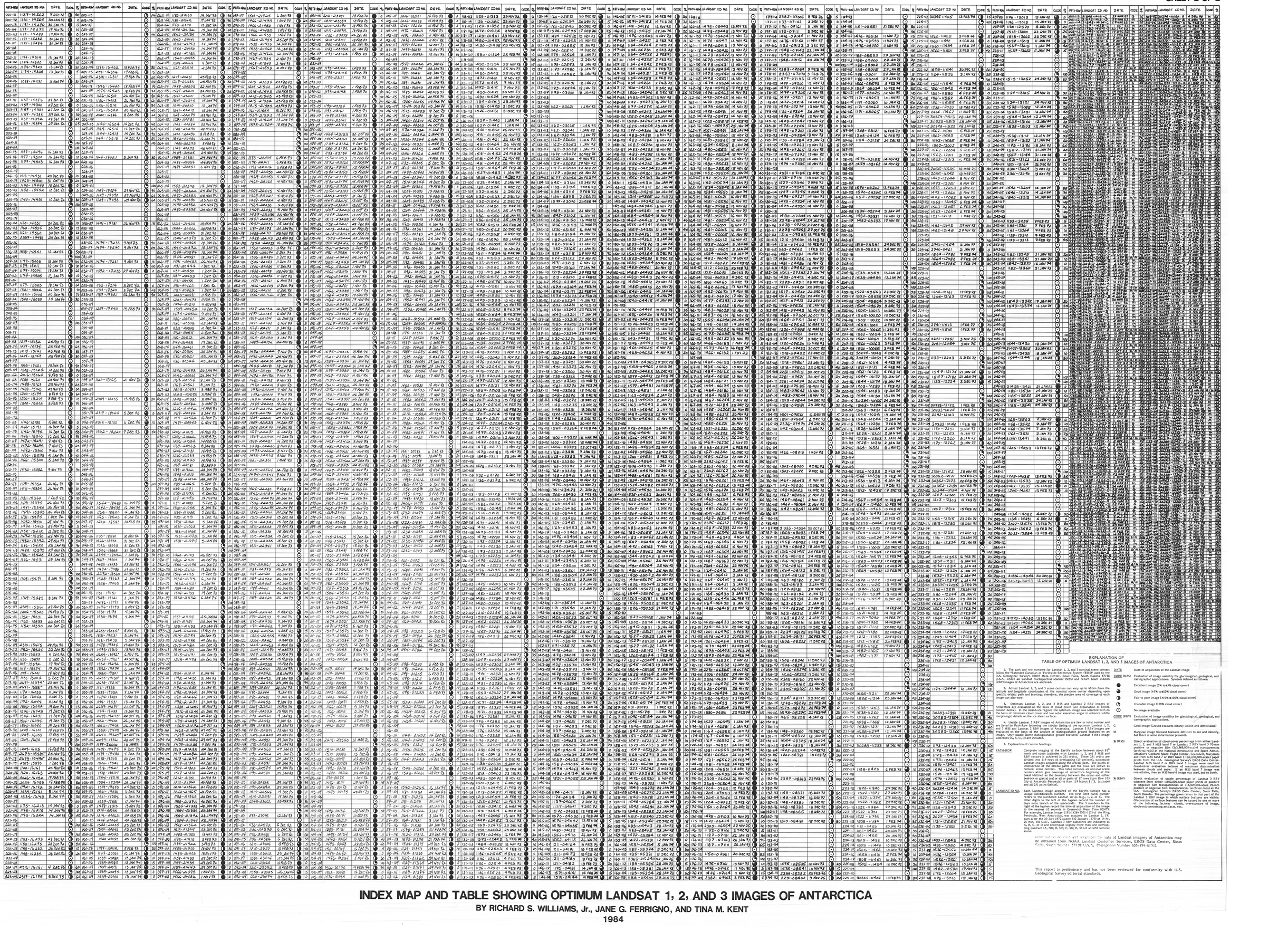
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

TABLE OF OPTIMUM LANDSAT 1,2,AND 3 IMAGES

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SHEET 2 OF 2



INDEX MAP AND TABLE SHOWING OPTIMUM LANDSAT 1, 2, AND 3 IMAGES OF ANTARCTICA

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1984

EXPLANATION OF TABLE OF OPTIMUM LANDSAT 1, 2, AND 3 IMAGES OF ANTARCTICA

1. The path and row numbers for Landsat 1, 2, and 3 nominal scene centers are listed, in that order, under the heading PATH-ROW. The Landsat 1, 2, and 3 scenes are those acquired by the Landsat multispectral scanner (MSS) and return beam vidicon (RBV) cameras. The paths are numbered sequentially from 1 to 251 in a southeasterly direction from the beginning of each satellite's orbital coverage. The rows are numbered sequentially from 1 to 119 in a southerly direction from the northernmost point of each path. Each path-row combination is unique for each satellite. Path-row numbers are given for all scenes that have any land area in the Antarctic region, as defined by the limits of the Antarctic Treaty (south of 60° S. latitude).

2. Actual Landsat 1, 2, and 3 scene centers can vary up to 40 km from the latitude and longitude coordinates of the nominal scene center depending upon specific orbital path and framing; therefore, the precise area of coverage of each image can also vary.

3. Optimum Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS and Landsat 2 RBV images of Antarctica are evaluated on the basis of the following four explanation of CODE column headers. In the mountain regions, the optimum images are selected both on the basis of minimum cloud cover and low solar elevation angle to enhance subtle morphologic details on the ice sheet surface.

4. Usable Landsat 3 RBV images of Antarctica are few in total number and are rated in the following table only as to their cloud-cover amount. Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS and Landsat 2 RBV images of Antarctica. Landsat 3 RBV images are evaluated on the basis of the amount of distinguishable ground features on an image. Only usable Landsat 3 RBV images of Antarctica, those with ground features (subjectively) equivalent to Landsat 3 RBV image subscenes (A, B, C, D) are included.

5. Explanation of column headings:

PATH-ROW — Complete imaging of the Earth's surface between about 81° north and south latitudes with Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS and RBV sensors is achieved in 251 orbits. These 251 orbits are divided into 119 rows of overlapping (15 percent), successive Landsat images acquired along the orbital paths. The points of intersection of the orbital paths and the rows are known as path-row intersections. The path-row intersections at scene centers which are nearest the Antarctic coastline, lapping at the coast (defined as the boundary between the ocean and either bedrock or glacial ice) or at parts of (if rows from 103 (Isla de Estaticia Peninsula) to Row 119 (about 81°S. latitude) are listed in the following table.

LANDSAT ID NO. — Each Landsat image acquired of the Earth's surface has a unique identification number. The first (left) hand number refers to the numbered Landsat series (e.g., 1, 2, or 3). The other digits to the right of the hyphen record the number of days since launch of the spacecraft. The 3 numbers to the right of the decimal point indicate the time of scene center (GMT) to the nearest 10 seconds in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). For example, Landsat image 1191-16244 (001-112) of the King Peninsula, Row 112, was acquired on December 1, 1972 (1 day after the 23 July 1972 launch (30 January 1973) at 16 hr, 24 min, 44s GMT. Landsat 3 RBV subscenes are indicated as A, B, C, or D and encompass slightly more than one-overlap (15 percent) of Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS nominal scenes.

DATE — Date of acquisition of the Landsat image

CODE (MSS) — Evaluation of image quality for glaciological, geological, and cartographic applications. Symbols defined as follows:

- Excellent image (0% to 6% cloud cover)
- Good image (10% to 30% cloud cover)
- Fair to poor image (40% to 100% cloud cover)
- Unusable image (100% cloud cover)
- No image available

CODE (RBV) — Evaluation of image usability for glaciological, geological, and cartographic applications:

- G — Good image (Ground features clearly visible and identifiable)
- M — Marginal image (Ground features difficult to see and identify, but there is some information present).
- % (MSS) — Direct evaluation of cloud-cover percentage from either Landsat 1, 2, and 3 MSS band 7 or Landsat 2 RBV band 2 70-mm positive transparencies (archival) at 1:1,000,000 scale. Percentages (archival) obtained at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, and from MSS bands 7 and RBV band 2 (1:1,000,000 scale) film prints from the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center, Landsat MSS band 7 or RBV band 2 images were used for cloud-cover evaluation because of maximum discrimination between land and water. Where cloud cover is present, but unevaluables, then an MSS band 4 image was used, and so forth.
- % (RBV) — Direct evaluation of usable percentage of Landsat 3 RBV subscene from either 1:500,000-scale paper prints or positive or negative film transparencies at 1:3,500,000-scale. The positive or negative film transparencies (archival) exist at the U.S. Geological Survey's EROS Data Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The percentage given refers to that part of the Landsat 3 RBV image in which surface features are visible. Obscuration of surface features can be caused by one or more of the following factors: clouds, overexposure of image, electronic-processing artifacts, etc.

This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with U.S. Geological Survey editorial standards.