During characterization, gain values were computed using mass 28 (N_2) data; afterwards, once the sensor was sealed and the getter was activated, gain was computed using mass 40 and mass 20 from Ar. No independent absolute pressure data were available after characterization to reference a possible sensitivity change.

The computed SEM gain can be used as a proxy for estimating the change in ion source sensitivity when a detailed pulse height distribution is not available.

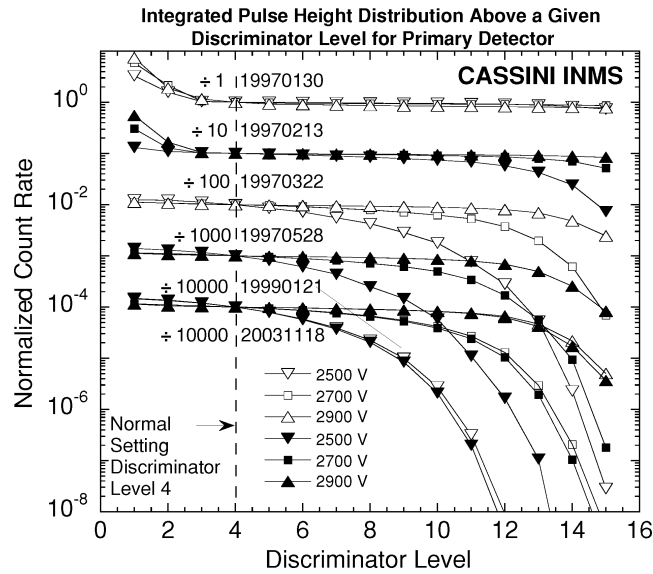


Figure 43. Plot of the integrated pulse-height distributions for the three SEM high-voltage levels (low, medium, high) obtained on four different dates: 970130 (beginning of the characterization period); 970213 (end of the characterization period); 970322 (after environmental testing); and 970528 (testing on the spacecraft). Discriminator level 4 is the normal setting used. Data taken at the beginning and end of the characterization period are for N_2 (mass 28); data taken following environmental testing and on the spacecraft are for Ar (mass 40). The curves have been normalized to discriminator level 4, and the three sets of data for each date have been divided by the values shown just below the curves, to the left of the dashed line. Test dates are given in YYMMDD format. Data are for the primary detector only. Open and filled symbols are used to distinguish data points for alternating dates when the curves overlap.

4.5. ENGINEERING MODEL AND POST-LAUNCH CHARACTERIZATION

The prototype of the Flight Model (FM) instrument, the Engineering Model (EM), was refurbished to more closely emulate the finalized FM unit. This will allow the EM to be used for further laboratory testing, extending the amount of information available for interpretation of the FM results. The EM can also be used to test command sequences and flight computer software changes to be uploaded to the FM. Characterization of the EM in thermal gas mode was done with the same gases used for the FM (see Section 4.2) plus C_6H_6 , CO_2 , CO , C_2H_6 , C_3H_4 (propyne), C_3H_4 (allene), Ne , O_2 and C_3H_8 . The vacuum test station was modified to provide an ion source that dropped down in the middle of the main chamber. This eliminated the previous ion source and large quadrupole-switching lens shown in Figure 30. Ion energies similar to those used for the FM were used to compare the flux sensitivity and angular response of the EM to the FM. The open source neutral beaming mode was tested with a low-energy neutral beam. It revealed that lens QL3, which was

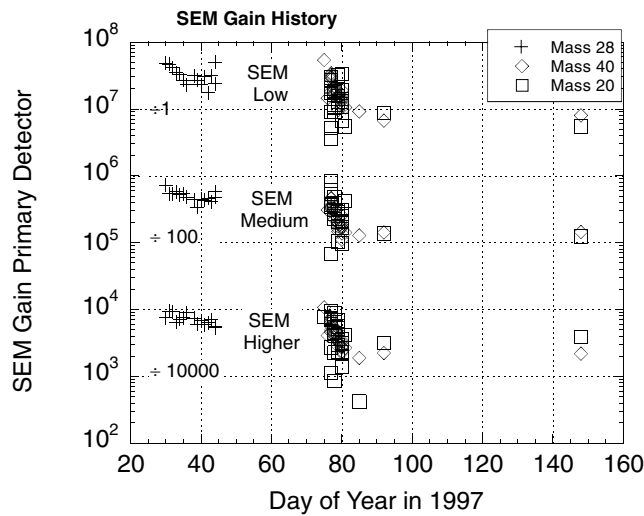


Figure 44. Multiplier gain for the three SEM high-voltage levels, as measured during characterization, after environmental testing, and on the spacecraft. Gain curves have been divided by the values shown immediately beneath the curves. During characterization, gain values were computed using mass 28 (N_2) data; afterwards, with the instrument sealed and the getter activated, the values were computed using mass 40 and mass 20 from Ar.

initially set to be -5 V, needed to be closer to -17 V based on the angular response in that mode when compared to the angular response in the ion mode. Continued laboratory testing with the EM in thermal gas mode, ion mode and neutral beaming mode will be required to provide better operational parameters for the FM as well as to interpret the data collected.

5. INMS Operations Network (ION)

5.1. ION OVERVIEW

ION is the ground support system (GSS) that provides complete downlink, uplink, and analysis capabilities for INMS. Most of ION can be accessed through any web browser using a standard point and click hyperlink-based interface. The architecture of ION consists of four primary components—a web server and authentication component, an application component, a database access component and a database component. The main functions of ION are divided into several different components, most of which are web-based applications accessed through the ION web interface, but a few of which are stand-alone applications. Additionally, ION is being developed in three phases that will support downlink, uplink and analysis functions in versions 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0, respectively.

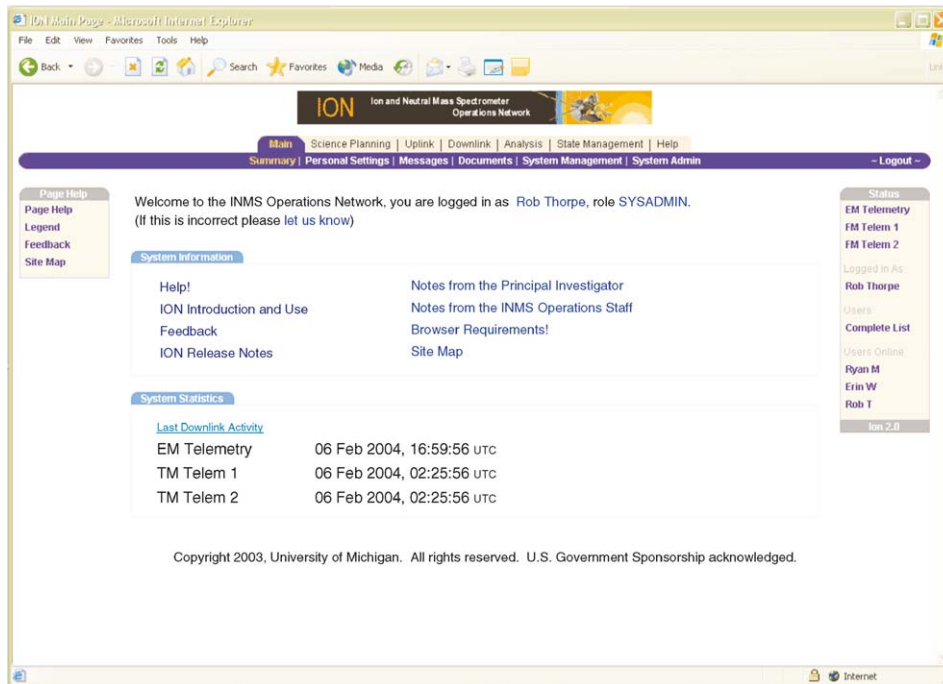


Figure 45. INMS Operations Network screen shot.

ION is accessed through a standard web browser. There is a simple hierarchical menu system for navigation that provides an easy way to access various functions of the system (see Figure 45). While web pages are carefully laid out to provide the right amount of information and color balancing, they are also kept closely aligned to basic HTML standards so many different types of browsers can access the system. This adherence to standards is an essential tenet of ION, supporting the goal of web-based platform-independent access to the INMS ground support system by virtually any web browser.

Architecturally, ION is divided into four components. The Web Server and Authentication Component authenticates a user to the system and provides most of the graphical user interface (GUI) for ION by delivering and processing ION web pages. The Application Components are integrated into the web part of ION and consist of Java Server Pages (JSPs), Java servlets and Java classes. A few applications are part of ION and are not Java-based, and interact with ION through files or direct database connections to the INMS database. The Database Access Component (commonly referred to as the Java Access Layer) consists of a series of Java classes used by all the application components and provides standardized access to the INMS database. Finally, the Database Component is a high-end relational database that stores all INMS GSS data. It is composed of a series of tables, sequences, indices and other data structures that form a

performance-oriented and relational series of data sets for INMS operations and analysis.

Functionally, ION is divided into 14 components, which support a combination of uplink, downlink and analysis operations (see Figure 46). Most of these components are web-based and are part of the ION web interface. The Thermal Model, Table Software, and Spacecraft Simulator are stand-alone applications that were produced prior to the ION development effort, or by different organizations. Some of the Analysis Software are also stand-alone applications but may be incorporated into the web-based part of ION.

ION is being developed in three major releases. The first release is focused on downlink capabilities, and will support the storing of INMS housekeeping and science data in the INMS database, real-time and historical telemetry display and review, science operations analysis capabilities, system management capabilities, a help system, a data dictionary, and a messaging system. The second release is focused on uplink capabilities and will contain sequence generation, operations table management, Spacecraft Activity Sequence File (SASF) management, state management and memory management functions. The final release focuses on analysis capabilities, supporting the analysis of science data, health and safety analysis, online charting, data download capabilities for Co-Investigators, extended help capabilities, and other functions as necessary.

5.2. UPLINK OPERATIONS

INMS orbital sequences are designed using the INMS Operations Table Software and then uploaded to ION. The Sequence Generation functions in ION are then used to create the SASF, which is a combination of INMS commands, INMS memory loads (including INMS Science Sequences) and other spacecraft commands and formats that allow INMS commands to be loaded into spacecraft memory. The Sequence Generation function in ION also accesses an INMS instrument command library to produce the commands appropriate to manage INMS and trigger science sequences. The result of the Sequence Generation function in ION is an SASF file that is stored in the Sequence Library in the INMS Database.

In the case of the INMS Flight Model, this SASF file is sent to the appropriate JPL Cassini office for integration with other SASF command files from other instruments, and ultimately uploaded to Cassini through the Deep Space Network. In the case of the INMS Engineering Model, the SASF file is transferred to the spacecraft simulator, which commands the EM through the RTIU/1553 interface.

The Sequence Library is also a resource for the ION Memory Comparison, State Prediction and State Comparison functions. Memory Comparison functions are used to validate INMS memory prior to proceeding with orbital sequences. The State Prediction and State Comparison functions are used to verify that planned orbital sequences will not violate INMS health and safety operational limits, and

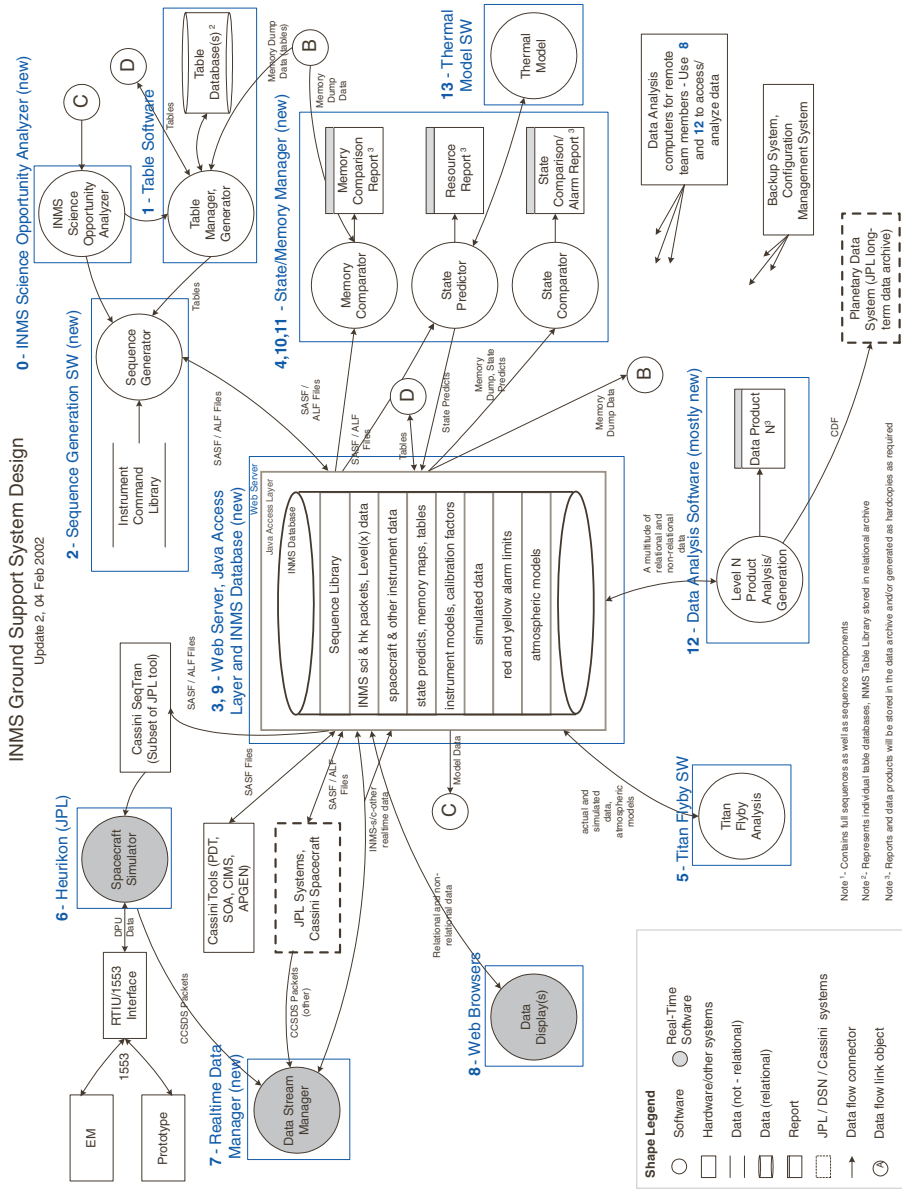


Figure 46. INMS Operations Network design.

to analyze the ongoing operational performance of the instrument. The Sequence Library is also a resource for Cassini modeling and planning tools such as the Cassini Information Management System (CIMS), the Science Opportunity Analyzer (SOA), the Pointing Design Tool (PDT), and others.

5.3. DOWNLINK OPERATIONS

INMS science and housekeeping data will be downlinked from the Solid State Recorder (SSR) in the Orbiter's Command and Data Subsystem (CDS) to the Deep Space Network and then transmitted to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where they will be stored in the Telemetry Delivery System (TDS). The data is also transferred by the TDS via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to the INMS Science and Operations Center (ISOC) at the University of Michigan. The data will be received at the ISOC by the Science Operations and Planning Computer (SOPC), a secure communications computer, and then forwarded to the ION data manager, which will store the raw data packets in the ION database. An automatic procedure in the database converts and scales the raw packets (level 0 data) into engineering data (level 1 data) that can be viewed in ION (real-time or historical) via any web browser. Analysis functions in ION will convert the engineering data to science-adjusted data.

In addition to INMS science and housekeeping data, ancillary data (e.g., spacecraft ephemeris, attitude, etc.) will also come into the ISOC via the SOPC and be stored in the ION database. Queries will be designed to cross-reference the spacecraft data with the engineering and analysis data. All appropriate data sets will undergo real-time analysis for health and safety purposes as well as science analysis.

Alternately, science and housekeeping data generated from the INMS engineering model, during calibration and operational testing activities, will be sent directly to the ION data manager and stored in the INMS database. This data will go through the same automatic conversion process and be available for review and analysis by all INMS Team Members using all the functions in ION available for flight model data.

5.4. DATA ANALYSIS AND ARCHIVING

Data products will be produced from the INMS database using tools in ION under the oversight of the Science Team Leader and Team Members. Some data products will be dynamically available using database queries and others will be stored in the INMS database. Any range and type of data sets will also be available for download by INMS Team Members and other appropriate personnel via the Internet. Level 1 data products will be delivered to the Planetary Data System (PDS) for archiving. The INMS Team Leader will be responsible for validating the science content of the Level 1 products before release to the PDS. Higher-level data products will be

developed as specified by the Science Team Members. The appropriate analysis and display tools will be created in ION (and, as appropriate, as remote applications for Co-Investigators) by the Data Analysis Team in consultation with the Science Team. Higher-level products will be stored in the INMS database and, as appropriate, will be archived in the PDS as well.

Exploitation of the data from the INMS investigation will involve both data analysis and modeling studies of the neutral and ionized atmospheres of Titan and of the neutral and plasma environments of the rings and icy satellites.

Analysis of data acquired during the Titan passes will include the computation of neutral and ion densities as a function of altitude and the subsequent computation of the scale height and temperatures. Direct comparison of the INMS thermal ion measurements with CAPS ion and RPWS electron measurements as well as iterative use of the three data sets in the analysis process will be a standard part of the data reduction process. The flyby data sets will also be combined with UVIS measurements to provide information on latitudinal, local time, and possible temporal changes in Titan atmospheric parameters. Of particular importance to the mission's investigation of Titan's atmosphere will be the correlative analysis of INMS high-altitude data and low-altitude Probe data. Analysis of data acquired in the inner magnetosphere—during the ring overflight and ring plane crossing following Saturn Orbit Insertion and during targeted encounters with the inner moons Enceladus, Dione, and Rhea—will yield species densities as a function of Orbiter position. Iterative reduction with CAPS data will be required to determine ion densities and flows.

Extensive use will be made of models in the INMS investigation, both in operations planning and in the interpretation of INMS data. Models of Titan's upper atmosphere will, for example, provide a global context for data acquired at particular local times or locations. In turn, data acquired during the tour—e.g., ion and neutral altitude profiles at Titan at different local times, latitudes, and ram angles—can be used to refine existing models and to develop three-dimensional models of the Titan upper atmosphere. Such three-dimensional models can then be incorporated in global MHD modeling studies of Titan's interaction with the external plasma flow (such as will be conducted as part of the Cassini interdisciplinary science investigation of plasma environment of Saturn's magnetosphere). Models to be used during the INMS investigation will be based on models already developed (or under development) by the INMS Science Team Members and others. These models are listed in Table X.

INMS data analysis will be coordinated with the analysis of complementary data from other Cassini experiments to ensure the maximum scientific yield from the investigation (cf. Sections 1.1.4 and 1.2.3). Data sets from other Cassini experiments relevant to the INMS investigation include: (1) reduced RSS radio occultation profiles of Titan and Saturn; (2) digitized cut-off frequencies of the Saturn Electrostatic Discharges from the RPWS investigation; (3) ion and electron distribution function data from CAPS in the ring ionosphere, from the Titan interaction region, from

TABLE X
Models available for use in the INMS investigation.

Model	Reference
Titan neutral atmosphere	Yung <i>et al.</i> (1984), Yung (1987), Toublanc <i>et al.</i> (1995), Lara <i>et al.</i> (1996)
Titan thermal structure	Yelle (1990)
Titan ionosphere	Fox and Yelle (1997), Cravens <i>et al.</i> (1997), Keller <i>et al.</i> (1998)
Titan ionospheric dynamics	Cravens <i>et al.</i> (1998), Ledvina and Cravens (1998)
Titan TGCM	Müller-Wodarg <i>et al.</i> (2001)
Ring atmosphere/ionosphere	Wilson and Waite (1989)*, Ip (1984; 1995)
Icy satellite tori/neutral cloud	To be produced by R.E. Johnson of the CAPS team (cf. Johnson <i>et al.</i> , 1989)/(Ip, 1997)
Saturn atmosphere/ionosphere	Waite (1981)*
Saturn TGCM	To be adapted from Jupiter TGCM being developed under Planetary Atmospheres NRA

*To be updated.

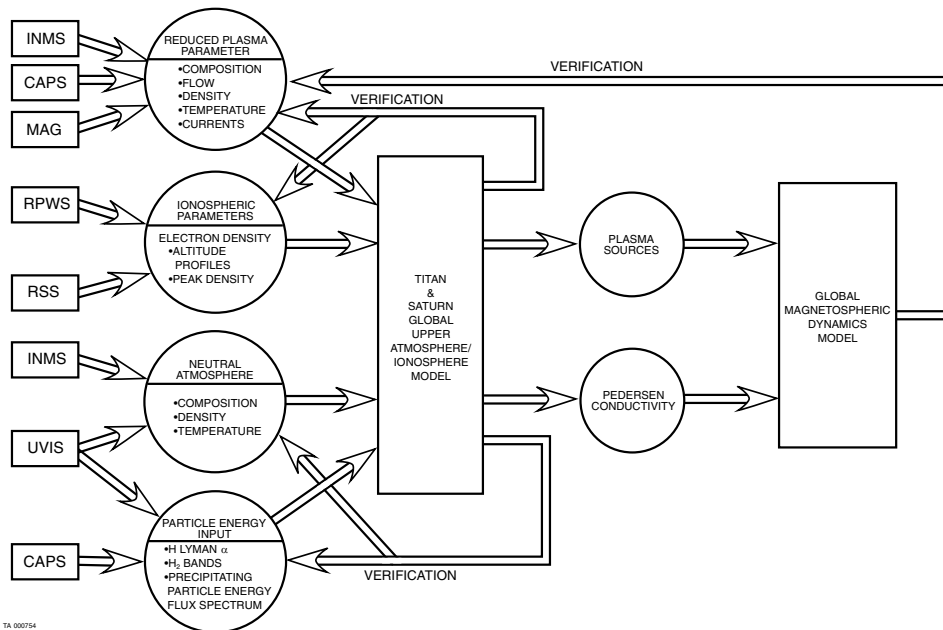


Figure 47. As illustrated in this schematic, INMS data will be integrated with the results of other Cassini experiments to address the science objectives of the Magnetosphere and Plasma Science (MAPS) working group. The working group was formed to coordinate the Cassini investigations relating to magnetospheric and plasma physical processes in the Saturn system, including two interdisciplinary theoretical investigations (Plasma Circulation and Magnetosphere–Ionosphere Coupling and Plasma Environment in Saturn’s Magnetosphere). Modeling studies will play a crucial role in the interpretation of INMS data and in achieving the MAPS science goals.

icy satellite/magnetosphere interaction regions, and in Saturn's magnetosphere; (4) reduced UVIS data on the composition and energetics of the Titan and Saturn upper atmospheres; (5) VIMS data on stratospheric structure and composition; (6) Probe data on neutral composition, aerosol formation, atmospheric dynamics, and radiative transfer in Titan's lower atmosphere; (7) MIMI images of neutral tori; and (8) MAG data. The data from other Cassini experiments will be accessed via the SOPC and will be used as inputs to models and INMS reduction routines with the agreement and collaboration of the responsible Principal Investigators.

The schematic in Figure 47 illustrates how INMS data will be used together with data from other experiments and theoretical models to address key mission science objectives—in this case, those of the Magnetosphere and Plasma Science (MAPS) Working Group.

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