

**SOFAR Float Mediterranean Outflow Experiment
Data from the first year, 1984-1985**

by

James F. Price
Theresa K. McKee
James R. Valdes
Philip L. Richardson
Laurence Armi

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543

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Technical Report




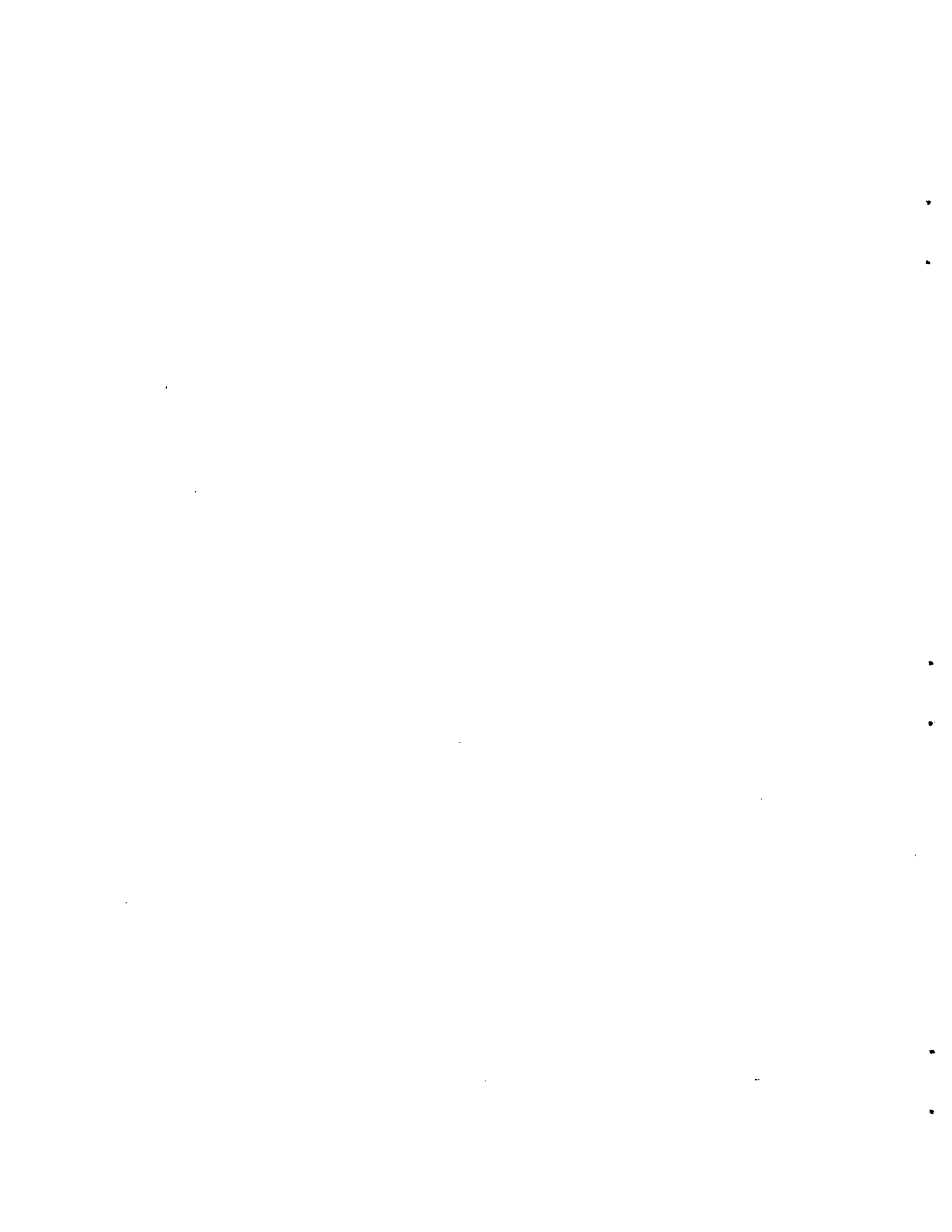
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ABSTRACT

In October, 1984, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution SOFAR float group began a three-year long field program to observe the low frequency currents in the Canary Basin. The principal scientific goal was to learn how advection and diffusion by these currents determine the shape and amplitude of the Mediterranean salt tongue. Fourteen floats were launched at a depth of 1100 m in a cluster centered on 32N, 24W, and seven other floats were launched incoherently along a north/south line from 24N to 37N. At the same time investigators from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of Rhode Island used four other SOFAR floats to tag a submesoscale lens of Mediterranean water. Slightly over twenty years of float trajectories were produced during the first year of the experiment.

In this report we briefly describe the 1984 field operations and show the first year's SOFAR float data. Perhaps the most striking result is that westward flow within the Mediterranean salt tongue was found to be confined to a rather narrow jet (roughly 150 km in meridional extent) which had a mean speed of roughly 2 cm s^{-1} . To the north or south of this jet the mean flow was much weaker and eastward. This suggests that currents associated with the salt tongue itself (rather than the gyre scale circulation) may be most important for determining the salt distribution.

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I. Introduction

The large-scale salinity distribution at thermocline depths of the North Atlantic is dominated by a tongue of salty water projecting westward from Gibraltar toward Bermuda (Worthington, 1976). This salinity anomaly originates in the Mediterranean Sea where there is an excess of evaporation over precipitation and outflows through the Strait of Gibraltar. The bulk of the salt tongue extends westward across the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. However, some highly saline water can be traced into the Norwegian-Greenland Sea (Reid, 1979), where wintertime cooling and the relatively high salinity produce a dense water mass which is a major component of the North Atlantic Deep Water and can be traced into the South Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans (Reid and Lynn, 1971). The Mediterranean outflow is thus a prominent feature of the North Atlantic, and any circulation scheme must be consistent with its existence. Worthington (1976) assumes that advection dominates tracer distributions (in essence that a Peclet number, $Pe = VL/K$, is large, where V is the mean velocity, L is the characteristic length scale of the tracer field, and K is the effective diffusivity) and thus concludes that a basin-wide anticyclonic gyre cannot co-exist with the Mediterranean salt tongue. Worthington's subtropical gyre is thereby confined exclusively to the west of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Reid (1978, 1979) also implicitly assumes a very large Pe in his interpretation of tracer fields. Based upon the mean geostrophic shear, he infers a relatively complex circulation pattern which advects the outflow northward along the European coast to about 42N and then westward with the return flow of the North Atlantic Current.

A central problem in physical oceanography is to understand the circulation and mixing that produce such large scale tracer distributions. In 1984 we began a field experiment to observe the long-term displacement of Mediterranean water by tracking neutrally buoyant SOFAR floats which were set within the tongue. Our working hypothesis was that the salt anomaly could be viewed as a passive tracer imposed as a boundary condition on the eastern side of the basin (implicit also in the classical interpretations noted above). However, as we will see below, the trajectories suggest that westward advection occurs within a comparatively narrow jet which may have its origin in the outflow itself, rather than in the subtropical gyre.

II. 1984 Field Experiment

The purpose of our program was to answer the following specific questions on the general circulation and eddy field of the North Atlantic eastern basin:

- (a) What is the thermocline-depth mean flow in the vicinity of the Mediterranean salt tongue? How does this observed mean flow fit with contemporary circulation schemes?
- (b) What is the magnitude and isotropy of horizontal eddy diffusion in the eastern basin? What is the advective/diffusive balance of the salt tongue?
- (c) What are the horizontal and temporal scales of the mesoscale eddy field? Is there a regional (1000 km scale) variation of first order eddy properties?

The field program which intended to answer these questions was made up of four elements: (a) deployment of a coherent float cluster, (b) deployment of additional floats over a wider geographical area, (c) deployment of a single current meter mooring, and (d) hydrographic stations.

(a) Float Deployments

A cluster of fourteen floats was launched near 32N, 24W with nearest neighbors at about 20 km initial spacing (Figure 1, Table 1). While this cluster remains partially intact, it will provide estimates of horizontal eddy scales and dynamic balances. The rate of breakup of this coherent cluster will provide two particle diffusion estimates. During the second and third years, this cluster will be spread over a region of order 300 km diameter, and its data used to estimate regional variations of first order properties (mean velocity, eddy kinetic energy, spectra, etc.).

Seven floats were deployed along a line extending from 37N, 21W, to 24N, 27W in order to explore some circulation features in the eastern basin such as the Azores front and the North Equatorial Current. An additional four floats were launched by L. Armi and T. Rossby within a Meddy (submesoscale eddies of Mediterranean water discussed further below).

MEDITERRANEAN OUTFLOW EXPERIMENT 1984 – 1985

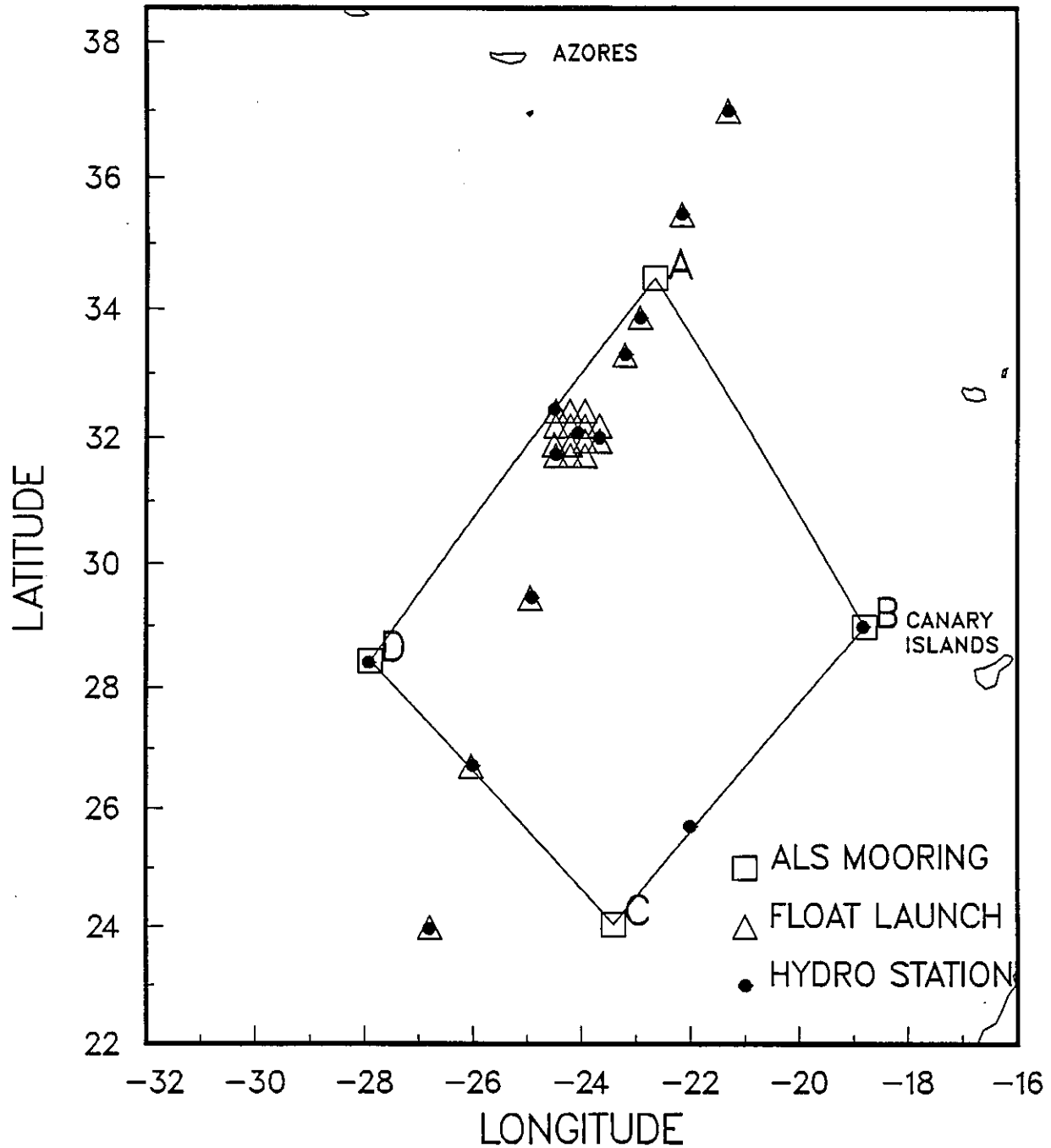


Figure 1: Autonomous listening station, float launch, and hydrographic station positions from the October, 1984, field experiment.

TABLE 1

LAUNCH INFORMATION AND
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNCH POSITION
AND FIRST TRACKED POSITION

FLOAT	LAUNCH DATE yymmddhh	LAUNCH LAT deg N	LAUNCH LON deg W	DATE OF FIRST POS yymmddhh	FIRST LAT deg N	FIRST LON deg W	POS. DIFF km	LAT DIFF deg	LON DIFF deg	TIME DIFF hr	INITIAL CLOCK ERROR sec
119	84101915	31.97	24.20	84102000	31.98	24.23	3	-0.01	0.03	9	-0.6
120	84102017	33.30	23.20	84102105	33.26	23.22	5	0.04	0.02	12	0.4
121	84101721	29.46	24.94	84101805	29.52	24.98	8	-0.06	0.04	8	0.2
122	84102004	32.20	24.20	84102015	32.19	24.25	5	0.01	0.05	11	-0.1
123	84102005	32.20	24.47	84102018	32.21	24.54	7	-0.01	0.07	13	-0.3
124	84101914	31.96	24.49	84101917	31.99	24.50	3	-0.03	0.01	3	-0.2
125	84101910	31.73	24.20	84101916	31.74	24.23	3	-0.01	0.03	6	-0.2
126	84101518	23.99	26.78	84101716	23.91	26.83	10	0.08	0.05	46	-0.7
127	84102902	31.96	23.93	84102012	31.95	23.97	4	0.01	0.04	10	0.3
129	84102908	32.43	24.47	84102016	32.43	24.52	5	0.00	0.05	8	-0.4
130	84101911	31.73	24.46	84101914	31.77	24.51	6	-0.04	0.05	3	-0.2
131	84102010	32.43	24.21	84102018	32.43	24.23	2	0.00	0.02	8	-0.3
132	84101611	26.70	26.03	84101707	26.69	26.03	1	0.01	0.00	20	0.4
133	84101907	31.97	23.66	84101912	31.91	23.71	8	0.06	0.05	5	0.6
134	84102206	35.46	22.16	84102207	35.33	22.16	14	0.13	0.00	1	9.0
135	84101902	32.20	23.66	84101906	32.21	23.69	3	-0.01	0.03	4	-0.0
136	84101908	31.74	23.93	84101920	31.75	23.97	4	-0.01	0.04	12	-0.4
137	84102002	32.20	23.94	84102014	32.20	23.97	3	0.00	0.03	12	0.1
138	84102217	37.00	21.31	84102219	36.82	21.31	20	0.18	0.00	2	12.1
139	84102111	33.88	22.92	84102113	33.89	22.93	1	-0.01	0.01	2	0.0
142	84102012	32.43	23.93	84102013	32.43	23.97	4	0.00	0.04	1	-0.3
Average differences.....							5.6	0.02	0.03		

All floats were ballasted for 1100 m, which is near the salinity maximum, and within the sound channel. Most of the floats actually settled slightly deeper than this -- typically about 1200 m, Table 2, -- which is well within the Mediterranean layer. In addition to float position, we obtained temperature and pressure at two-day intervals. From these data we can determine the statistics of isotherm fluctuation, and for the coherent cluster, the horizontal scales of the fluctuations.

These floats proved to be reasonably reliable, showing no early deaths, but six of the twenty-five floats did fail before the end of the first year (Table 3). Of the roughly 8,270 possible float days that could have been realized in the first year, we actually acquired 7,363 float days or about 88%. Note, though, that some floats which worked normally otherwise did not give temperature or pressure telemetry (marked by asterisks in Table 2).

The floats were tracked acoustically by signals received at a net of four Autonomous Listening Stations (ALSs) (Figure 1). The ALSs worked normally, except for a tape drive failure at ALS C, which caused the loss of data from every second day at that ALS. Aside from that fairly minor problem, the tracking of these floats proceeded very smoothly. The tracking procedures are described in Section III, and plots of each float are in Appendix A. Composite trajectories will be discussed in Section IV below.

(b) Current Meter Mooring

A single current meter mooring was set in the center of the cluster near 32N, 24W. The current meters were at depths of 500 m, 1000 m, 1100 m, (for some redundancy), and at 3000 m. The 1100 m current meter is measuring conductivity as well as temperature and pressure. This will give an independent estimate of the horizontal Reynolds salt flux, $\underline{V}'S'$, which together with an estimate of $\nabla^2 S$ (historical plus that from Armi and Rossby) may be used to infer K . The current meter data will provide the only long-term measure of vertical structure in the experiment and will be an important complement to the float measurements which show only the horizontal structure. The mooring and instruments were designed for a two-year-long deployment, one of the first attempted by the Woods Hole Buoy Group, and will be recovered in October, 1986.

TABLE 2

VALUES OF TEMPERATURE, PRESSURE, SALINITY, AND DENSITY
CORRESPONDING TO INITIAL FLOAT POSITIONS

FLOAT	INIT. TEMP.	AVG. TEMP.	INIT. PRES.	AVG. PRES.	NEAREST STATION	SALINITY	POTENTIAL DENSITY ANOMALY	IN SITU DENSITY ANOMALY
	deg C	deg C	dbar	dbar		ppt	kg/m	kg/m
119	7.50	7.8	1207	1134	9	35.510	27.766	33.198
120	8.40	8.2	1112*	-----	11	35.549	27.663	32.648
121	7.40	8.0	1240	1140	6	35.388	27.686	33.268
122	7.63	7.5	1262*	-----	9	35.526	27.760	33.433
123	7.70	8.2	1251	1142	9-10	35.521	27.746	33.123
124	8.40	7.7	1116*	-----	8-9	35.750	27.683	32.683
125	8.25	8.5	1128*	-----	8	35.542	27.681	32.741
126	6.07*	---	1284	1187	3	35.172	27.699	33.514
127	8.46	8.3	1159	1104	9	35.599	27.692	32.885
129	8.44	8.5	1171	1106	10	35.559	27.664	32.911
130	7.59	8.1	1263	1189	8	35.485	27.734	33.413
131	7.96	8.1	1200	1114	10	35.532	27.717	33.105
132	6.75	6.9	1242	1167	4	35.244	27.666	33.273
133	8.61	8.6	1114	1101	7	35.628	27.691	32.681
134	7.98	7.4	1209*	-----	13	35.572	27.744	33.172
135	7.87	7.7	1234	1220	7	35.570	27.757	33.301
136	8.26	8.4	1168	1112	8-9	35.573	27.697	32.941
137	8.28	8.6	1226	1147	9	35.591	27.714	33.209
138	9.96	9.8	1225	1166	14	35.826	27.643	33.072
139	7.88	8.6	1244	1157	12	35.543	27.738	33.323
142	7.96	8.3	1206*	-----	9	35.566	27.743	33.153

Salinity and density were interpolated to the float initial depth using measurements from nearest hydrographic stations.

* These values were interpolated using temperature or pressure from the float and measurements from the nearest hydrographic station.

TABLE 3

FLOAT FILE STATISTICS

FLOAT	START DATE yyymmdd	START LAT deg N	POSITION LON deg W	STOP DATE yyymmdd	STOP LAT deg N	POSITION LON deg W	NO. DAYS	COMMENT
119	841022	31.98	24.28	850902	31.02	28.10	316	died 9/2
120A	841022	33.22	23.21	850823	31.56	28.90	306	
120B	850906	31.68	29.33	850919	31.63	29.63	14	
121	841020	29.52	24.98	850915	29.55	24.37	331	
122	841022	32.19	24.30	850221	32.13	26.84	123	died 2/2
123	841022	32.21	24.58	850919	32.12	25.83	333	
124	841021	31.97	24.54	850918	30.45	24.20	333	
125	841021	31.74	24.26	850513	31.37	26.96	205	died 5/1
126	841018	23.91	26.83	850919	24.67	25.45	337	
127	841022	31.94	24.01	850919	32.55	28.19	333	
129	841022	32.43	24.56	850915	29.20	26.40	329	
130	841021	31.76	24.53	850918	31.97	26.03	333	
131	841022	32.42	24.27	850915	29.93	23.76	329	
132	841019	26.69	26.05	850915	26.22	24.15	332	
133A	841021	31.90	23.73	850724	32.65	29.78	277	
133B	850809	32.55	29.87	850914	31.68	30.90	37	
134	841024	35.28	22.20	850323	35.75	20.51	151	died 3/2
135	841021	32.17	23.72	850918	30.88	24.67	333	
136	841021	31.73	23.97	850915	30.60	24.38	330	
137	841022	32.20	24.00	850916	31.17	31.26	330	
138	841024	36.82	21.31	850914	37.31	21.27	326	
139	841023	33.85	22.91	850919	31.72	20.96	332	
142	841022	32.40	24.00	850410	31.59	26.37	171	died 4/1
Meddy Floats								
128	841016	32.03	22.13	850919	26.87	24.05	339	
140	841018	32.01	21.94	850211	30.09	22.13	117	died 2/1
141	841018	31.93	22.15	850915	28.66	22.95	333	
143	841018	31.90	22.20	850915	26.92	24.01	333	

(c) Hydrographic Section

Nansen bottle casts with twelve bottles per cast were made along the north/south line where the single floats were launched (Table 4). Parameters measured were temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and silica concentration (Figure 2). The Salinometer was standardized using standard water batch number P-92. XBTs and other hydrographic data also collected during this cruise have been described previously by Kase et al., (1986).

(d) Meddy Program

L. Armi and T. Rossby began a field study of Meddies during the cruise preceding our deployment cruise. They carried out a CTD survey of the central Canary Basin and then launched four SOFAR floats within a single Meddy located near 32N, 21W. One of these floats failed after about four months; two stayed with the Meddy for over seven months; and the fourth float stayed with the Meddy for the full length of the experiment. These floats gave information that allowed Armi and Rossby to return to the Meddy for a second intensive CTD survey in fall 1985. We include plots of the Meddy floats within this report as Appendix B but defer all discussion and interpretation of these data to Armi and Rossby.

(e) French and U.K. Programs

There were two other SOFAR float experiments underway in the region during late 1984 and 1985. A group from Centre Oceanologique Brest, France (A. Colin de Verdiere) was studying flow across the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, and a group from Institution of Oceanographic Sciences, Wormley, England (J. Gould) was observing dispersion by deep currents in the Canary Basin. The C.O.B. and I.O.S. experiments included ALS deployments that complemented our own. We have sent them our ALS data and have recently acquired some of theirs. These additional ALS data will be used in the future for filling in the gaps that arise when floats go behind seamounts to the west of our ALS net.

TABLE 4

ALS MOORING POSITIONS

ALS	LAUNCH DATE yymmdd	LATITUDE deg N	LONGITUDE deg W
A	841021	34.490	22.642
B	841013	29.000	18.787
C	841014	24.038	23.406
D	841017	28.434	27.889

HYDROGRAPHIC STATION POSITIONS

STATION	DATE yymmdd	LATITUDE deg N	LONGITUDE deg W
1	841013	29.002	18.825
2	841014	25.702	22.007
3	841015	23.965	26.810
4	841016	26.717	26.002
5	841017	28.413	27.922
6	841017	29.467	24.917
7	841019	32.088	23.666
8	841019	31.747	24.470
9	841019	32.087	24.064
10	841020	32.455	24.500
11	841020	33.308	23.195
12	841021	33.879	22.925
13	841022	35.463	22.157
14	841022	37.000	21.305

SECTION 1

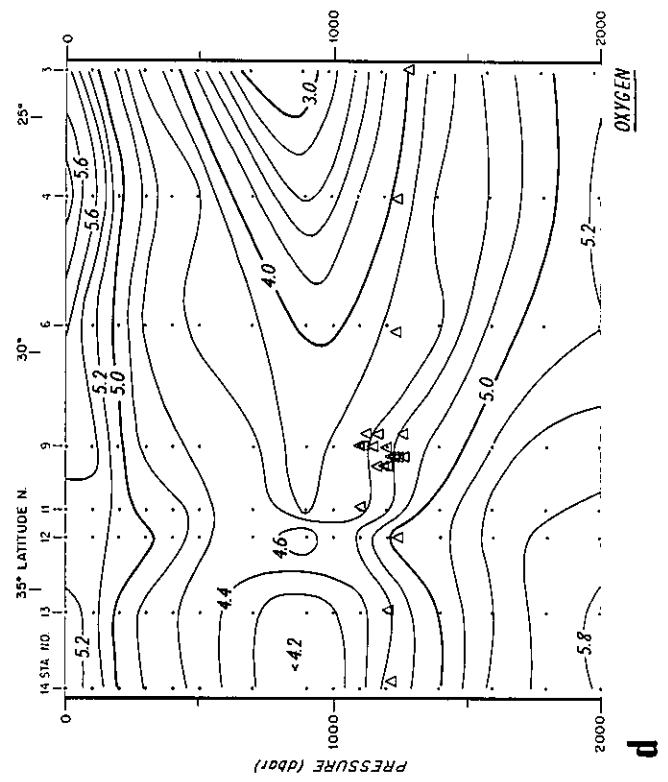
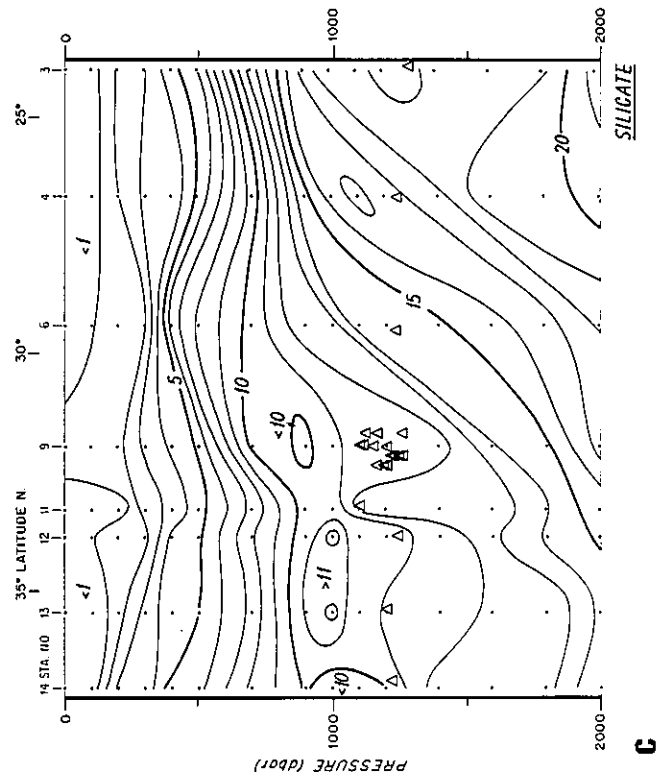
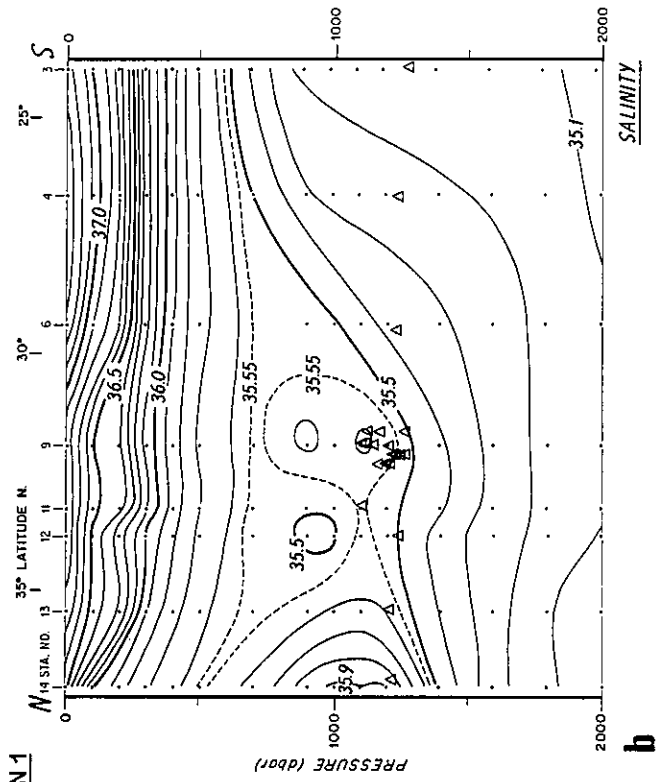
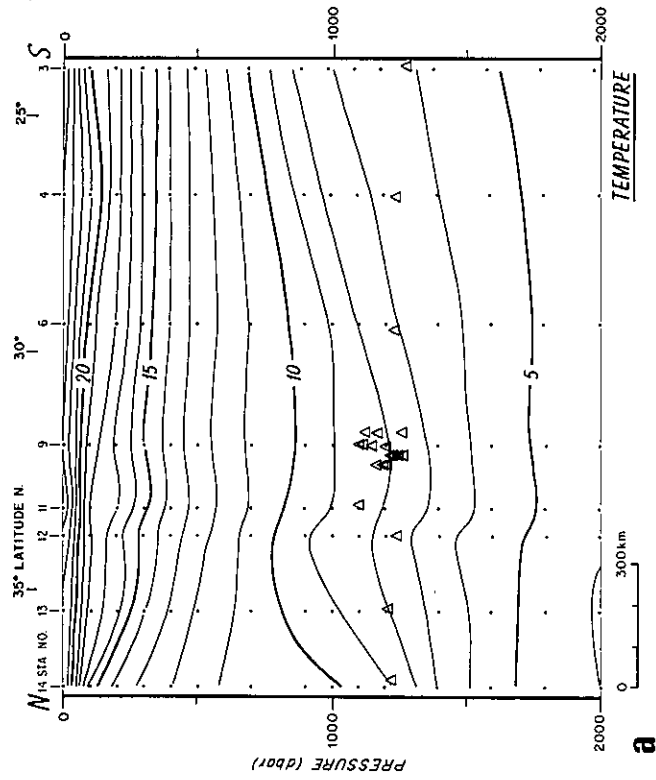


Figure 2: Vertical sections of Nansen bottle data with float launch positions and depths shown as triangles.

III. Data Processing and Float Tracking

A report in preparation by W. B. Owens will describe the float tracking process in detail. Some elements of the final processing phase are described briefly here.

The ALS cassette tapes recovered in October, 1985, containing times of arrivals and telemetry for each of the twenty-five floats, were processed at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in three phases: The first phase converts the raw data into a time series of possible time of arrivals and amplitudes of their correlations for each ten minute interval that the ALSs were in the water. The second phase (float tracking) brings the data through three steps: (1) identification and extraction of the float signals for each ALS; (2) tracking the floats (including estimates of the drift of the SOFAR float clock); and (3) creation of a FLOATER format (McKee, 1986) file for each float containing raw (unsmoothed) positions and telemetry (pressure and temperature). The third phase includes editing, interpolating, filtering, and smoothing the data to produce final float trajectories complete with velocities, temperature, and pressure.

Trajectory and time series plots were inspected for outliers, and the preliminary FLOATER format files were edited where necessary to eliminate bad positions and temperature and pressure values. Listings of direction and speed derived from consecutive positions were used to detect unusually high speeds that might indicate a bad position. First differences between consecutive temperature and pressure values were calculated. Radical changes in temperature that were not accompanied by a similar change in pressure (or vice versa) were presumed to indicate an erroneous value. Temperature and pressure that drifted outside the range of the sensors were also removed from the data and flagged as erroneous. Temperature and pressure values that were not associated with a position were deleted.

Trajectories having gaps of greater than ten days were broken into subfiles and labeled A, B, C, etc. This occurred only in the cases of floats 120 and 133 which moved west of the Cruiser Seamounts and were thus blocked from reception by the ALS net in the Canary Basin (French ALSs then in place on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge may help fill these gaps).

Gaps of less than ten days duration in position, temperature, and pressure were linearly interpolated, producing daily values of temperature and pressure from the bi-daily values recorded.

These interpolated series were then filtered using a five point one-day half-width Gaussian filter. Finally, a cubic spline was fitted to the filtered positions and east and north components of velocity were calculated to coincide with the positions at twenty-four hour intervals.

A float file name is up to six characters long and is made up of three parts:

1. A two letter code to indicate the experiment, in this case, EB (for "Eastern Basin").
2. A one to three digit identifier assigned to the float before its launch.
3. A single letter suffix (A, B, C, ...Z) that was added to the file name if the float record was broken into sections due to gaps in the data. An example is float name EB120B -- Experiment Code EB, Float 120, Section B.

As we noted earlier, the tracking of these floats proceeded very smoothly since the ALS records were nearly error free and because the floats were generally heard well by at least three ALSs. The accuracy of the tracking may be judged by comparing the known launch position with the first position calculated by tracking. The difference between these two positions as well as the time difference between launch and the first position are listed in Table 1. The position difference is generally small, typically 5 km, which is more than adequate accuracy for most purposes. The two exceptions are floats 134 and 137 which were the two northern-most floats on the line. These floats were within a very strong Mediterranean water anomaly which would be expected to decrease the effective sound speed at which signals traveled from the floats to the ALSs. During the tracking done here we used a constant (for all floats) sound speed, which may need to be adjusted in the future.

IV. Discussion

A composite of trajectories from the twenty-one floats launched to investigate the large scale flow (not the Meddy floats) is shown in Figure 3, and the underlying topography is shown in Figure 4. The topography near the launch site in the Canary Basin was quite smooth and probably not an important factor for most of the data set. However, some of the floats which went farthest west do appear to have looped around the Cruiser Seamounts at around 32N, 29W, and there are gaps in the trajectories on account of acoustic shadowing by these features.

The trajectories show two kinds of displacement -- a low frequency "sloshing" or eddy motion, as well as an annual mean.

(a) Eddy Motion

The trajectories show a strongly polarized low frequency "eddy" motion which is almost entirely zonal. The amplitude in velocity is roughly 5 cm s^{-1} at the northern end of the line (37N), and somewhat less, roughly 2 cm s^{-1} , at the southern end of the line (24N). The dominant period is roughly four months, and the total range of displacement is about 300 km in the north and 150 km in the south (nearly all zonal).

(b) Annual Mean Velocity

The annual mean velocities are also almost entirely zonal and are shown in Figure 5. These data show a striking and unexpected result. The westward mean flow within the Mediterranean water appears to have been confined to a rather narrow jet centered on 32N which happens to coincide with the cluster of floats. The largest mean flow was about 2.5 cm s^{-1} , but a typical mean velocity within the cluster was about 1.5 cm s^{-1} . At all other float locations outside the cluster, the mean flow was eastward and very weak, typically 0.5 cm s^{-1} if distinguishable from zero. These first year data thus suggest a narrow (roughly 150 km wide) westward flowing jet of Mediterranean water with a broad and weak return flow to the north and south.

MEDITERRANEAN OUTFLOW FLOATS 1984 - 1985

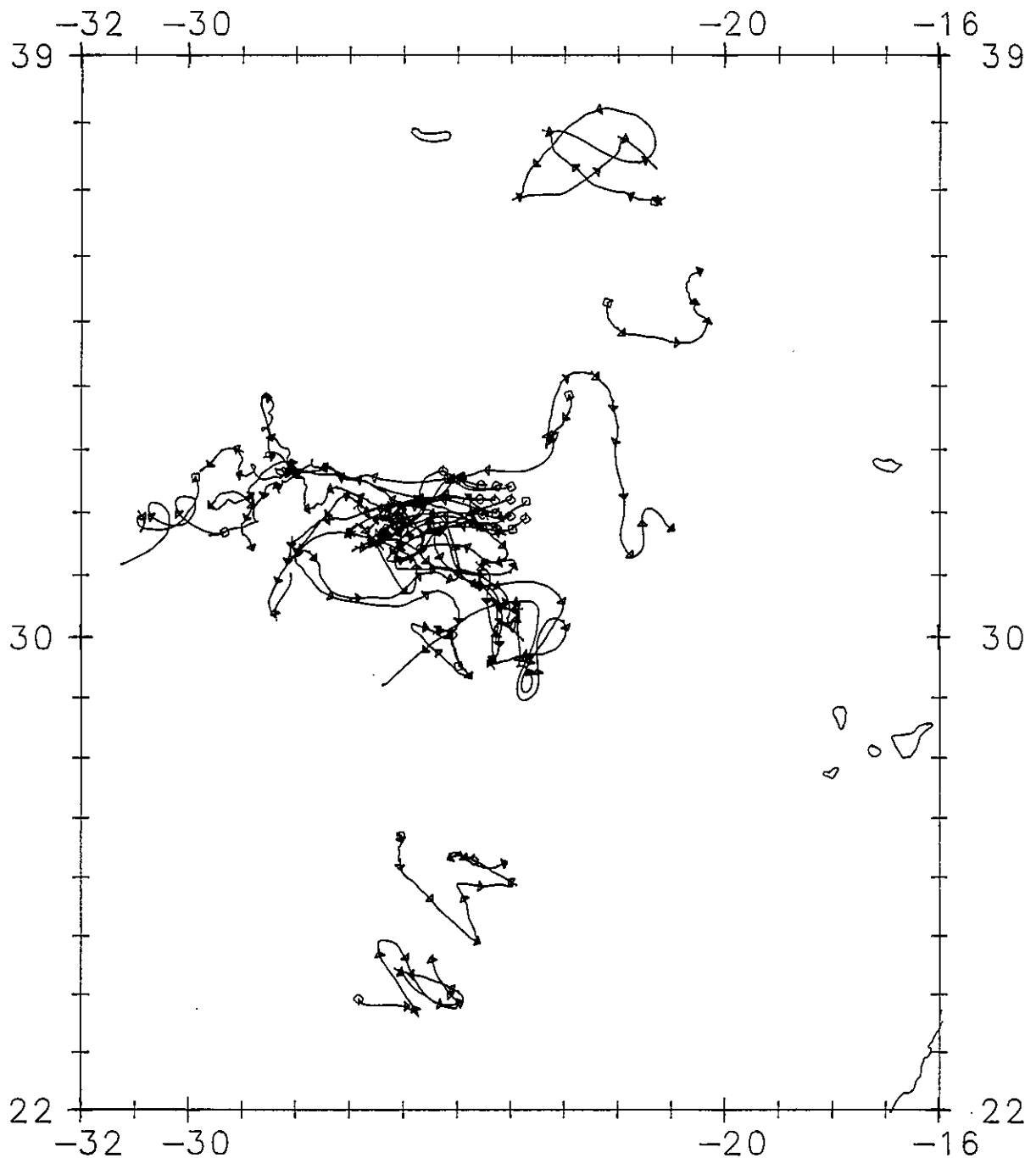


Figure 3: A composite of the trajectories of the twenty-one floats launched to examine the large scale circulation and eddy field. Arrow heads appear at thirty-day intervals along the trajectories. Note the near zonal, low frequency sloshing suggestive of a wavelike eddy motion and especially the westward displacement of floats launched near 32N.

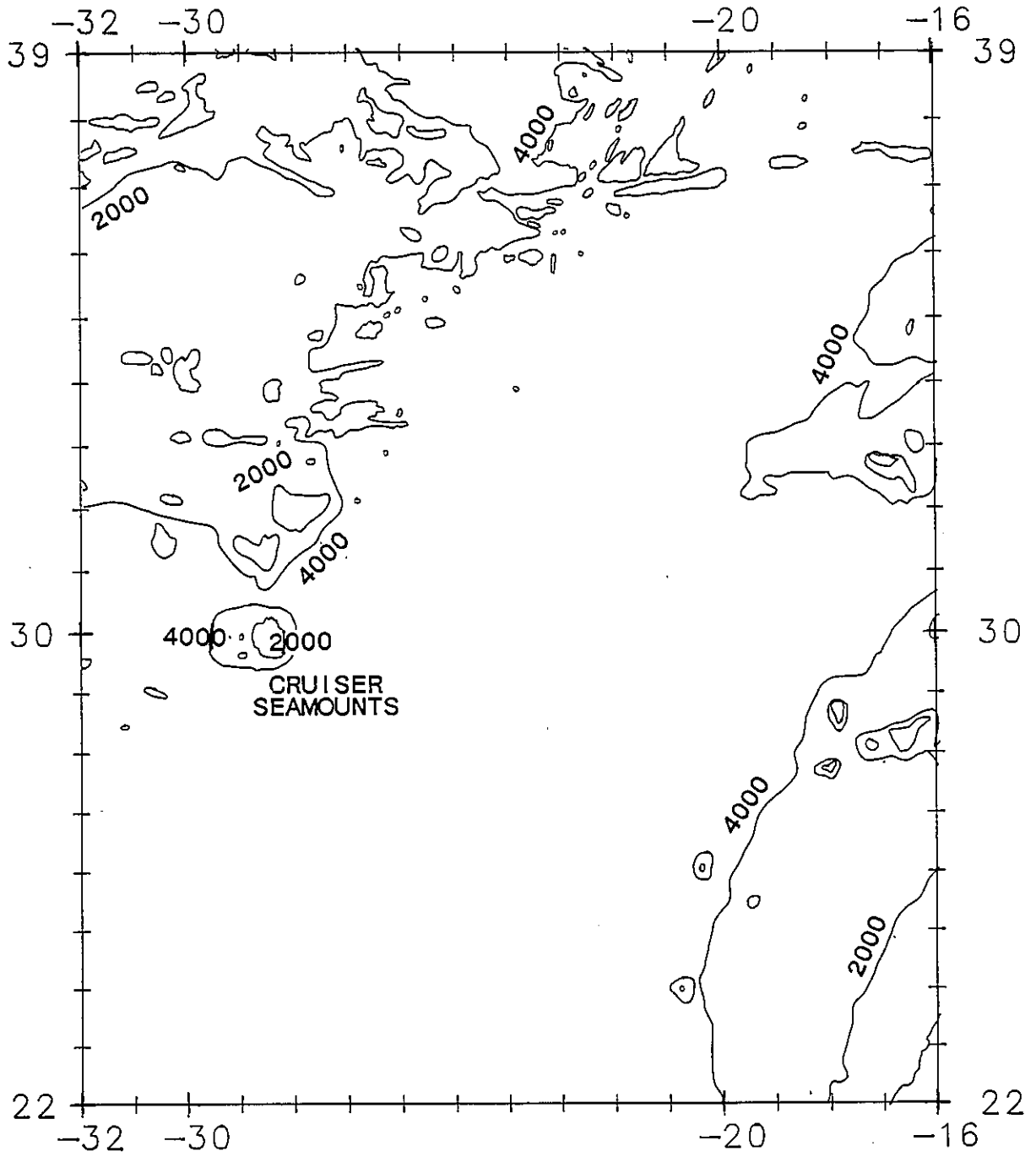
2000 m and 4000 m CONTOURS

Figure 4: Bathymetry in the experimental area.

MEDITERRANEAN OUTFLOW FLOATS 1984 - 1985

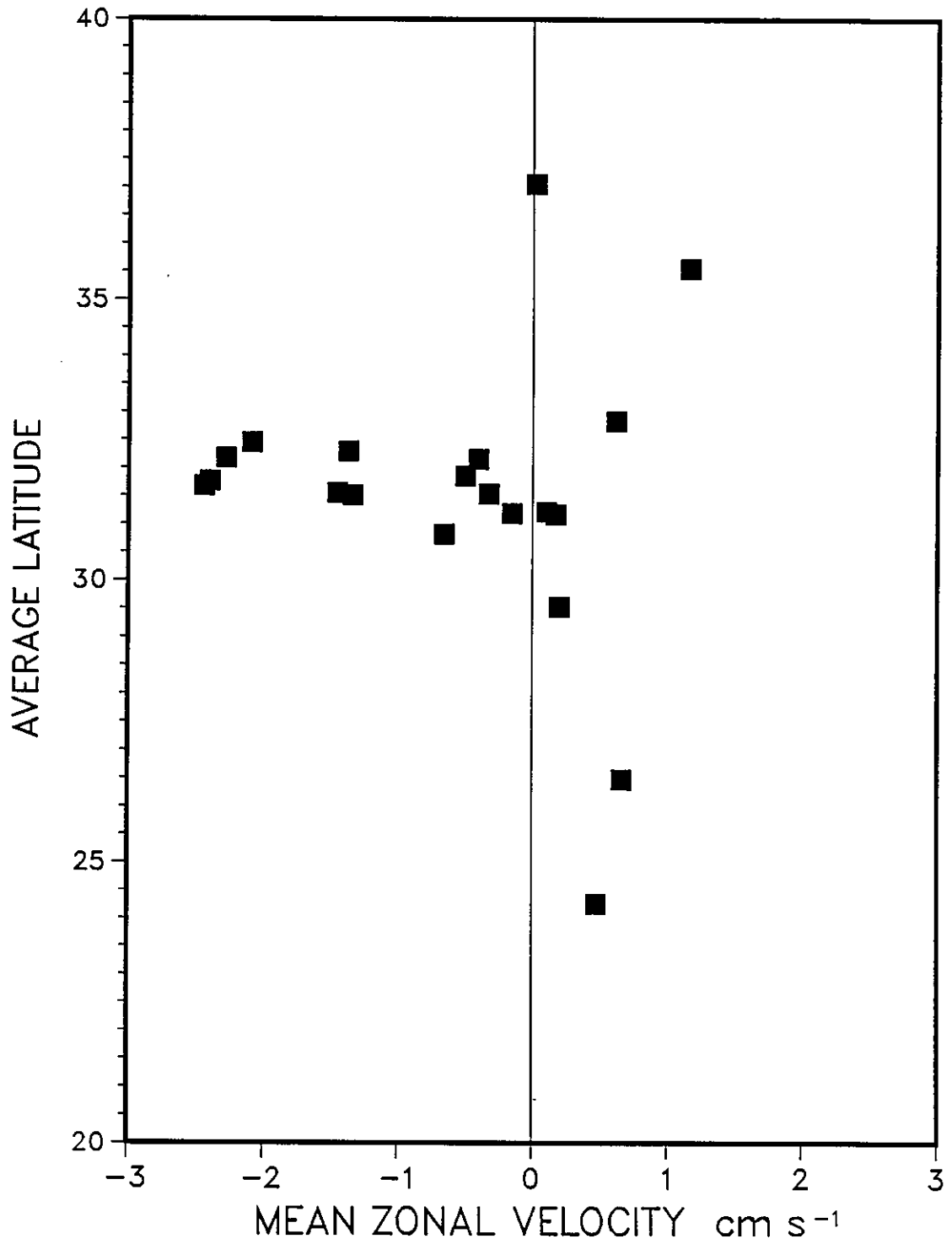


Figure 5: Annual mean zonal velocity from October, 1984, to October, 1985.

The hydrographic data (Figure 6) show that the jet is coincident with a comparatively weak positive salinity anomaly. The salinity anomaly is the difference in salinity at a given potential temperature between the average observed salinity and the standard potential temperature salinity relation for the western North Atlantic given by Iselin (1936) for temperature $.4-18^{\circ}\text{C}$, and by Fuglister (personal communication) for temperatures warmer than 18°C . This same anomaly was found with much the same amplitude and scale farther to the west during a CTD survey by German investigators aboard Meteor (Kase et al., 1986). Note that there was a much stronger anomaly present at the northern end of the line, but the floats that were launched in that region showed no evidence of westward mean flow, and in fact one of them moved eastward. It appears that the weaker salinity anomaly at 32N was the main core of westward flowing Mediterranean water during this year. The small meridional scale of this flow suggests that the jet may be a product of the outflow itself, rather than a feature of the gyre scale general circulation of the eastern North Atlantic. Thus our working hypothesis - that the Mediterranean salt tongue is a passive tracer - appears to be inappropriate. Instead, it seems that the salt tongue may have important internal dynamics, and that a source, like the Mediterranean outflow, may produce its own circulation well within the Atlantic basin.

SALINITY ANOMALY FROM HYDROGRAPHIC STATION DATA

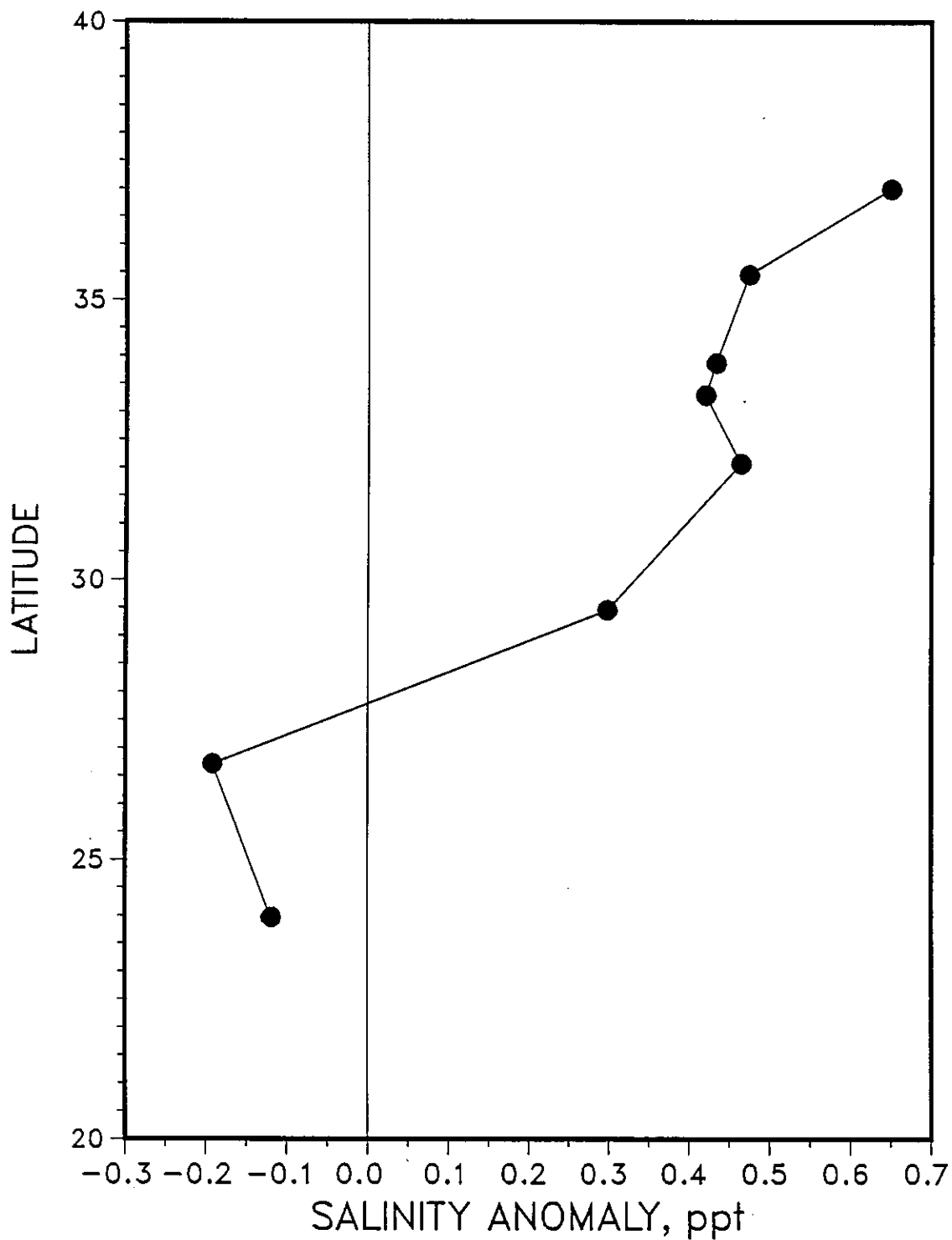


Figure 6: Salinity anomaly at the depth of the floats along the line. Westward advection appears to be active only within the comparatively small anomaly at 32N. The stronger anomaly north of 35N does not appear to be spreading west at this time.

Acknowledgments

This research was made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation (OCE82-14066 and OCE86-00055). Principal investigators were J. F. Price and P. L. Richardson.

The floats were tracked by M. E. Zemanovic at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution using a system developed by W. B. Owens. Technical support was performed by R. D. Tavares and B. J. Guest. E. E. Deary typed the manuscript.

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- Worthington, L. V., 1976. On the North Atlantic circulation. The Johns Hopkins Oceanographic Studies, 6, 110 pp.

APPENDIX A

Plots of Individual Floats

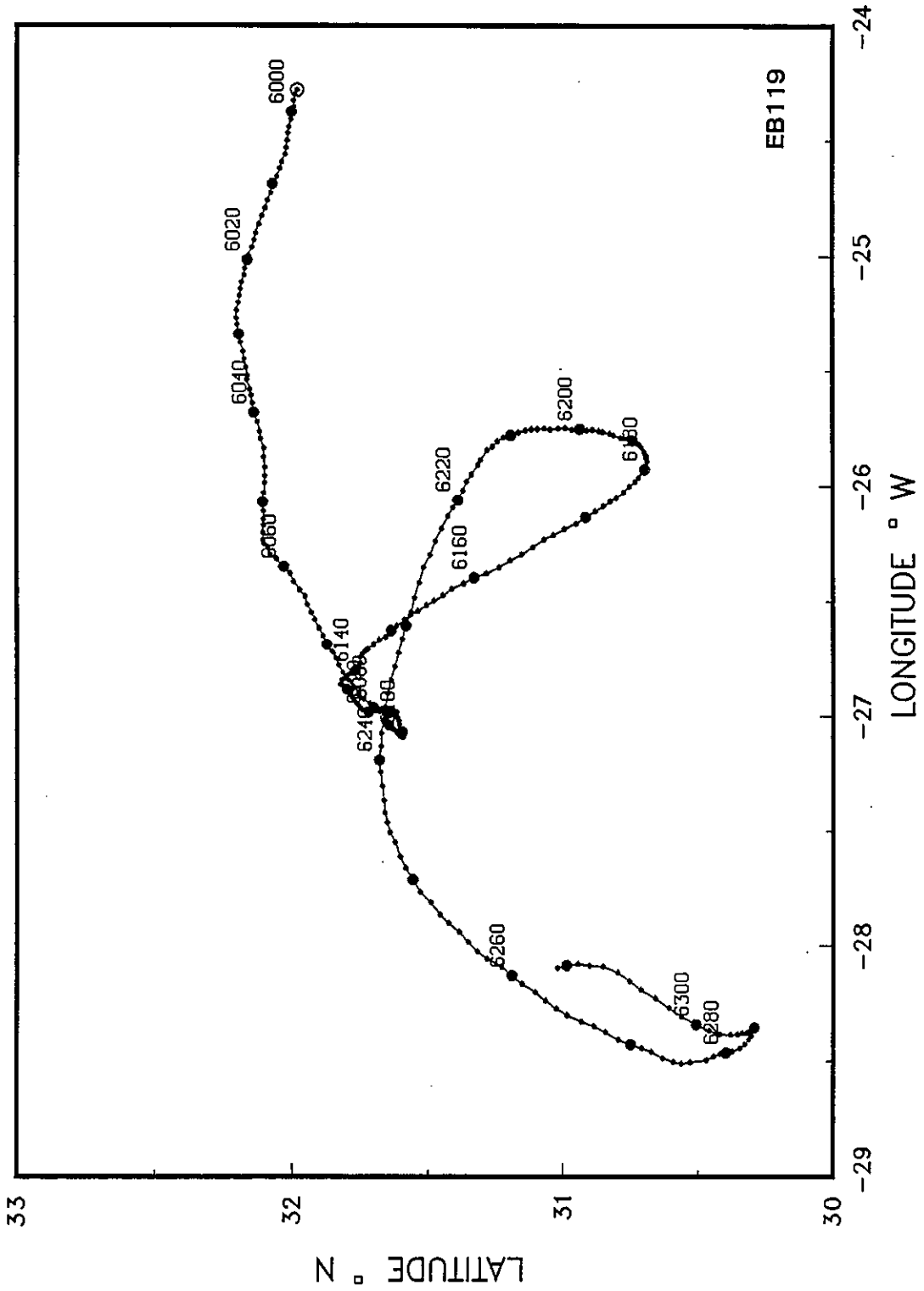
A trajectory plot and a group of time series plots are presented for each float. The order of the time series plots is stick diagram, u and v velocity component overplot, and temperature and pressure overplot (where data are available). Plots were created for this section with the objective of best presenting the data for a particular float; thus the scales vary. For the time series plots, a common scale has been used for the time axis, but the y axis varies for each float according to the minima and maxima of the variable plotted. Two hundred days of data were plotted on each page. Float files of lengths greater than 200 days were continued on subsequent pages. The time axis is annotated with the last four digits of the Julian day and with the calendar months. Refer to the conversion chart (Appendix C) to convert Julian day to calendar day. Data points are marked daily.

A trajectory for each float is plotted on a mercator projection. For the longitude axis, negative numbers indicate longitudes west of the Greenwich Meridian. Along the trajectories, open circles denote the first float position, small dots mark the daily positions, large dots the tenth day, and every twentieth day is annotated with the last four digits of the Julian date.

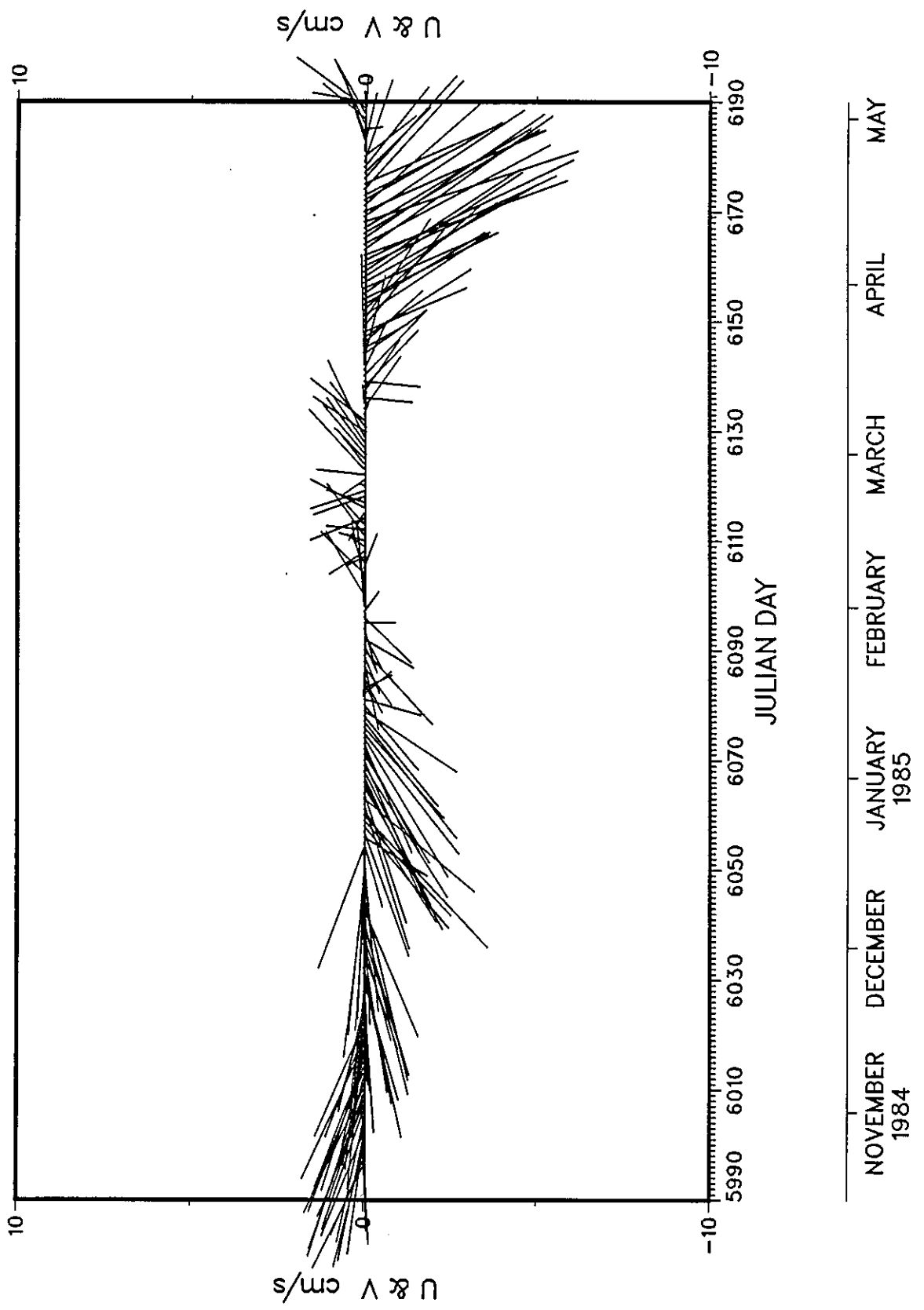
Stick plots show velocity for every day of data. The stick length indicates the speed in cm s^{-1} , and the angle the stick makes with the horizontal axis represents the direction. North is toward the top of the page. The east and north components of velocity can be seen separately in overplots plotted to the same scale as the stick plots.

Temperature and pressure are overplotted, temperature on a centigrade scale marked on the left y axis, pressure in decibars marked on the right y axis. Pressure is plotted with deeper values at the bottom of the scale.

EASTERN BASIN 119

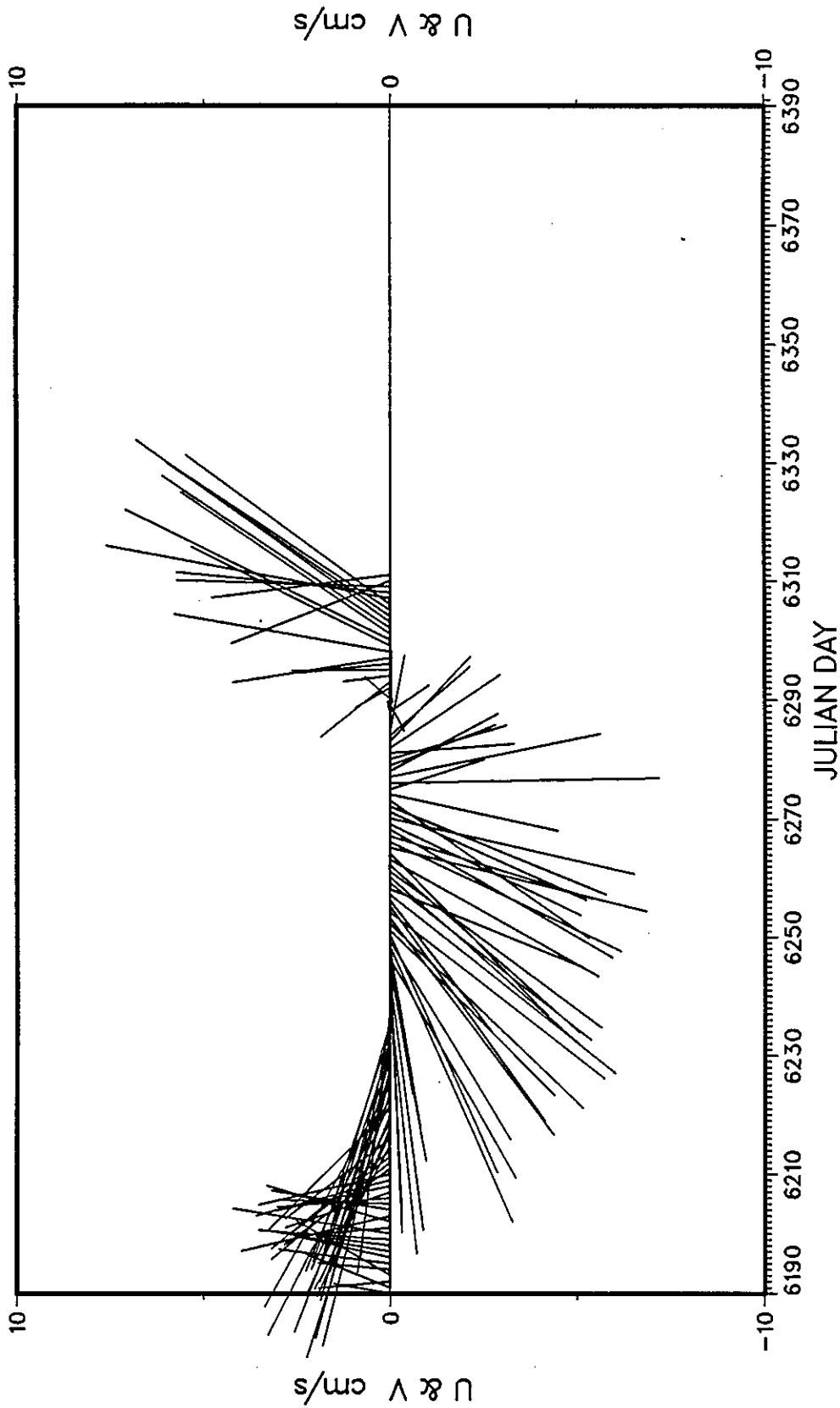


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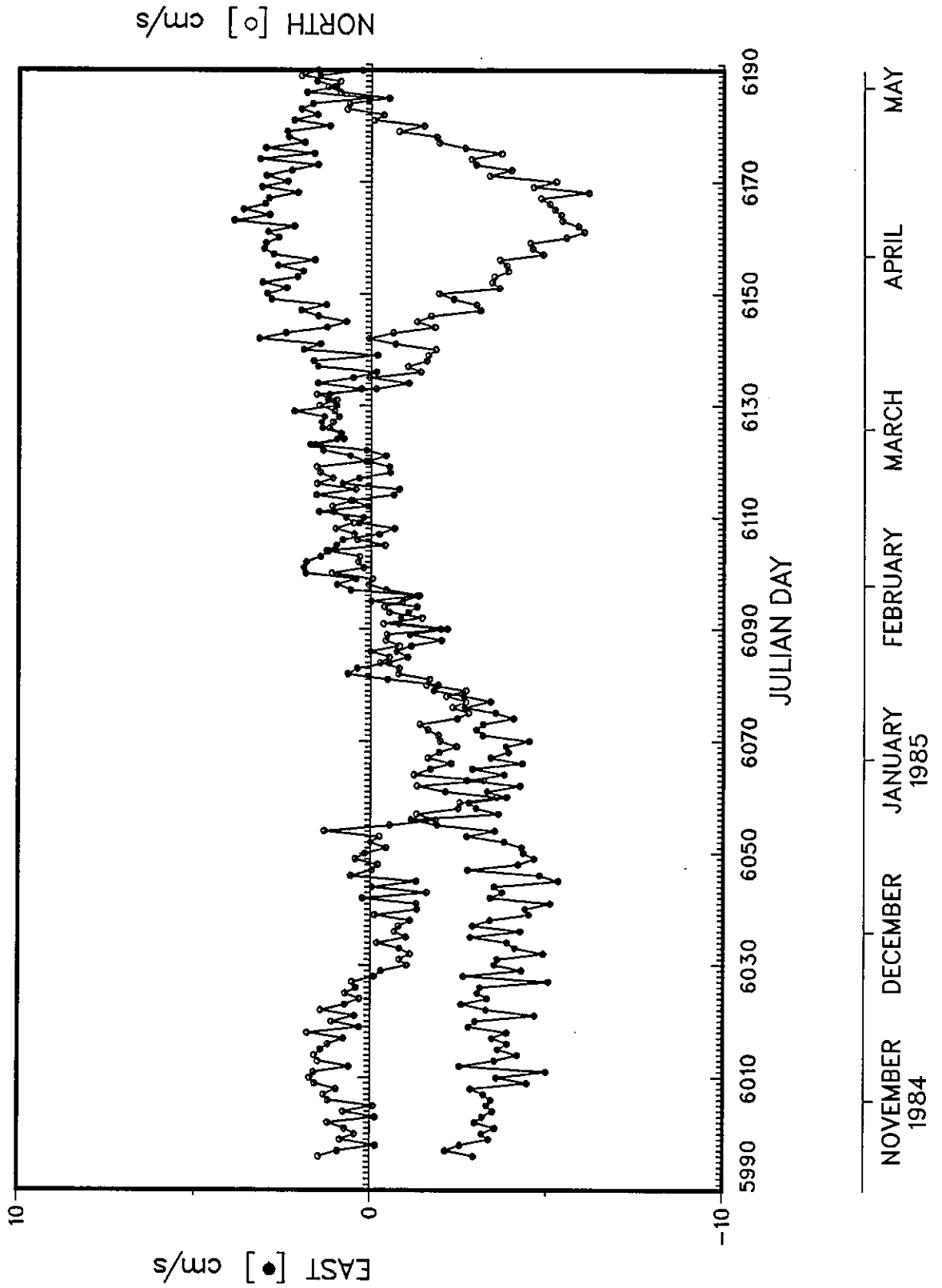
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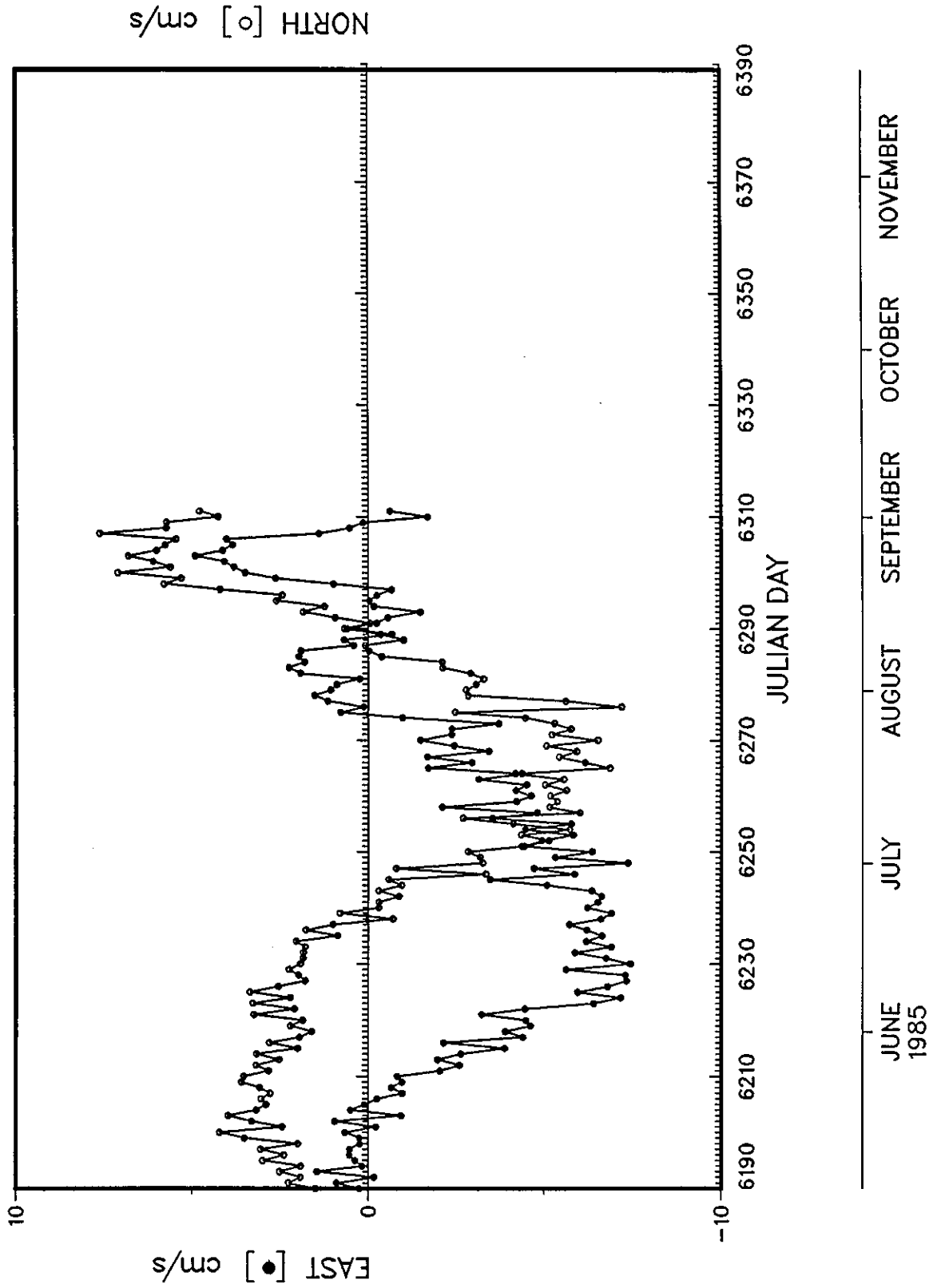


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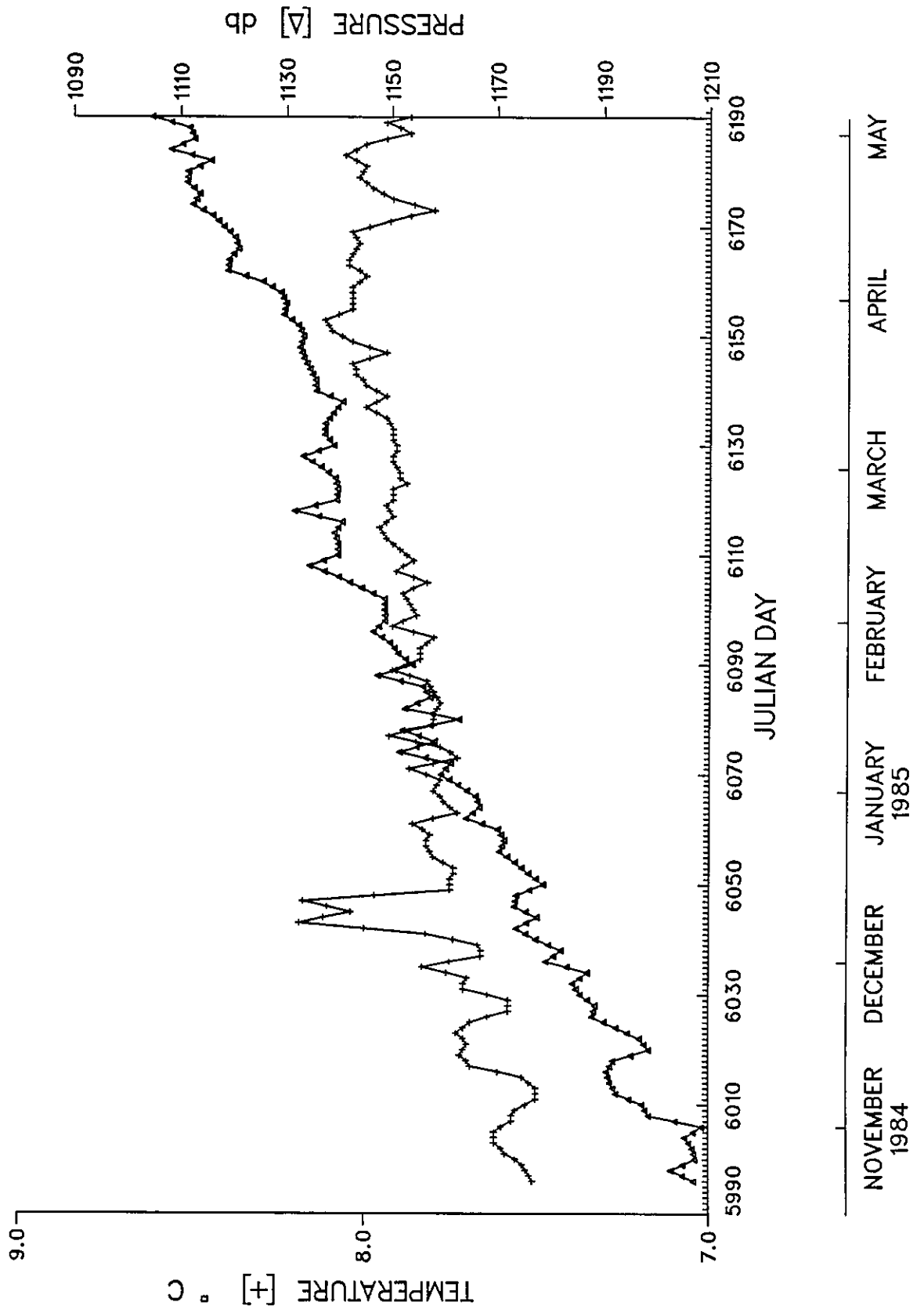
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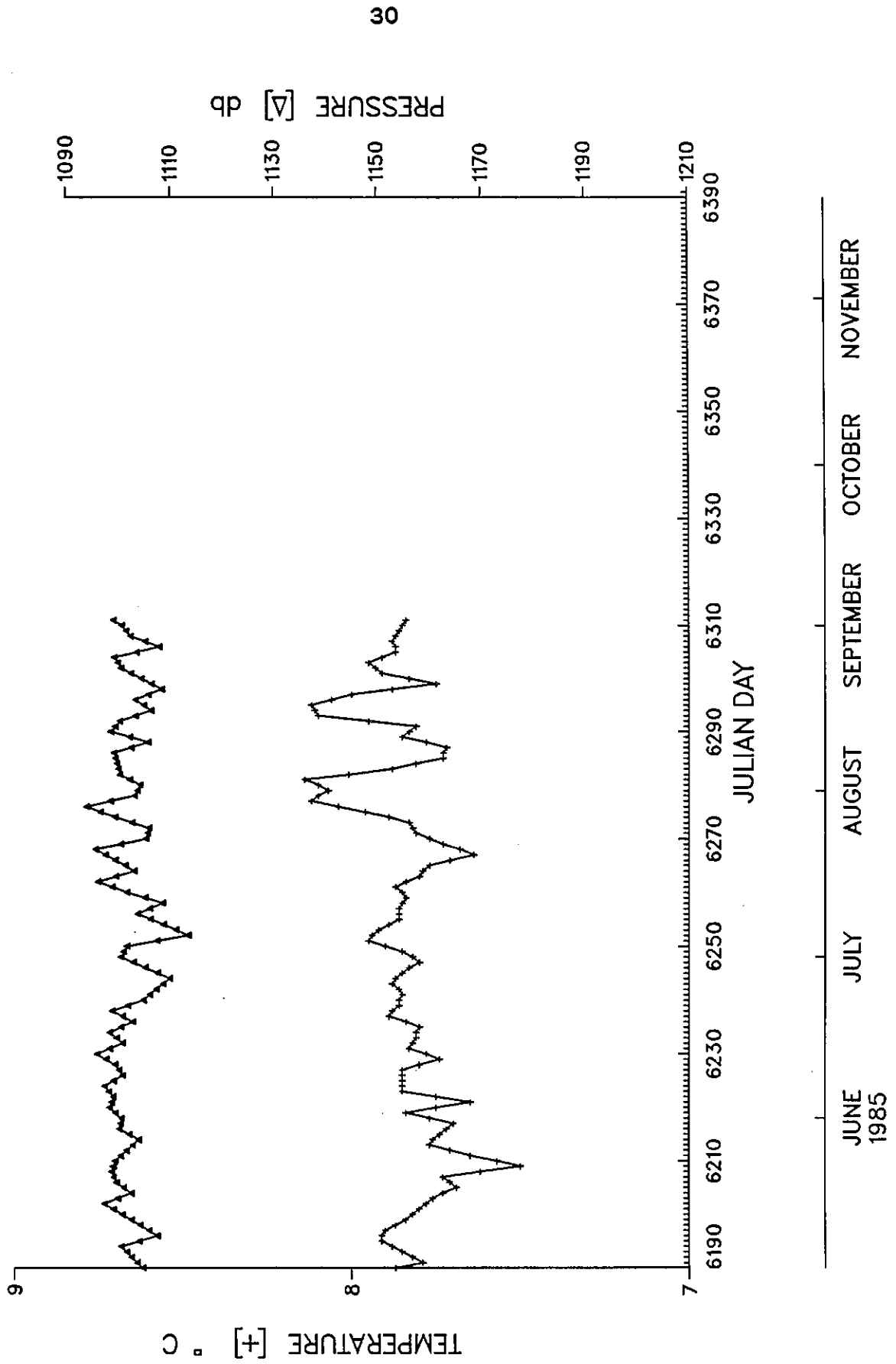
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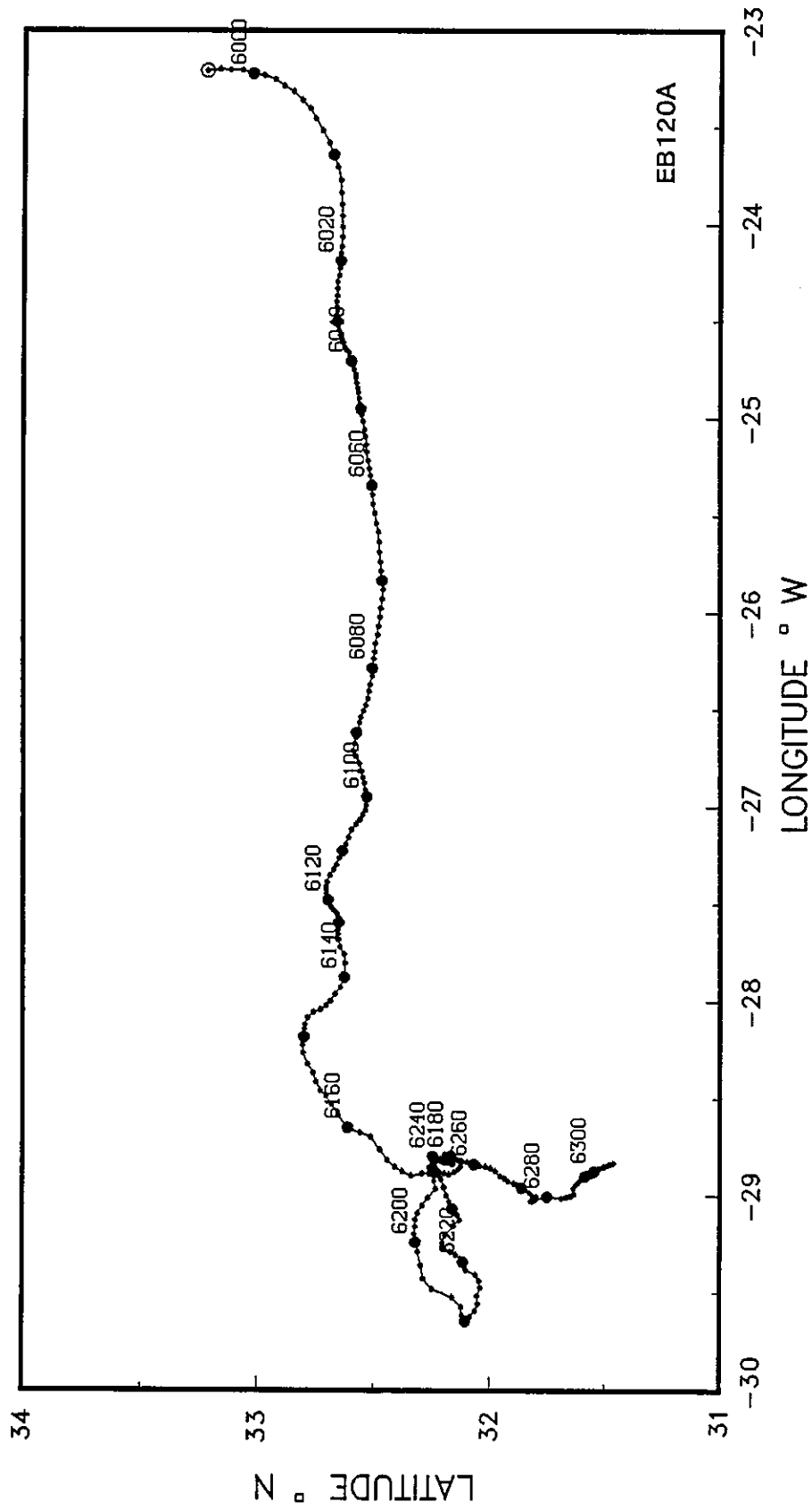
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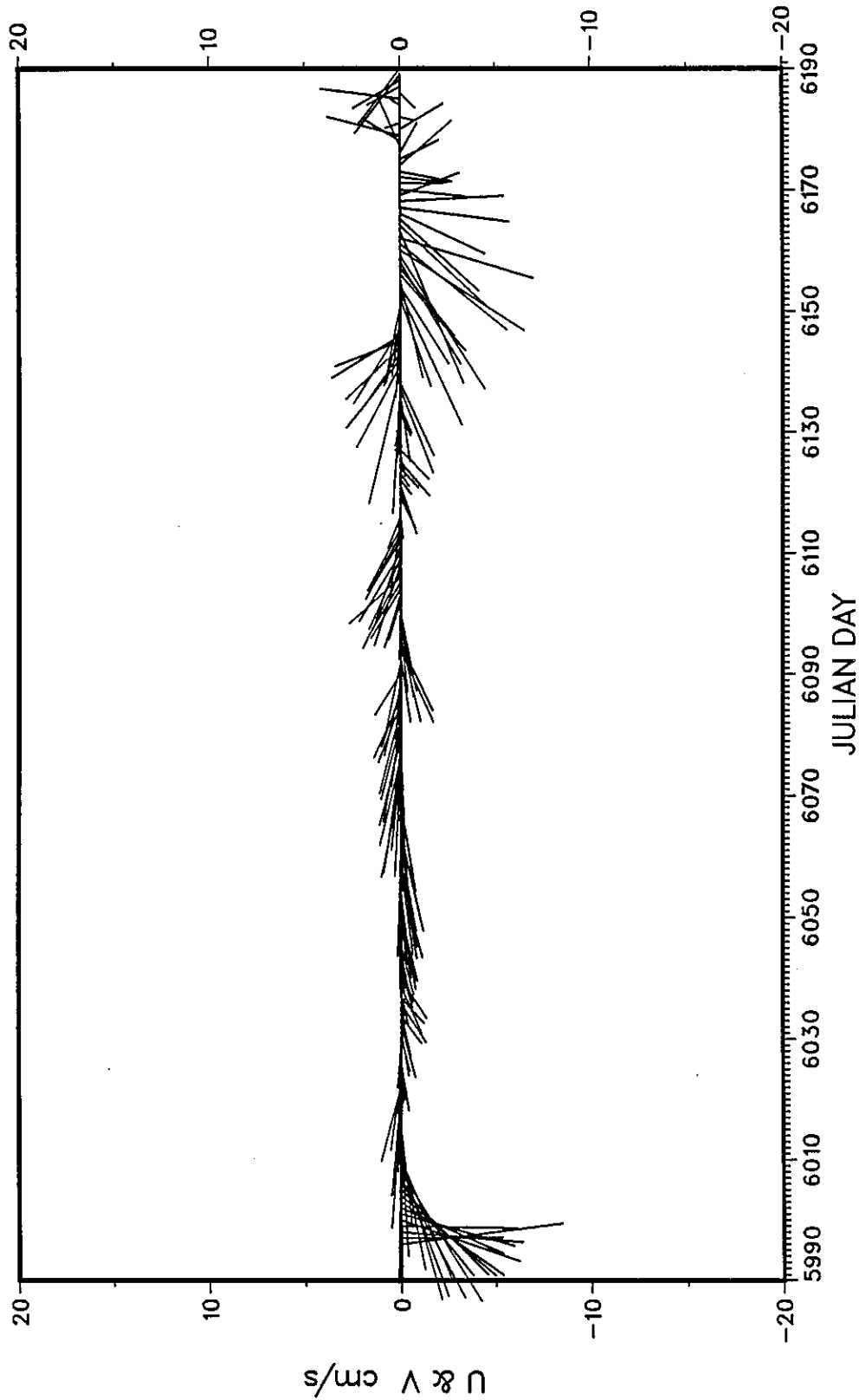
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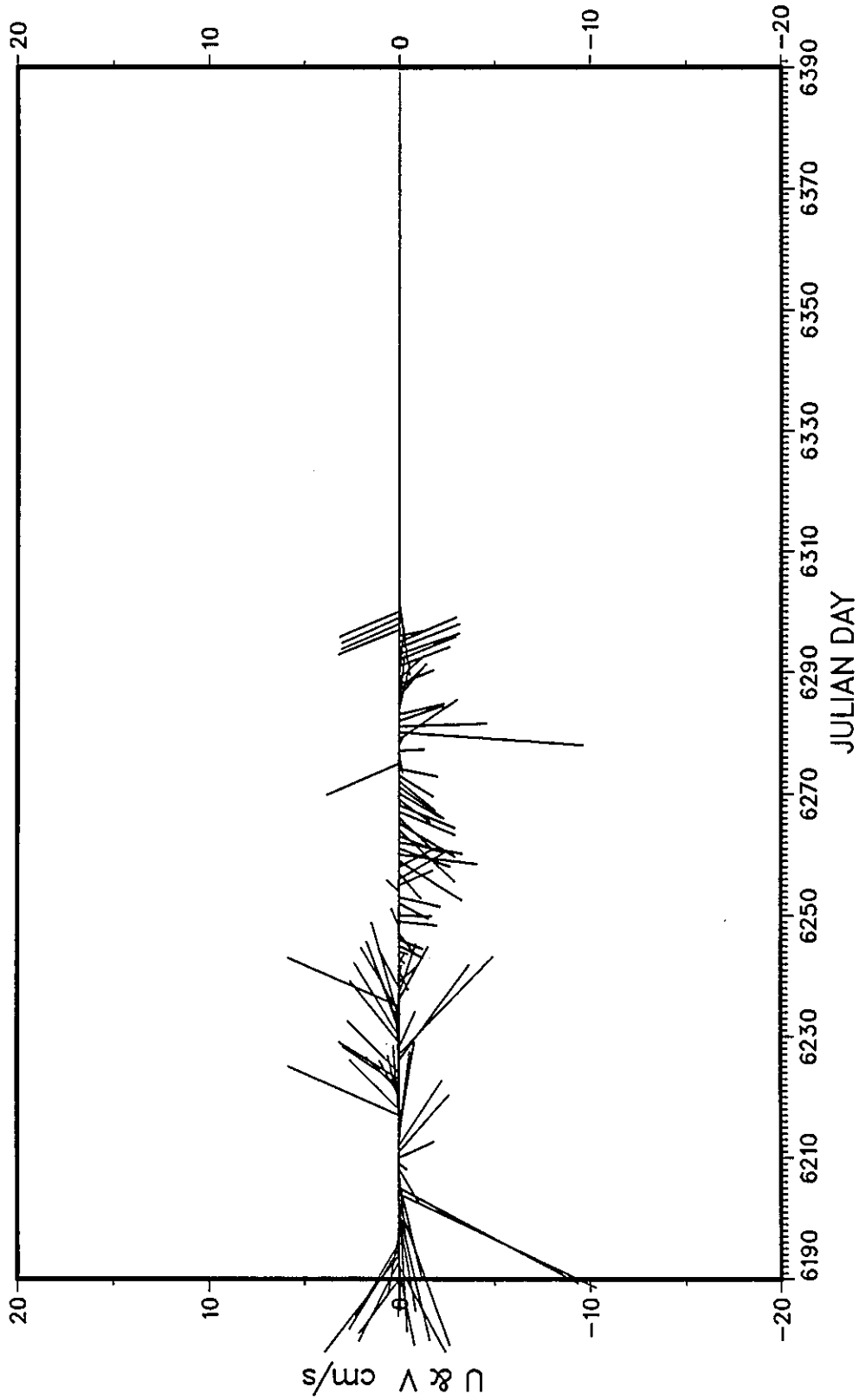


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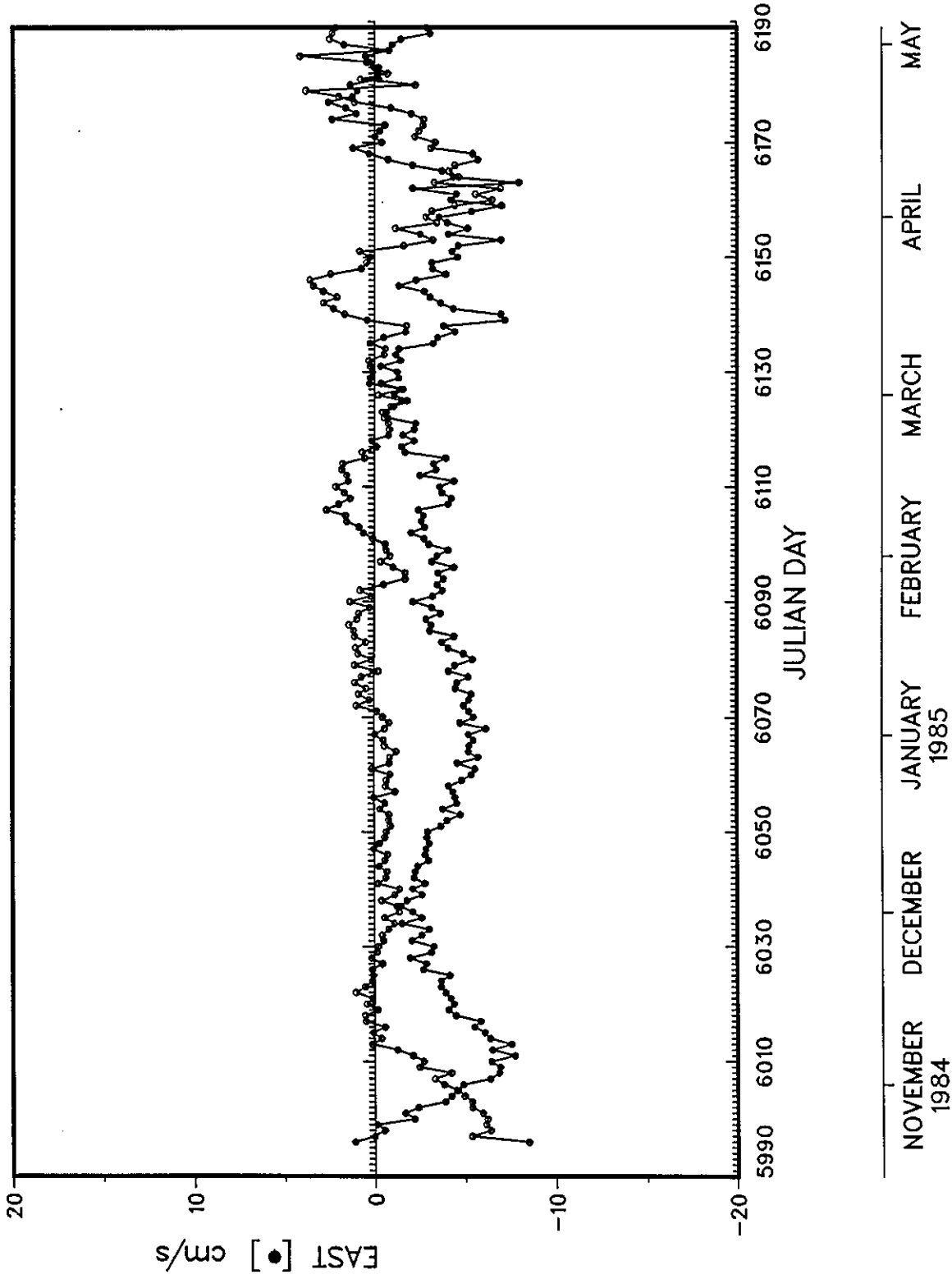
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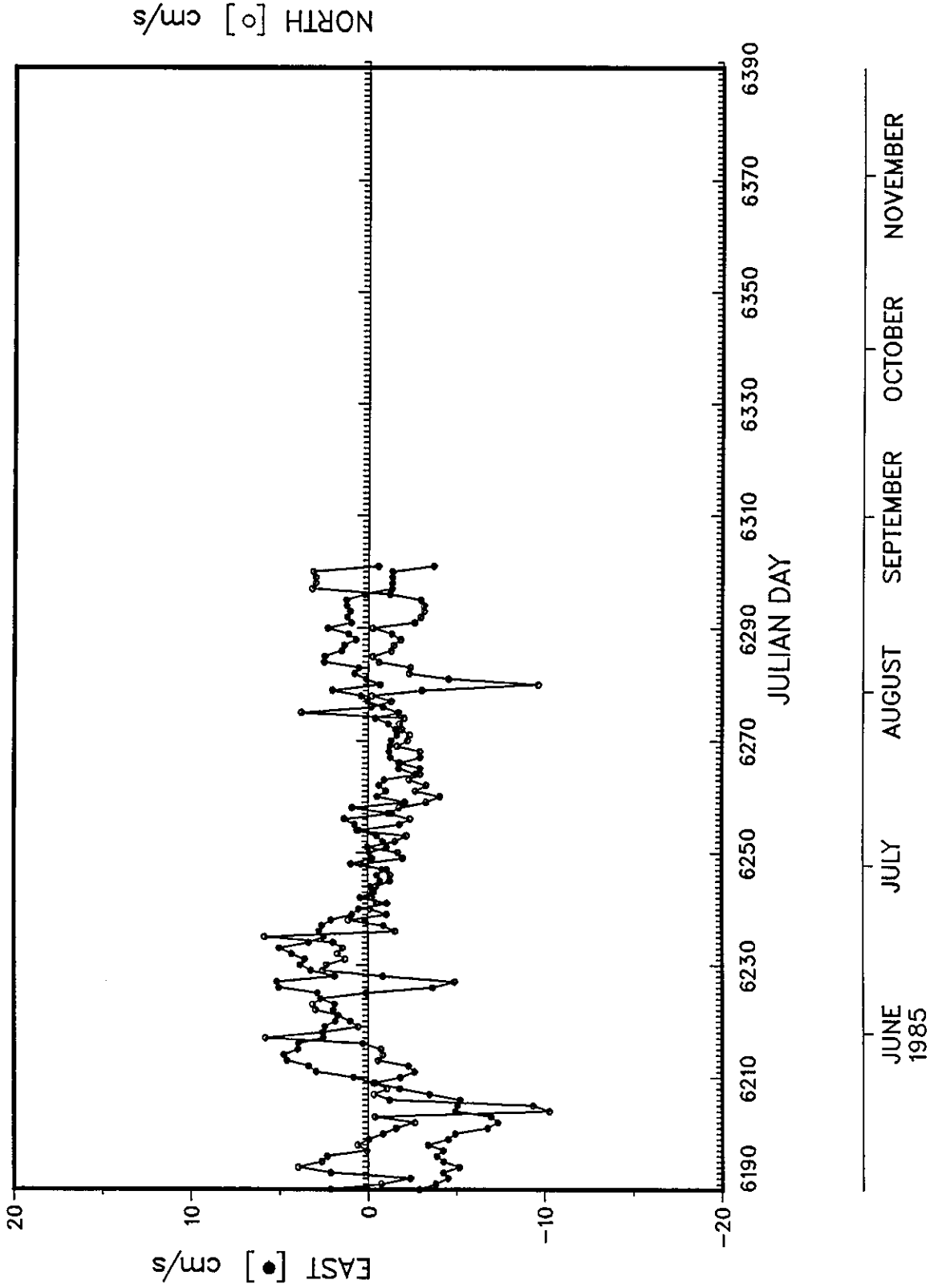


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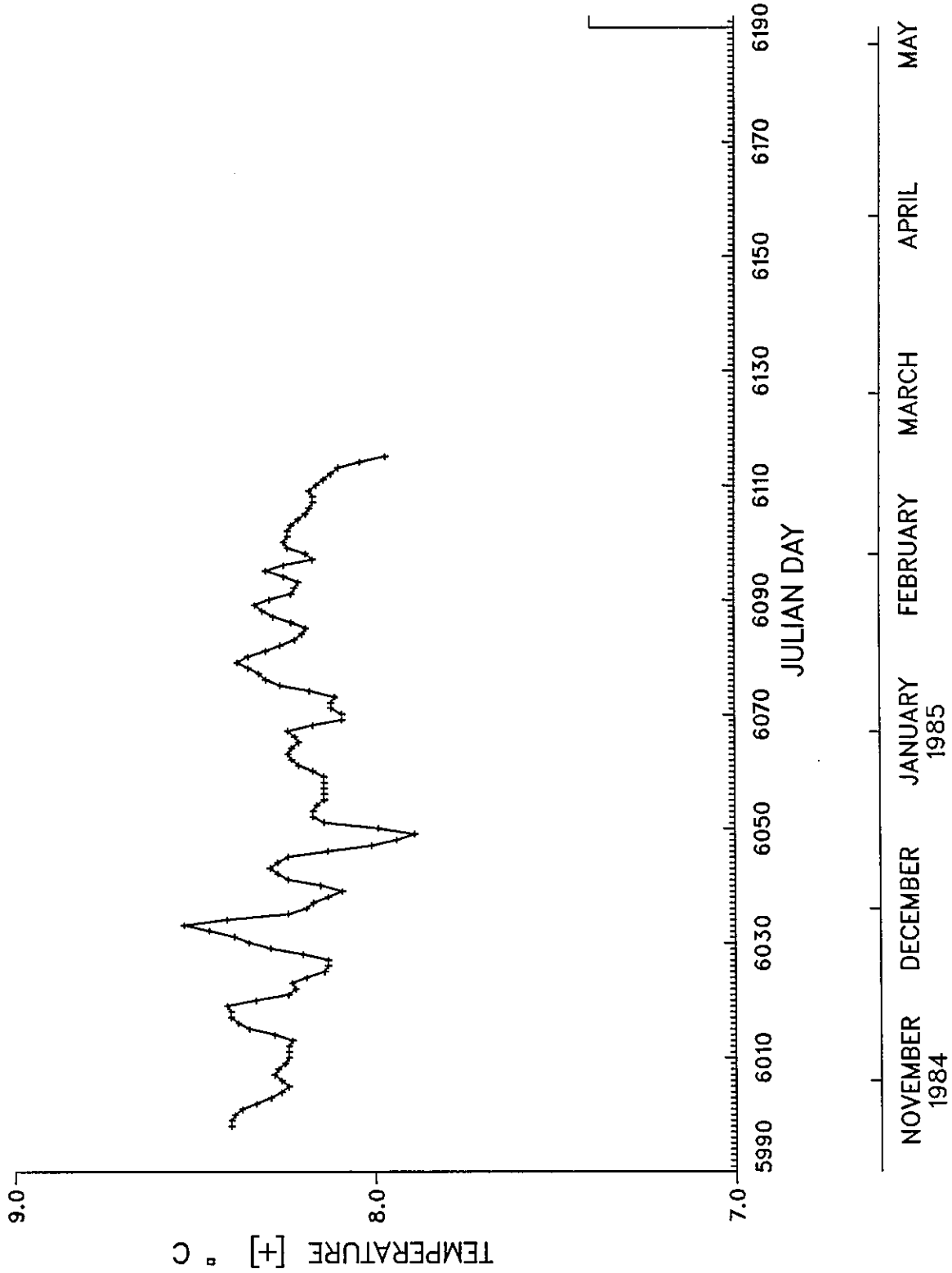
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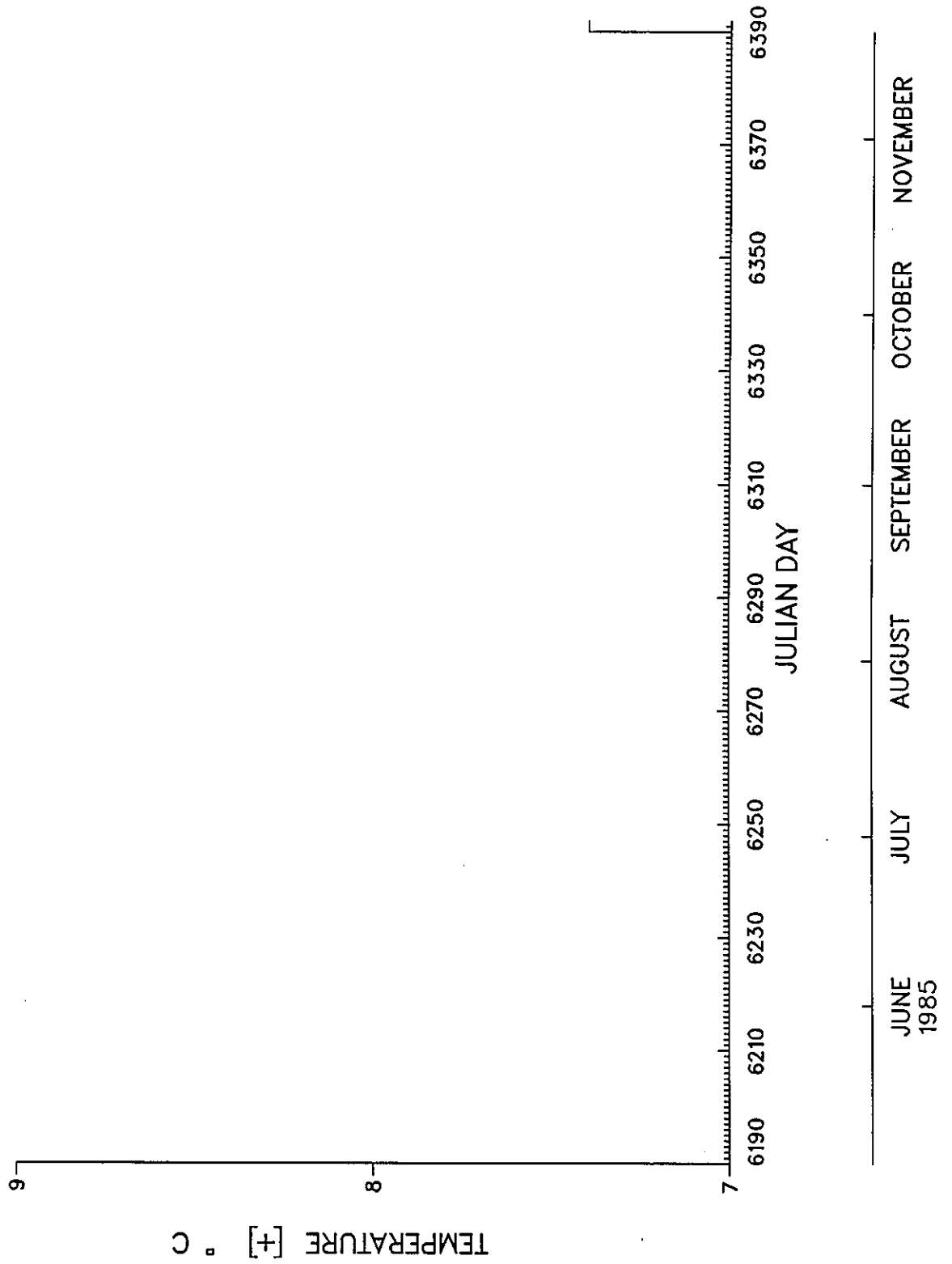
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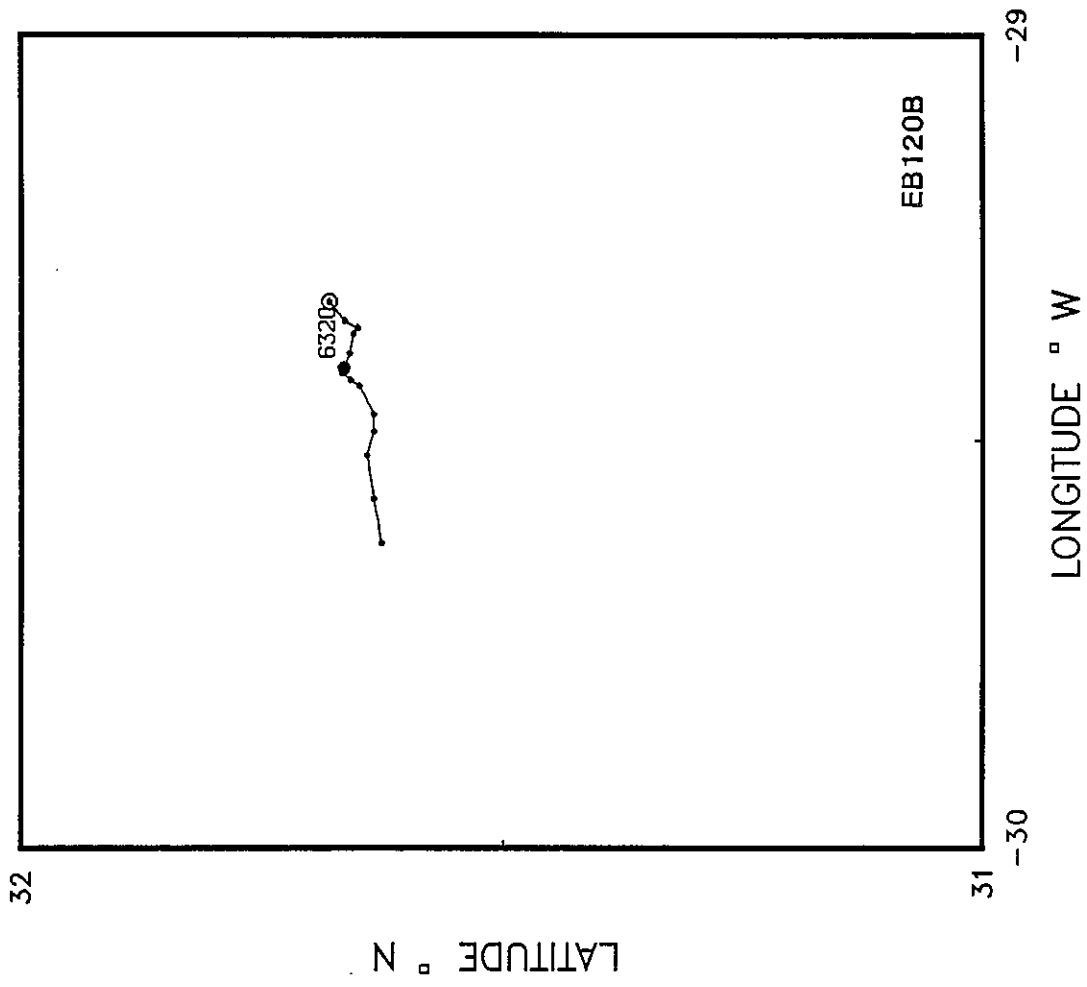
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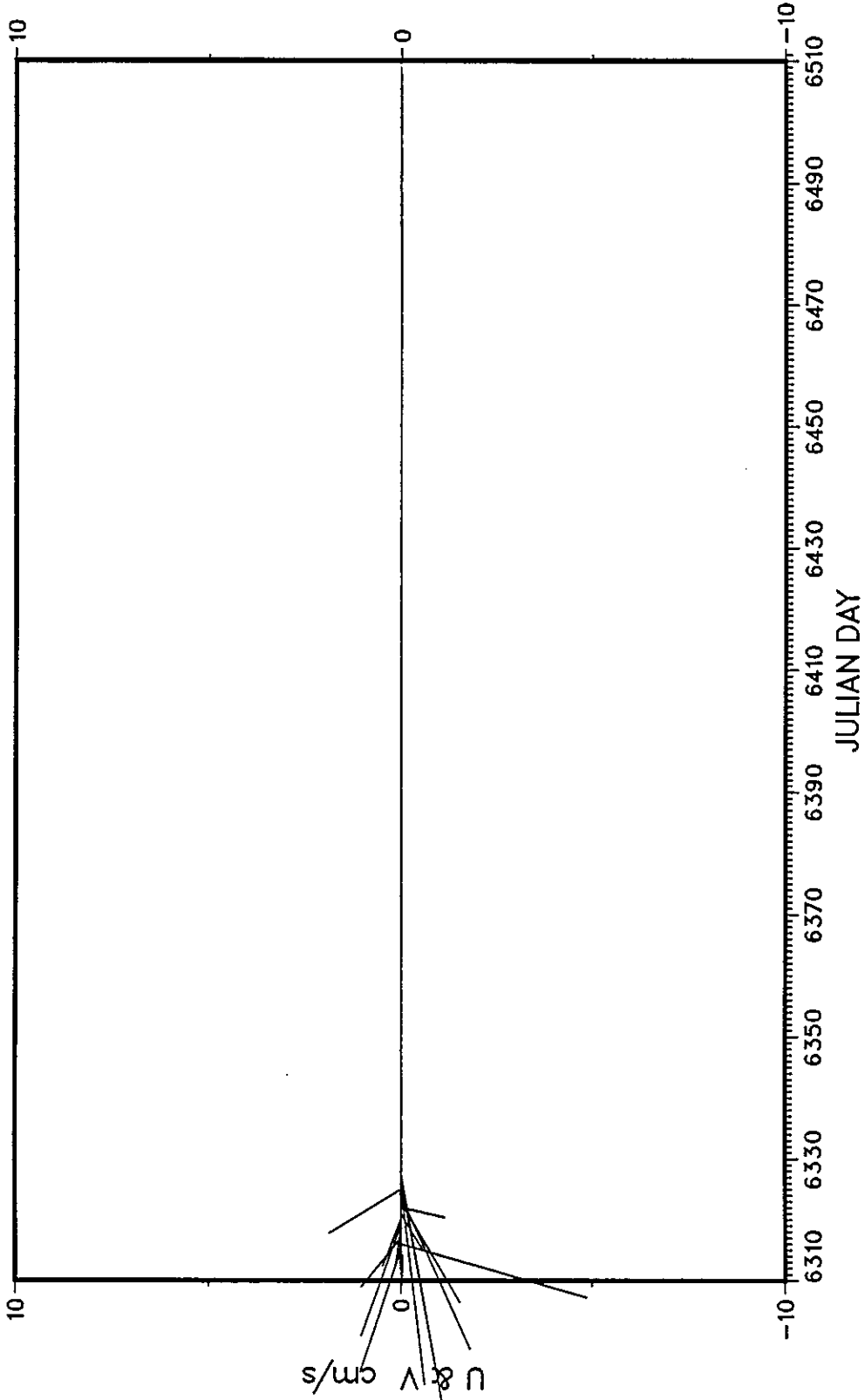
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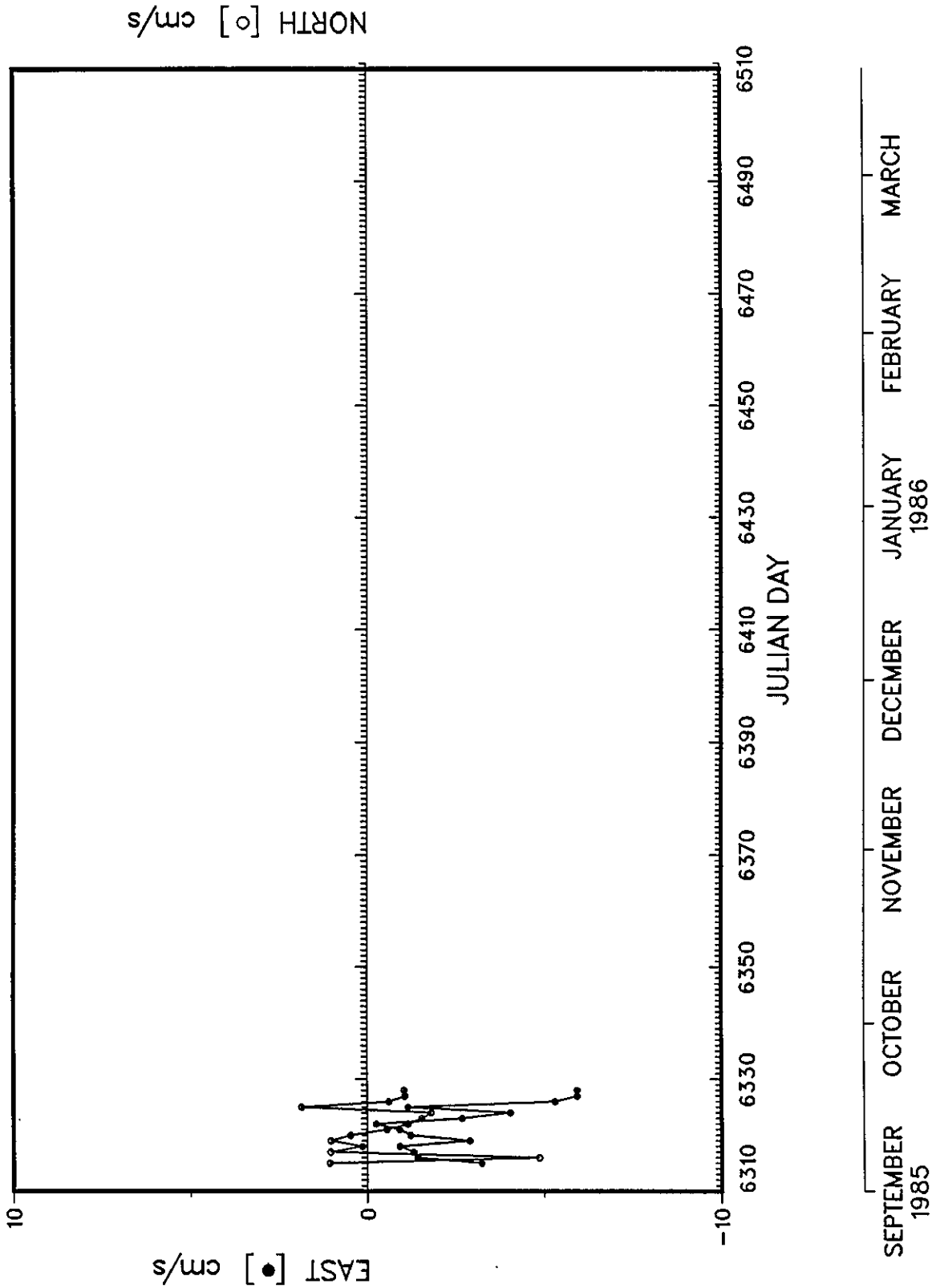
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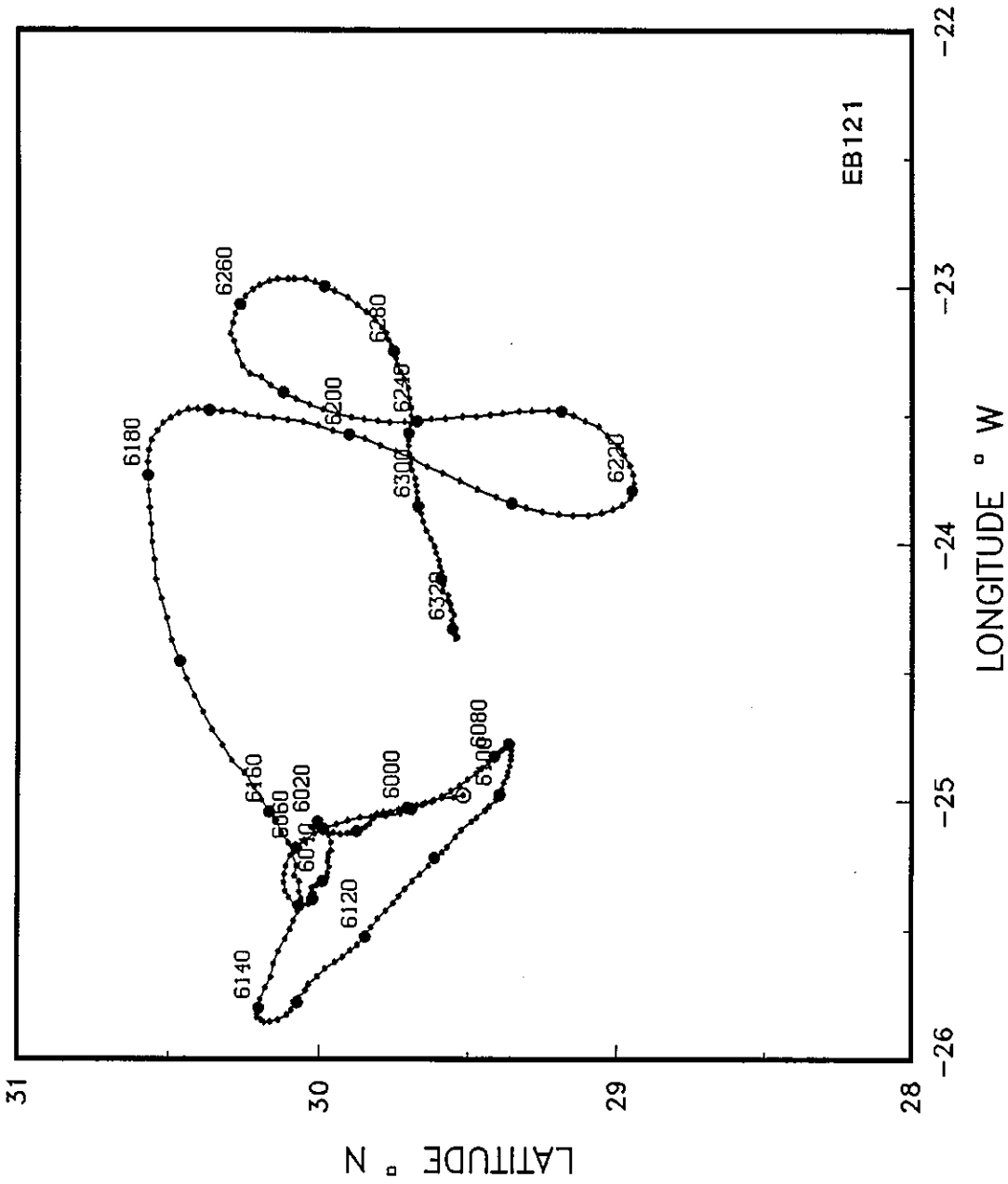


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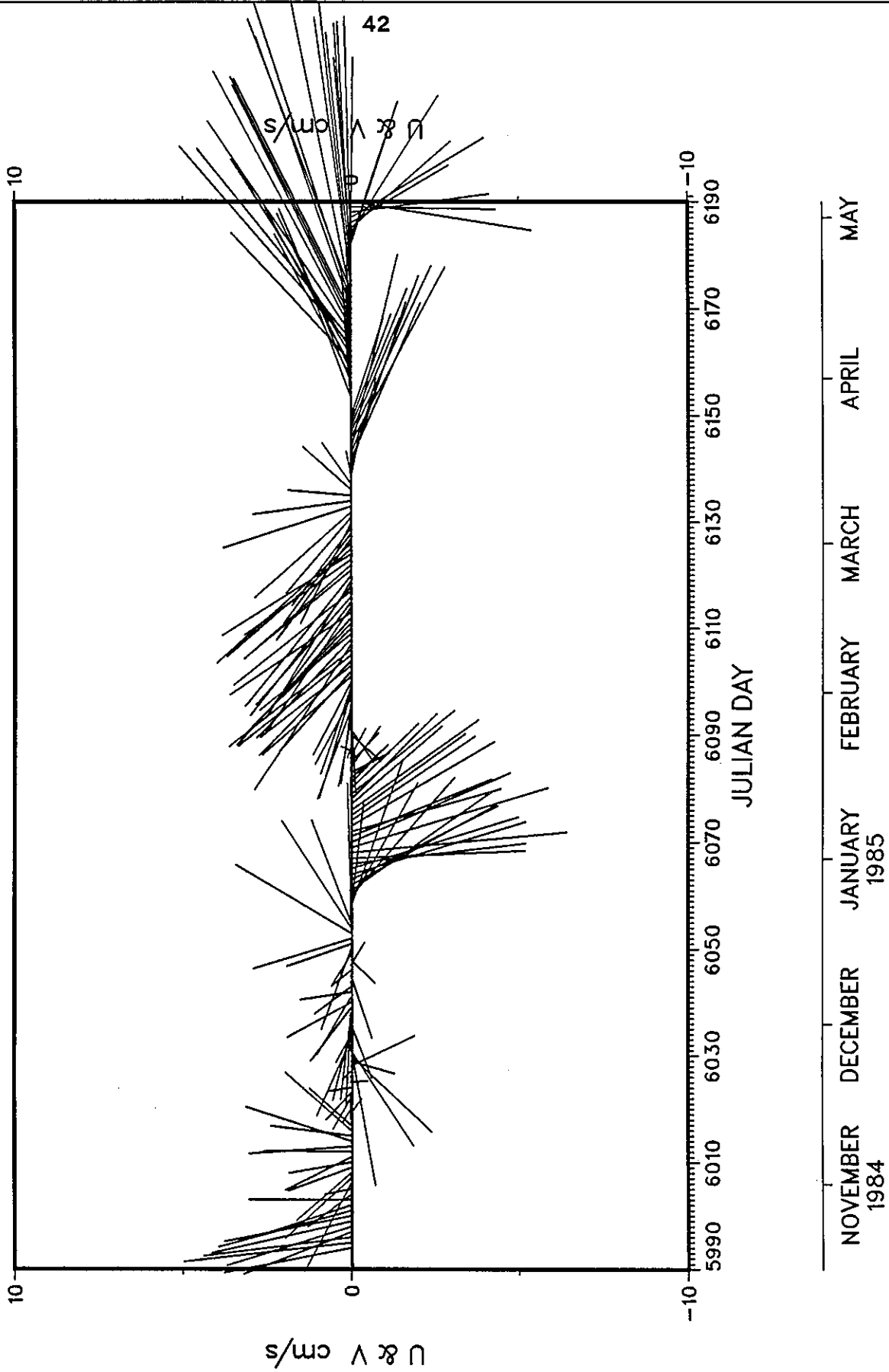


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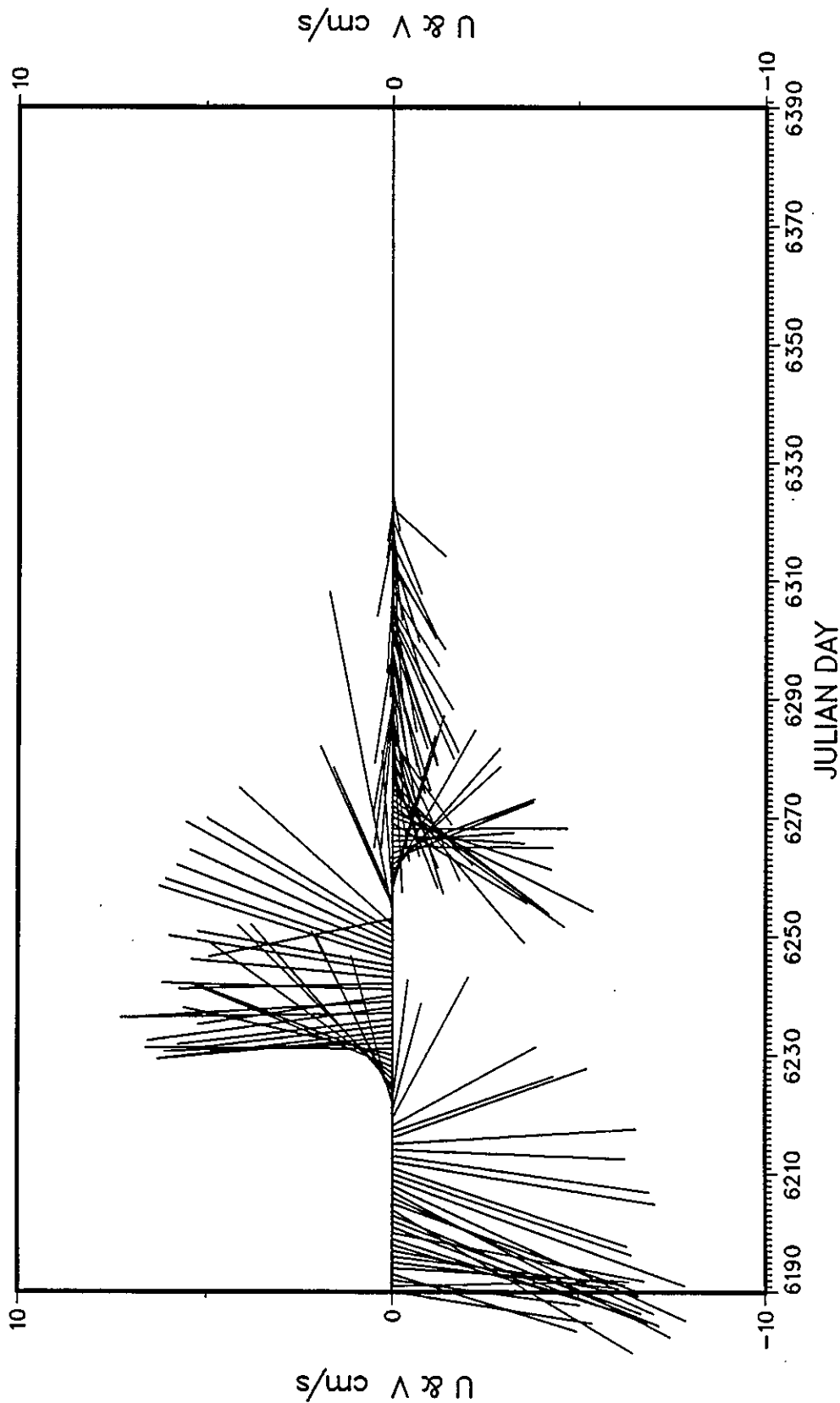
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EASTERN BASIN 121

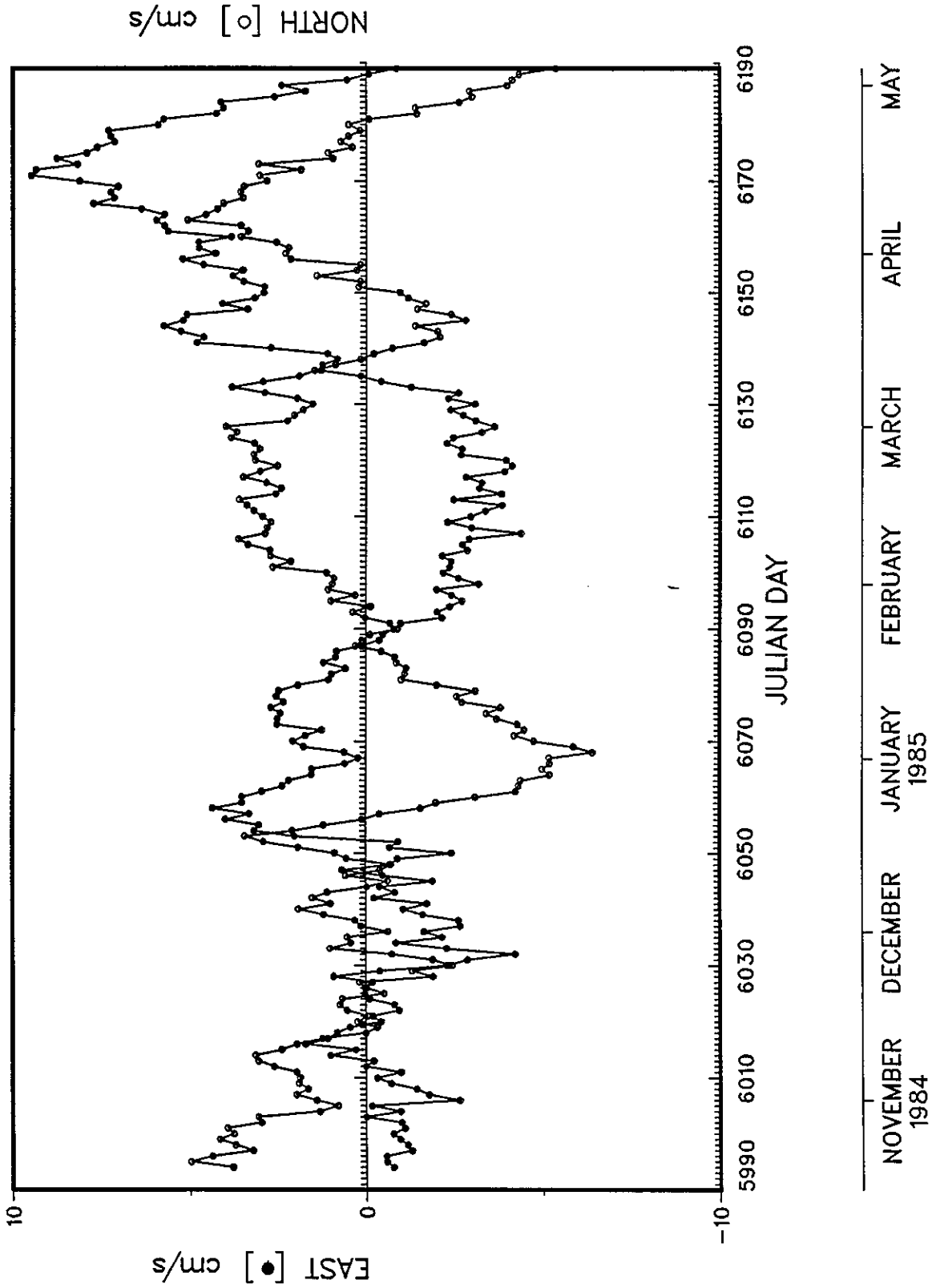


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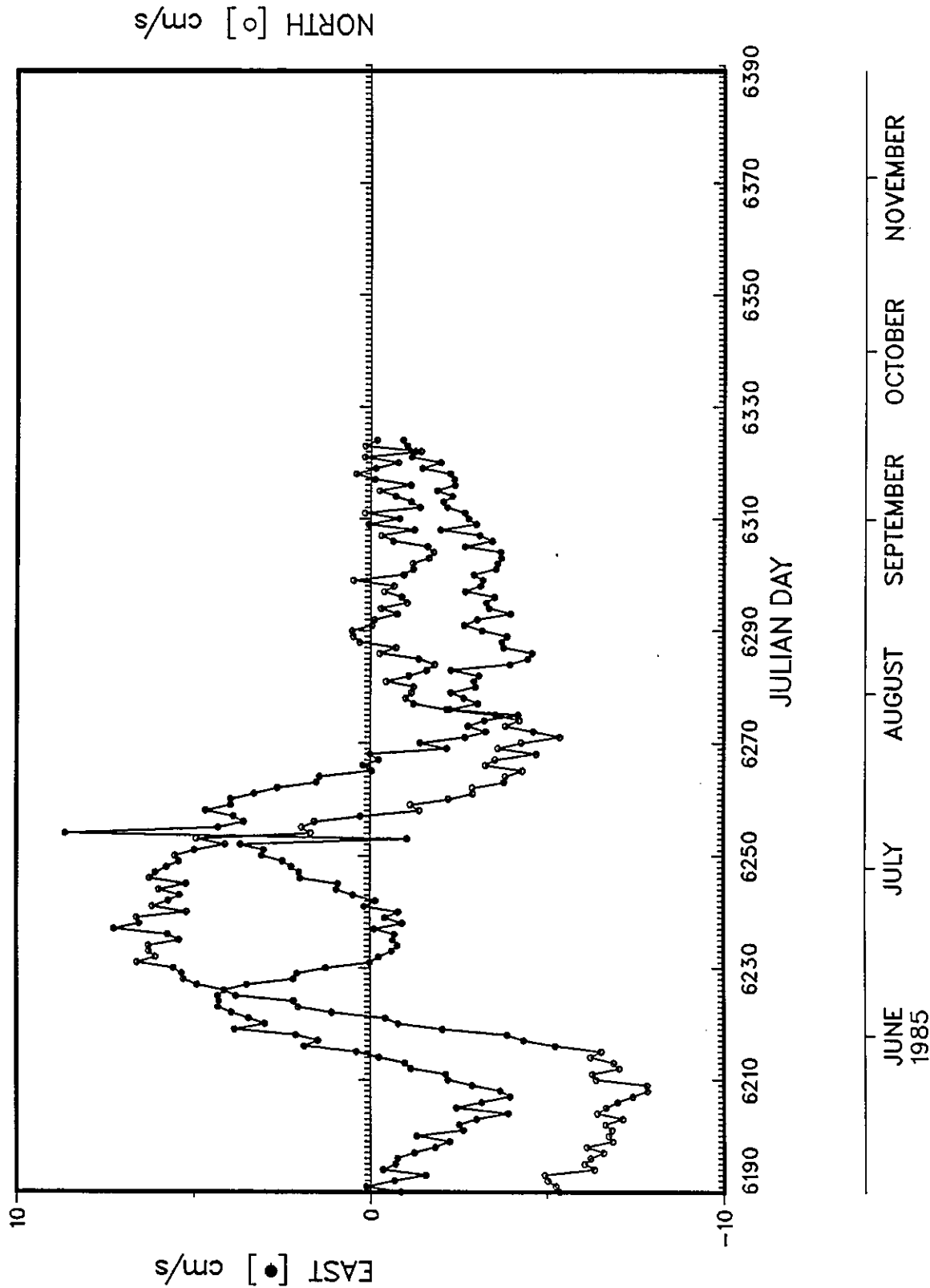


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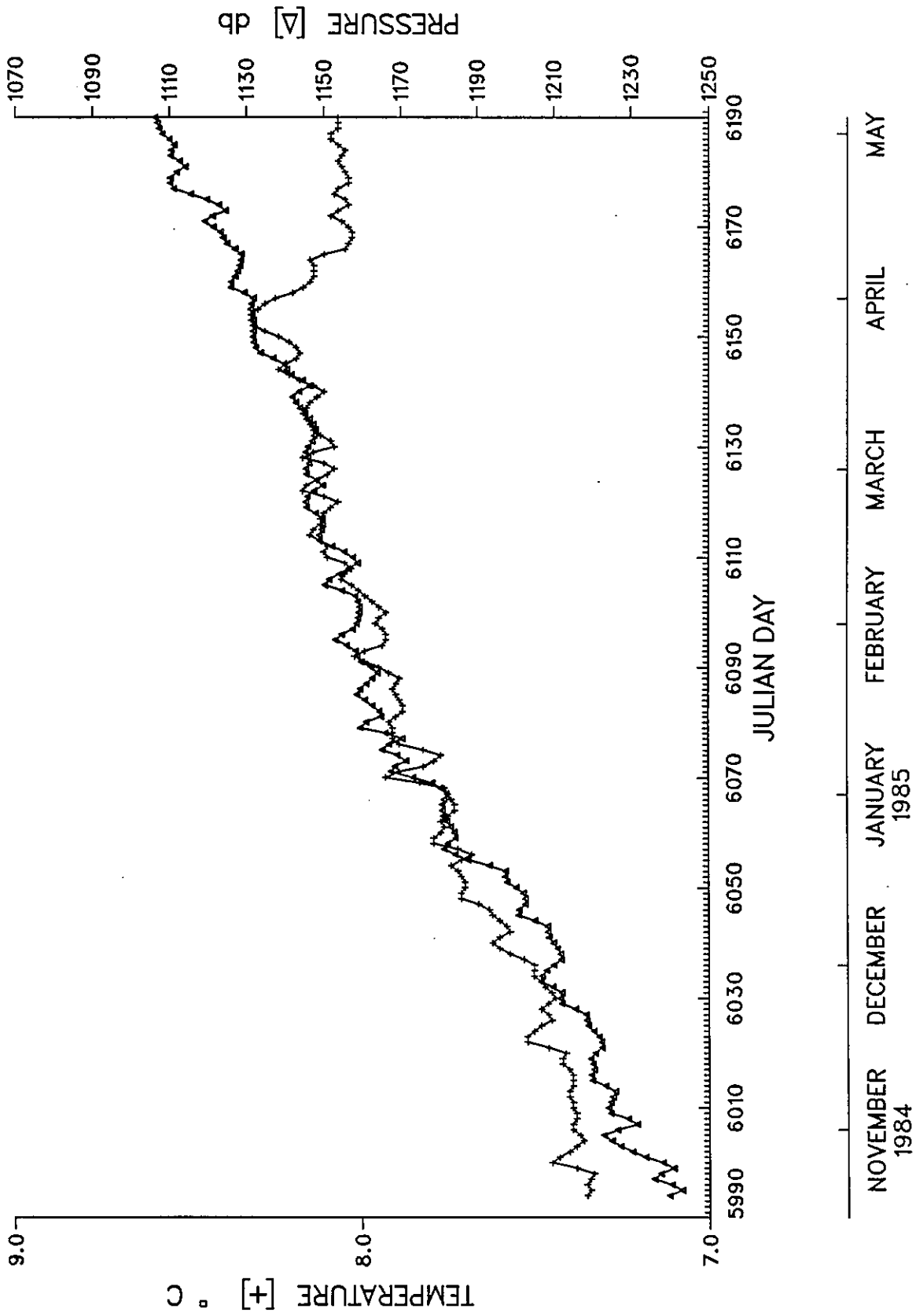
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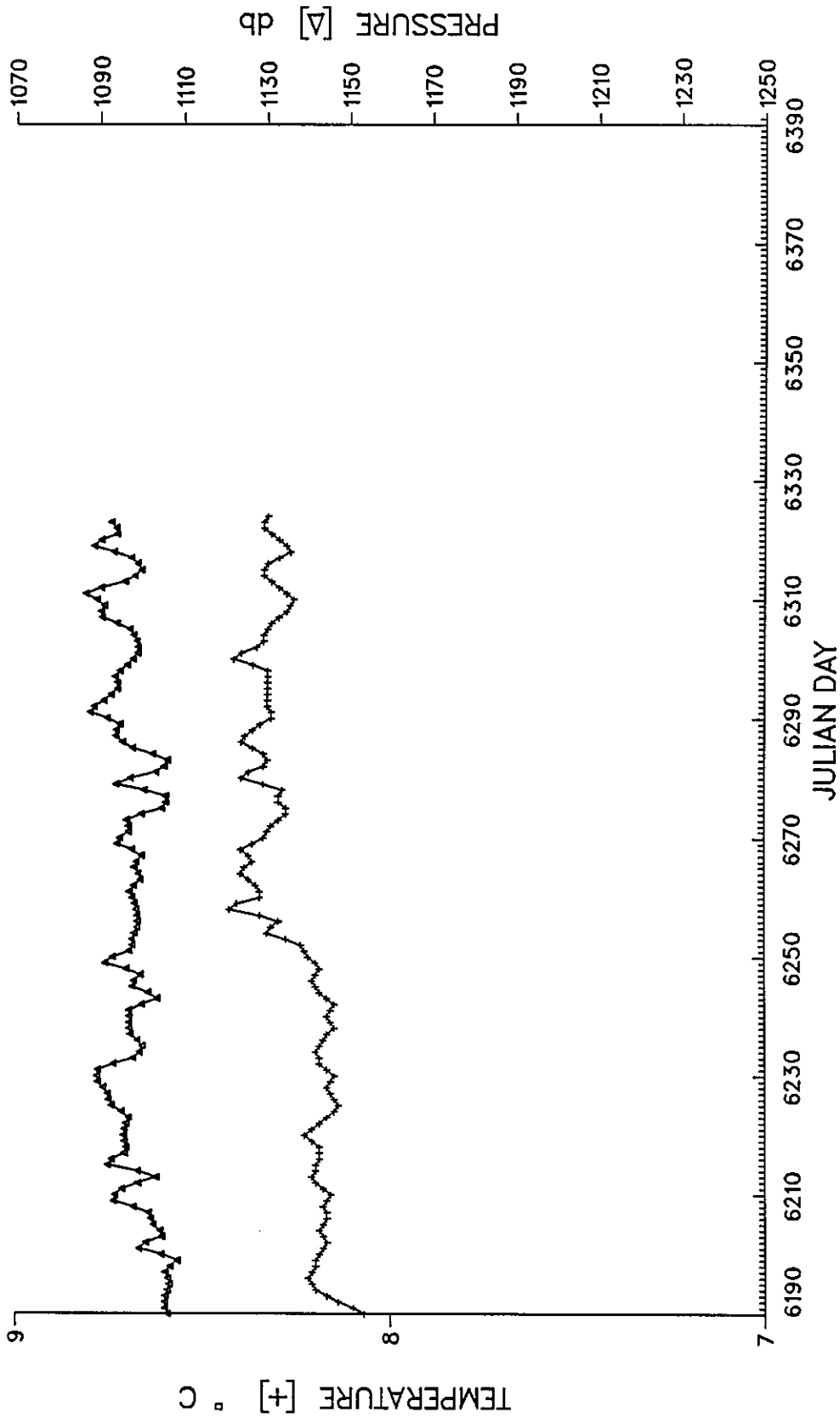
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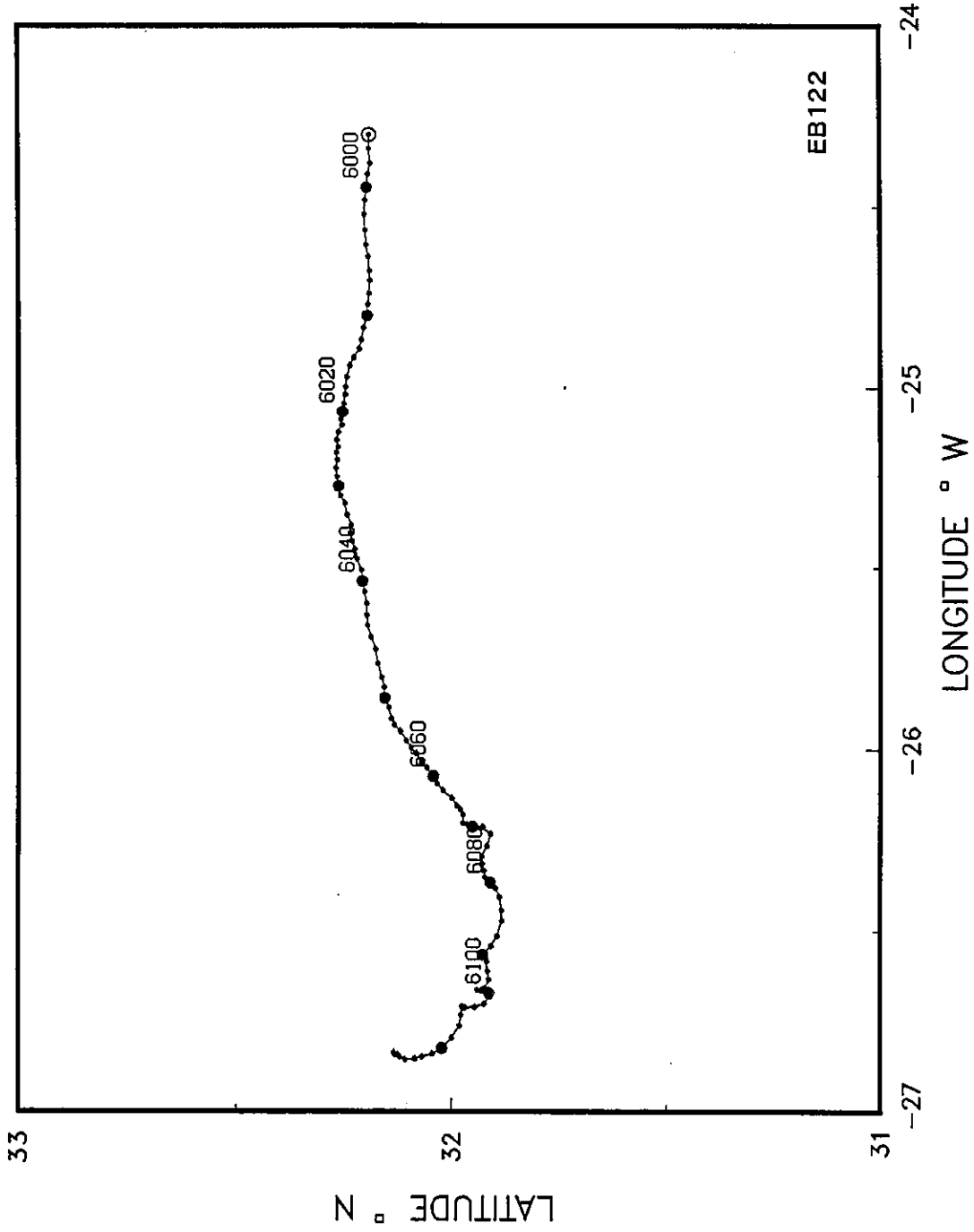
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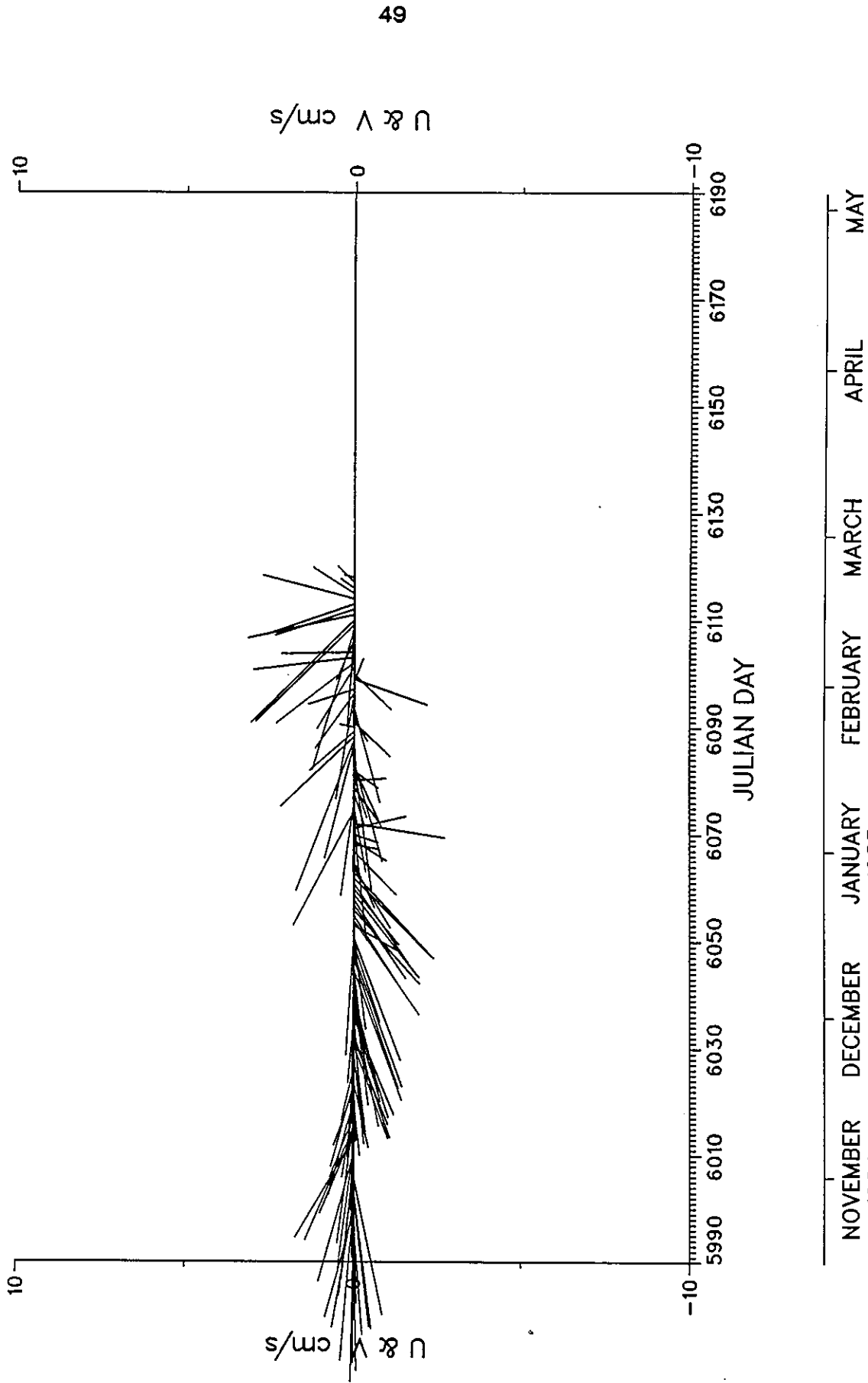
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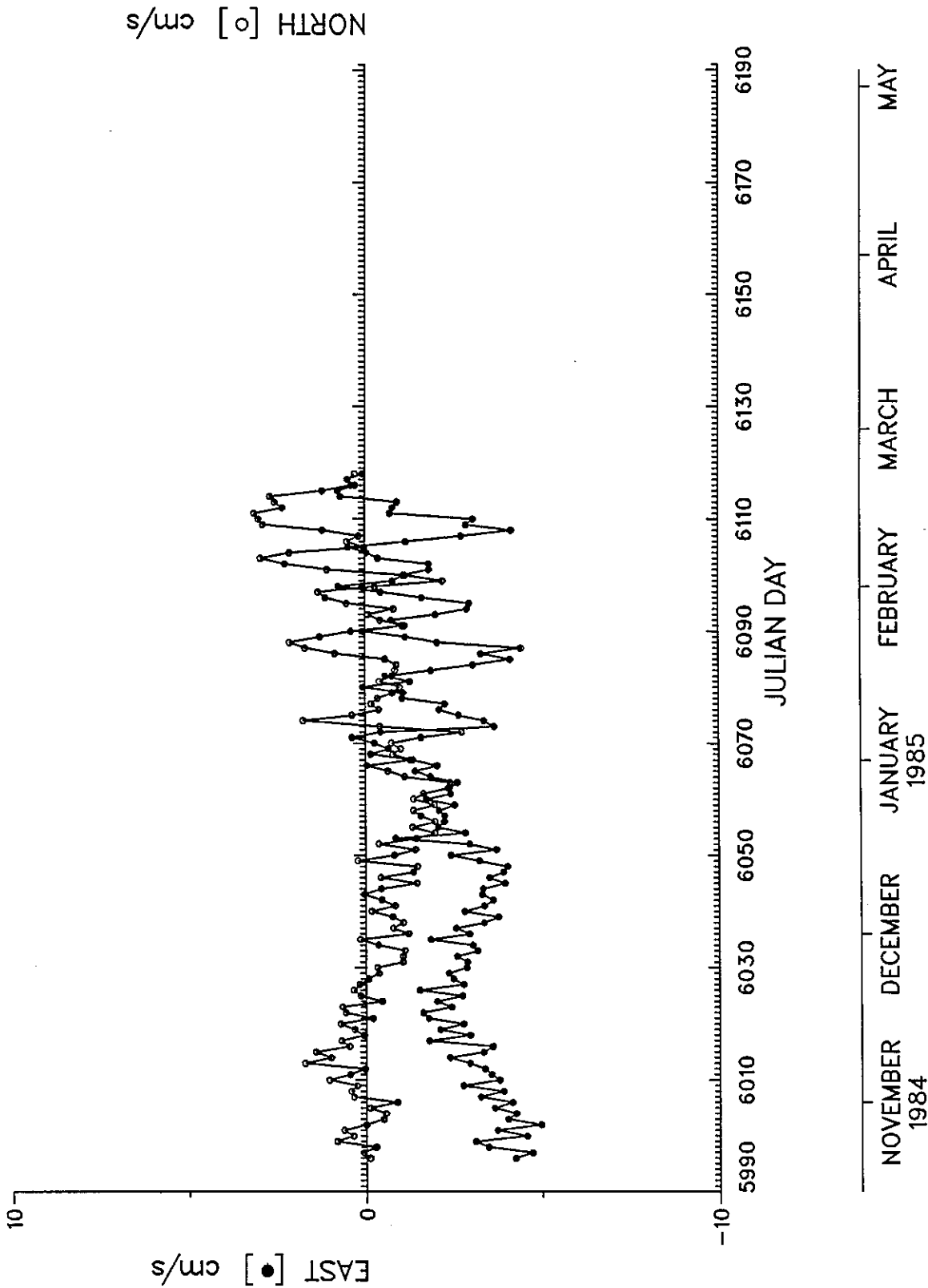


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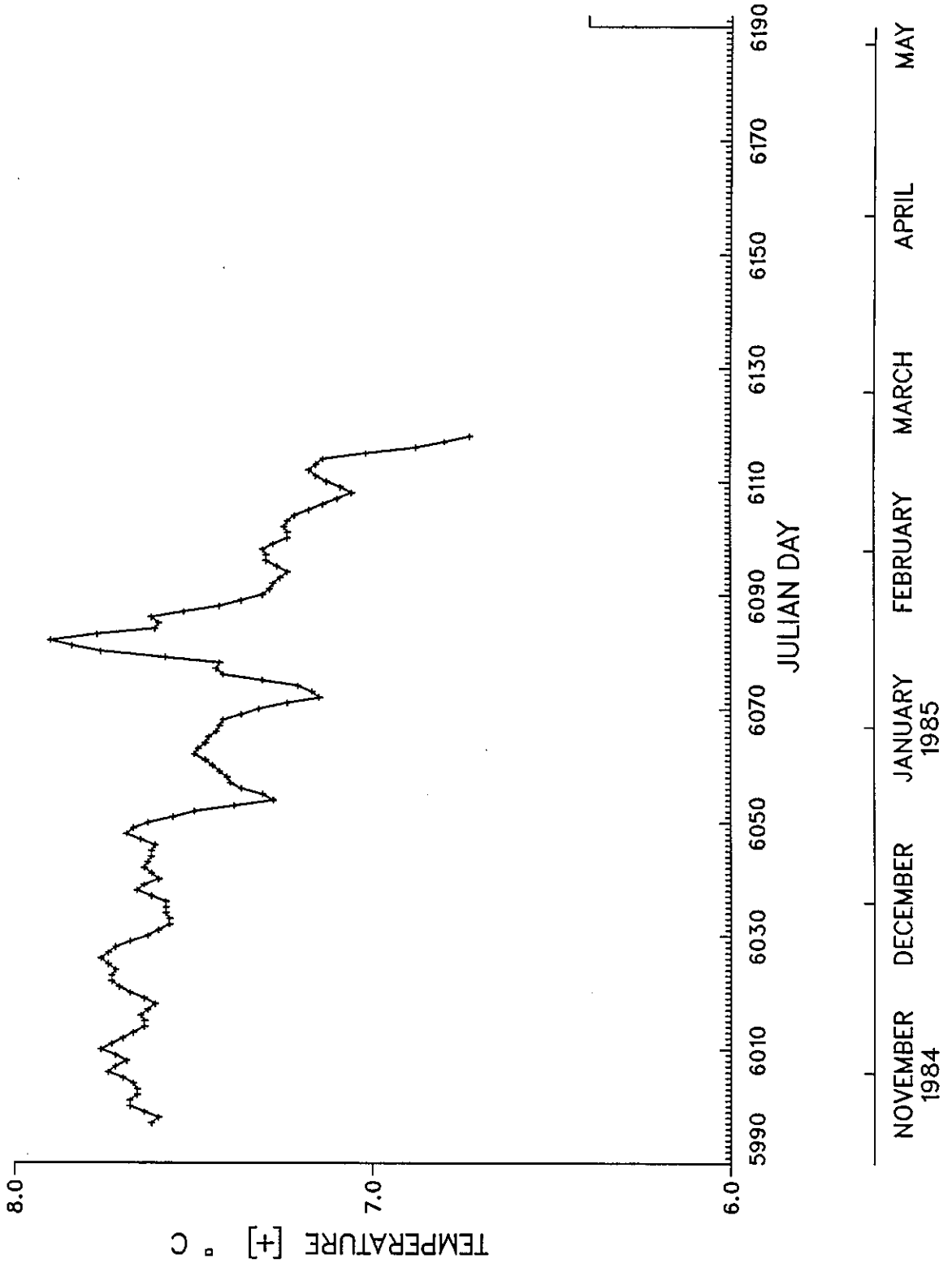


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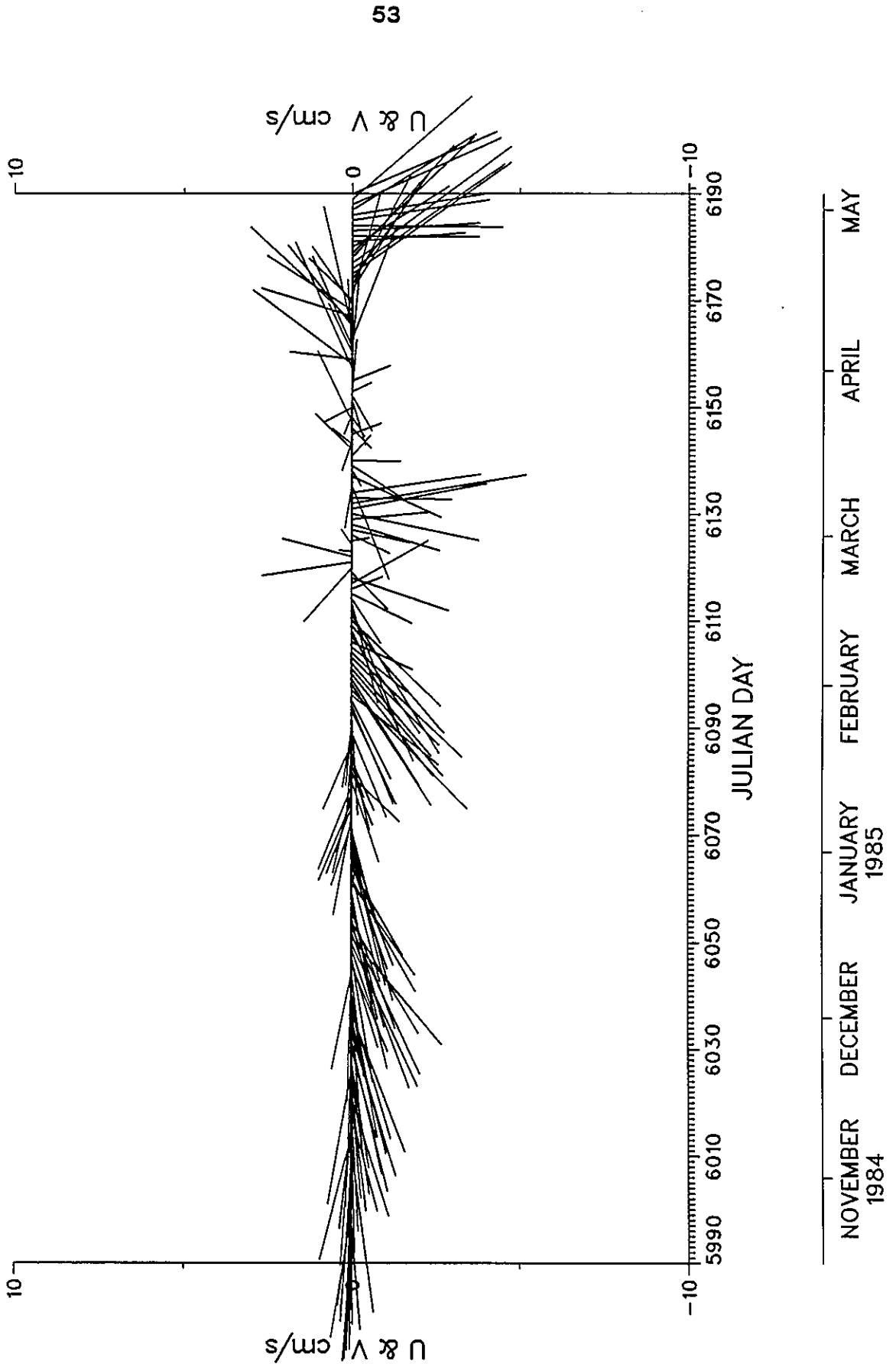
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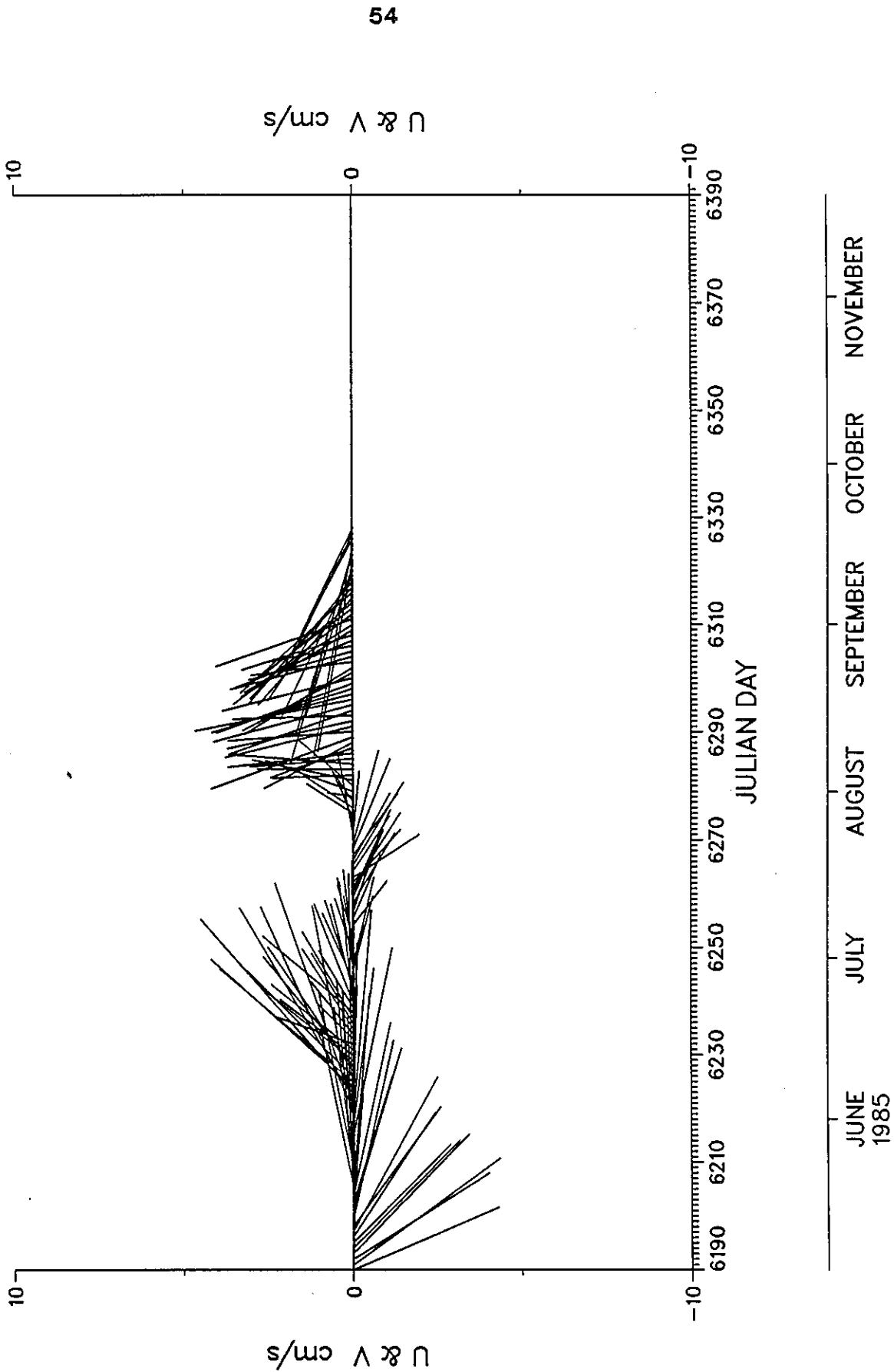
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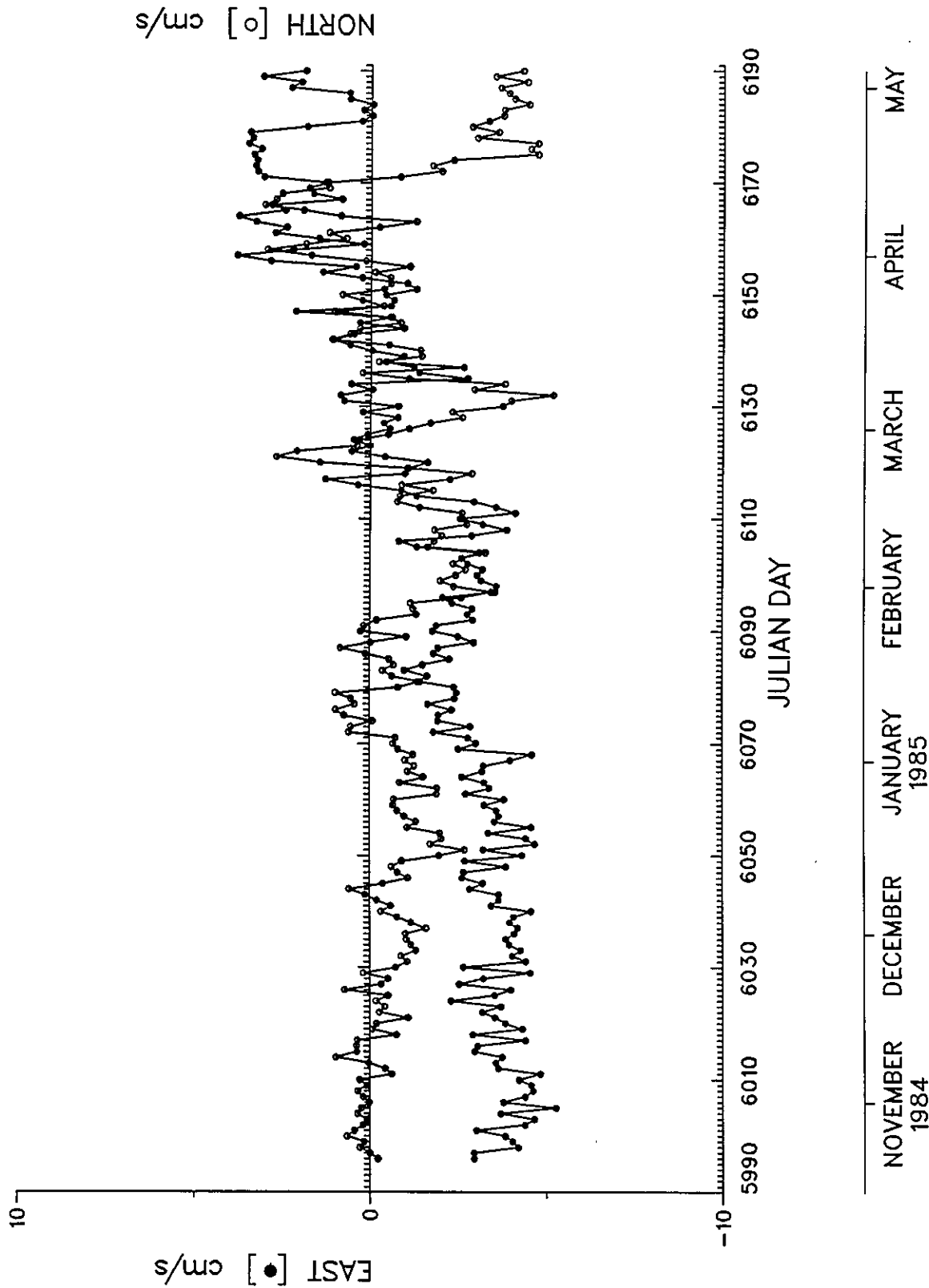
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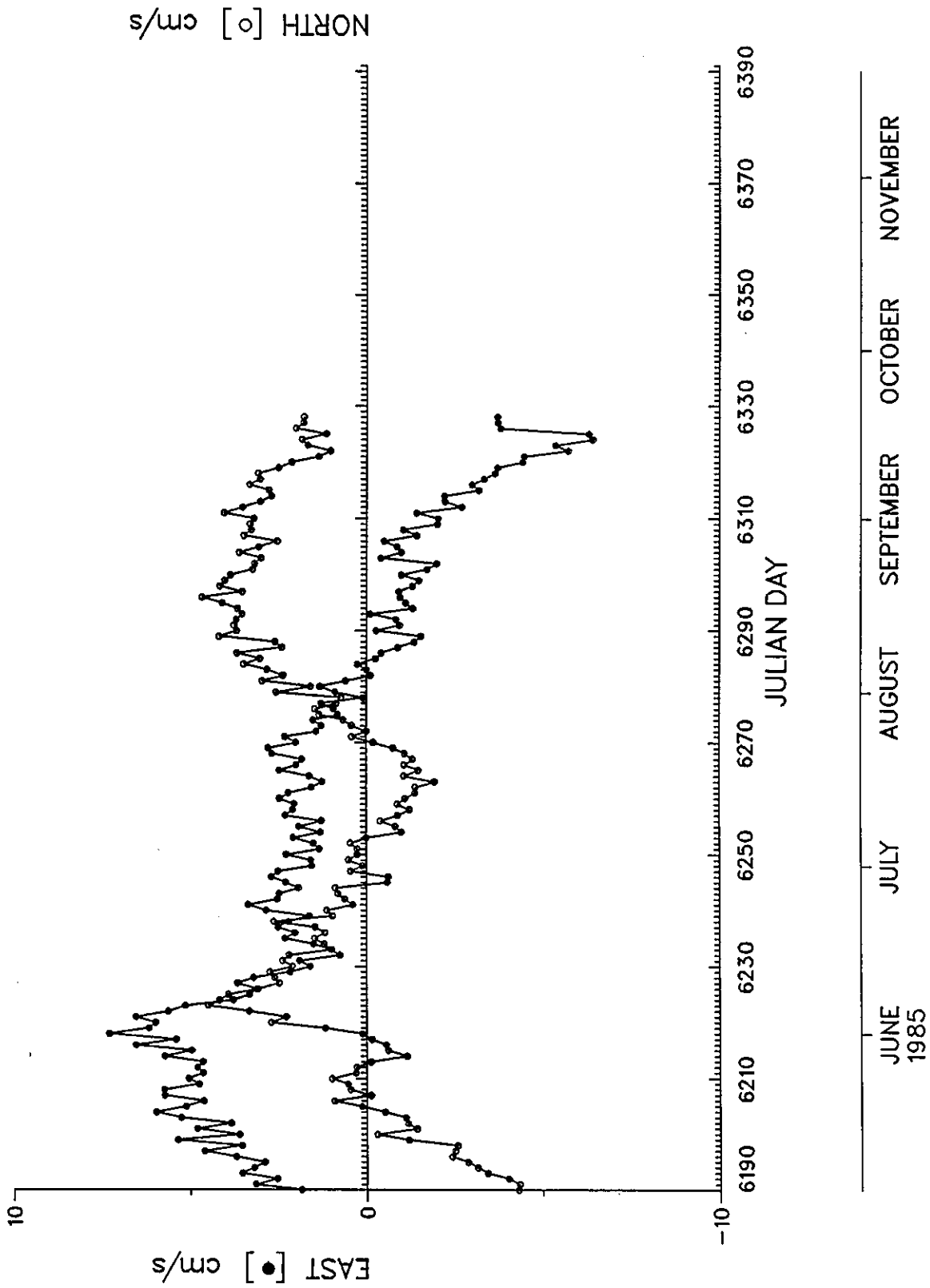
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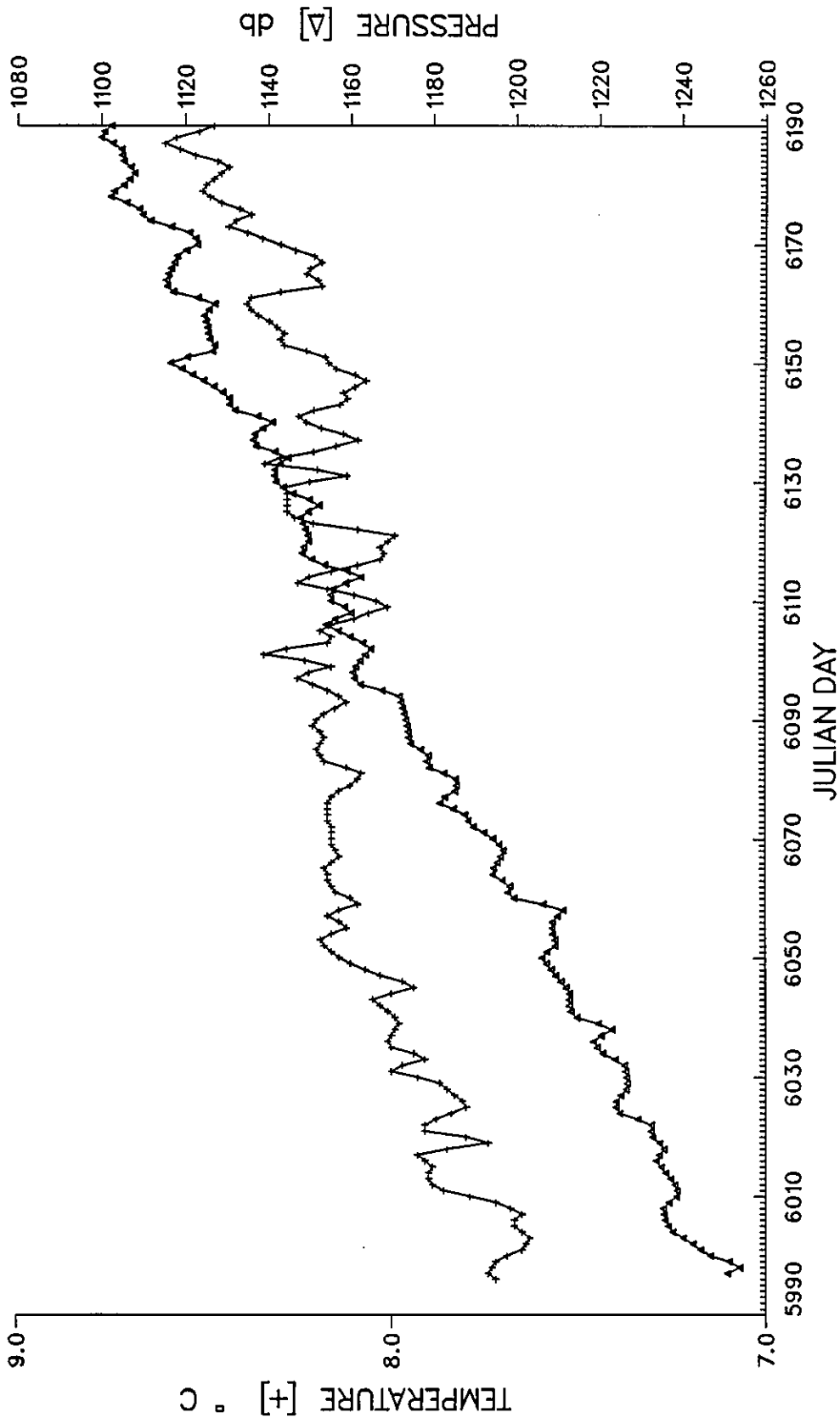
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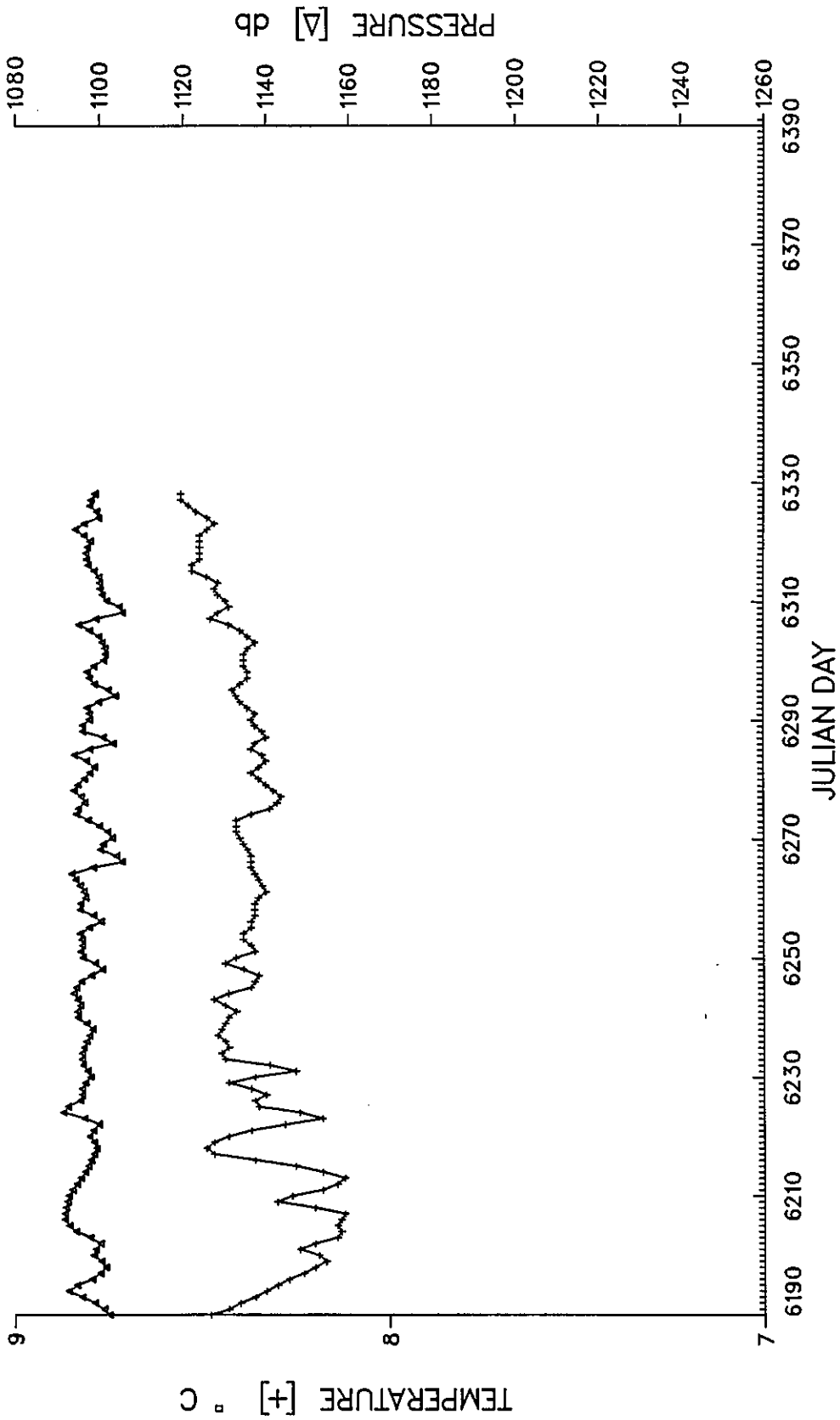


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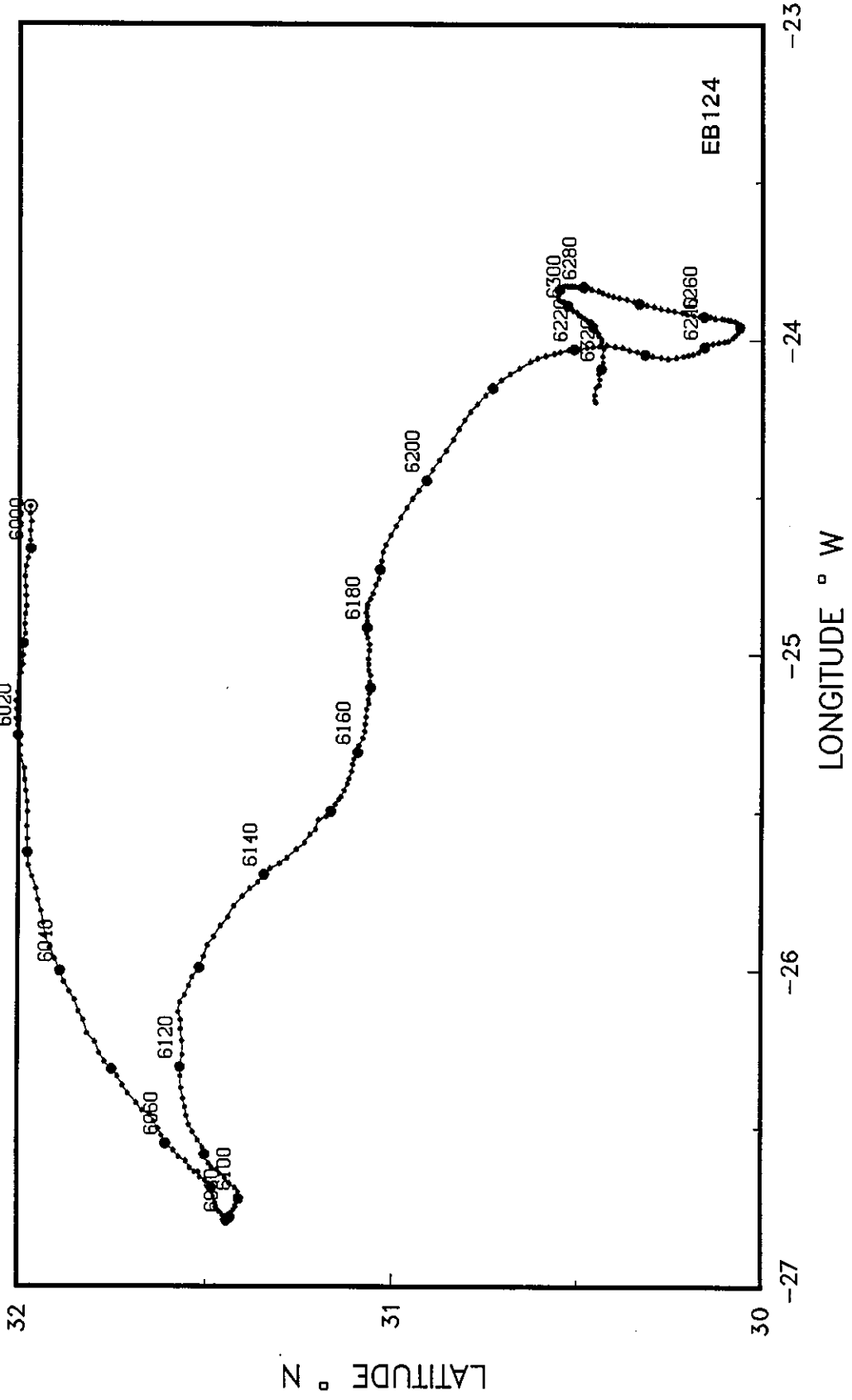


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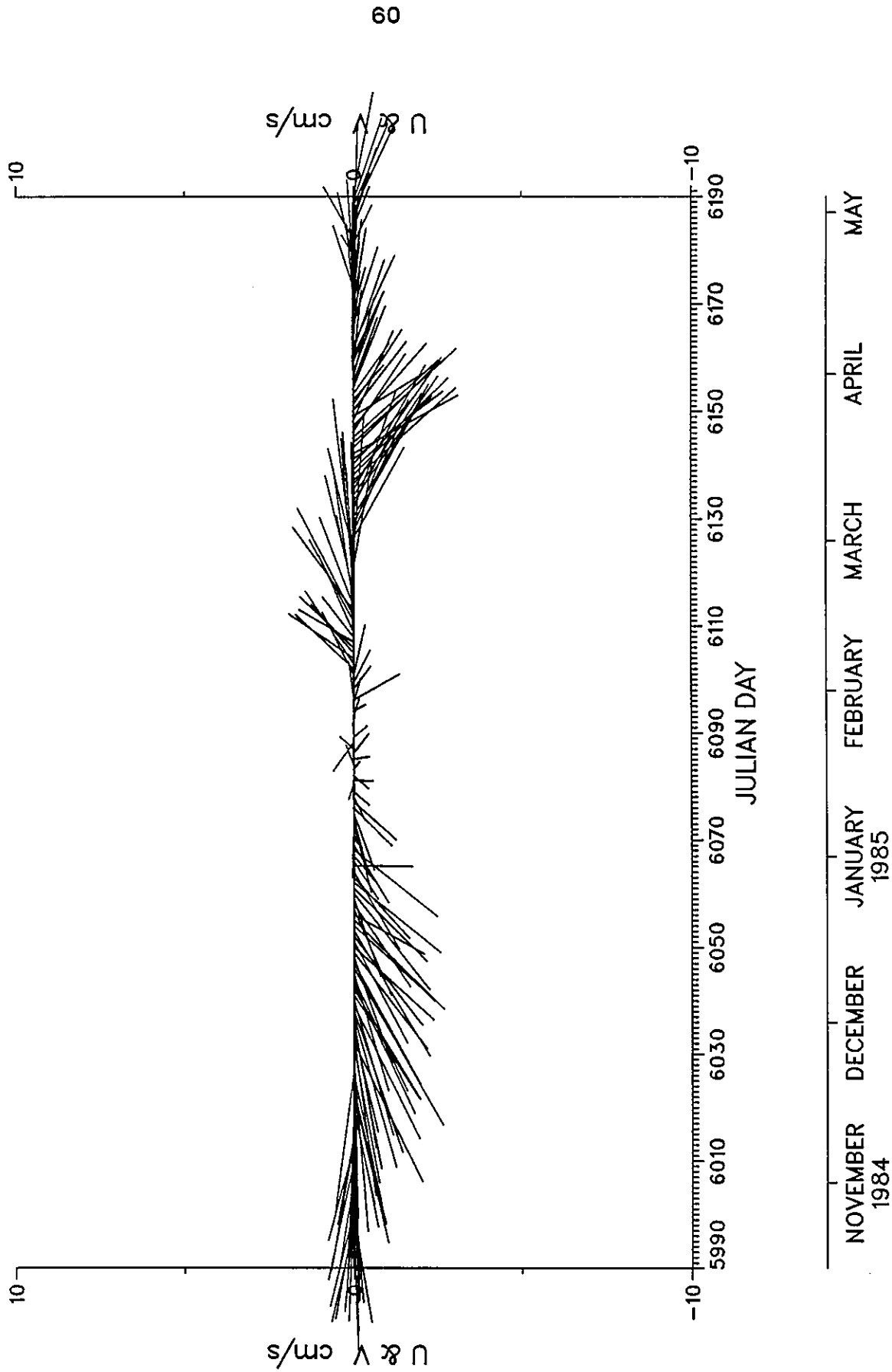
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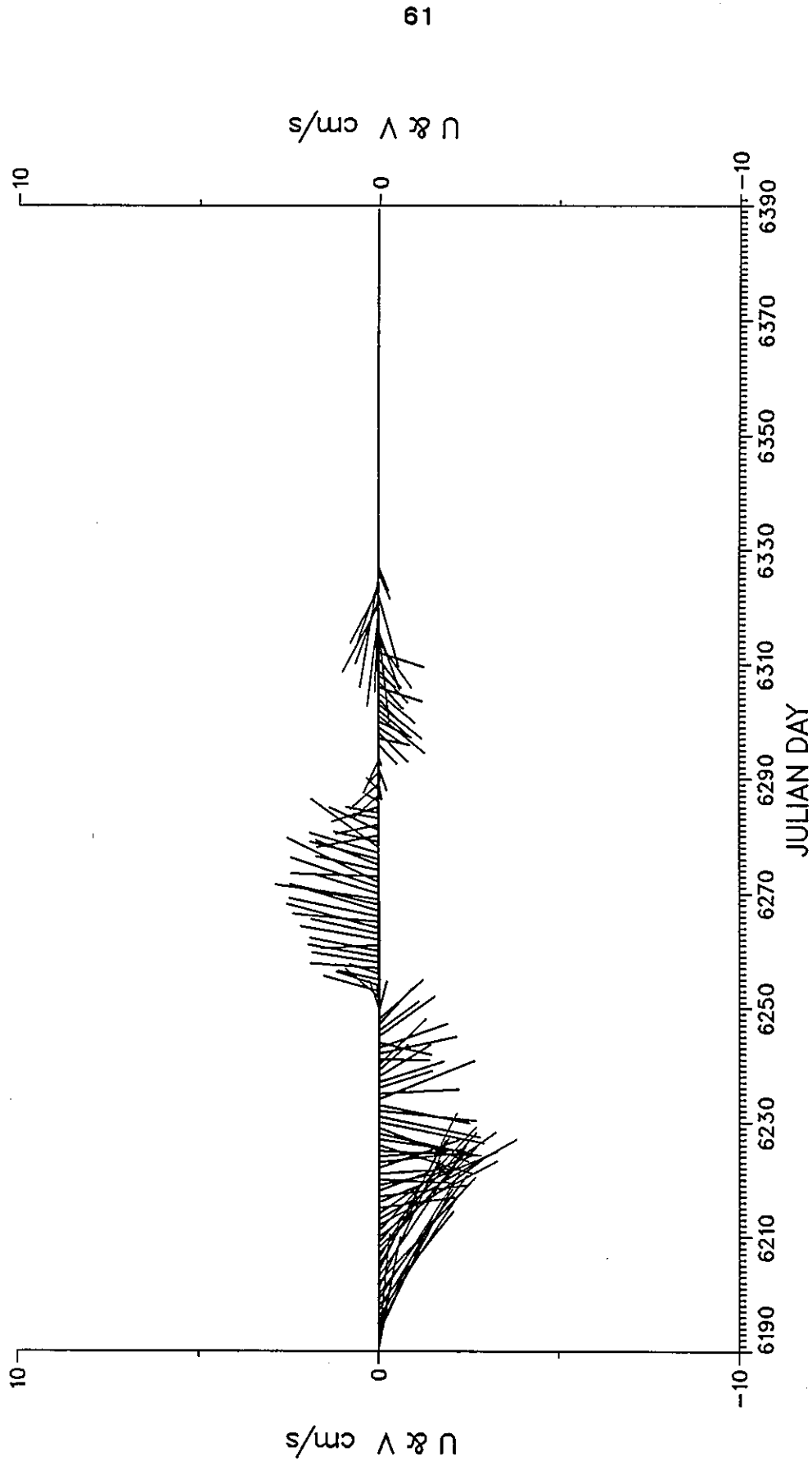
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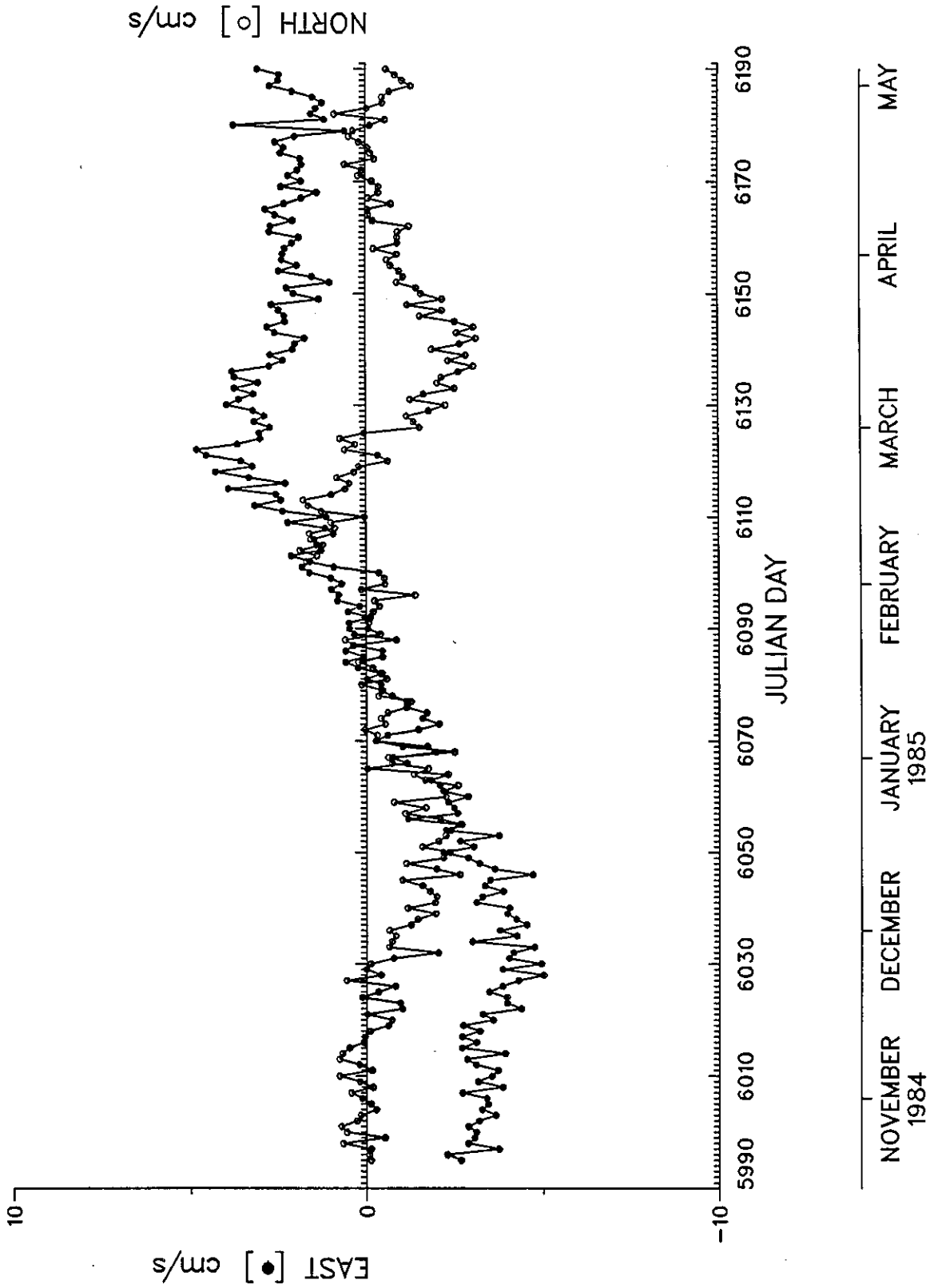


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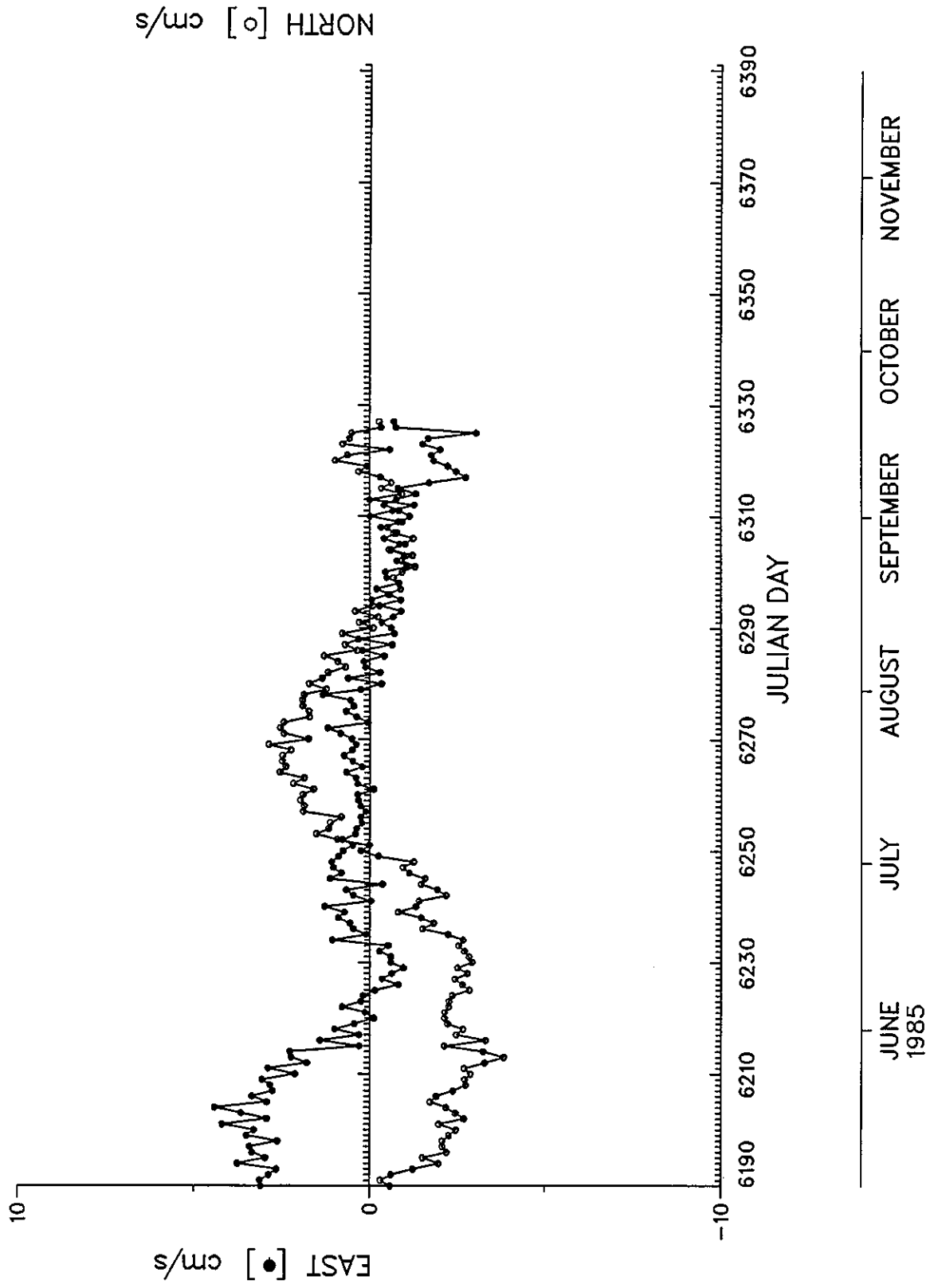


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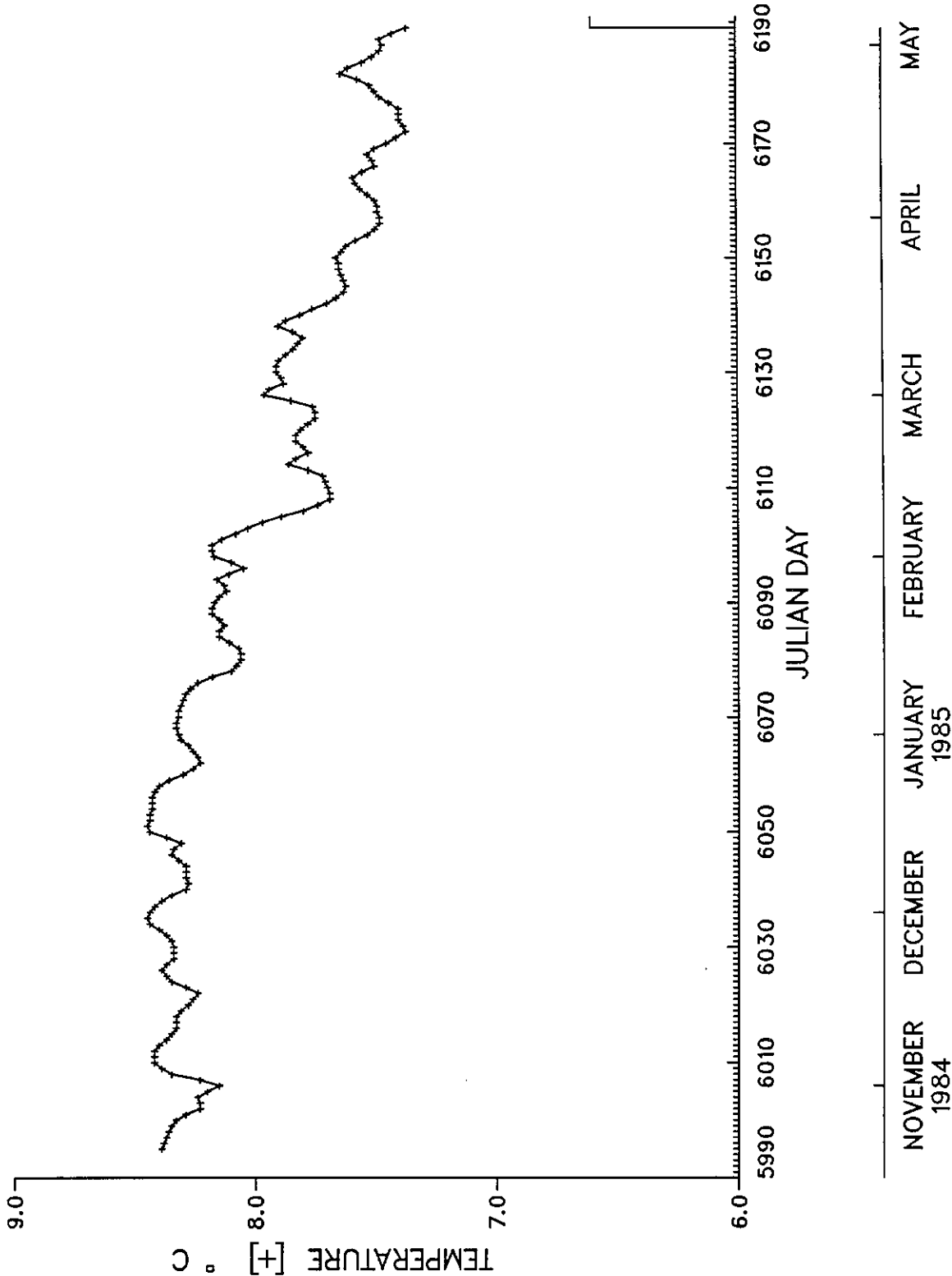
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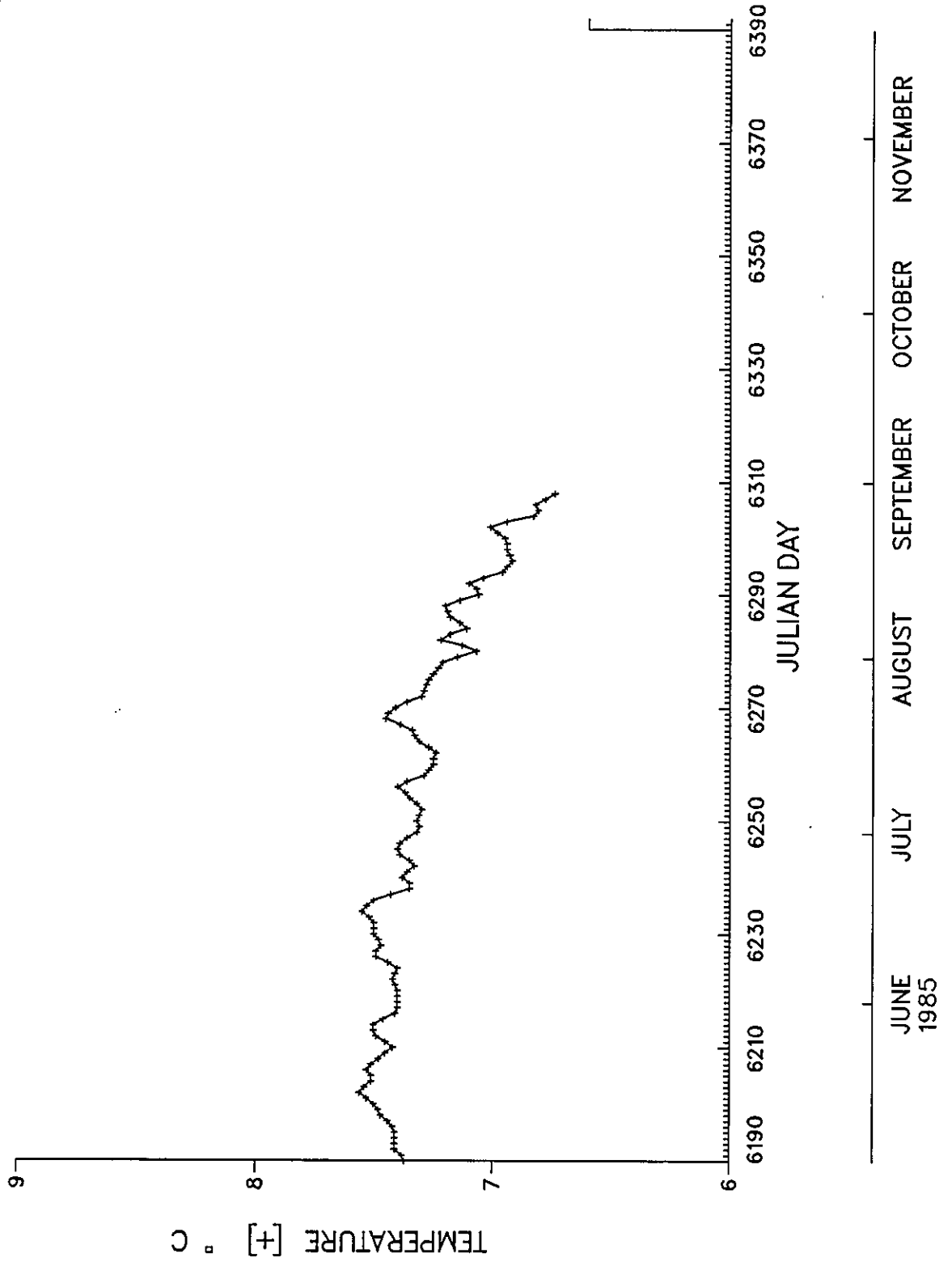
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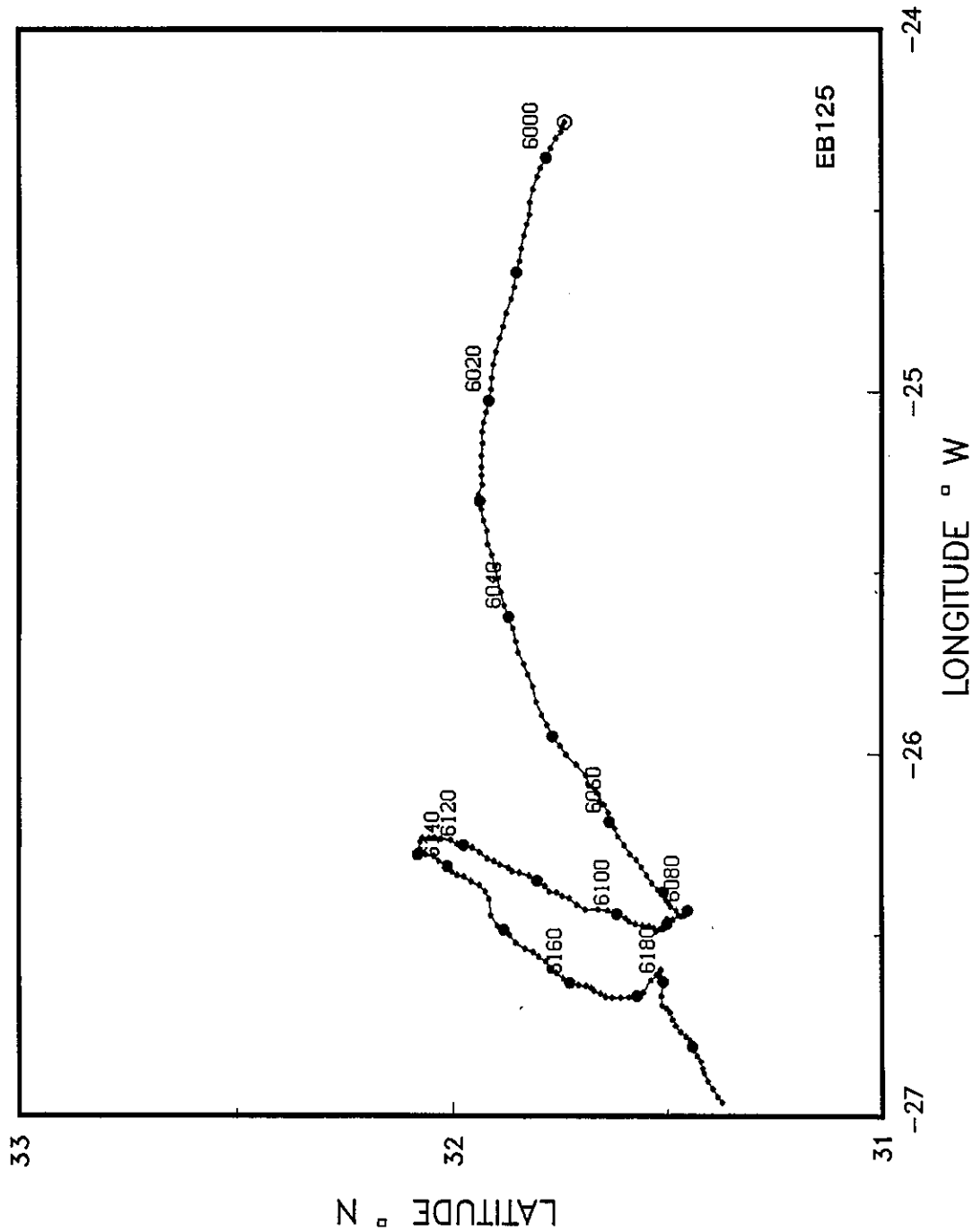
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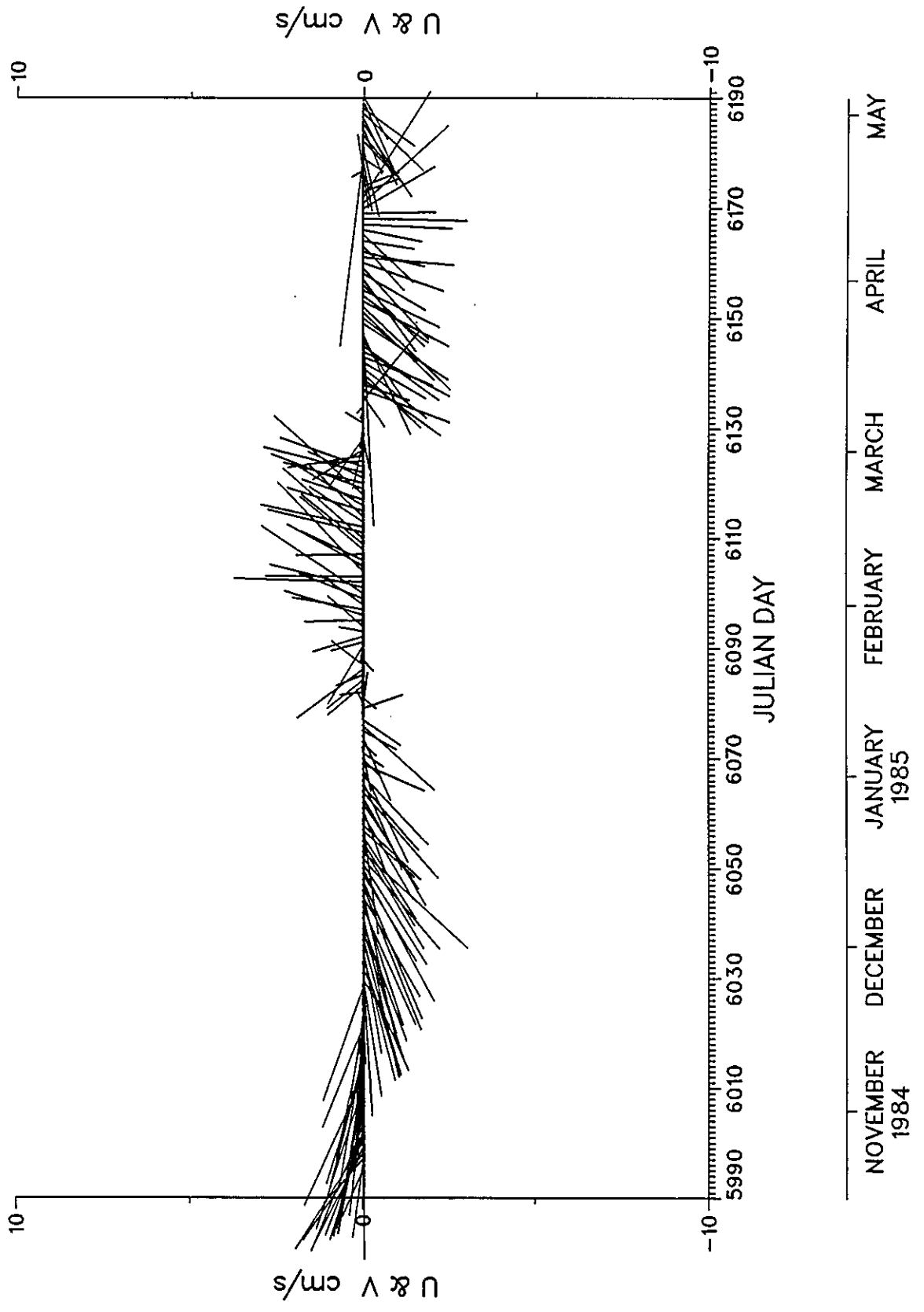
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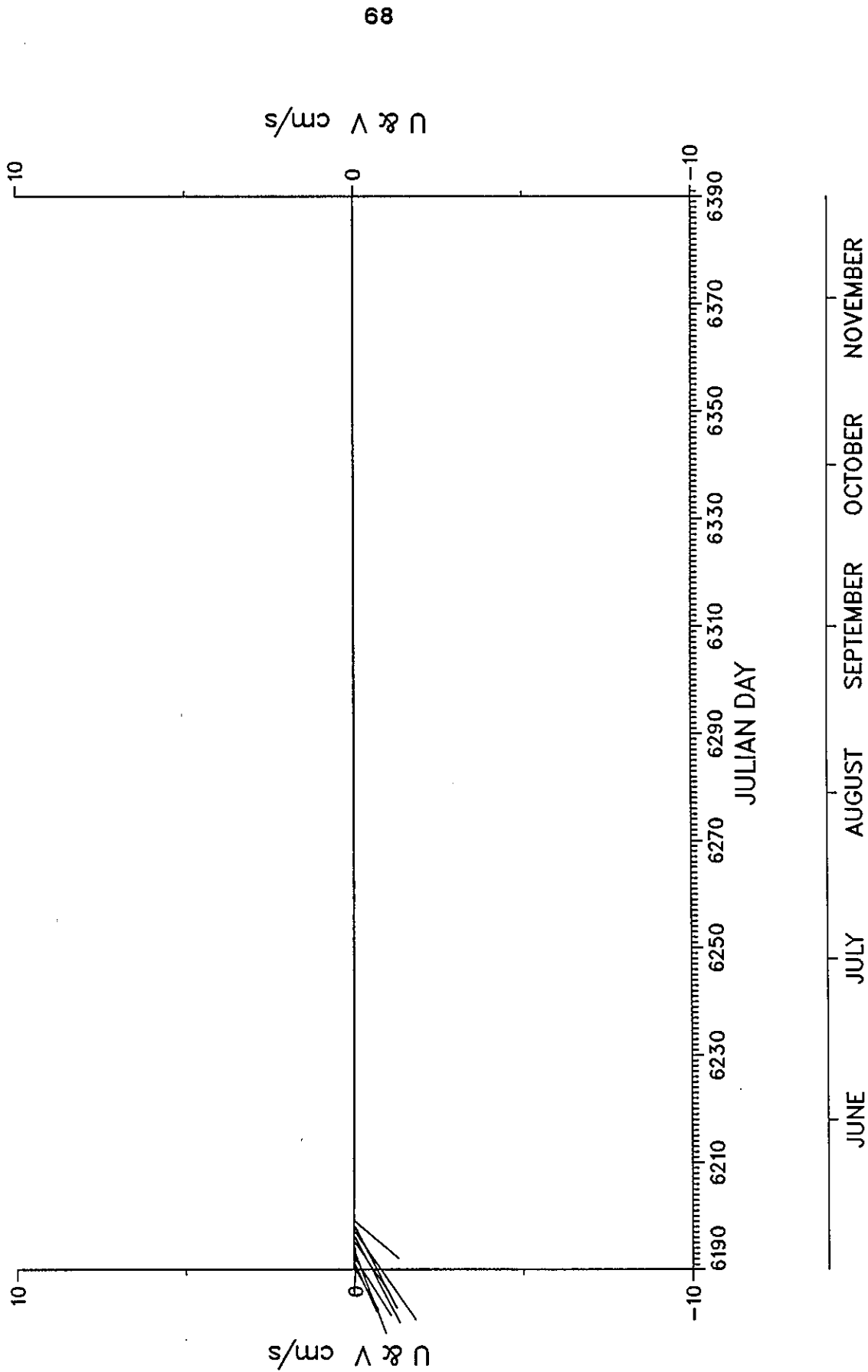


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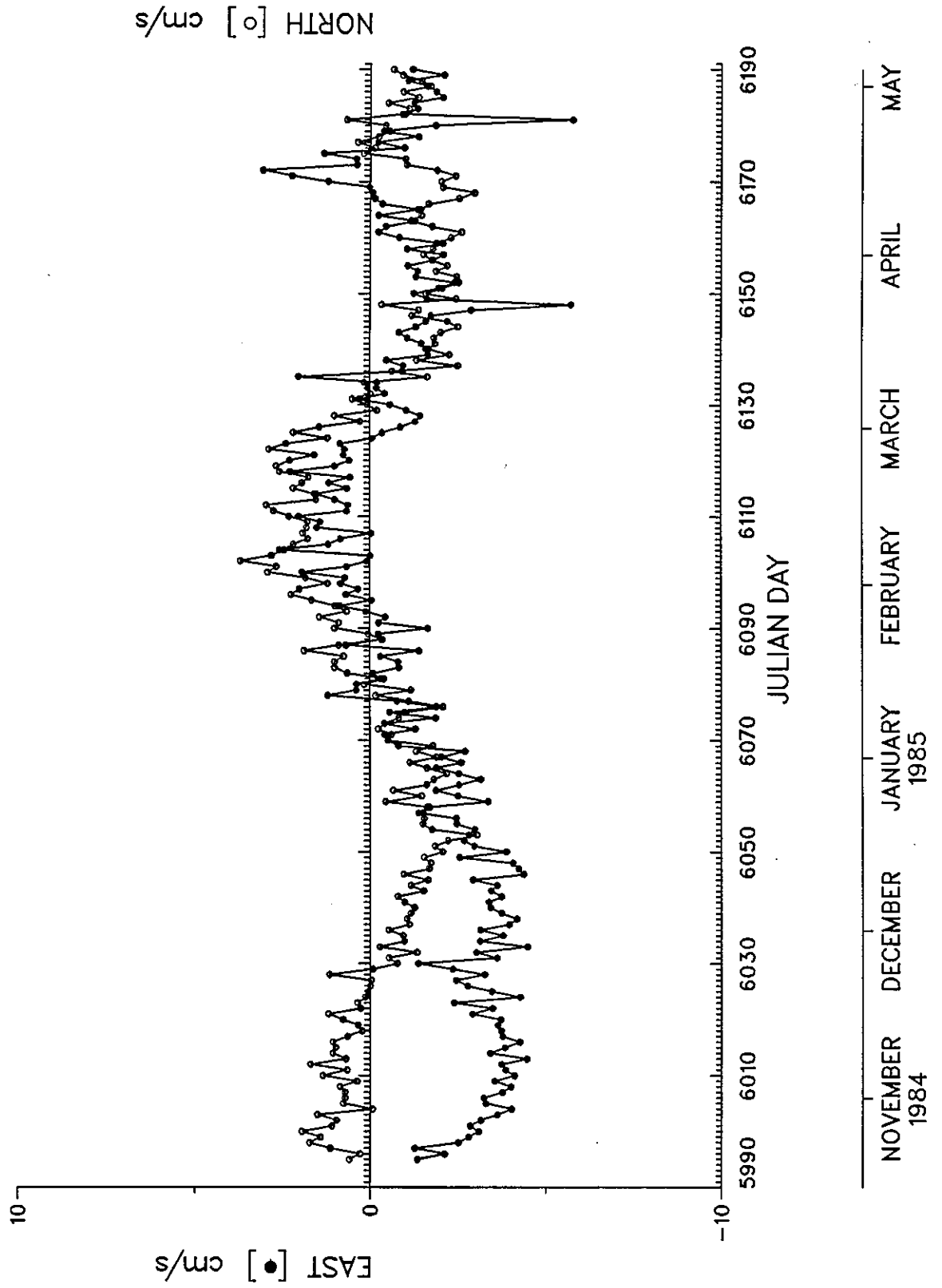


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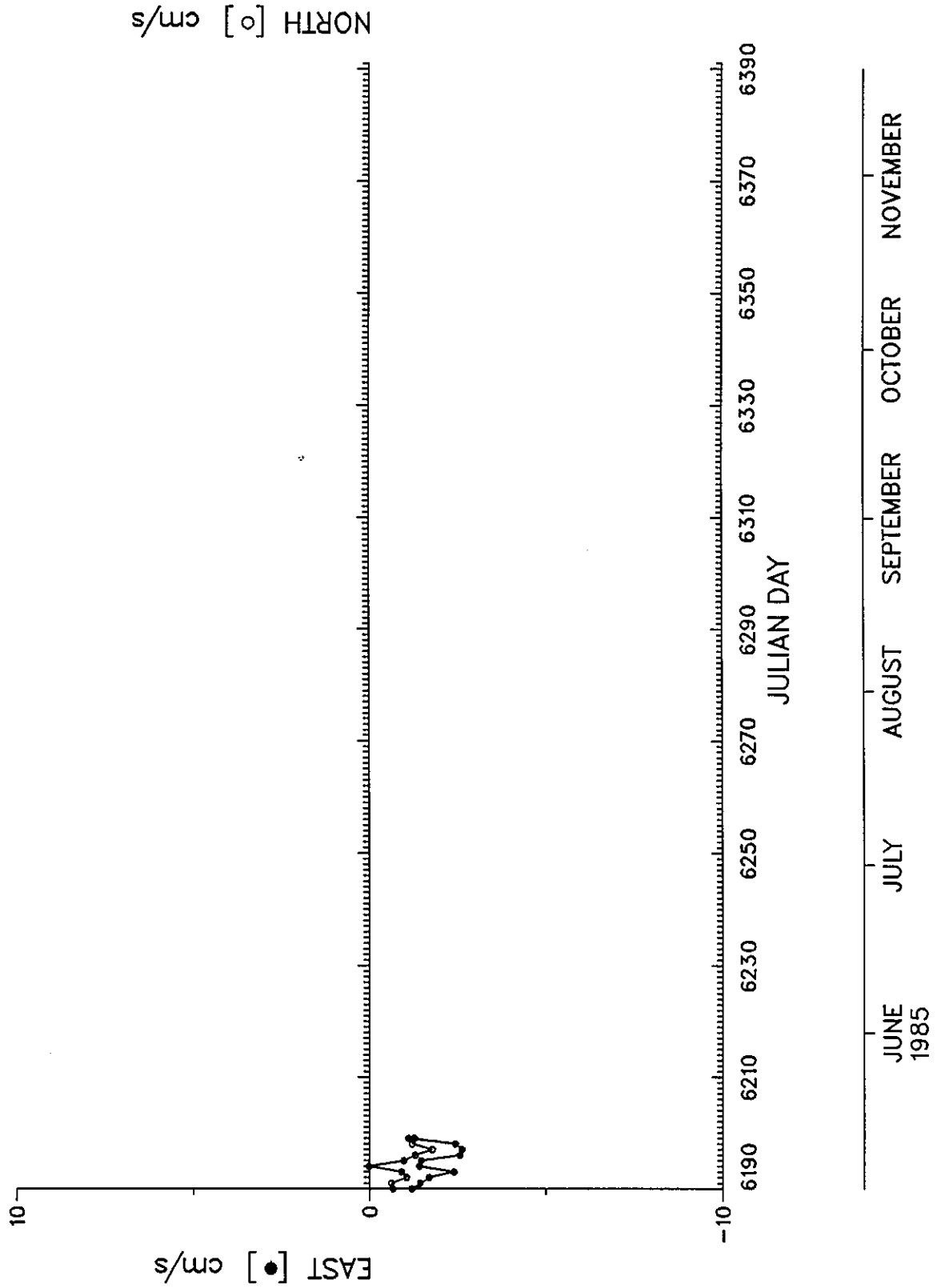
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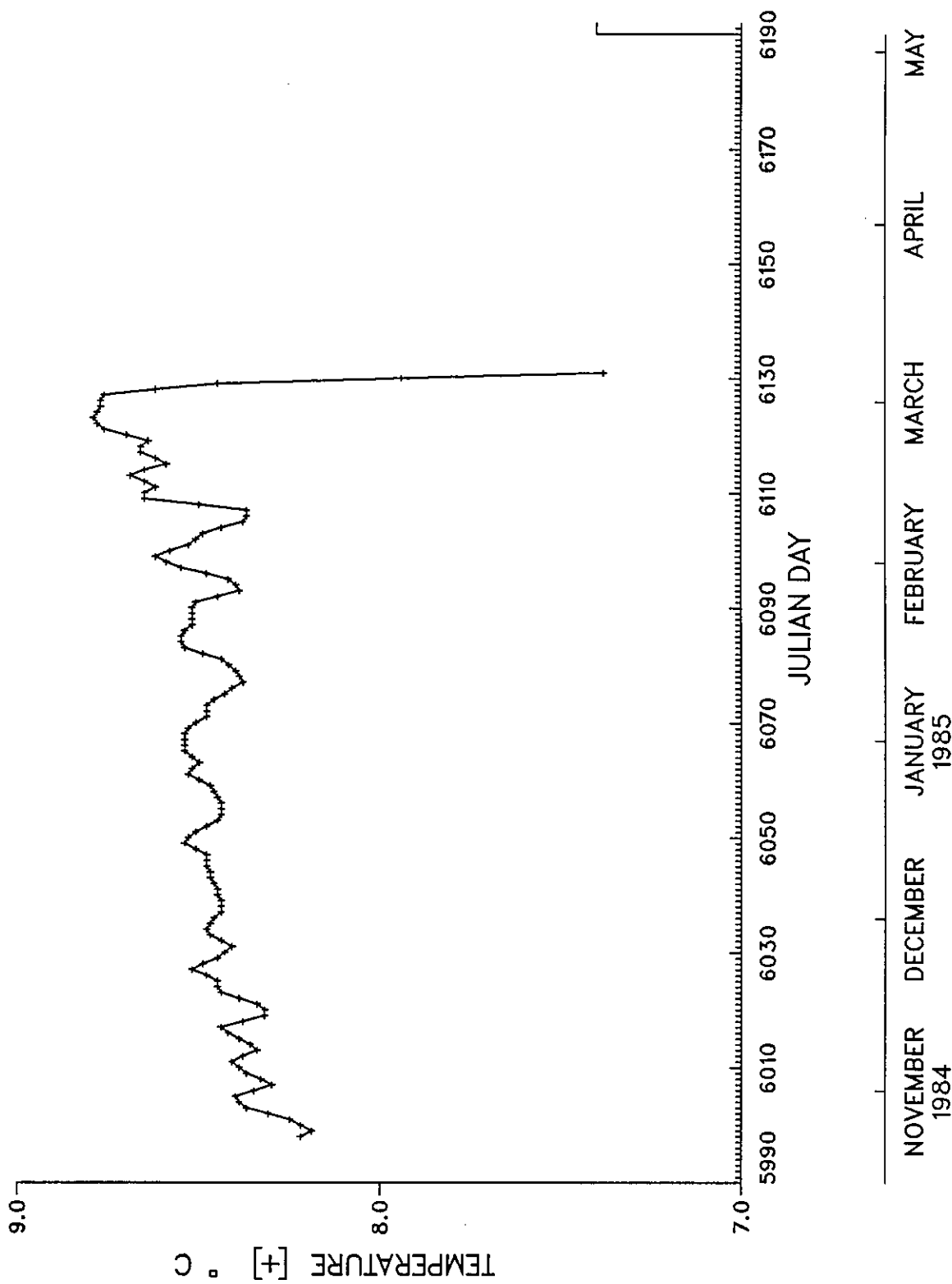
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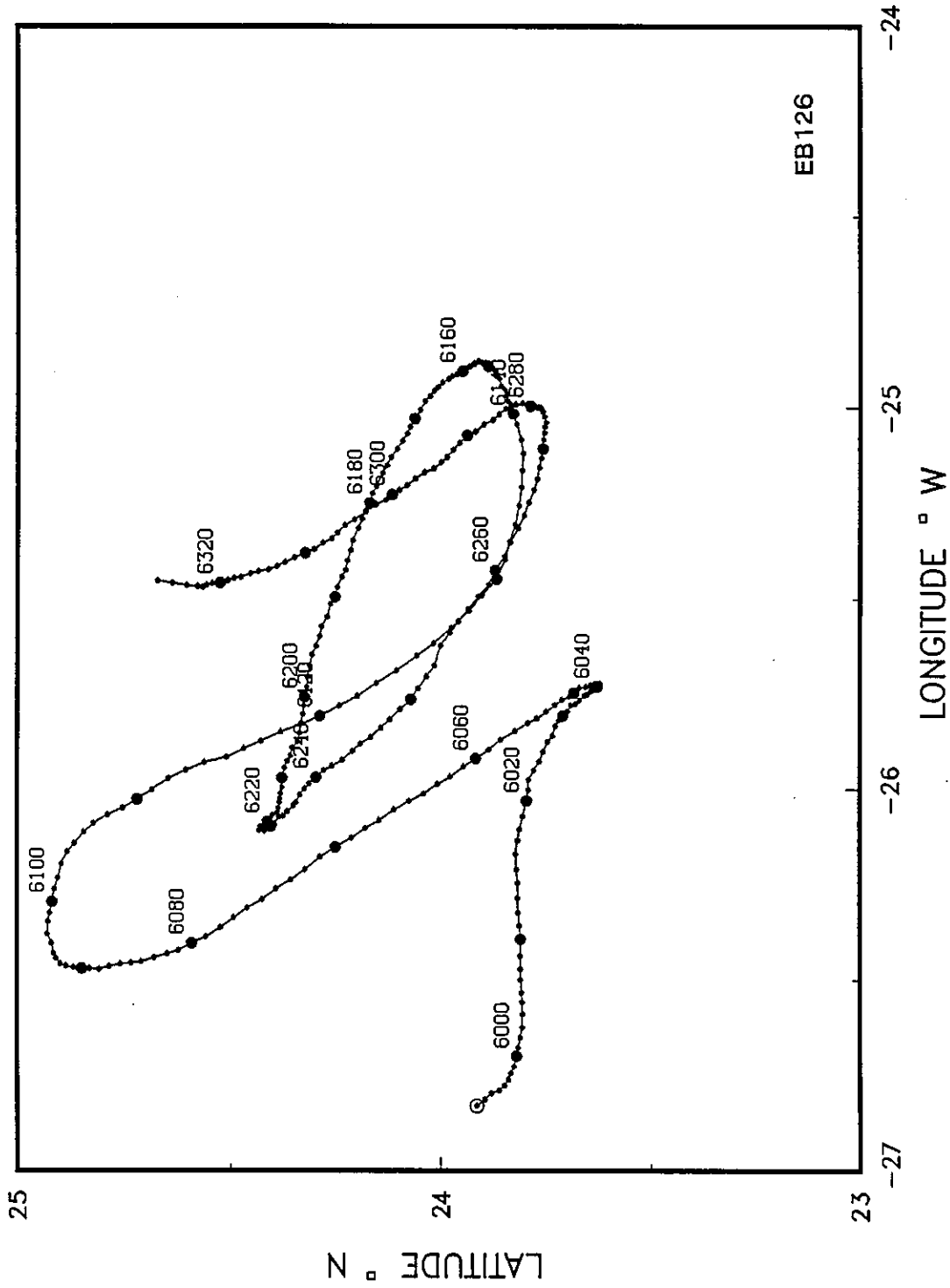
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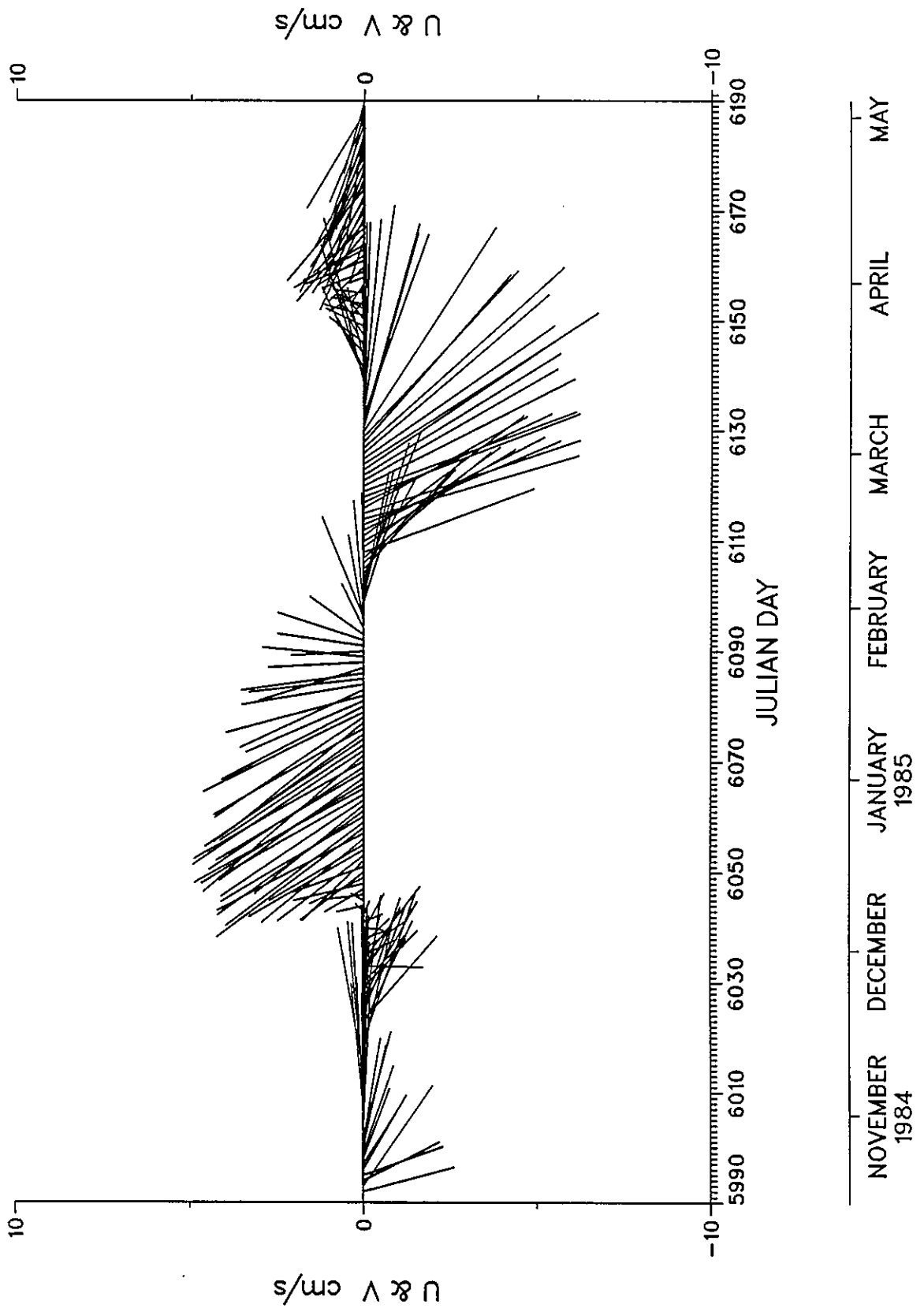
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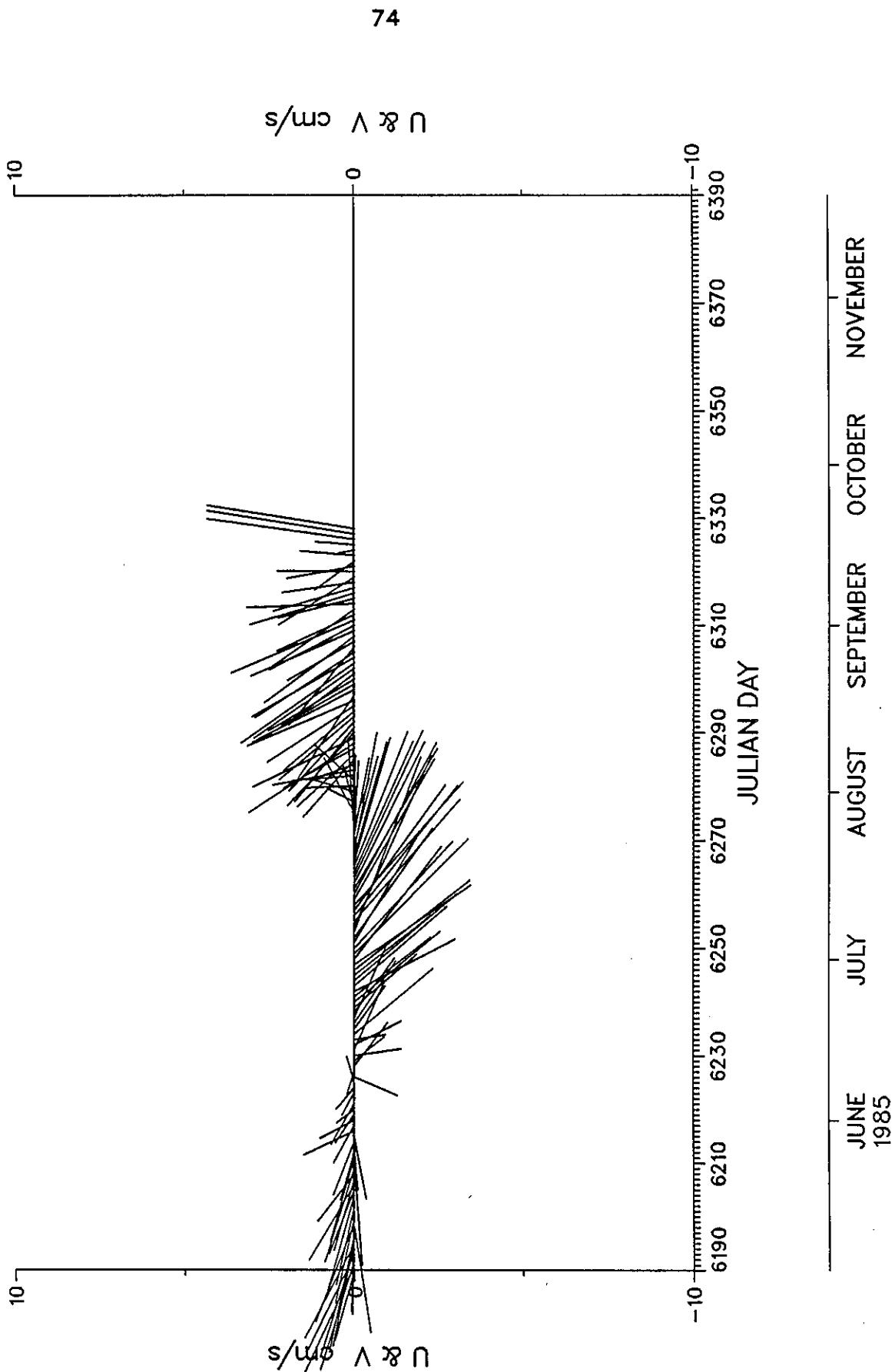
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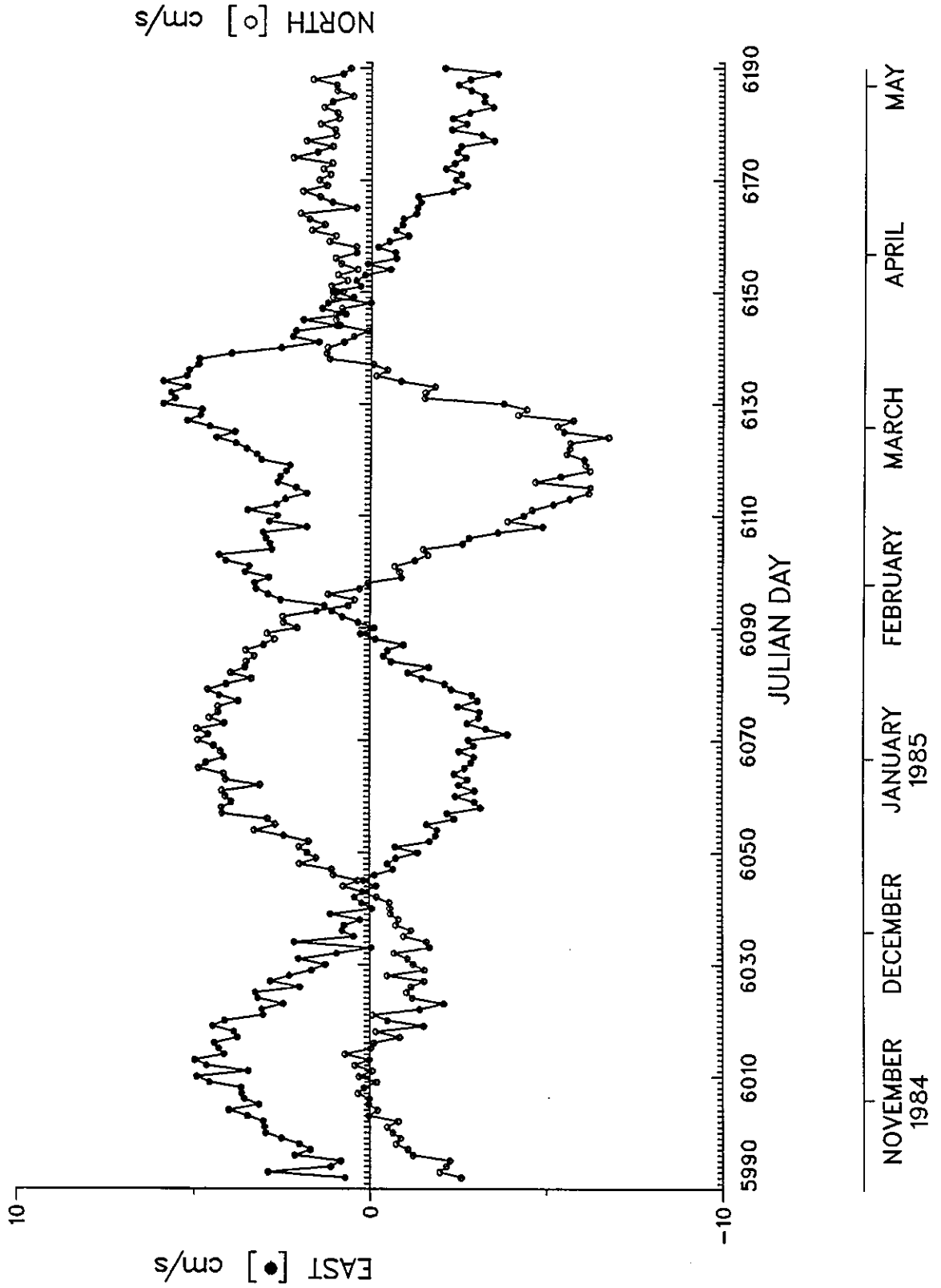
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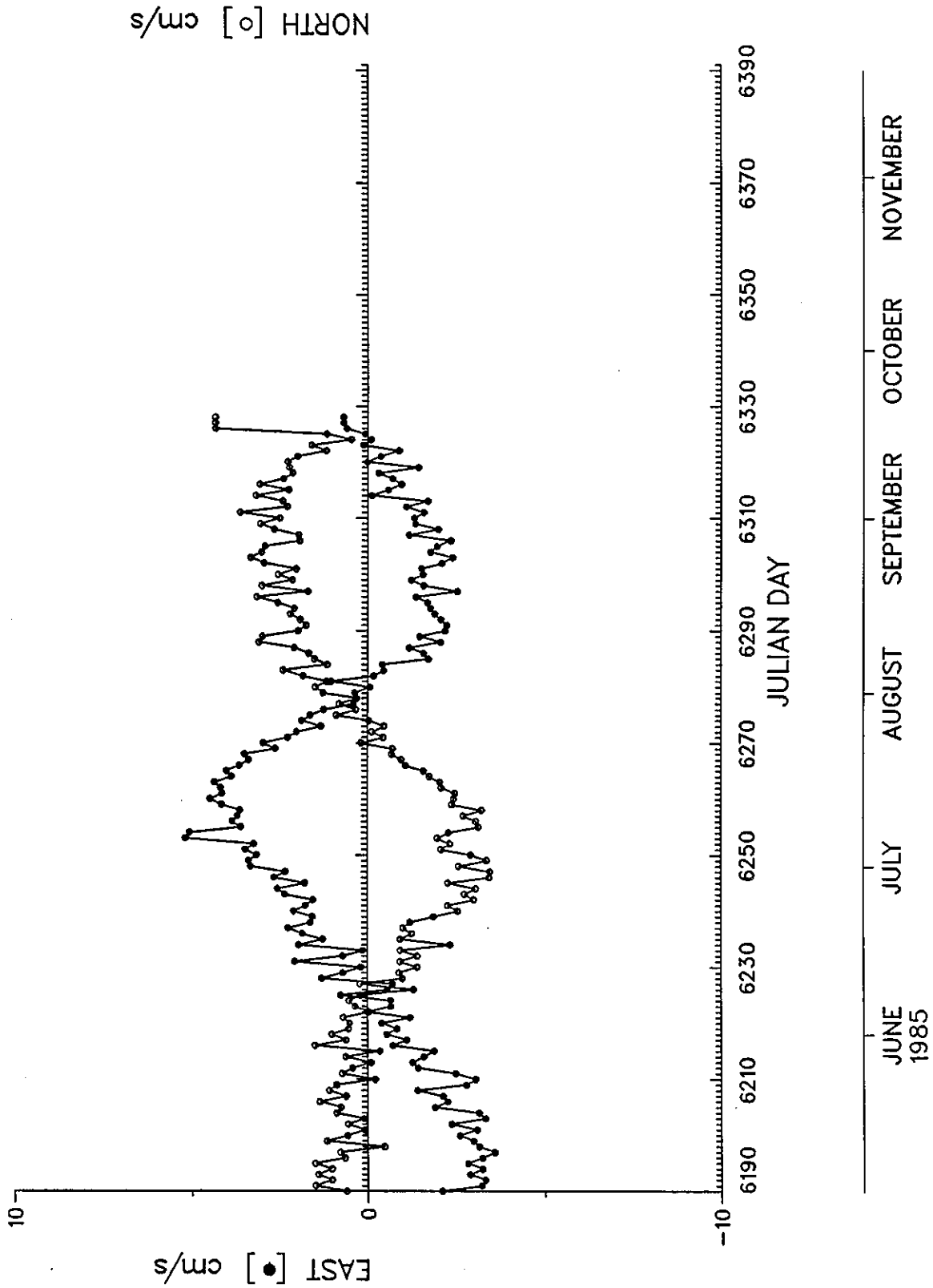
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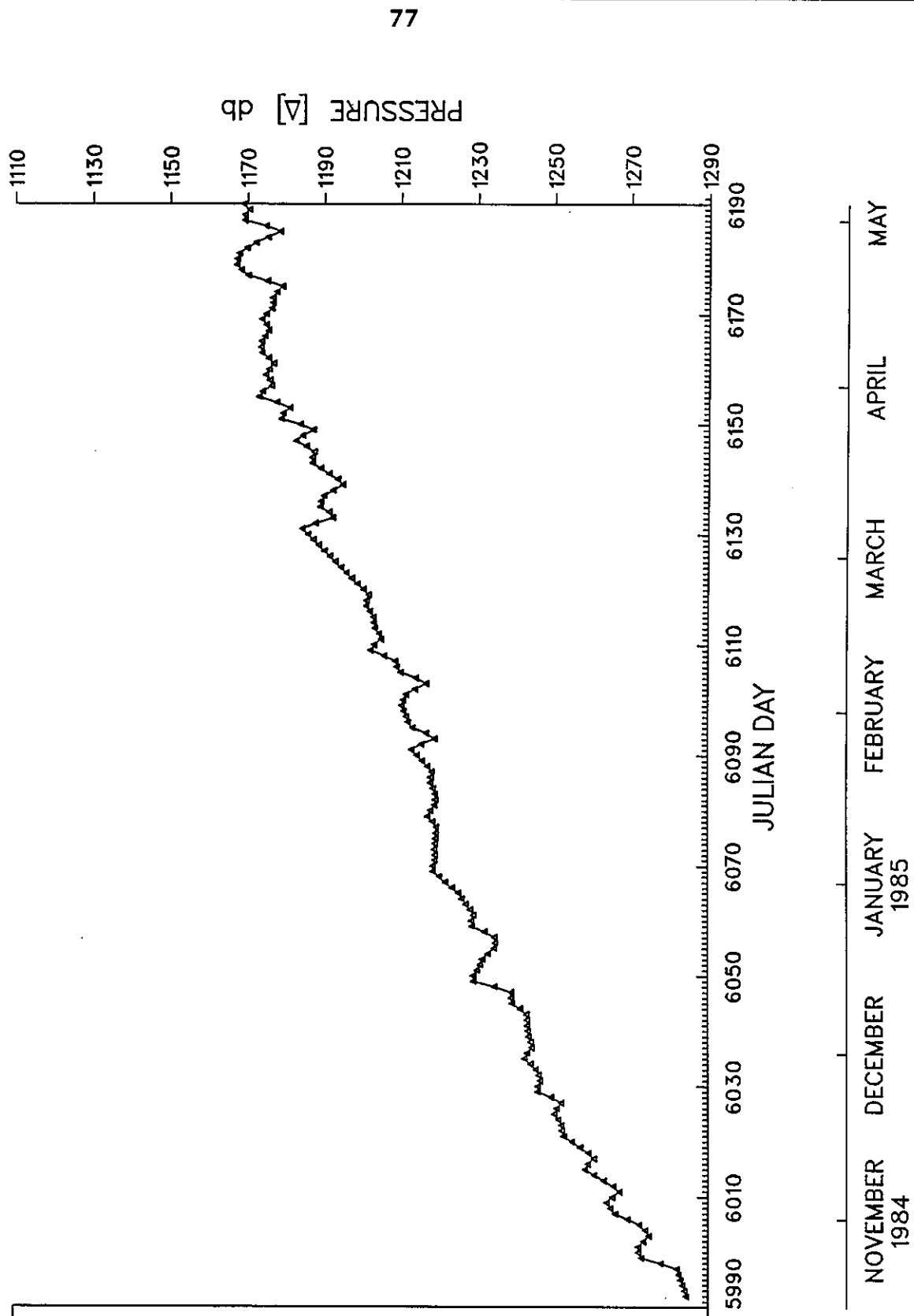
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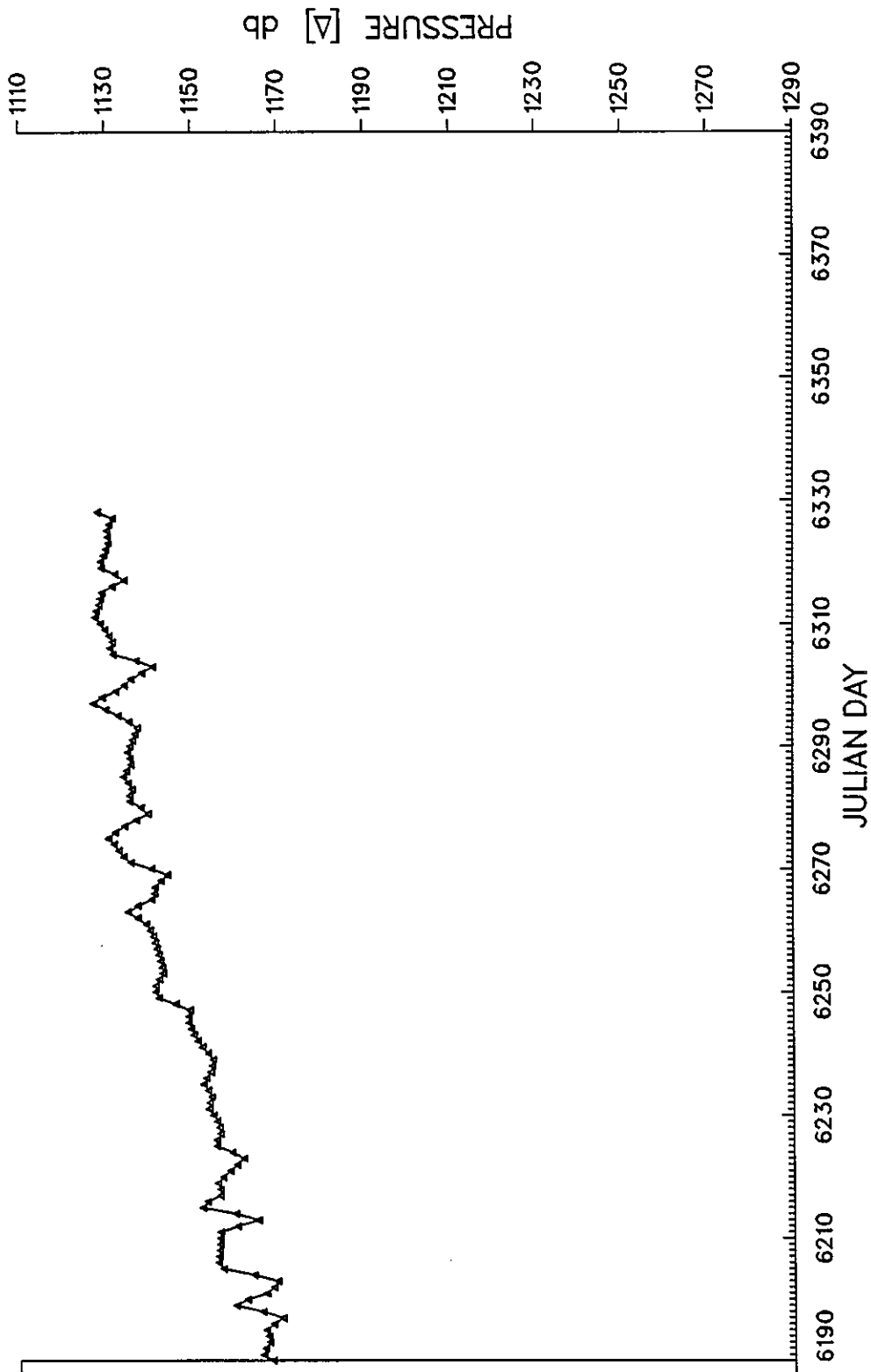


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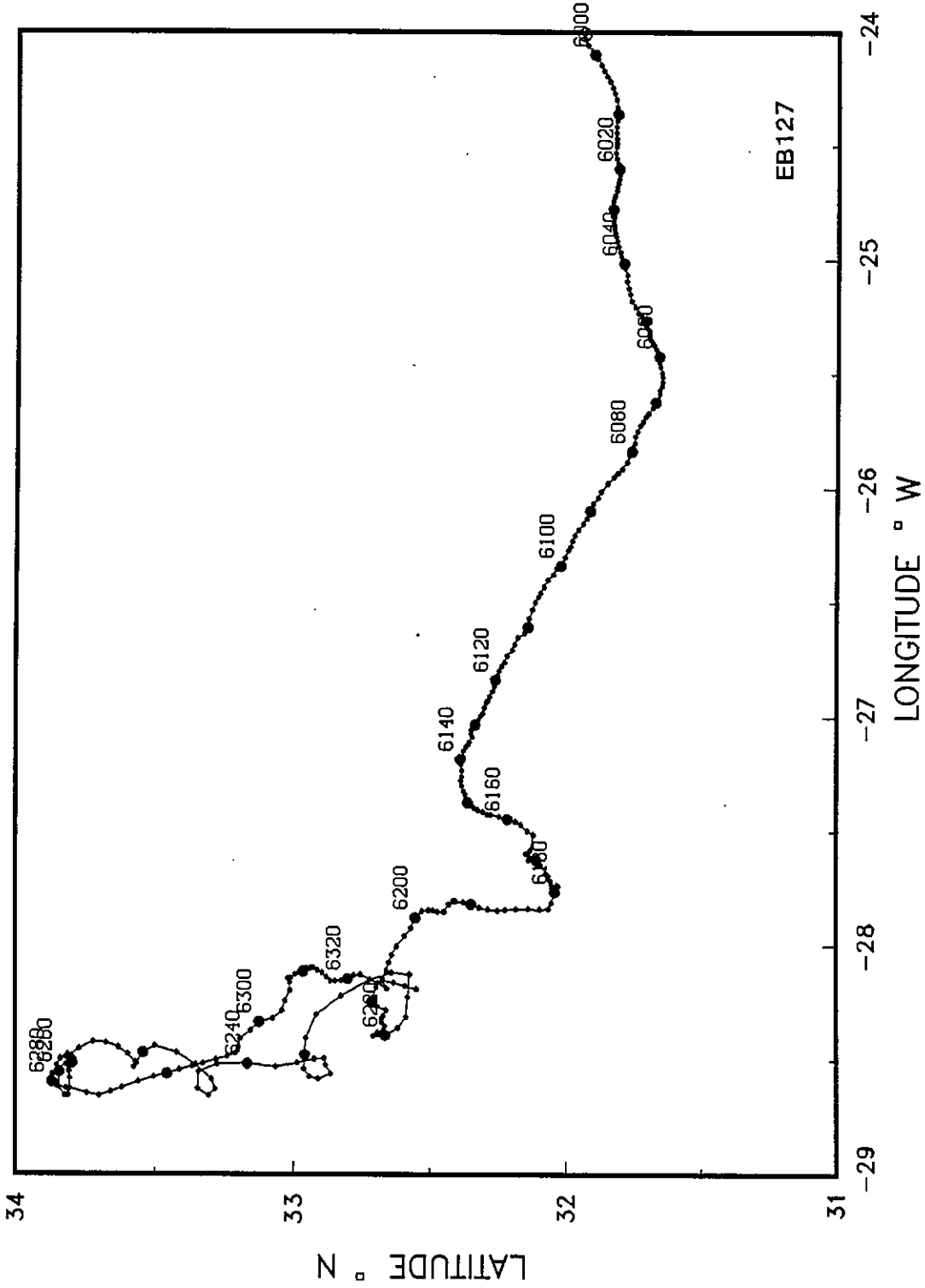
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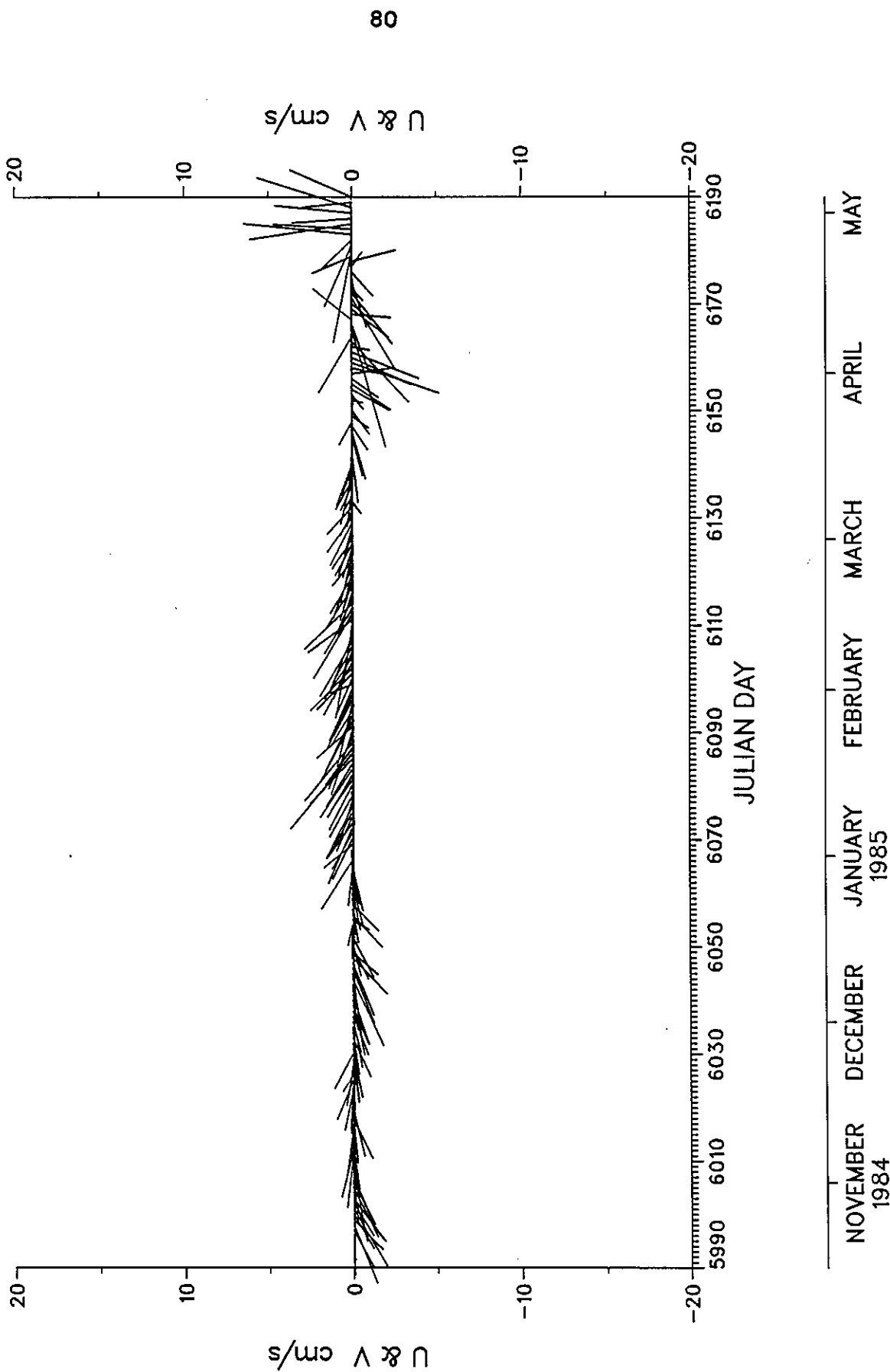


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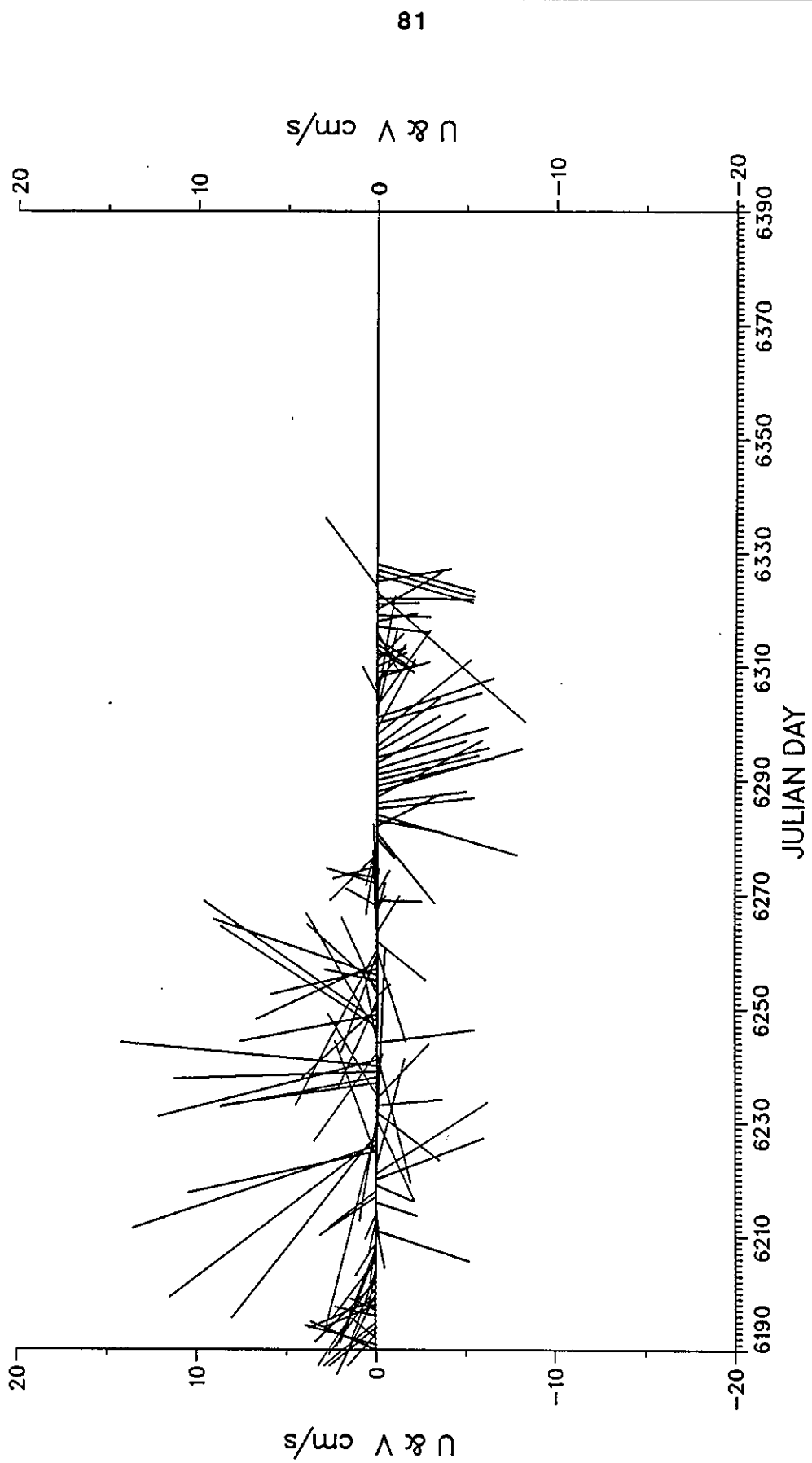
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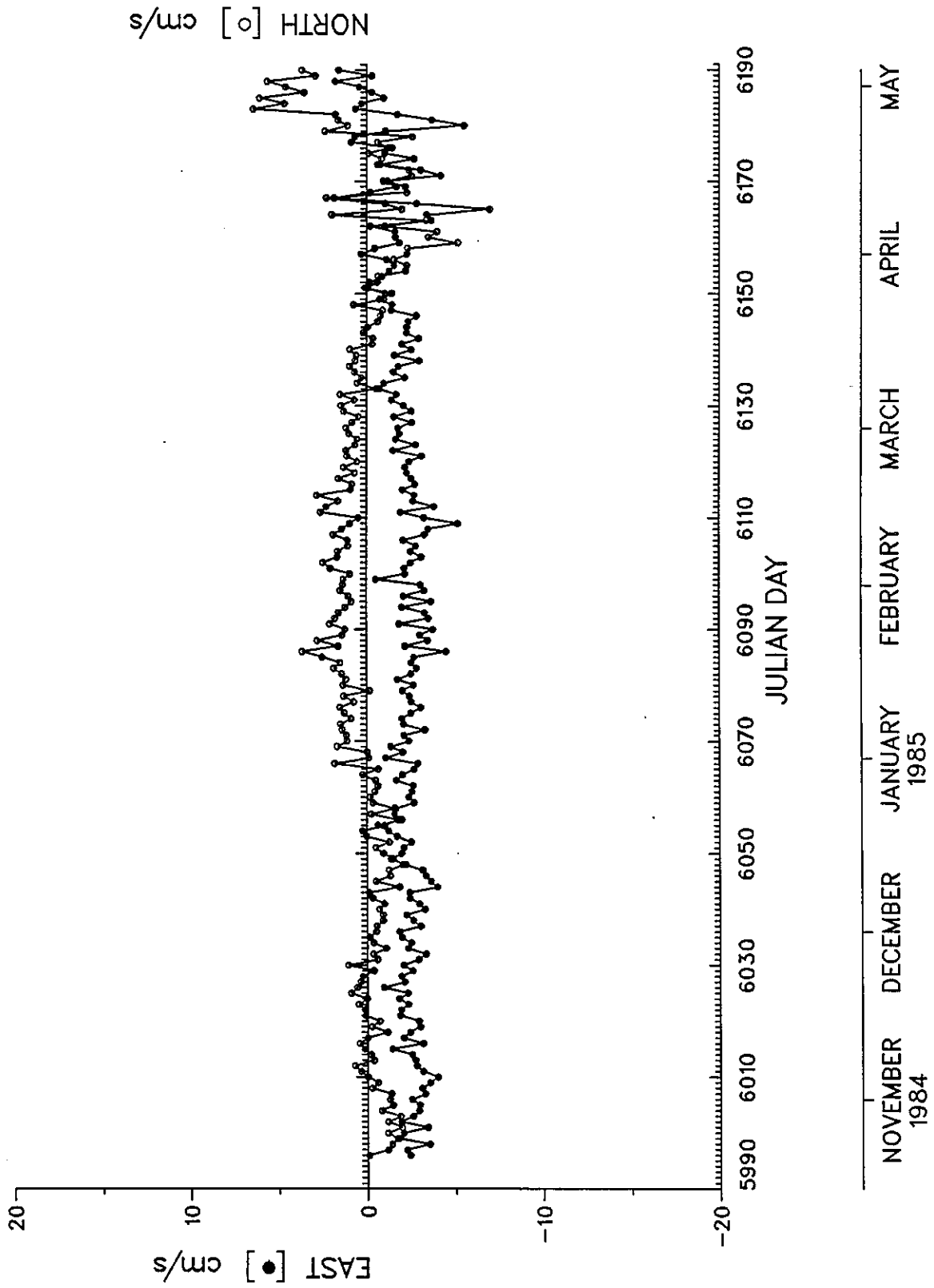
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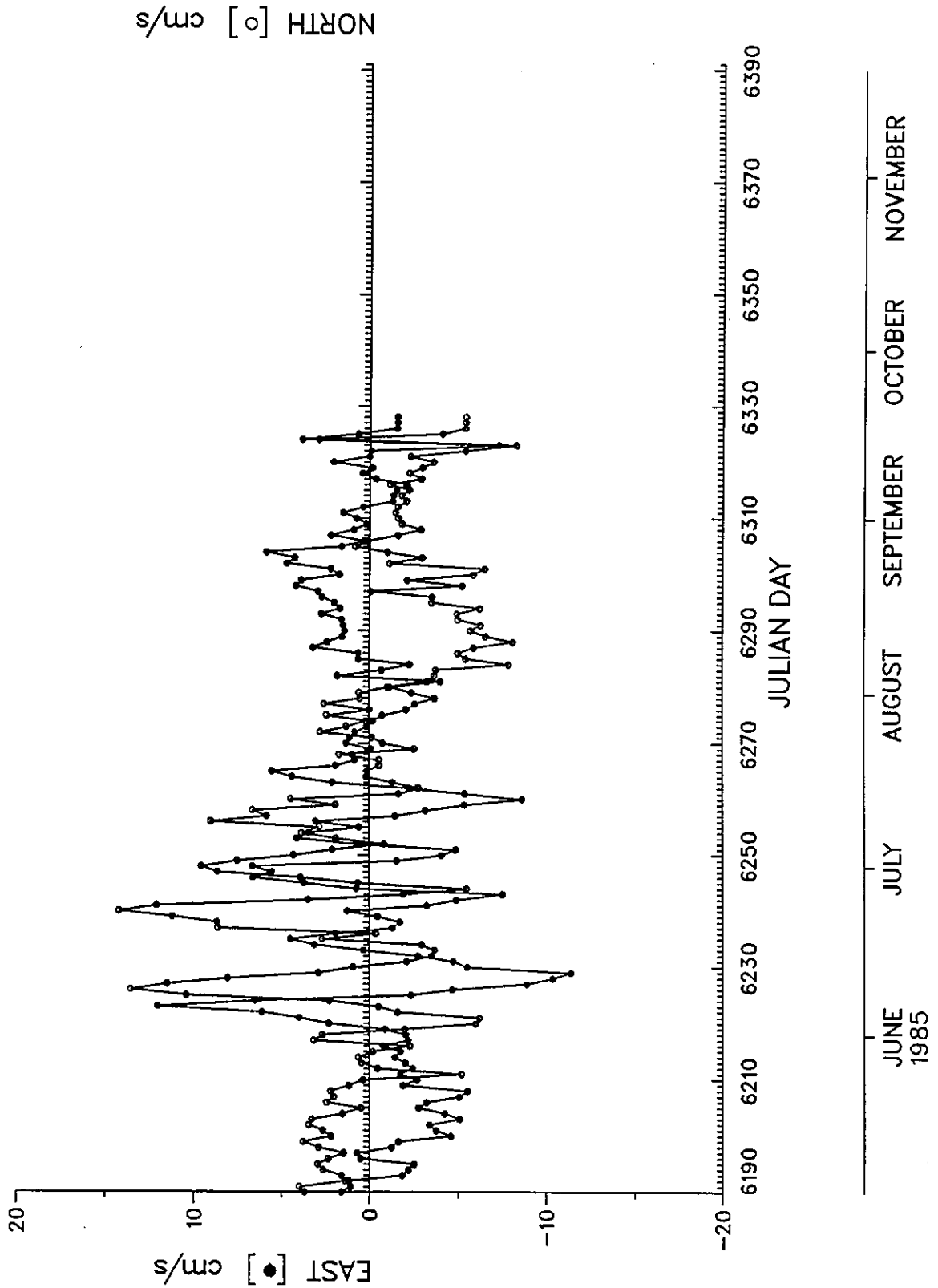
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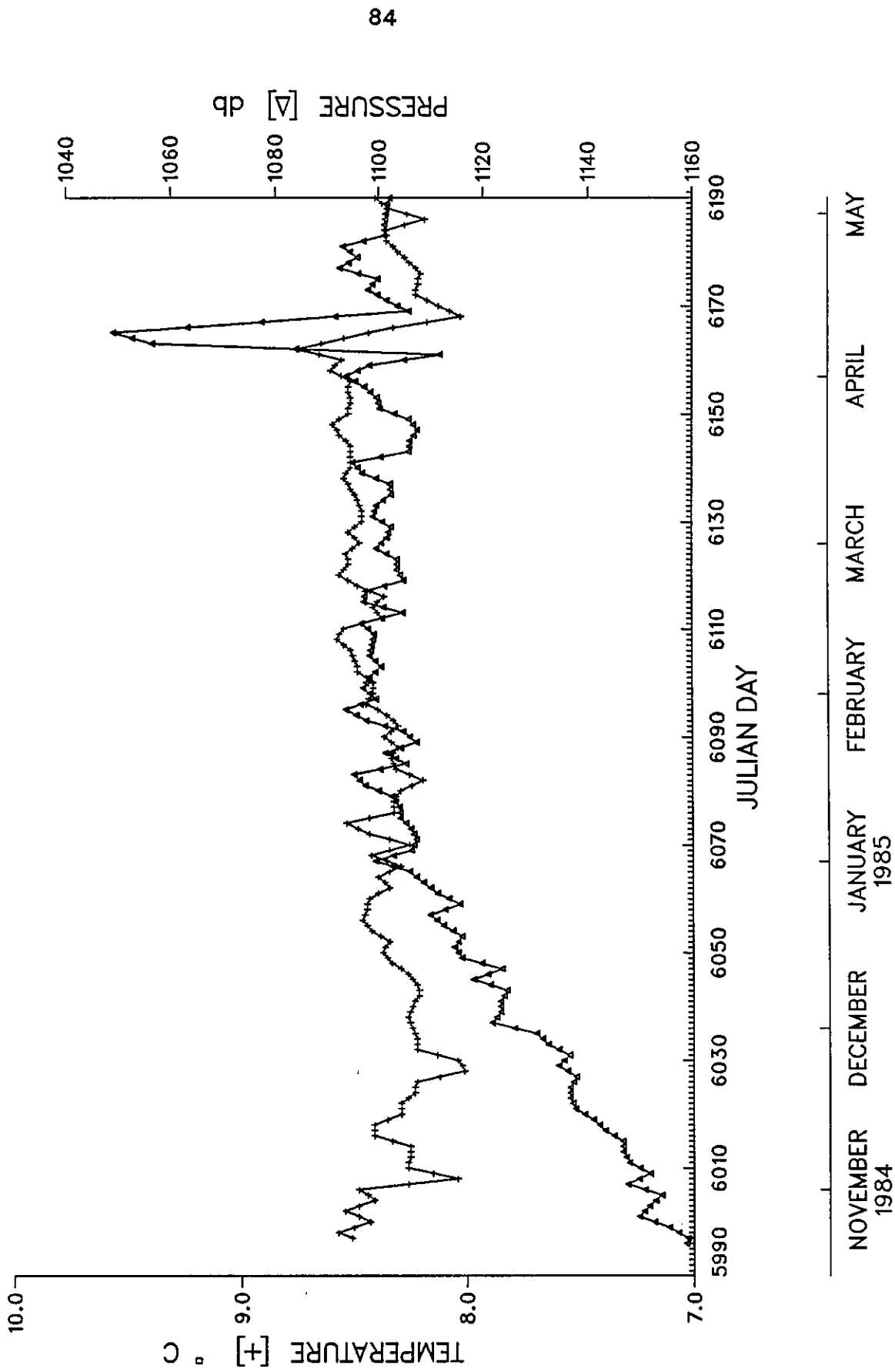
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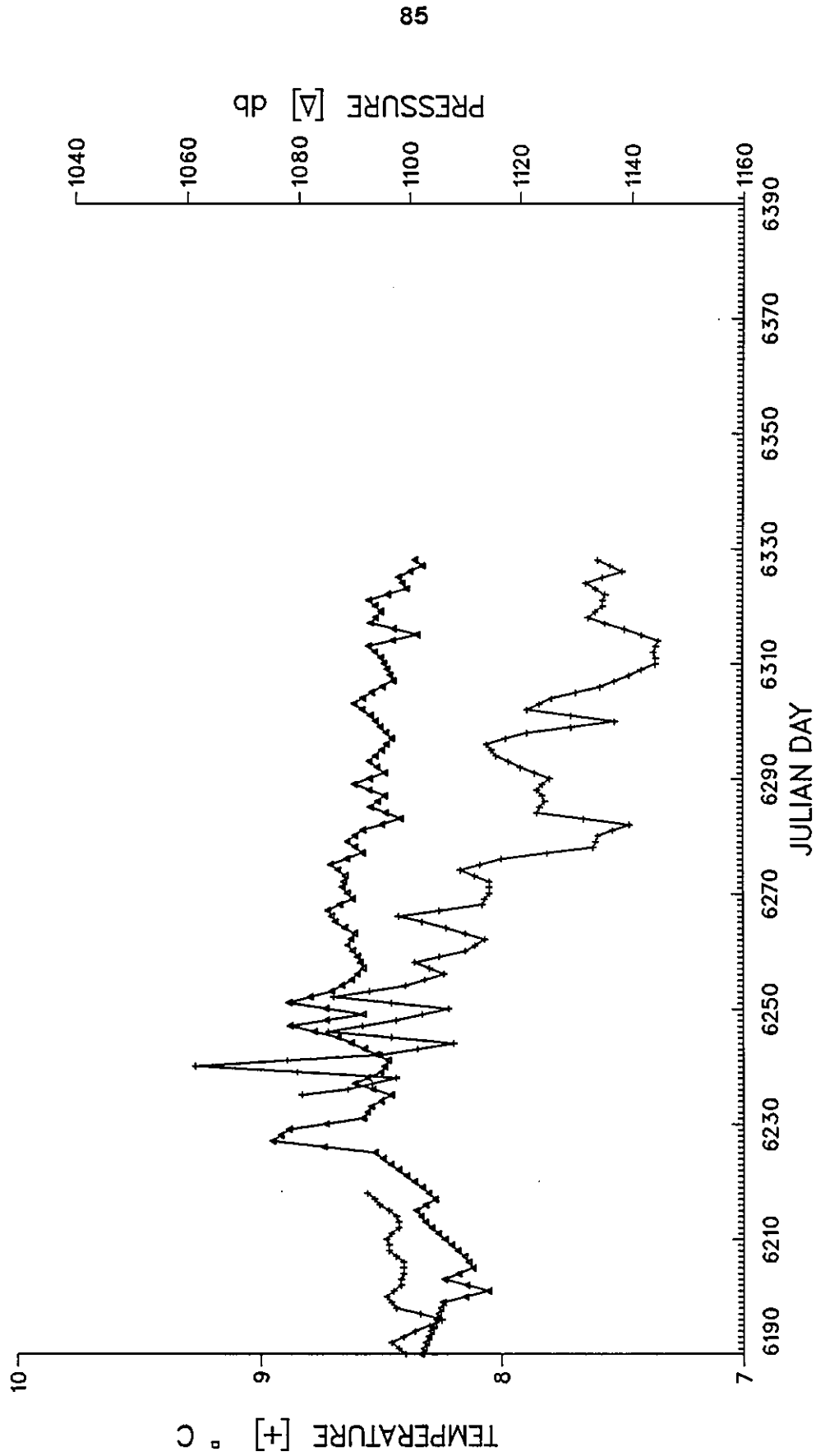
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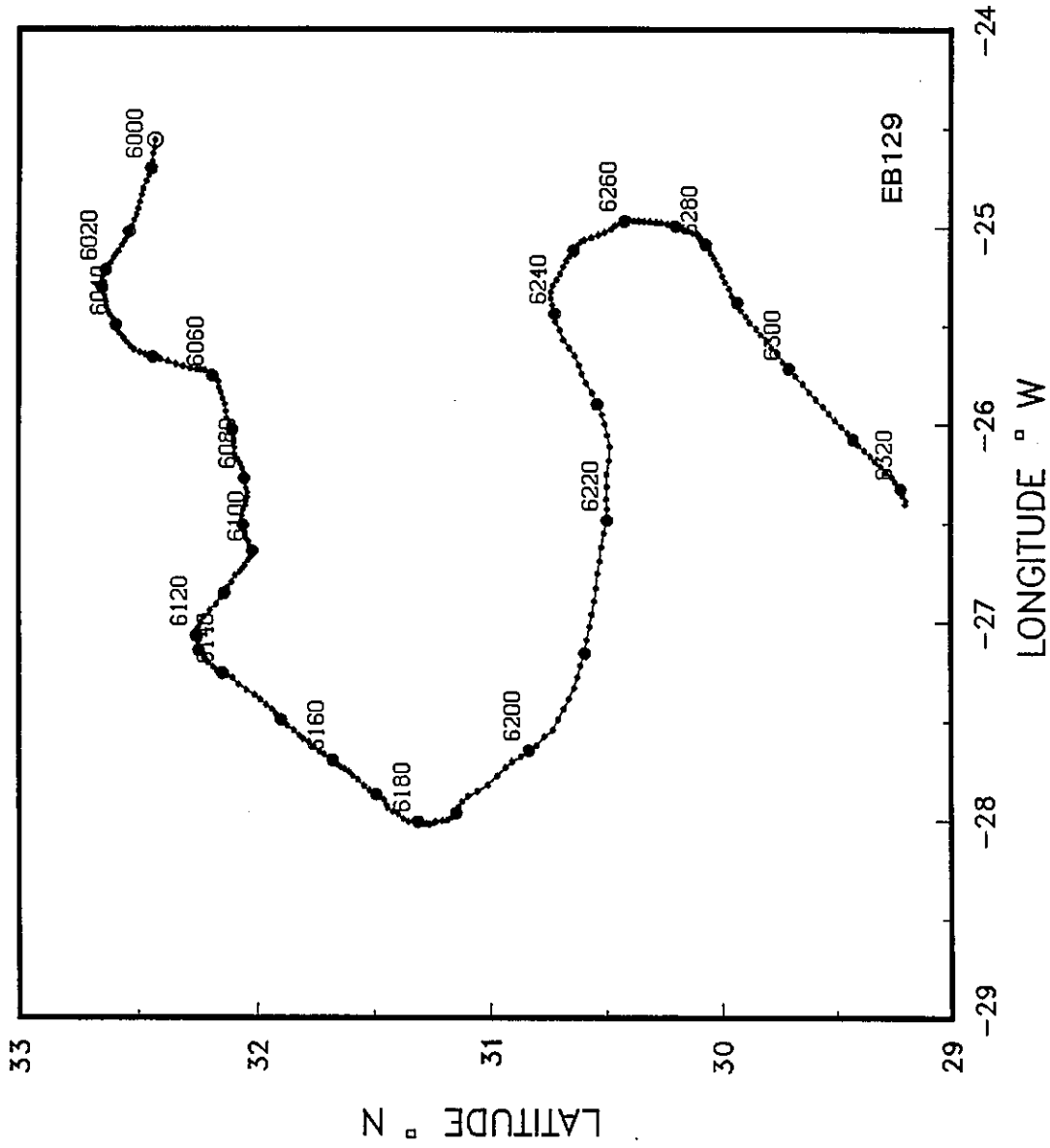


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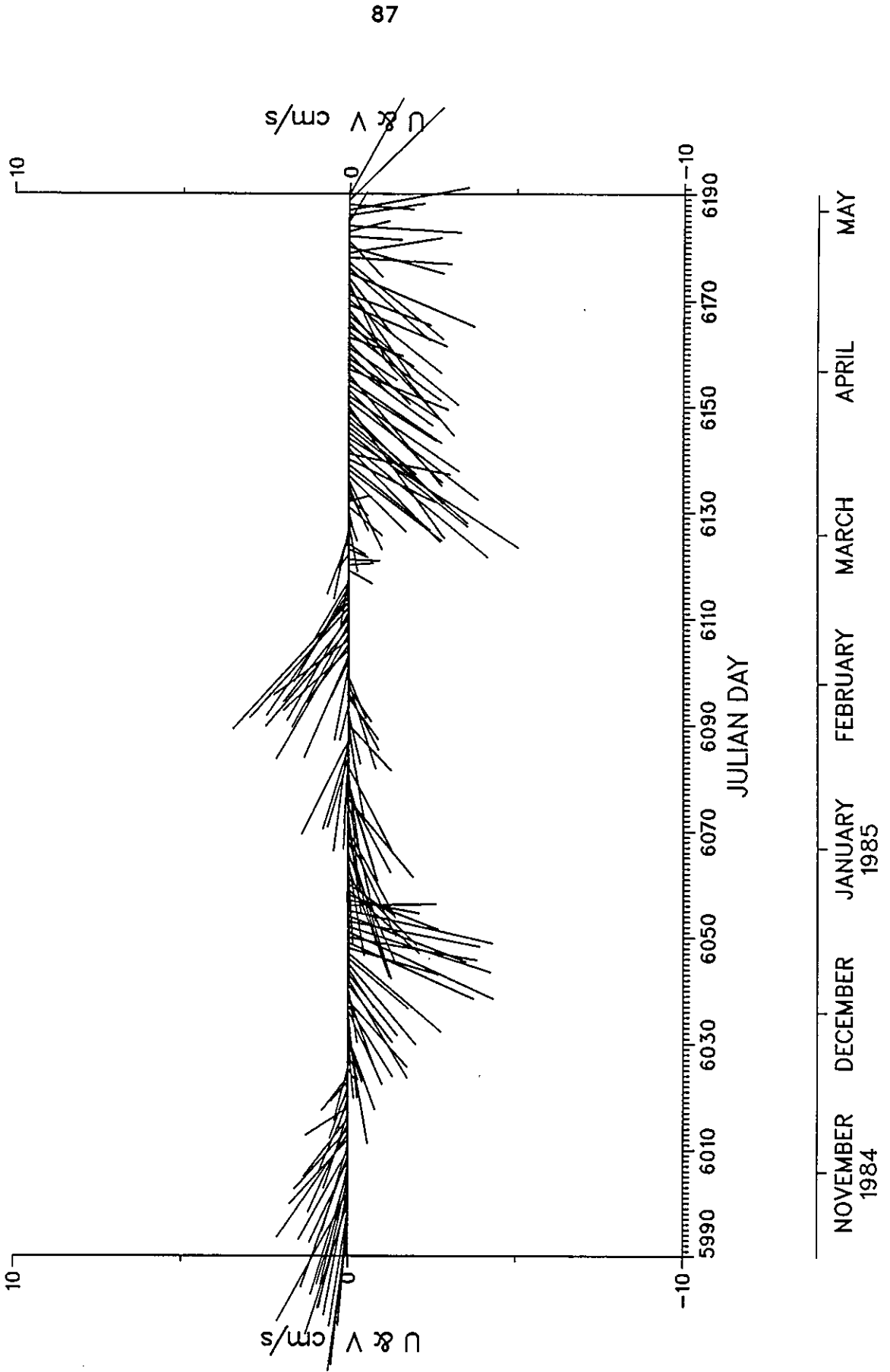


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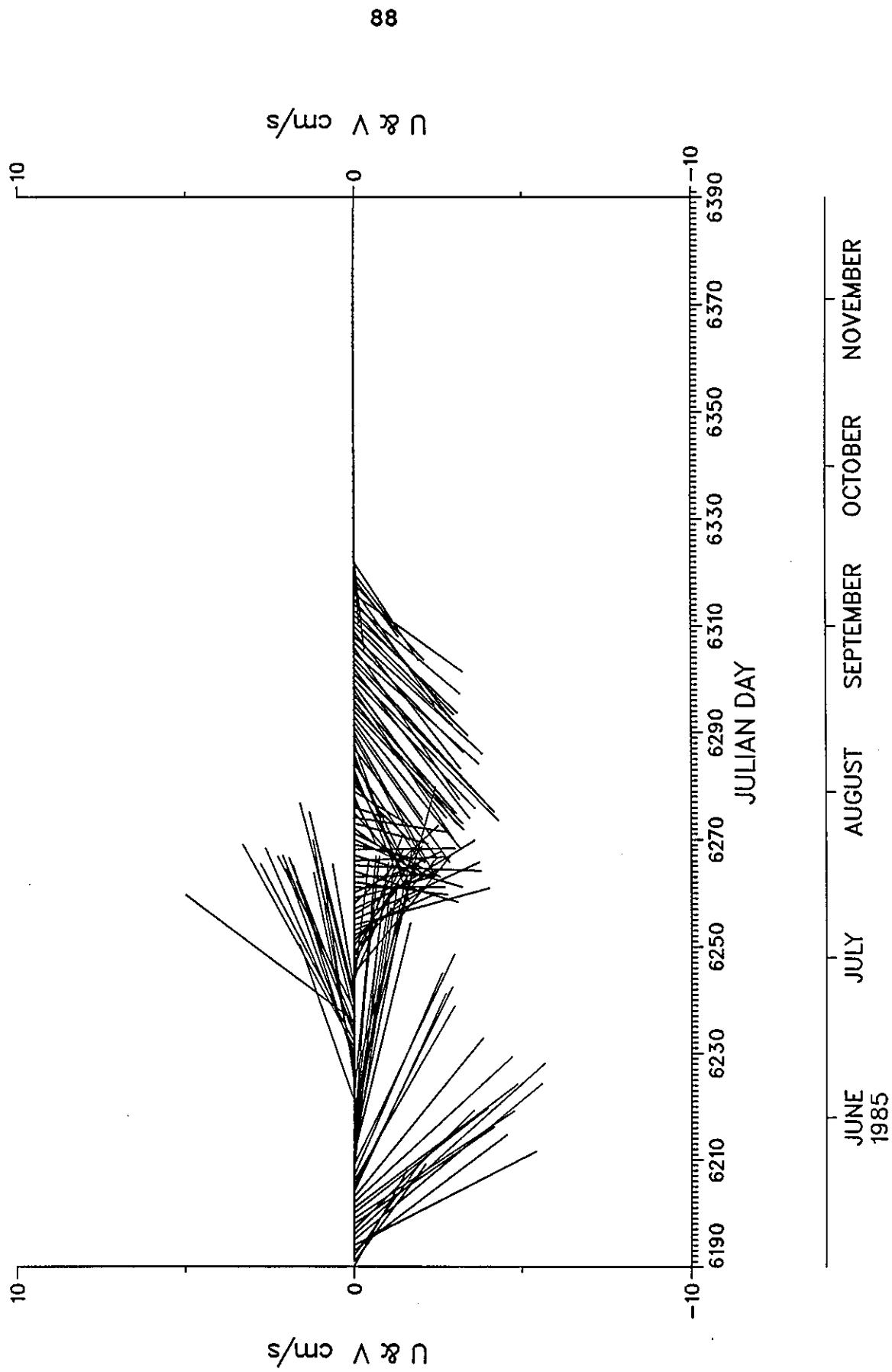
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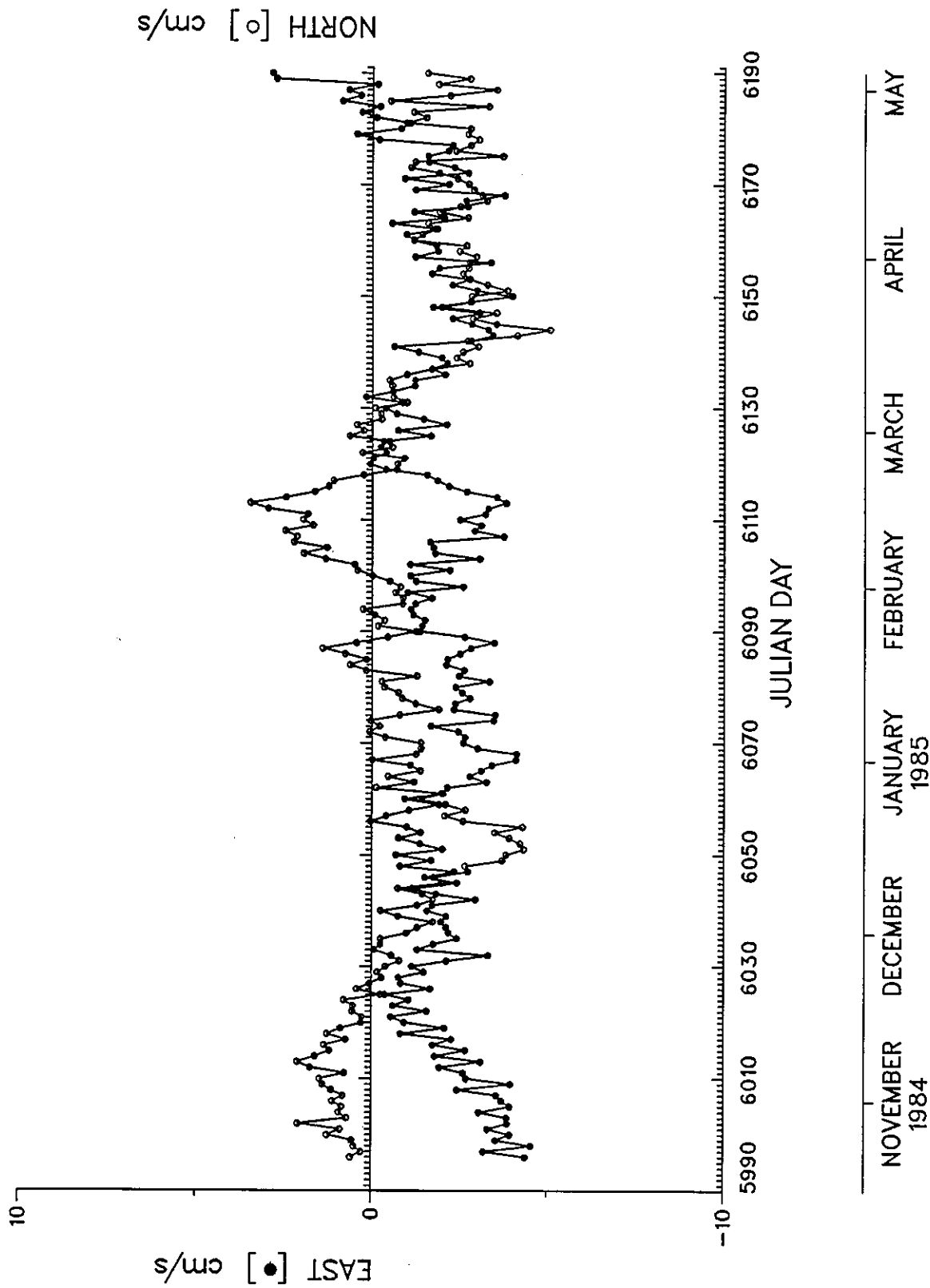
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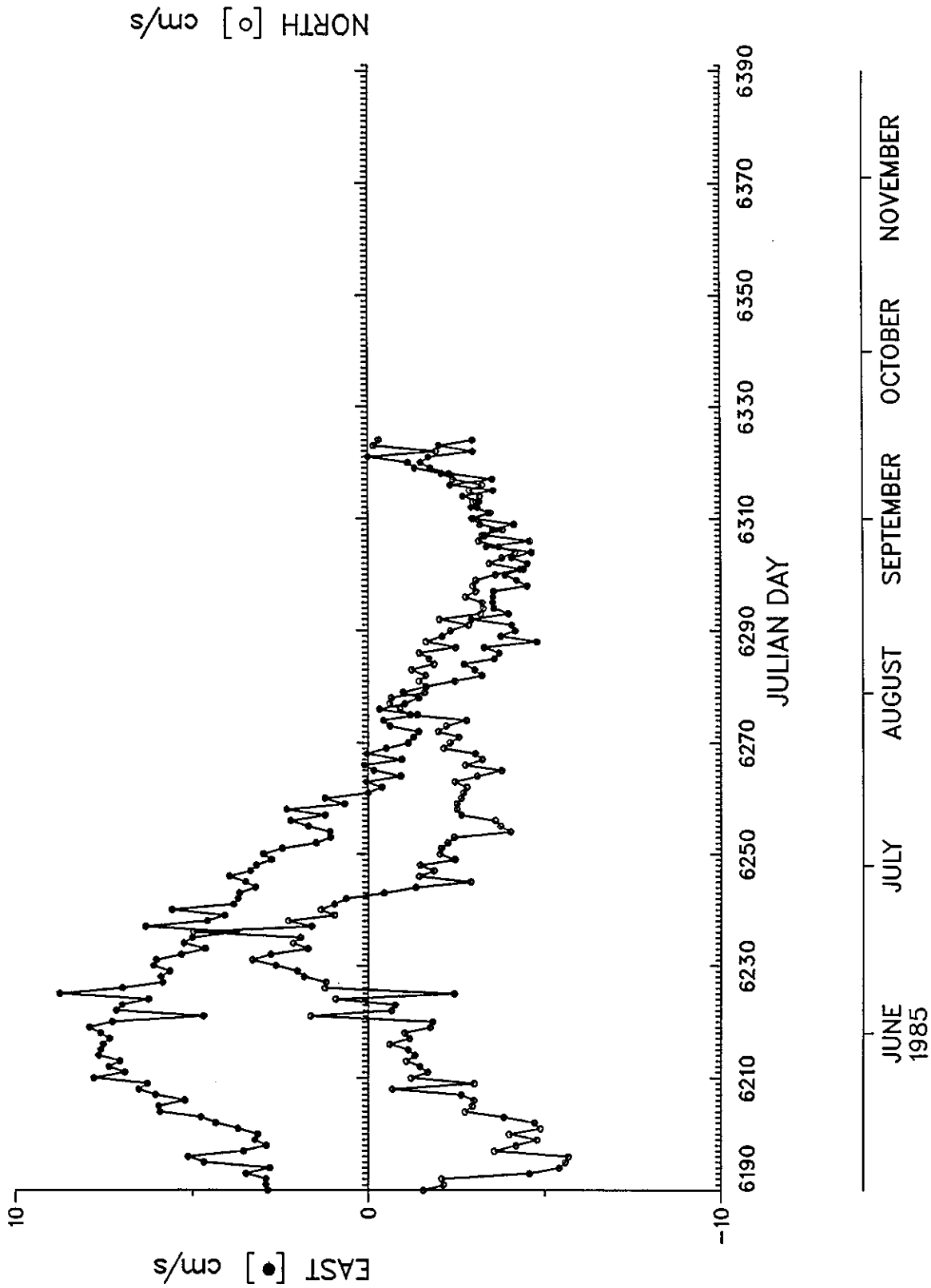
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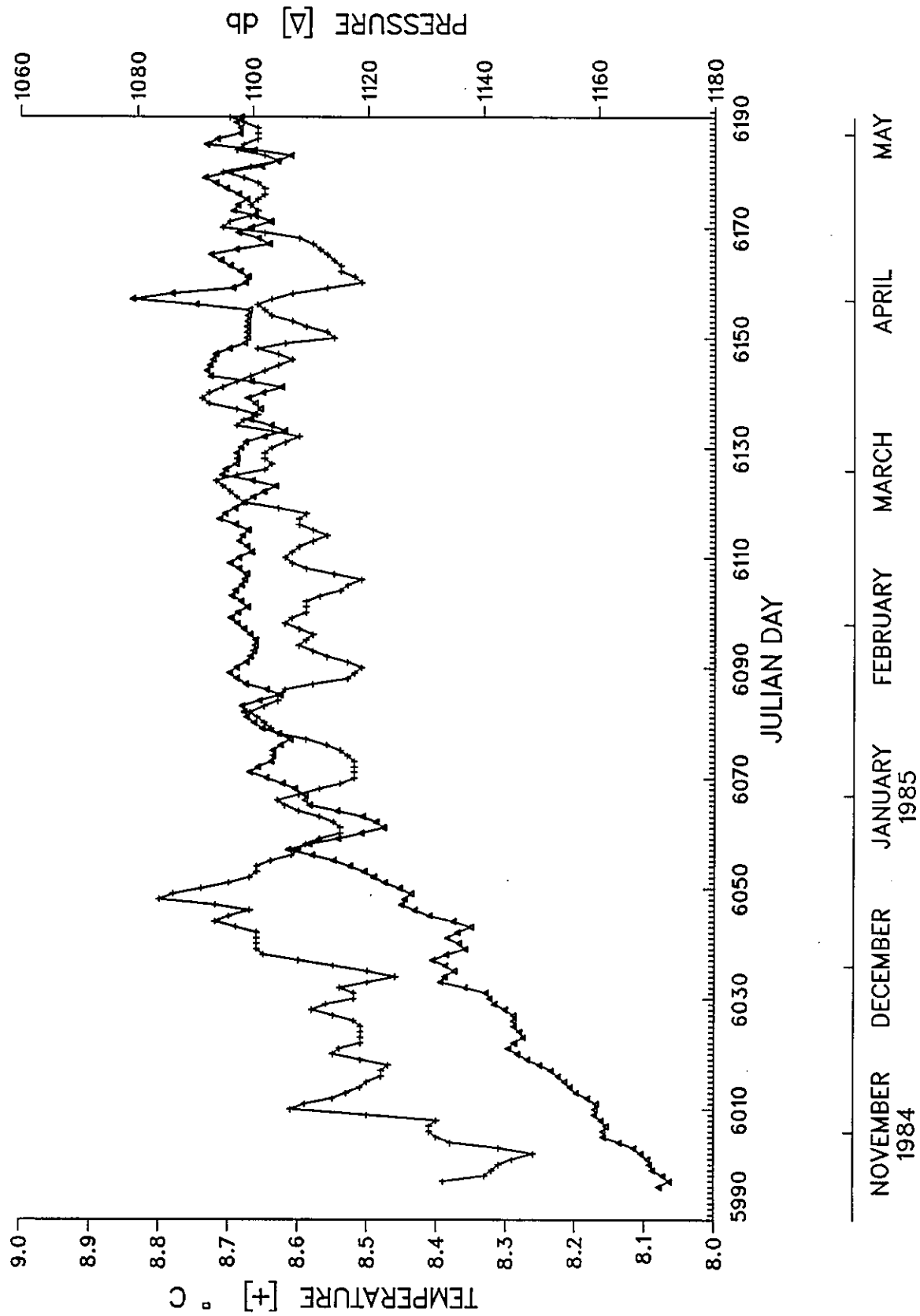


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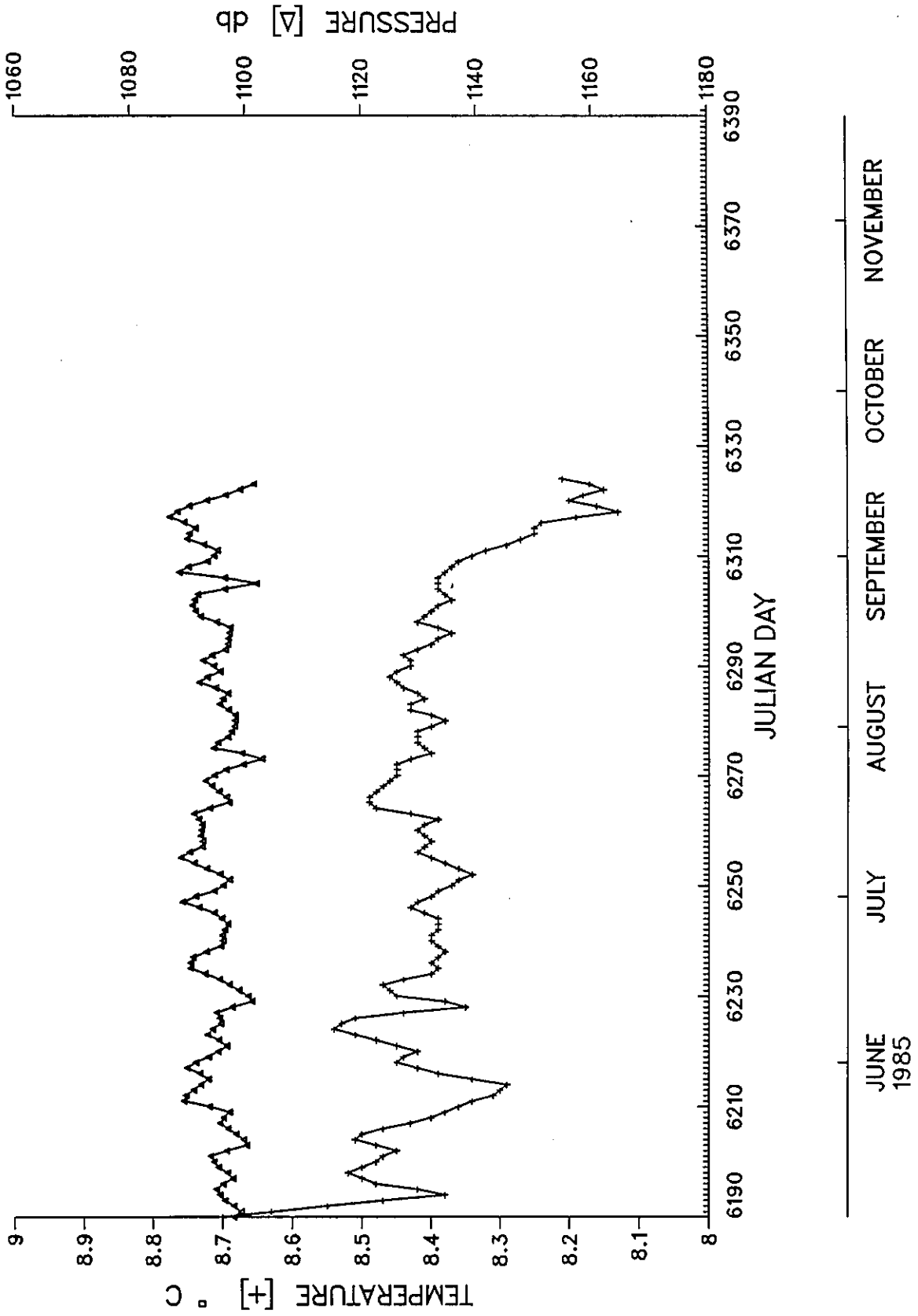


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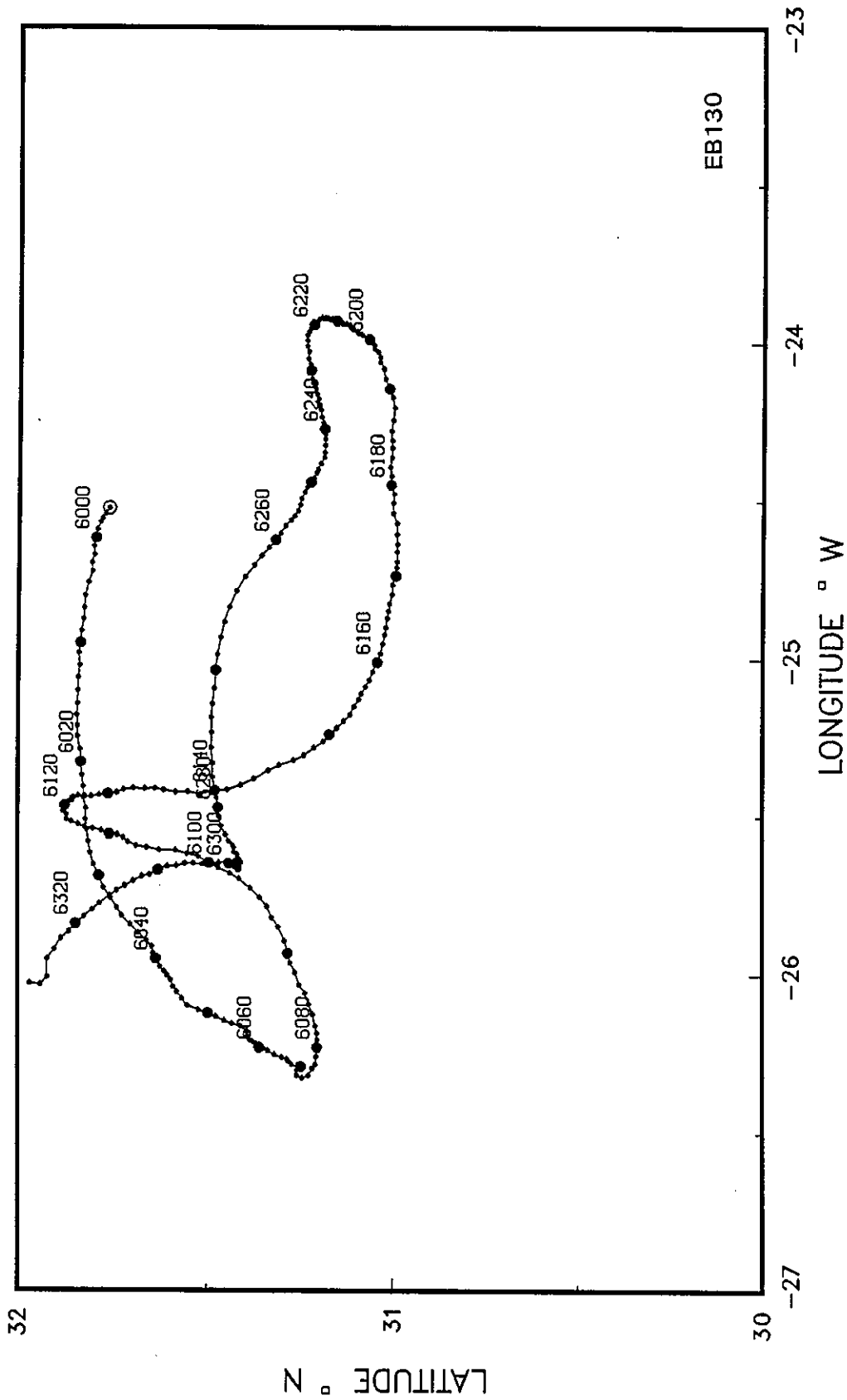
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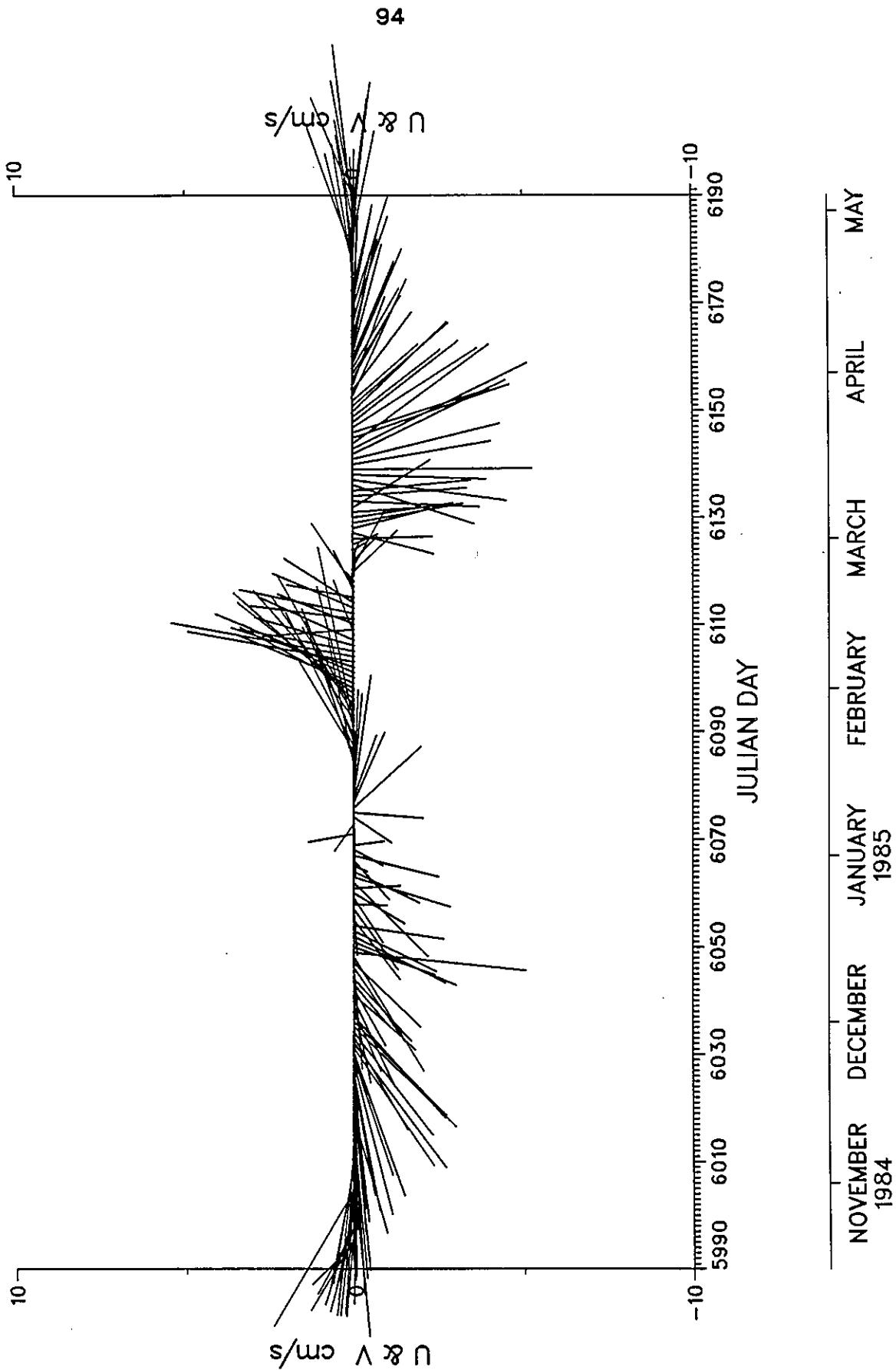


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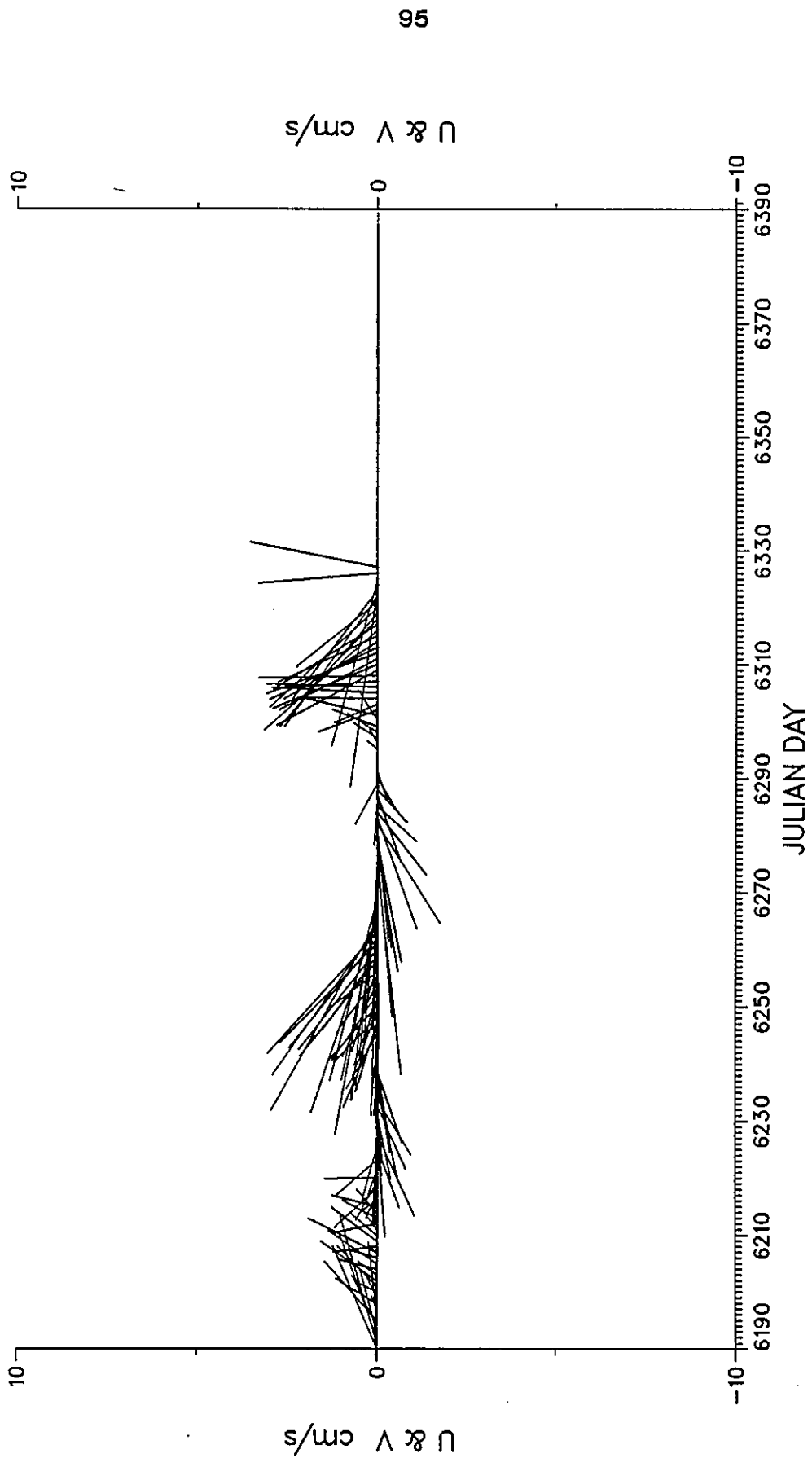
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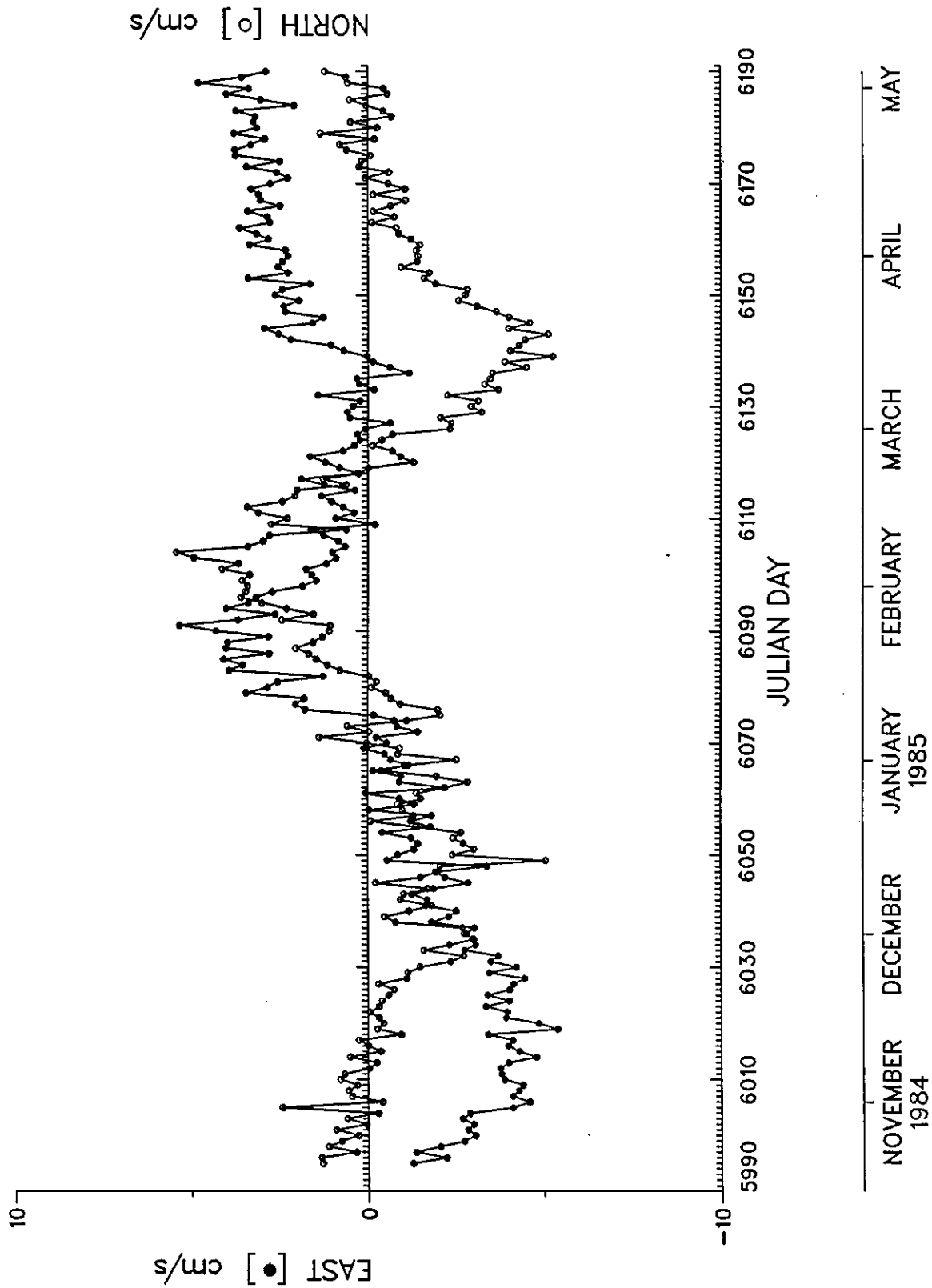
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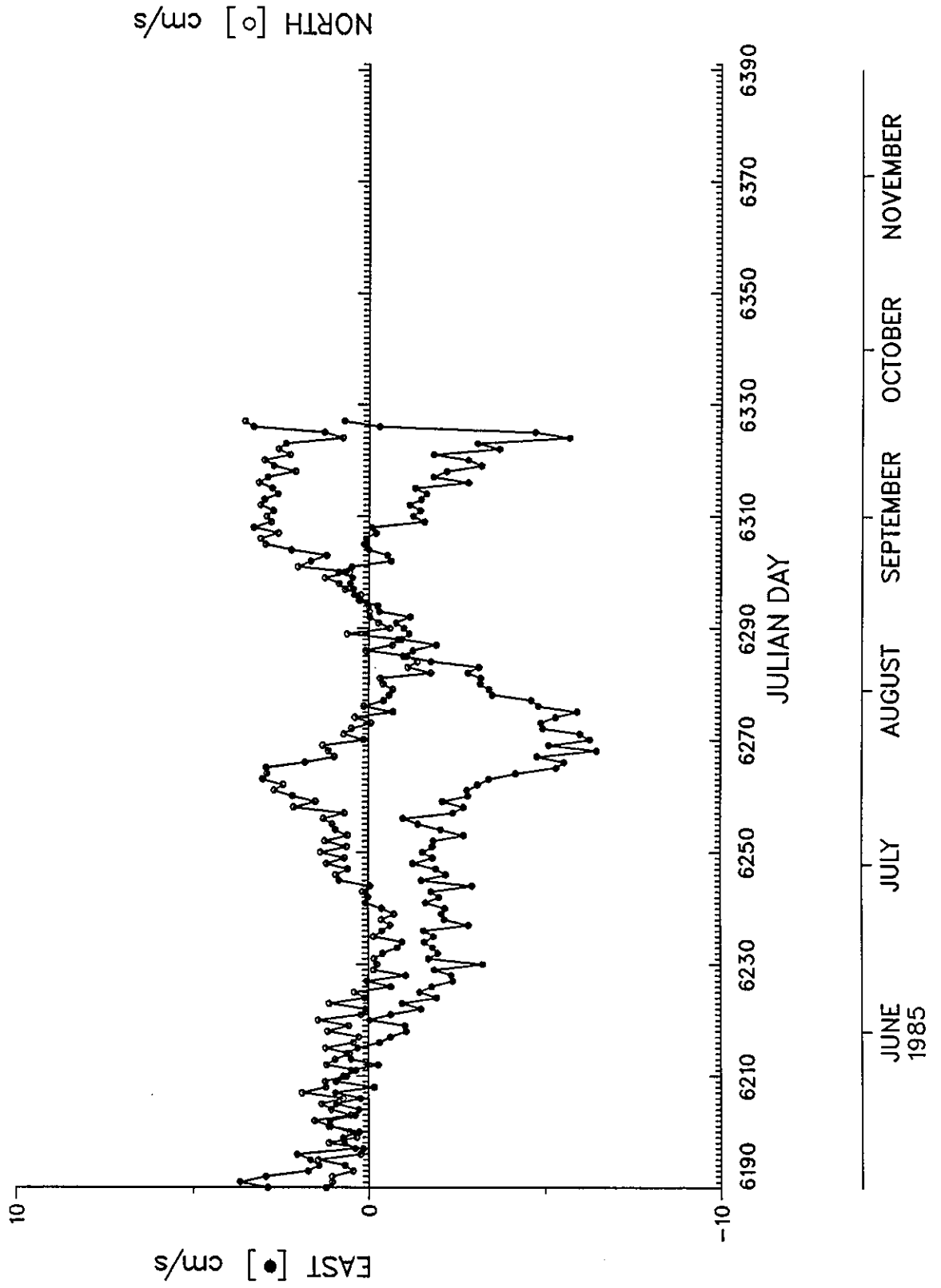


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NOVEMBER

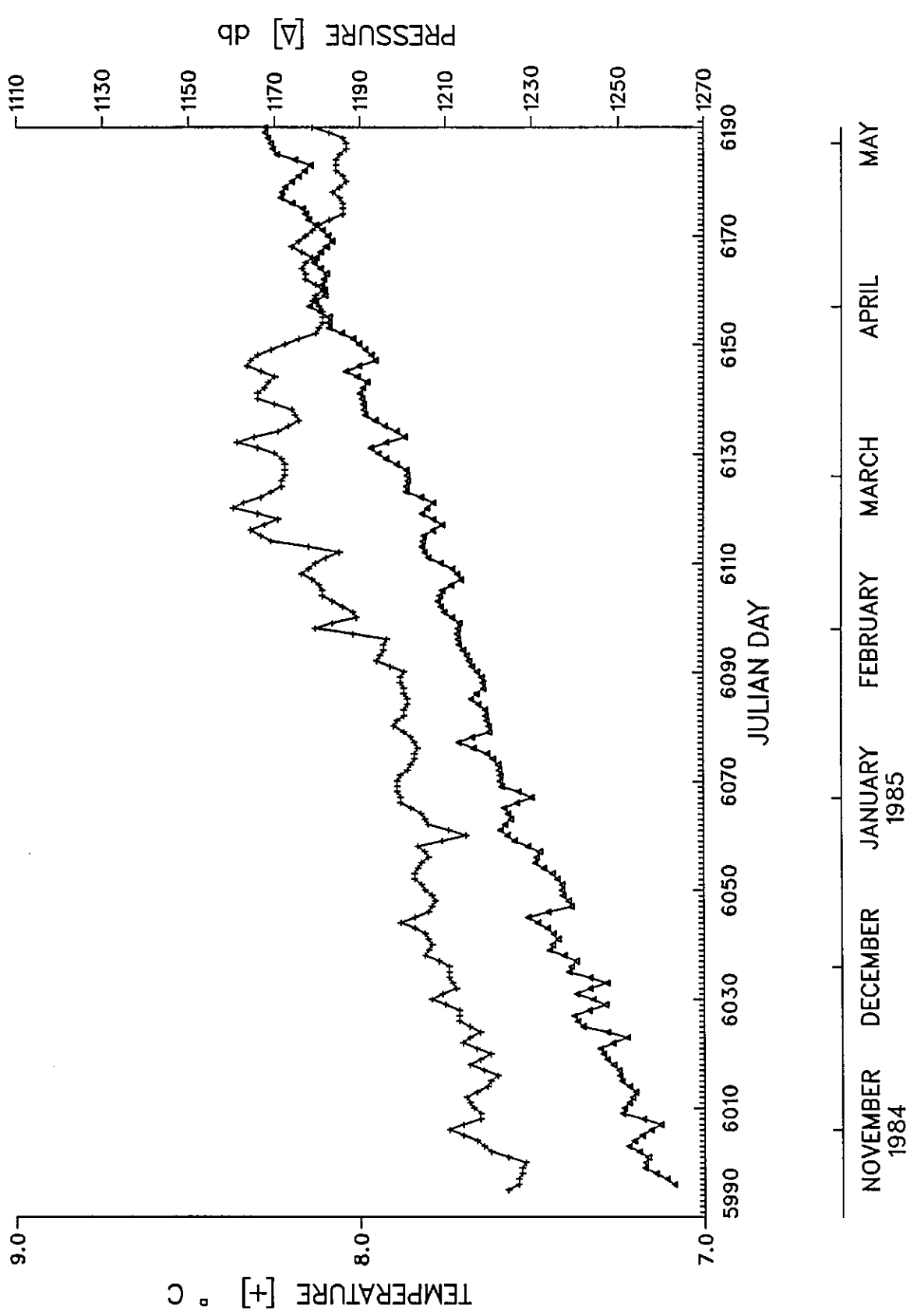
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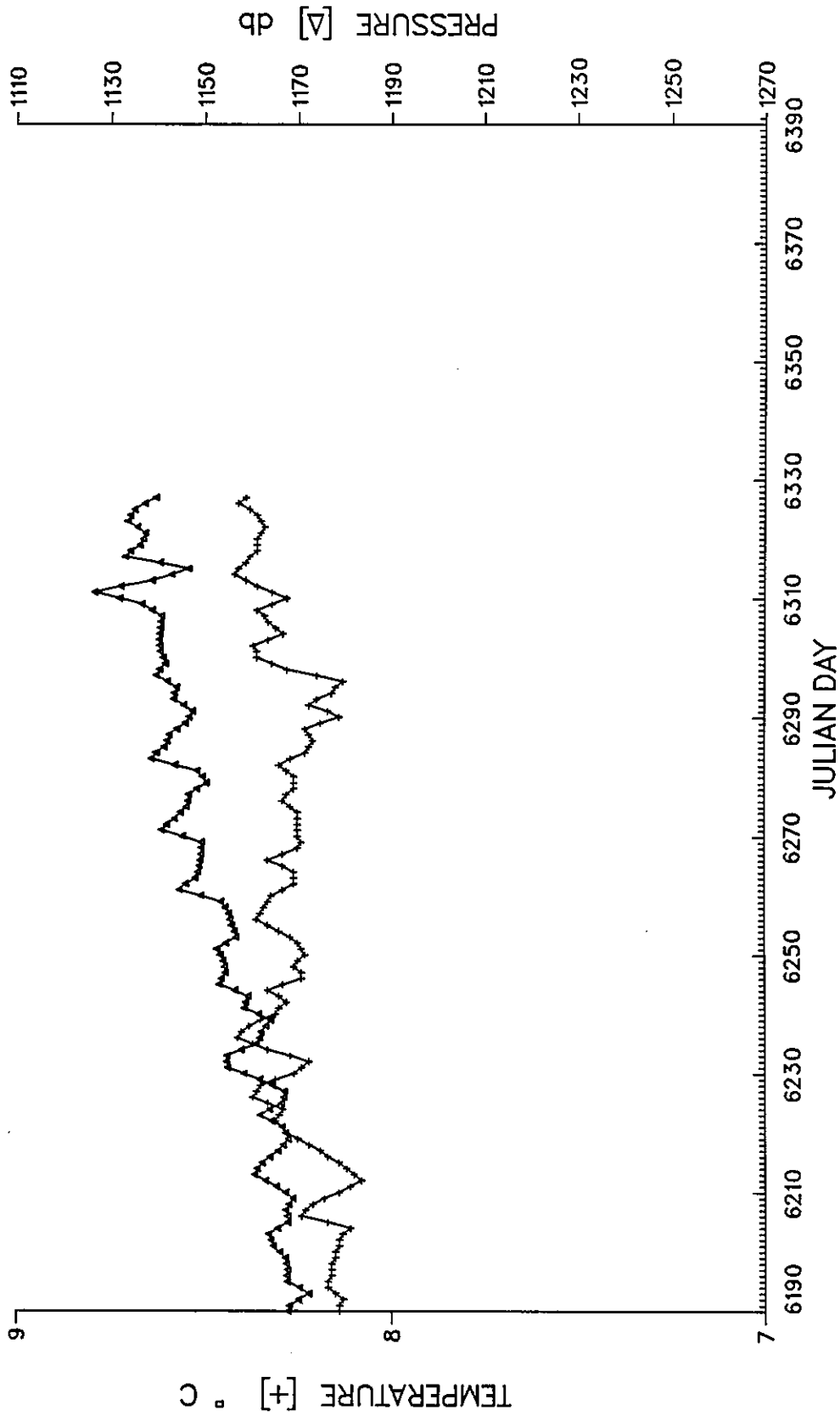
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EASTERN BASIN 130

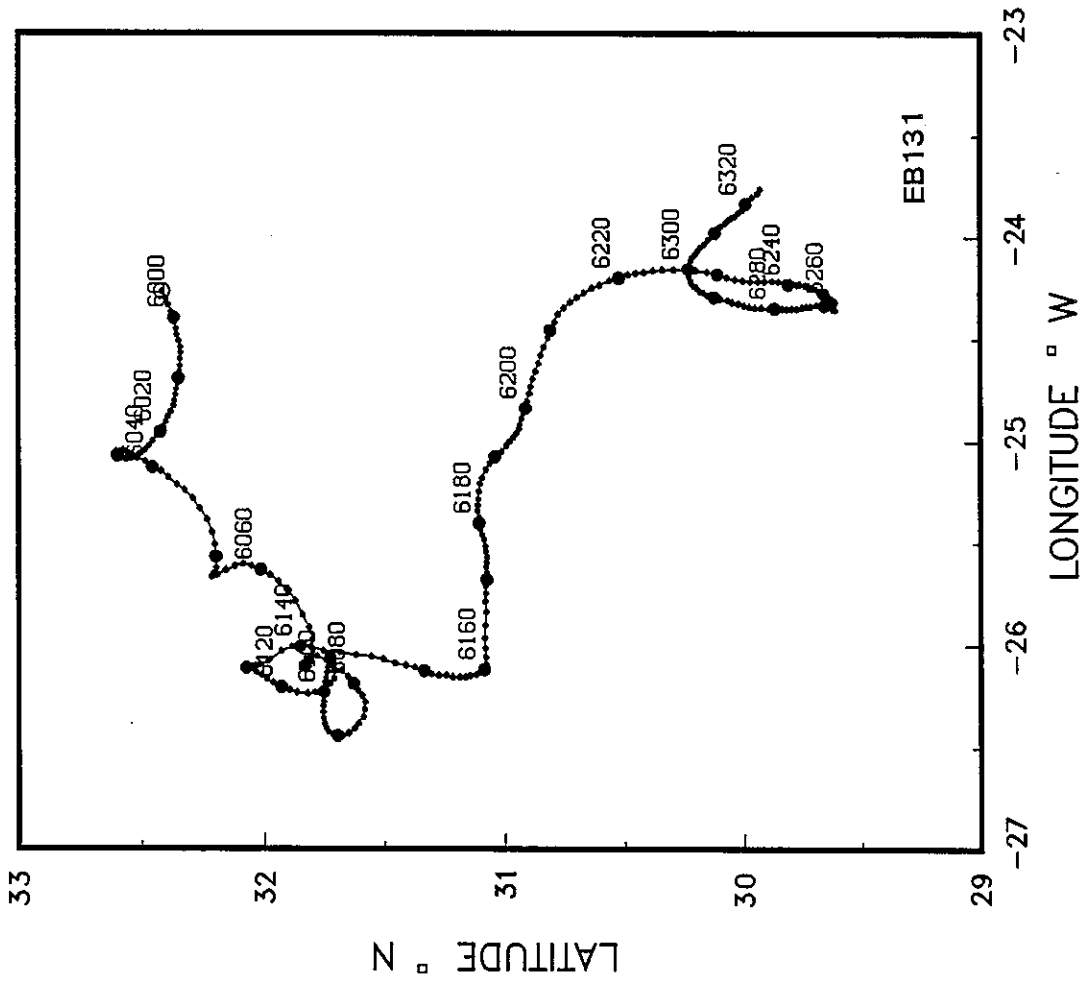


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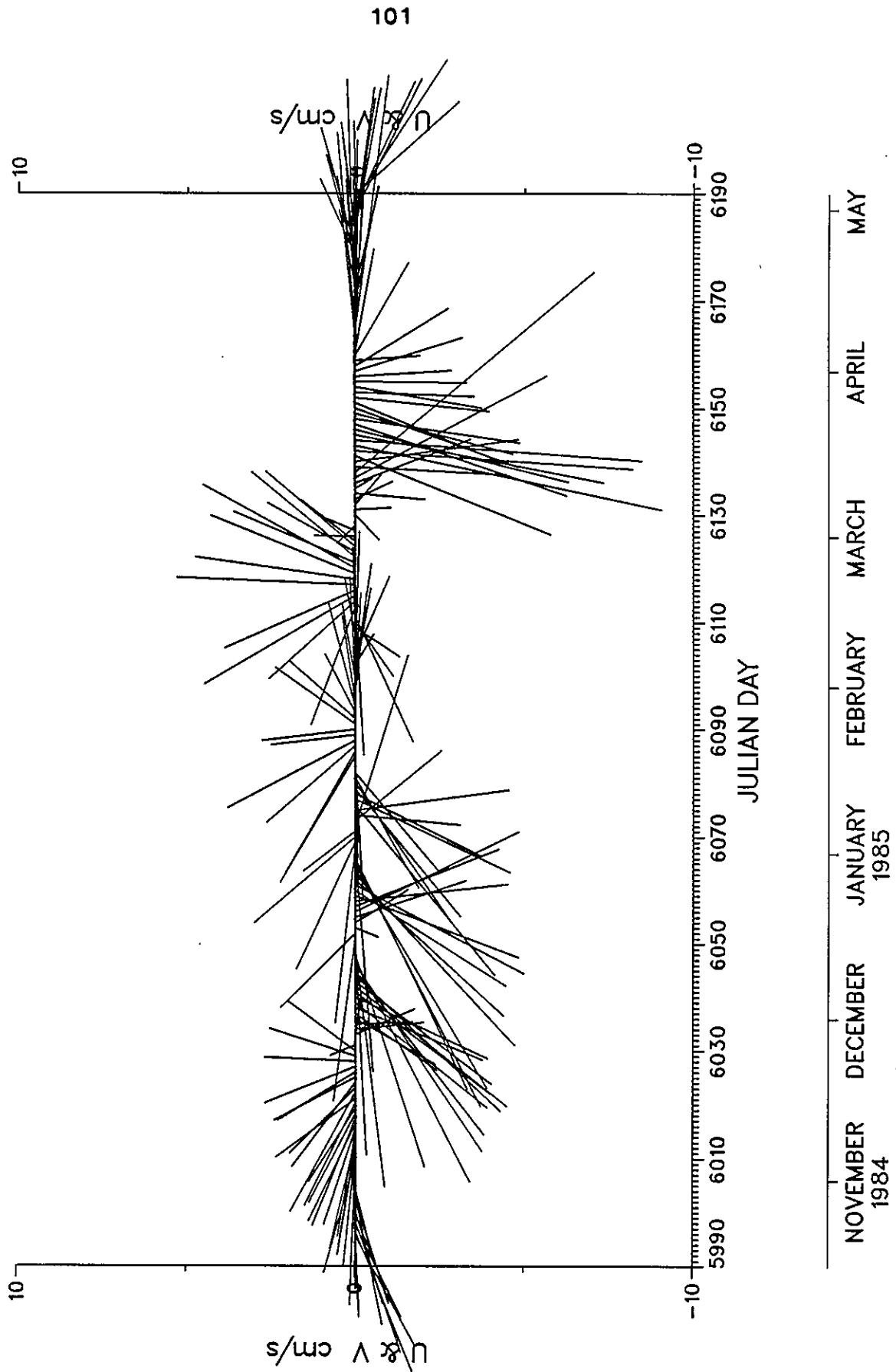


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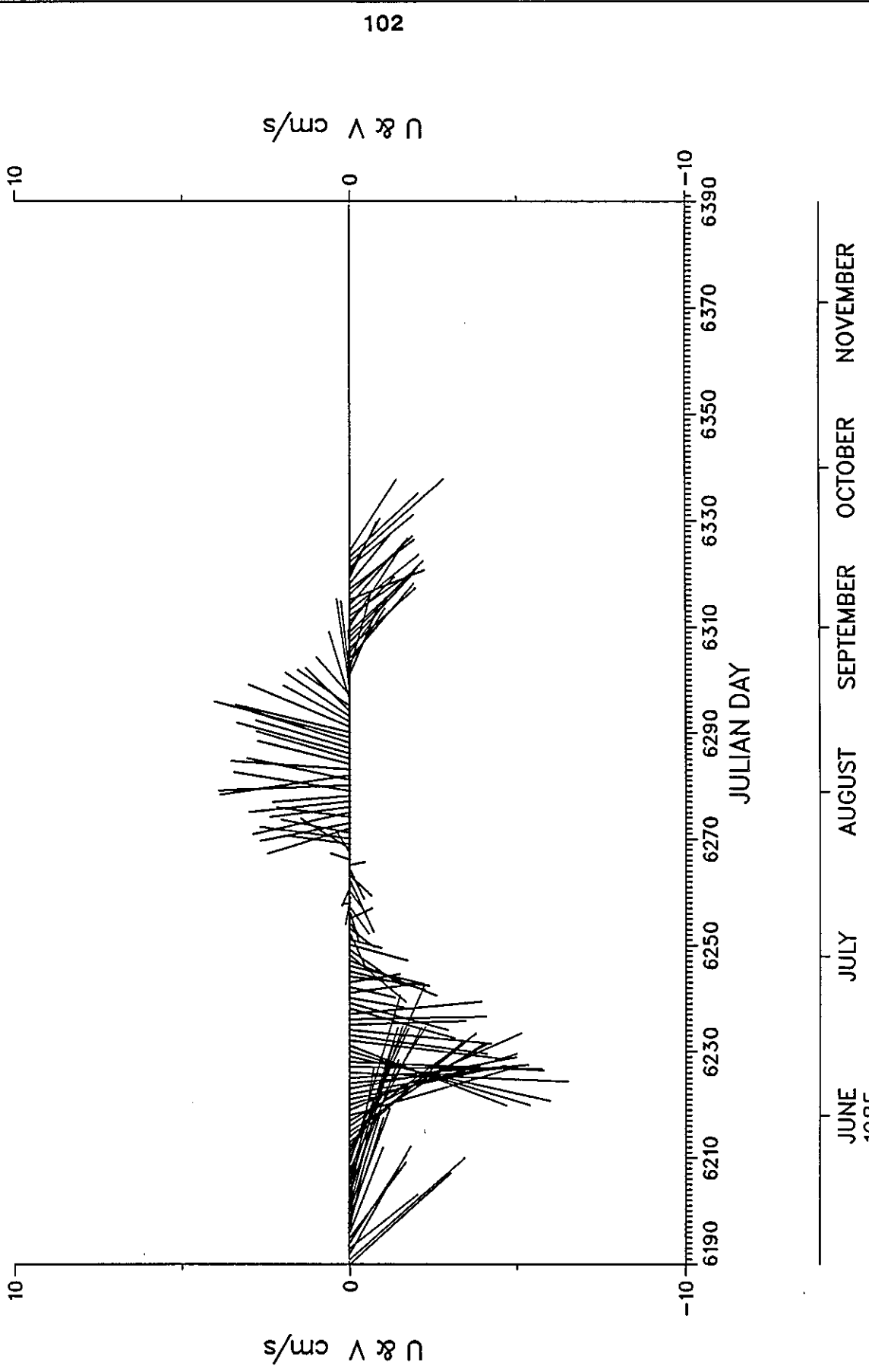
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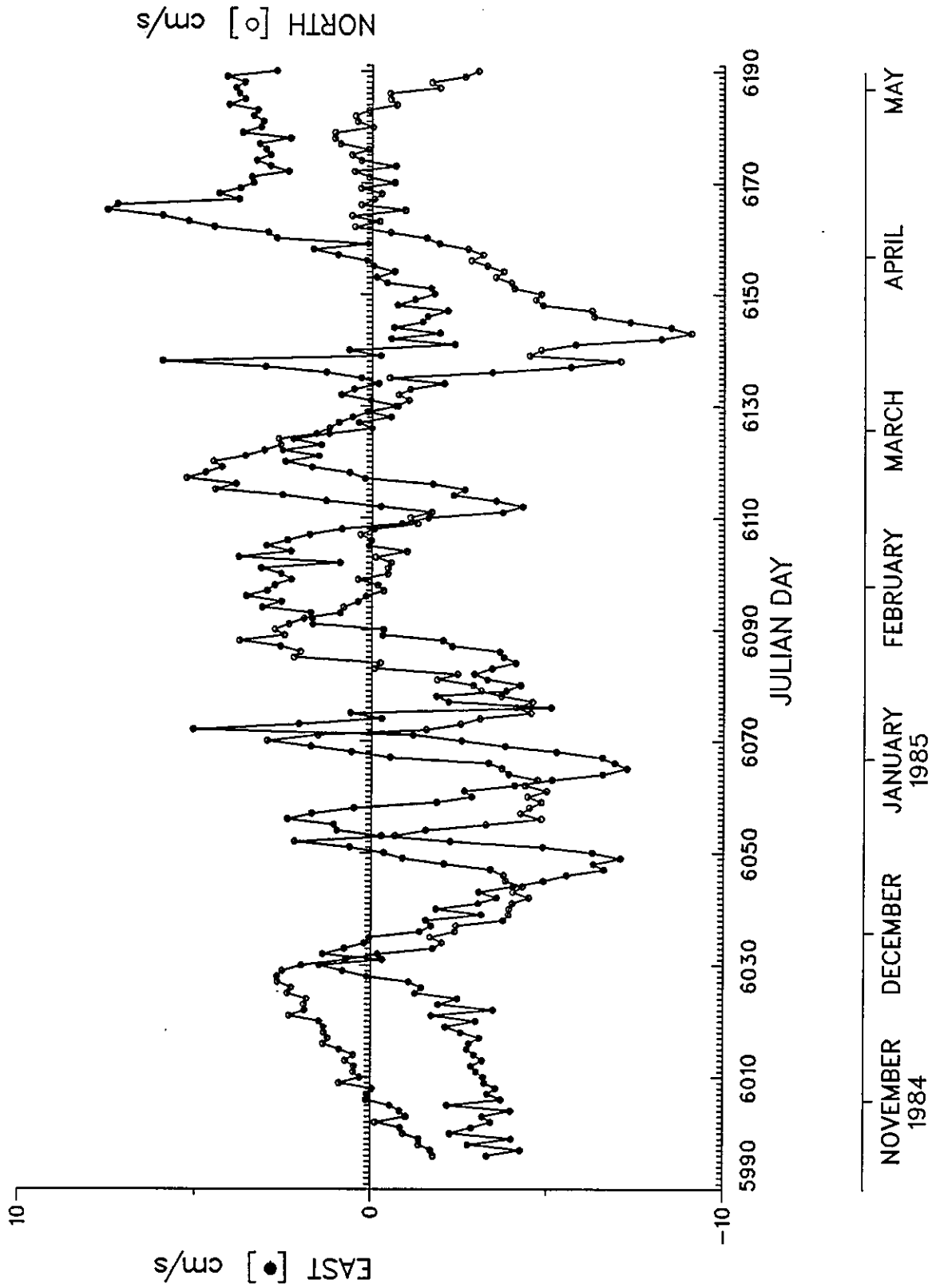
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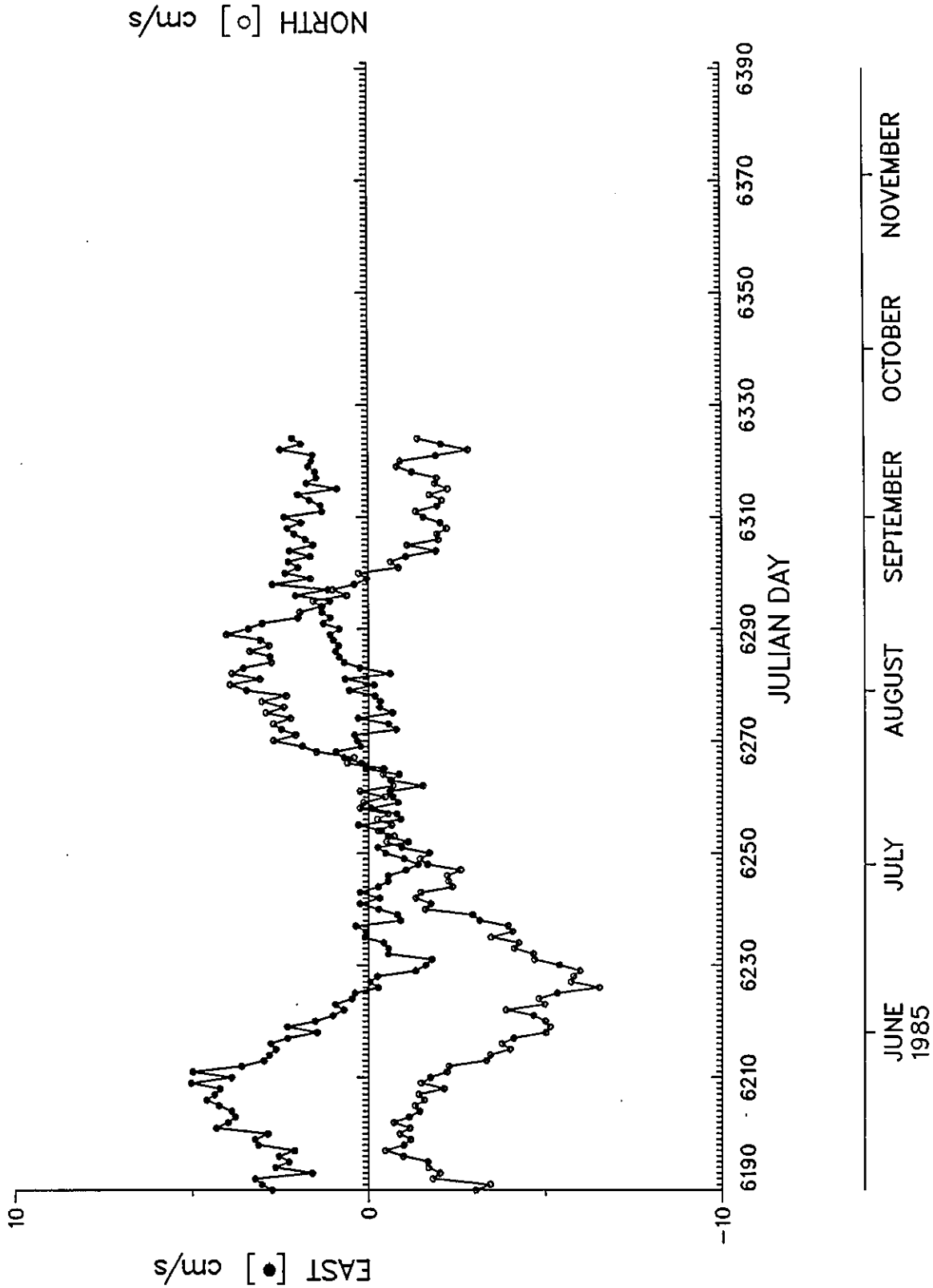
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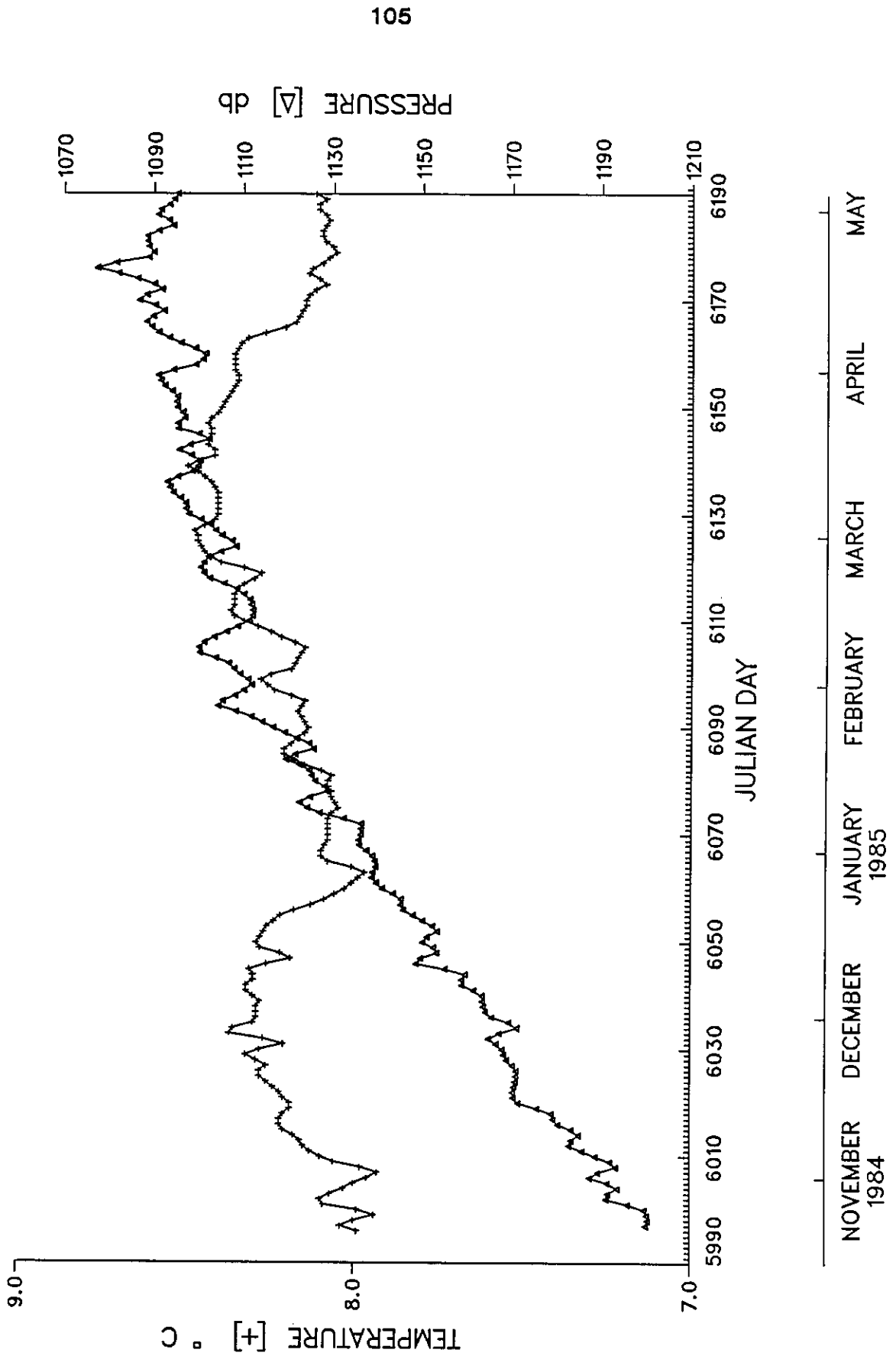
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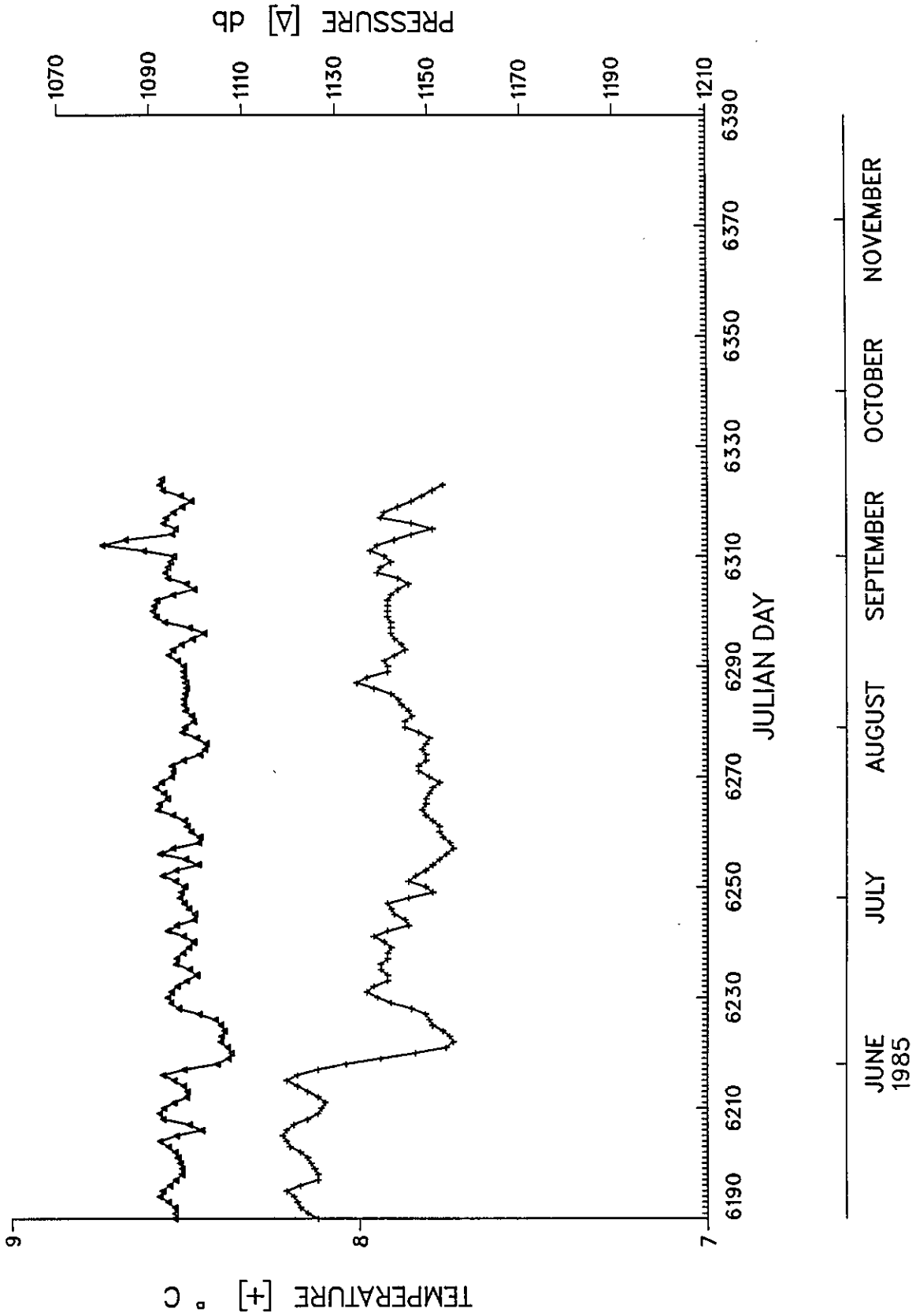
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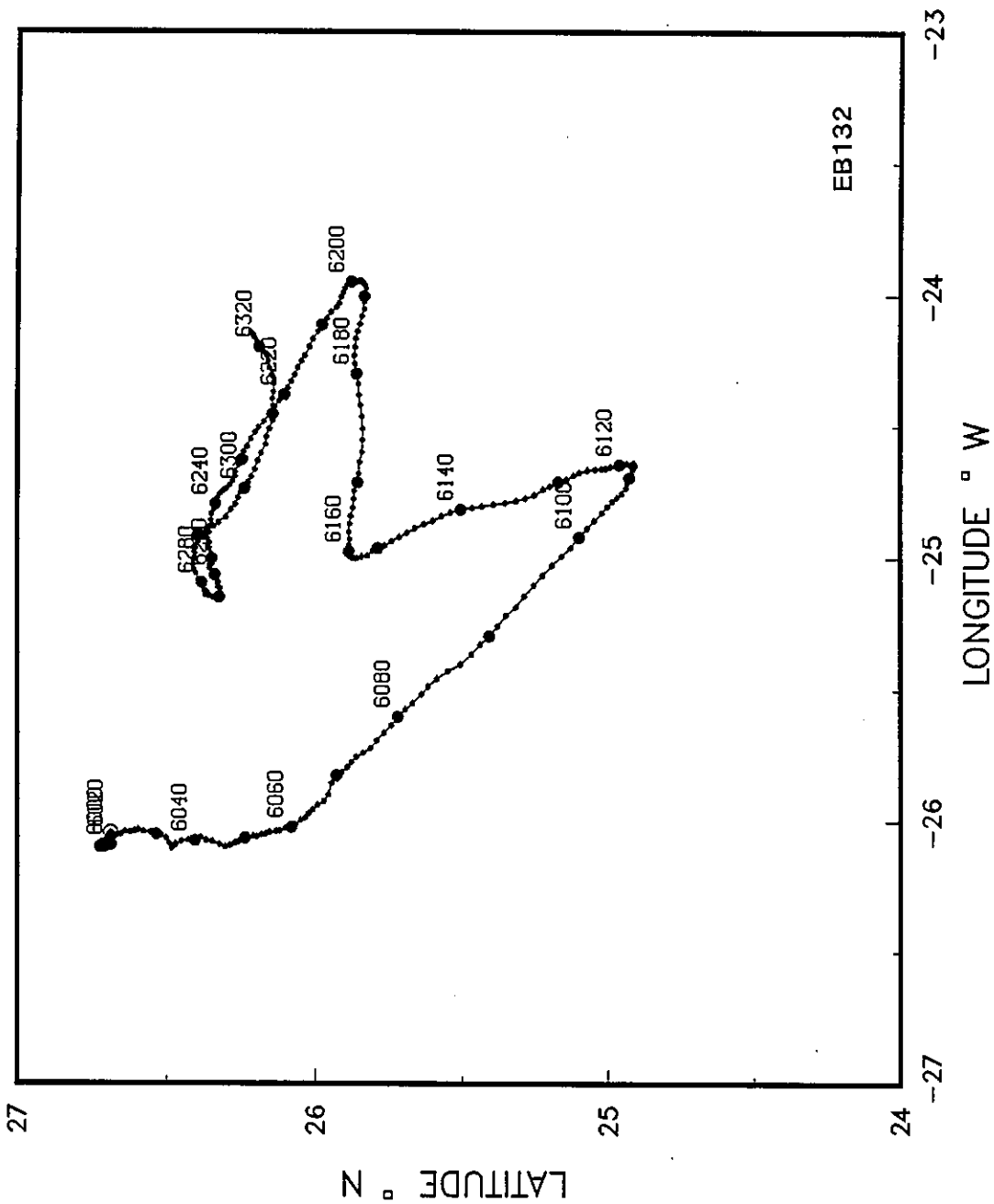


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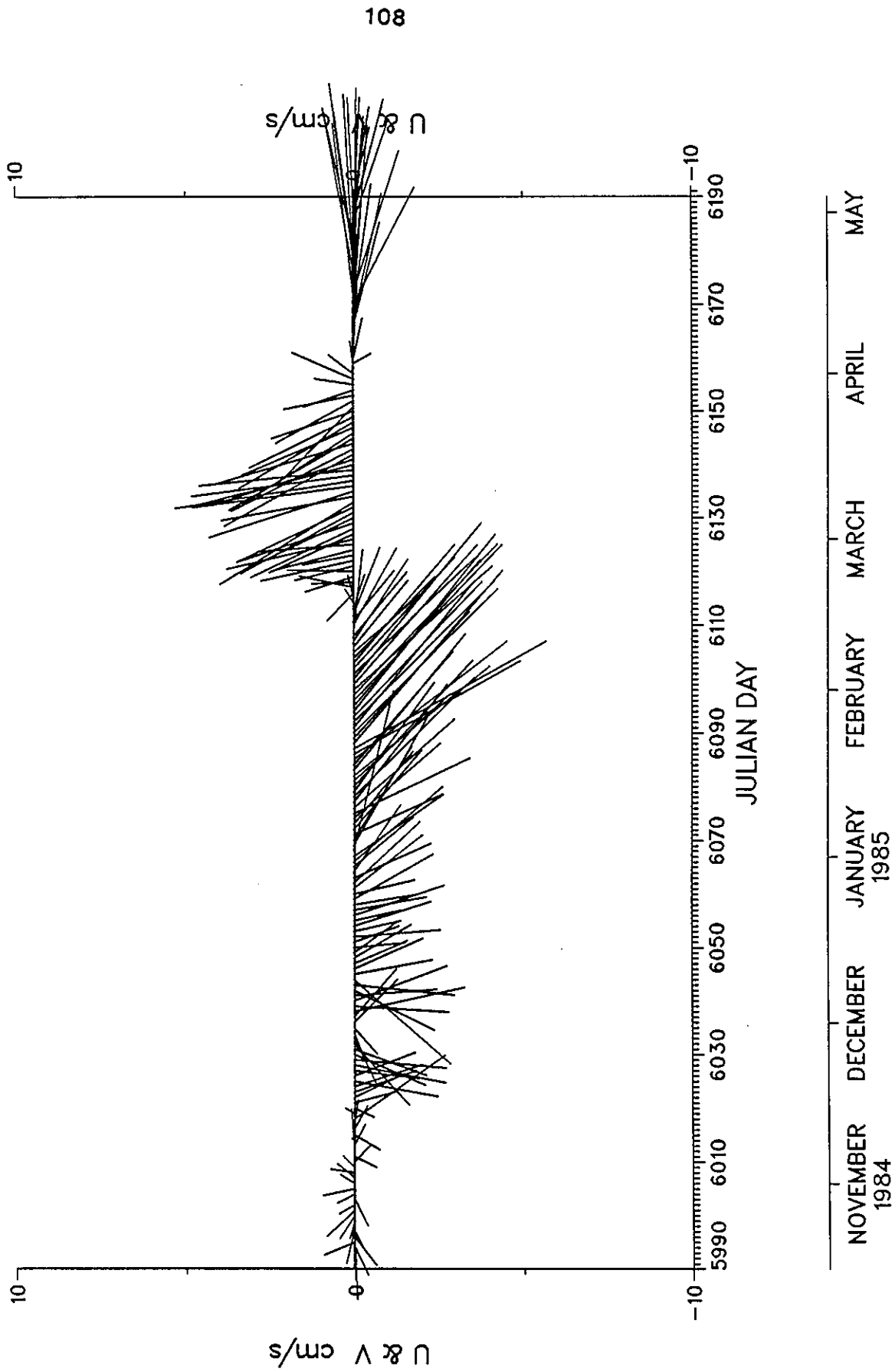


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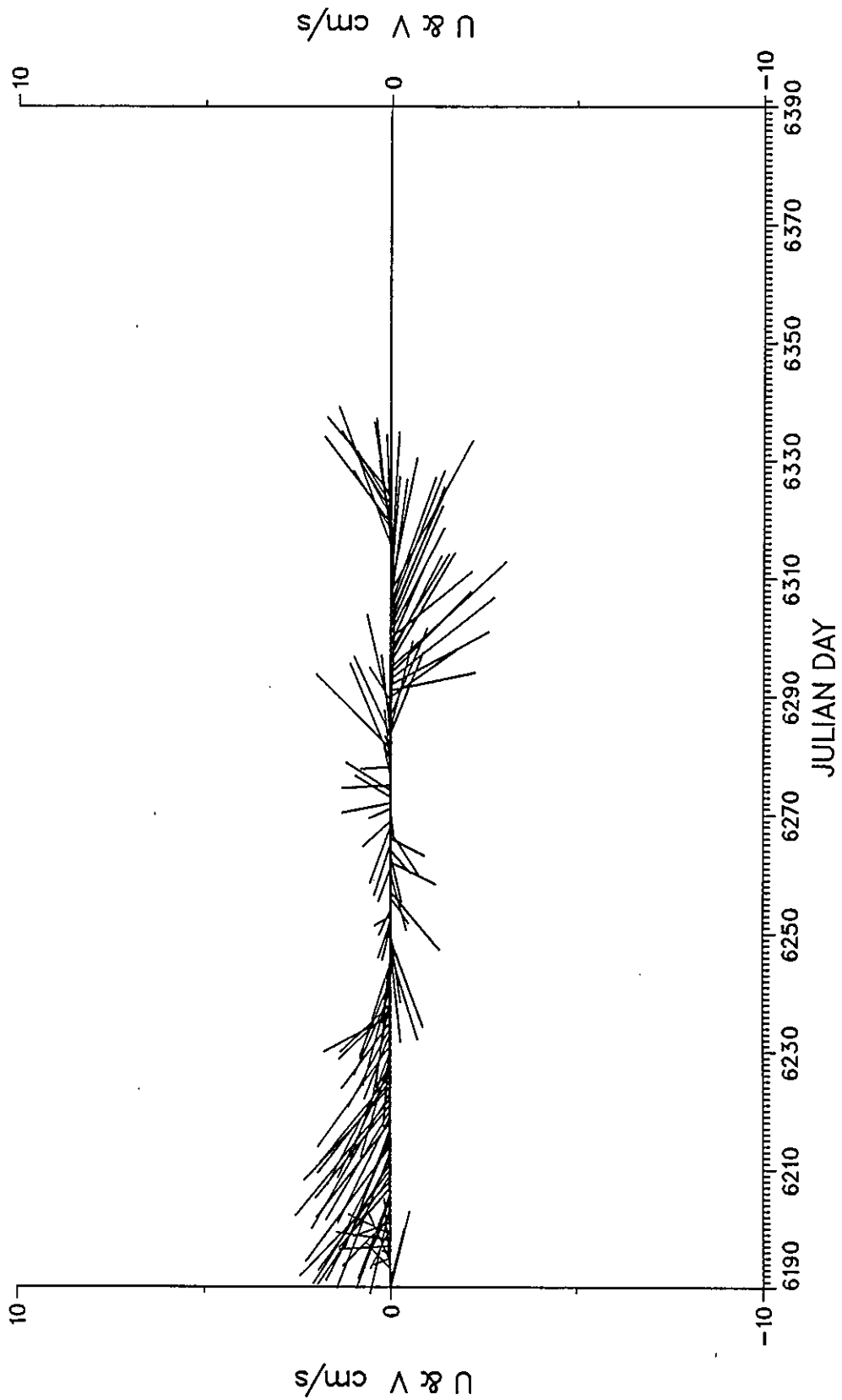
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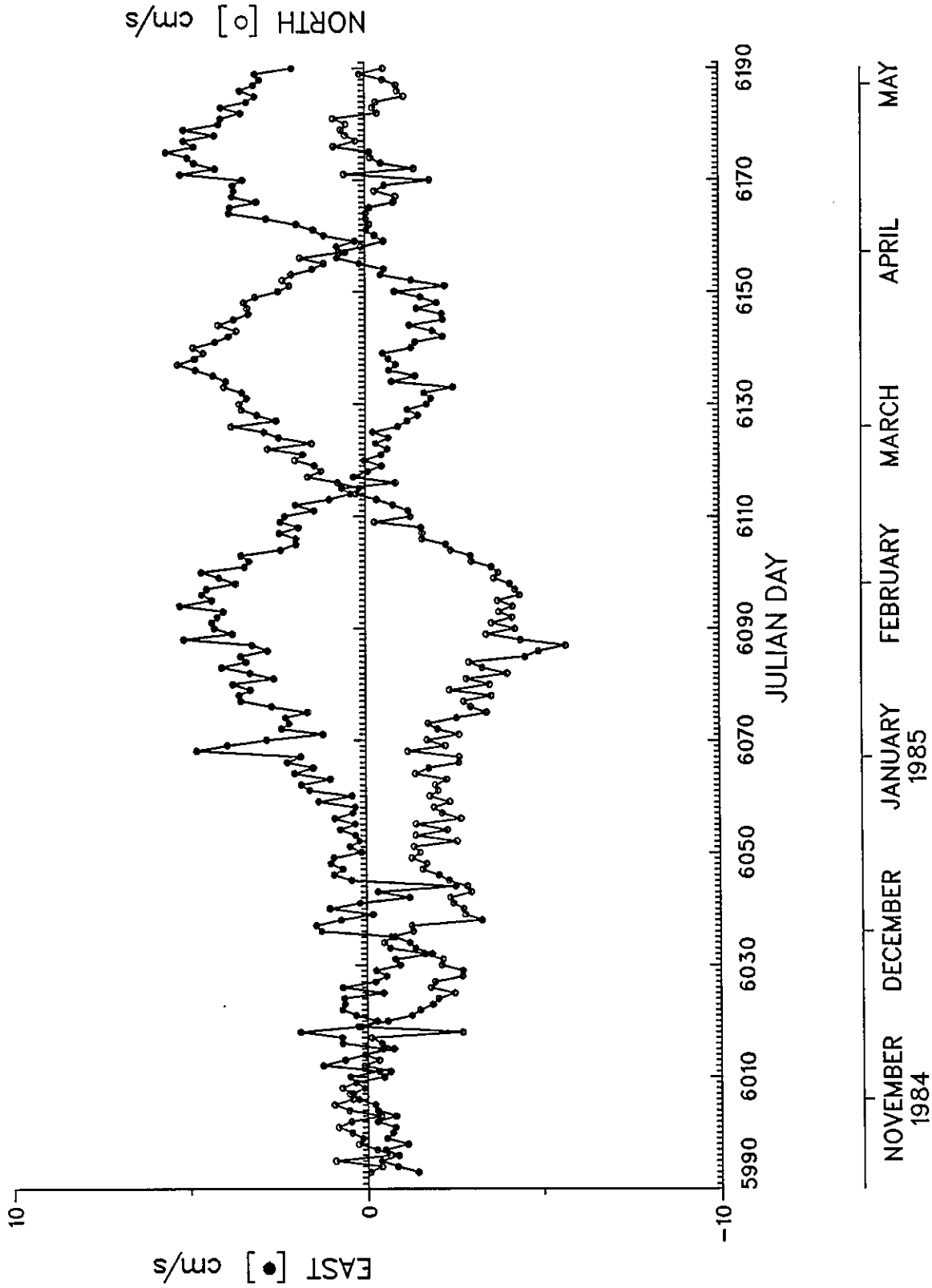


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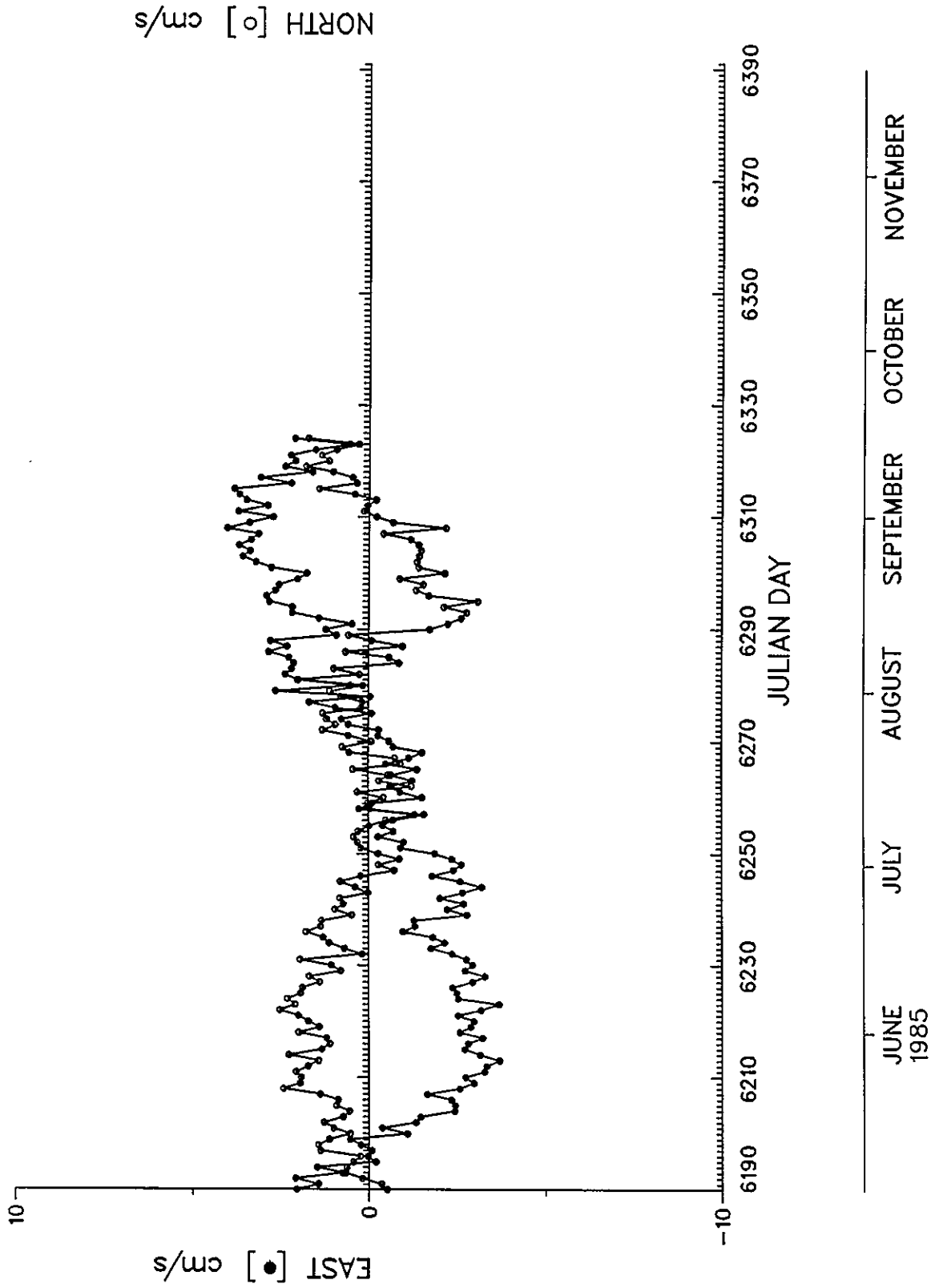


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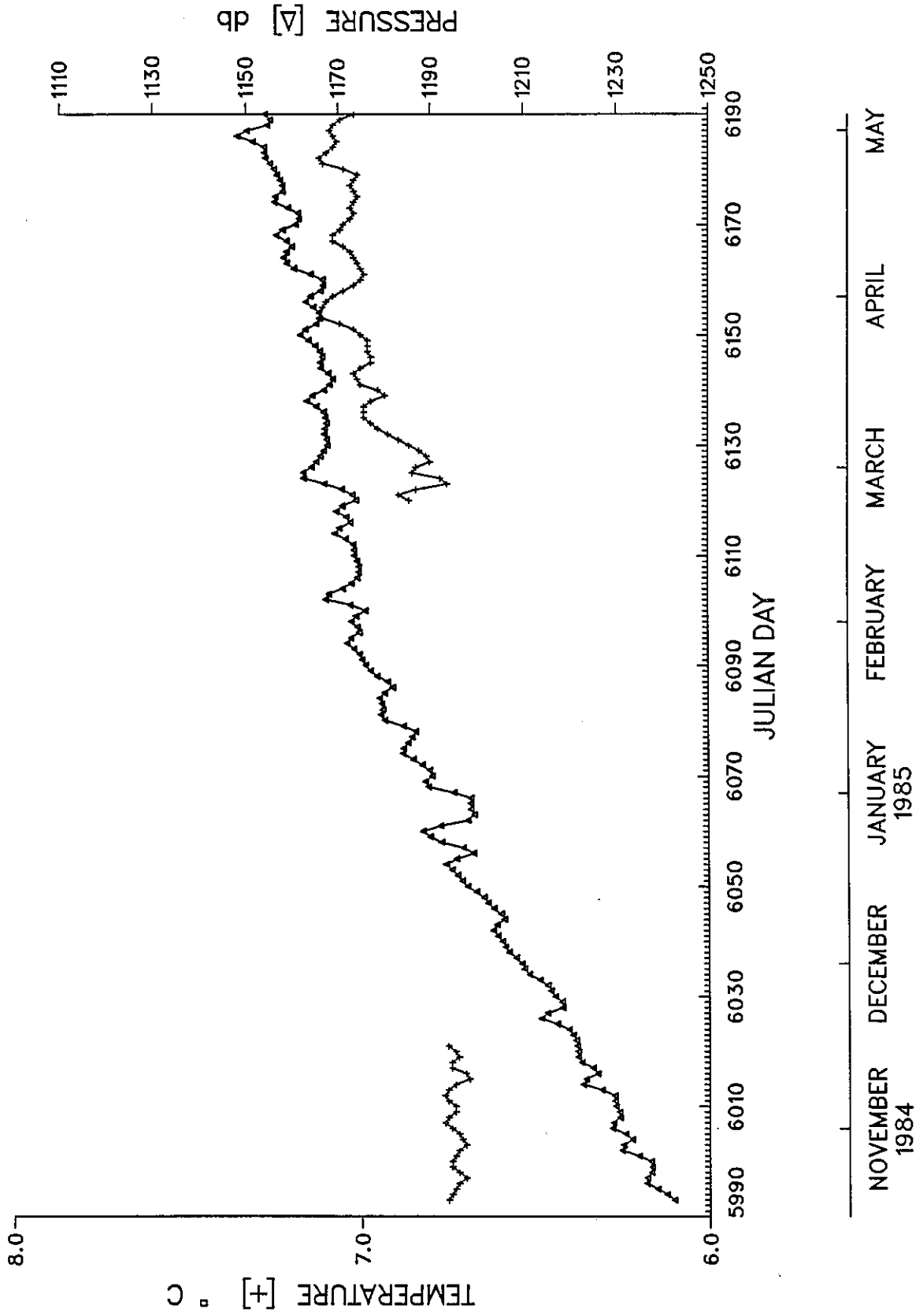
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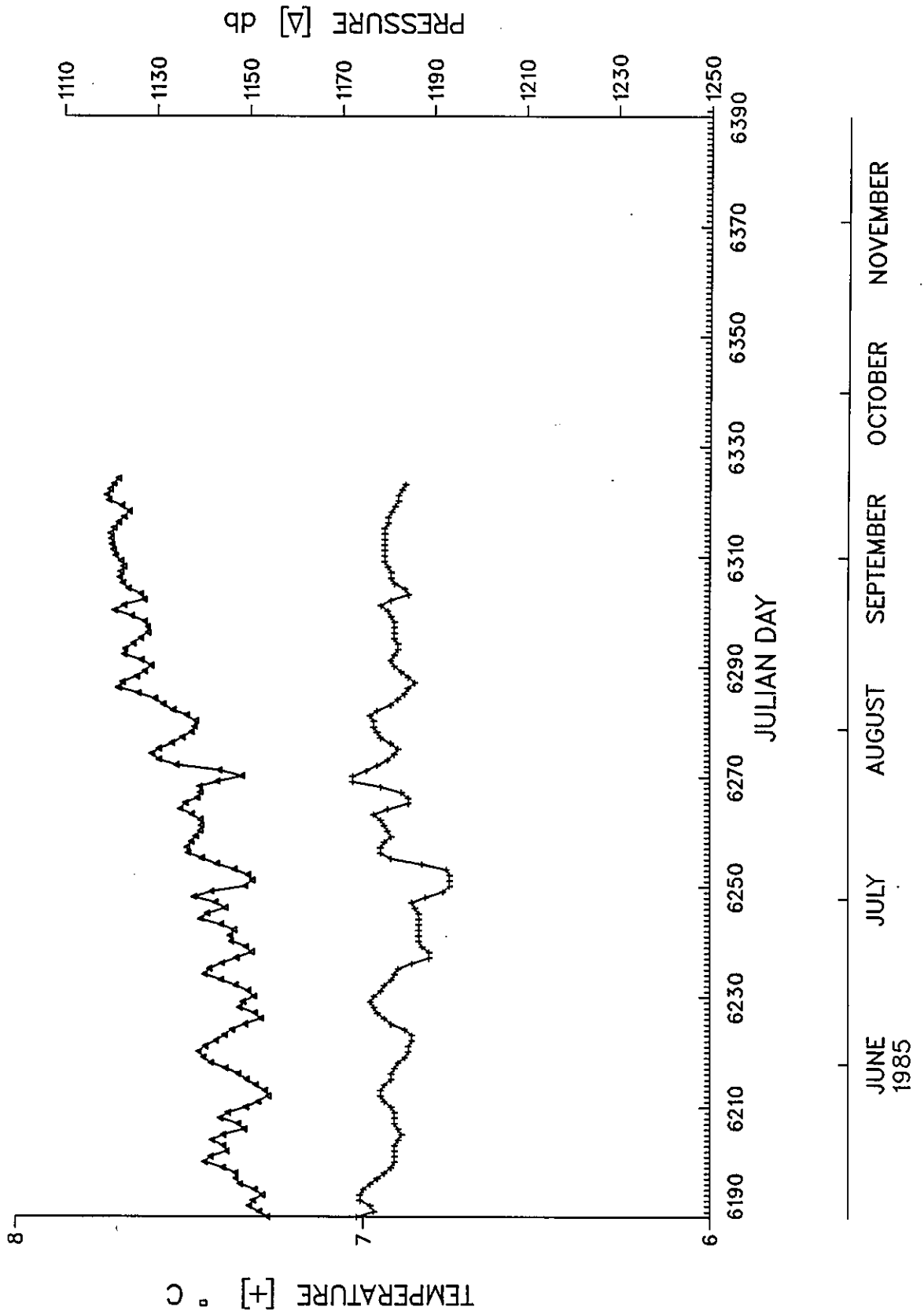


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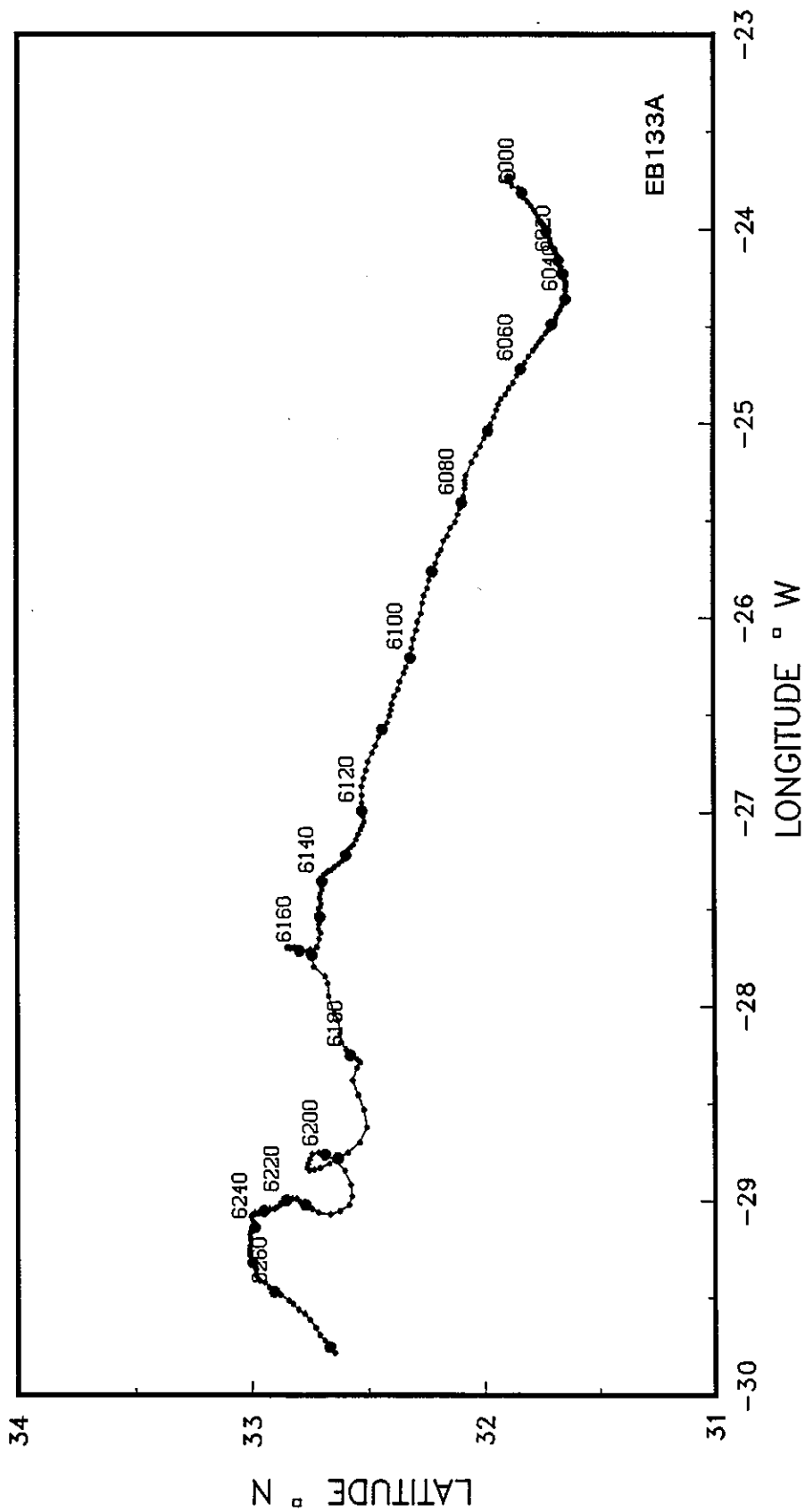


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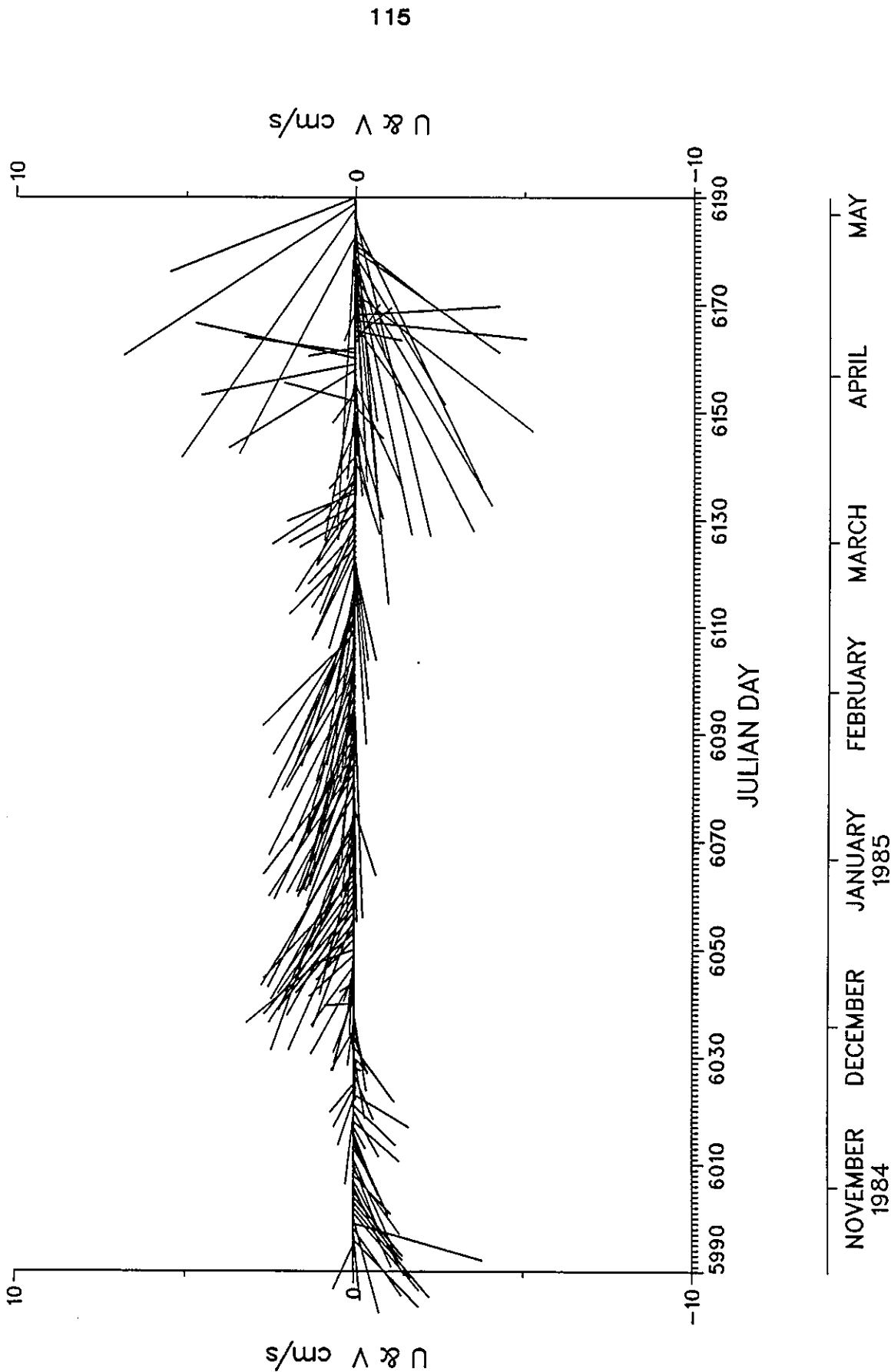
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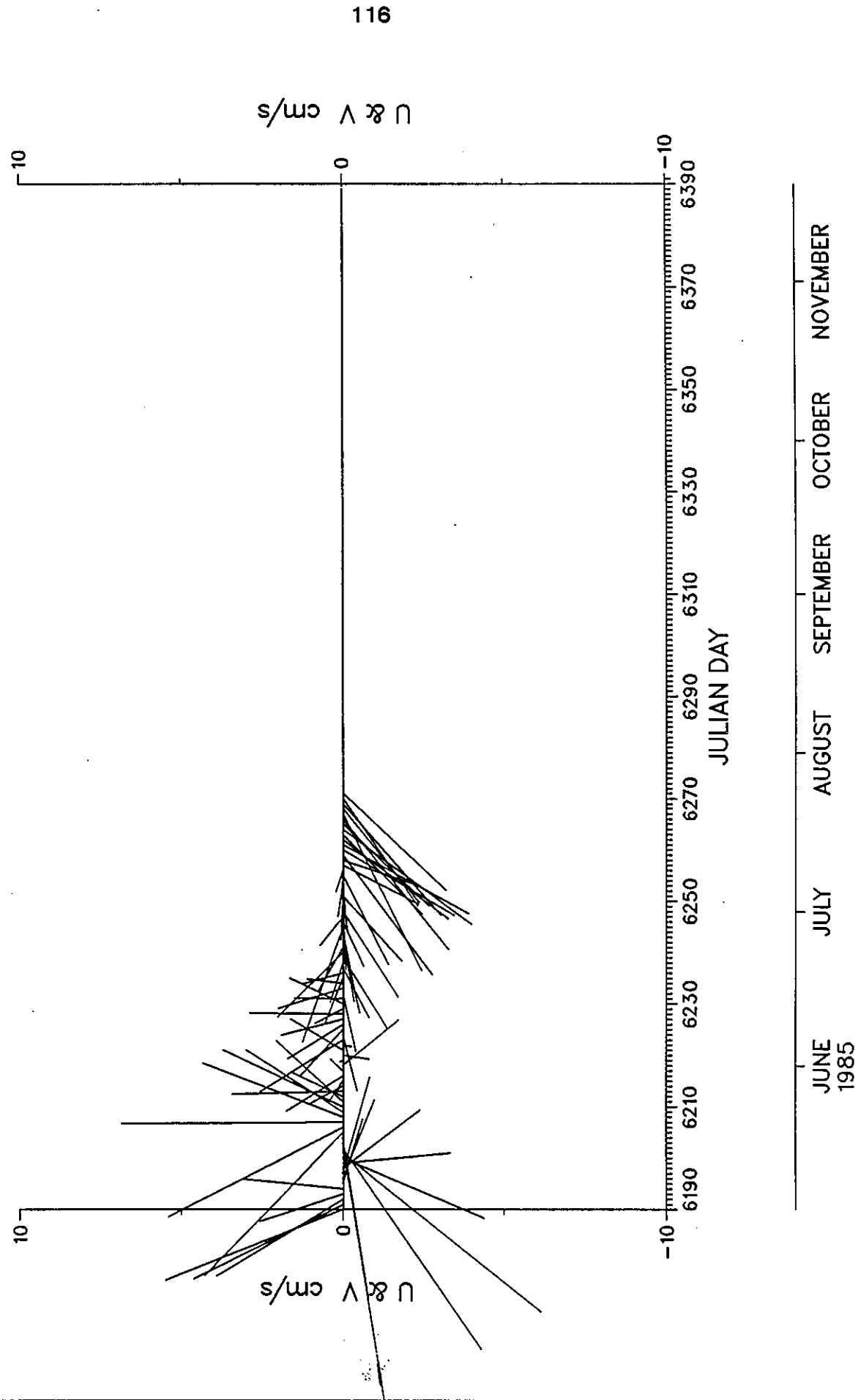
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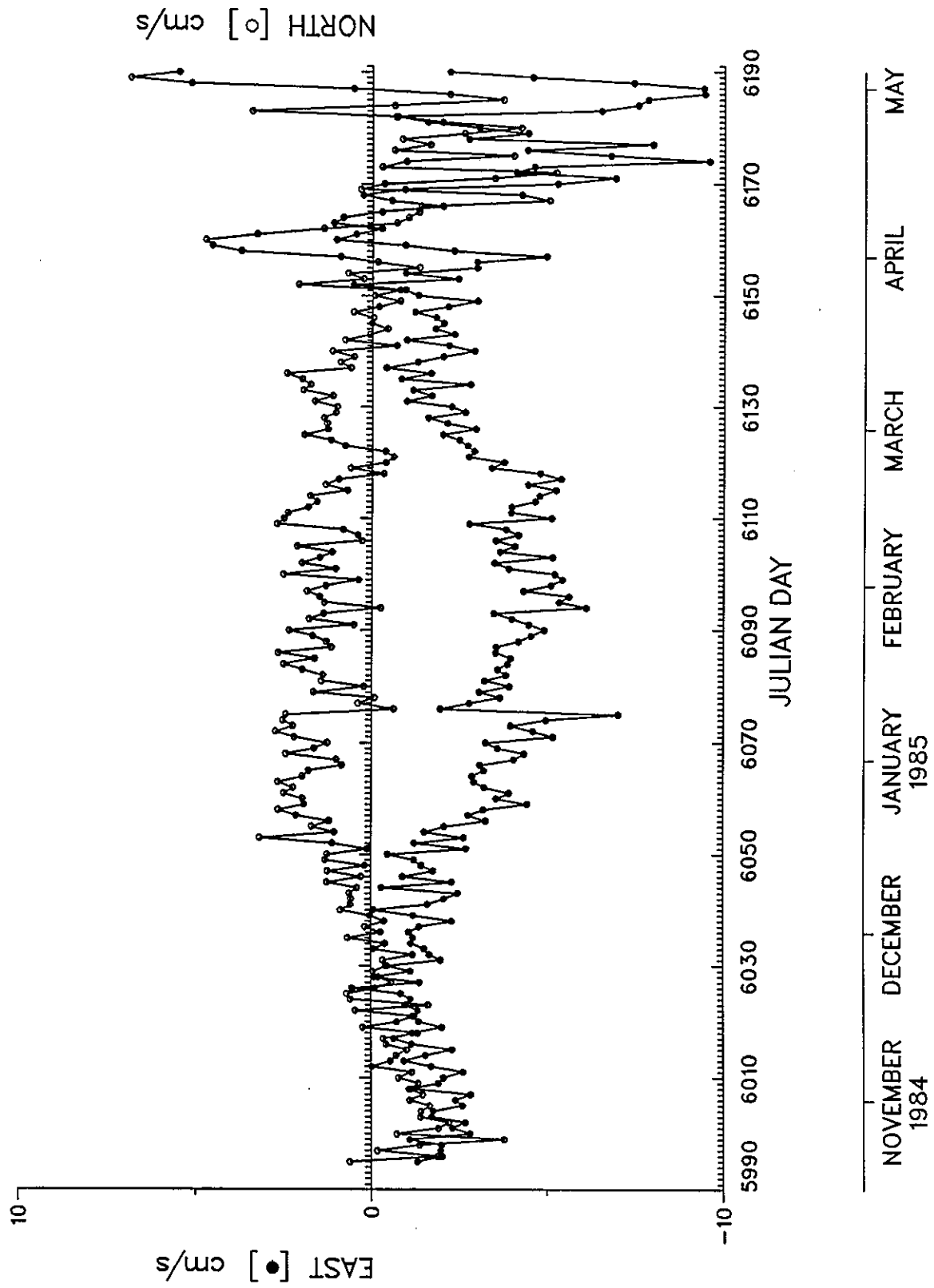
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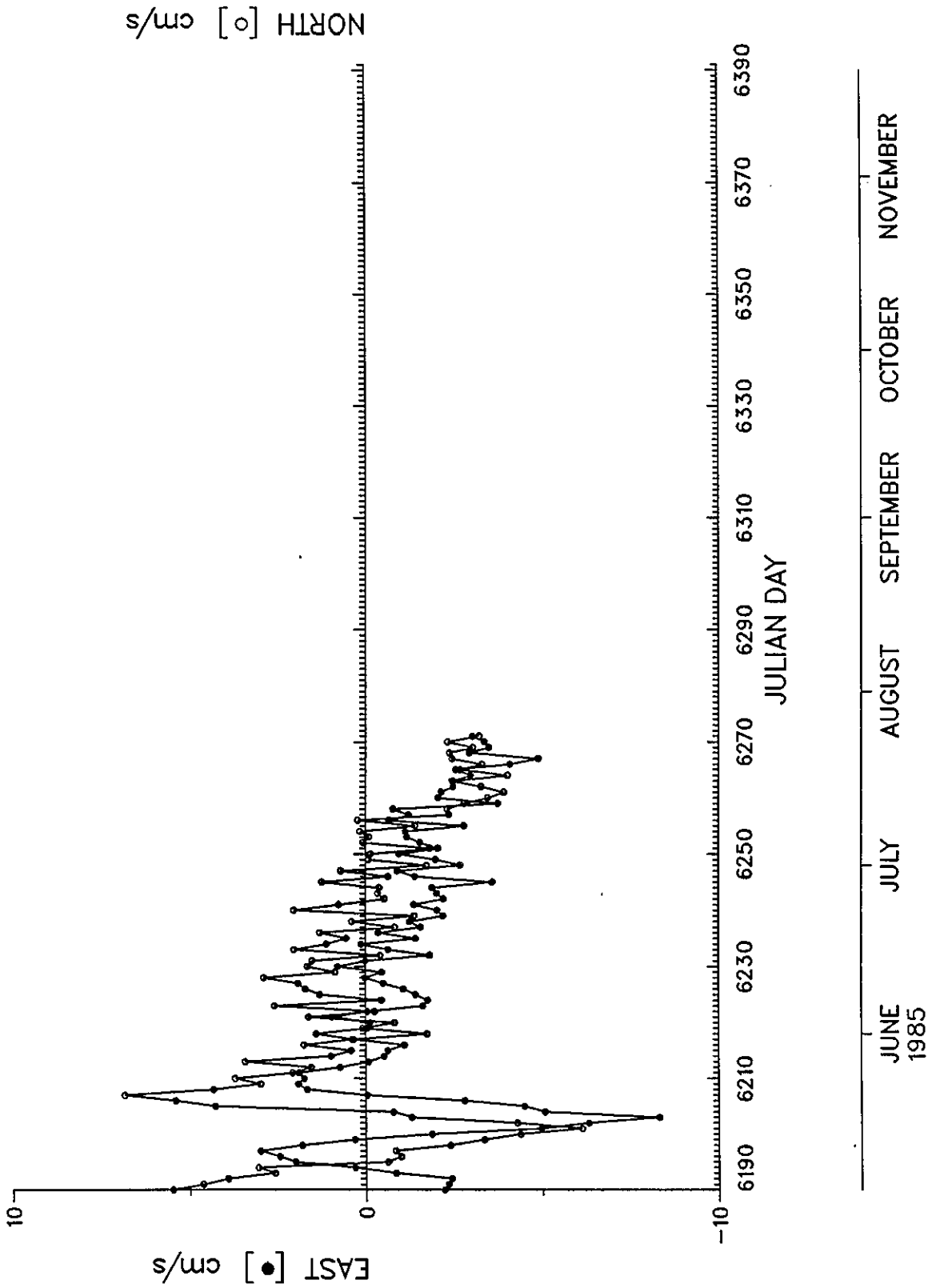
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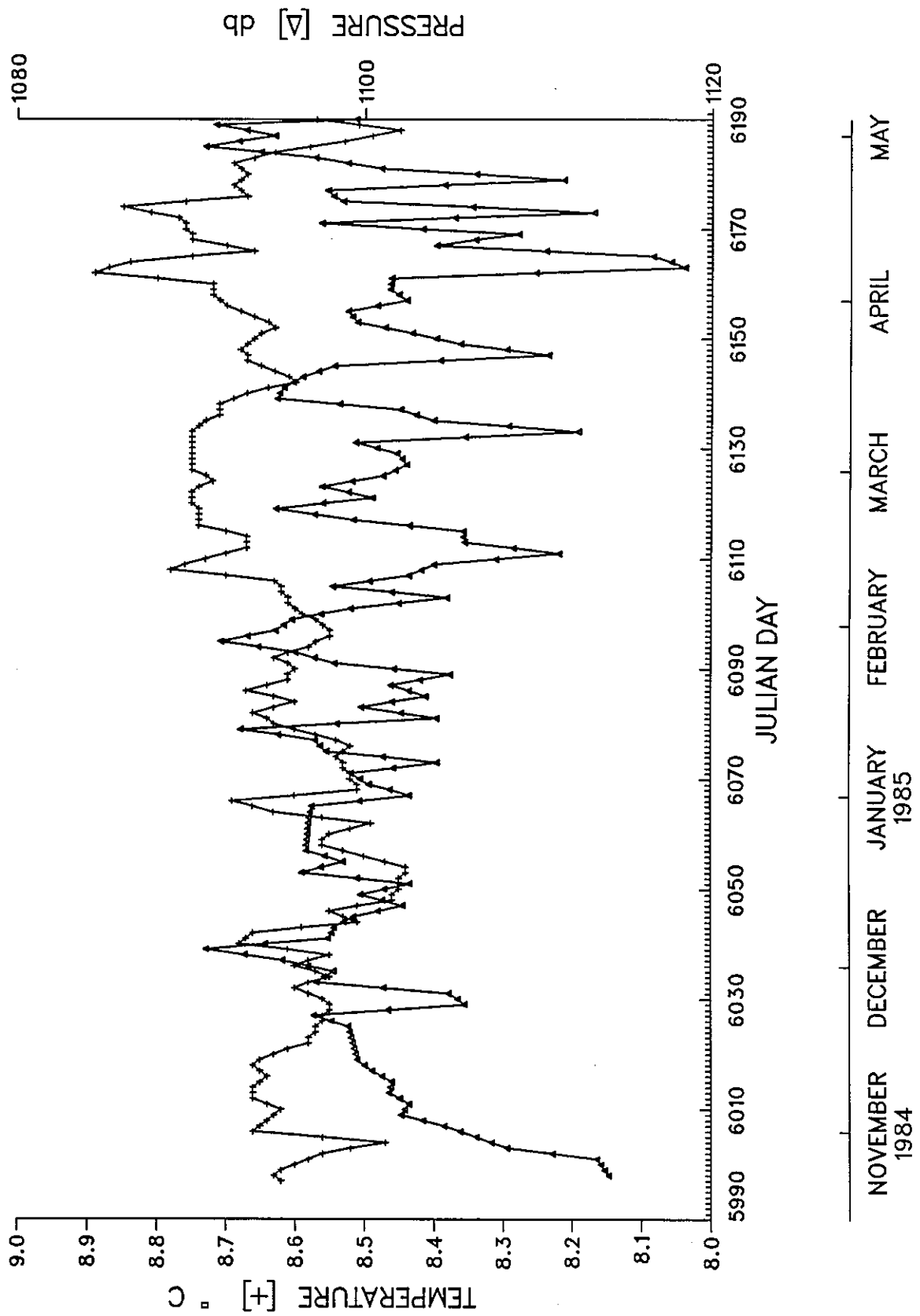
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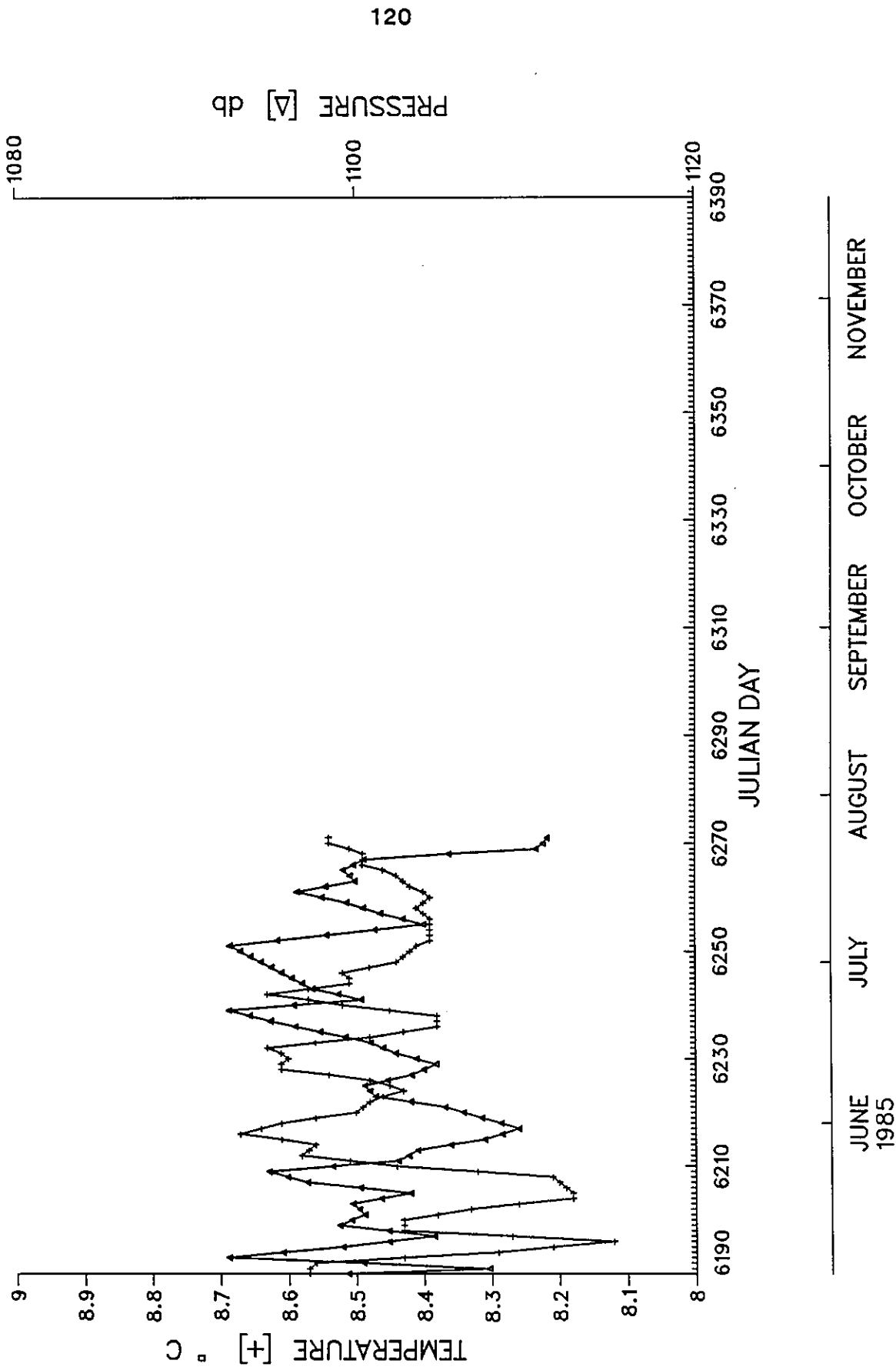


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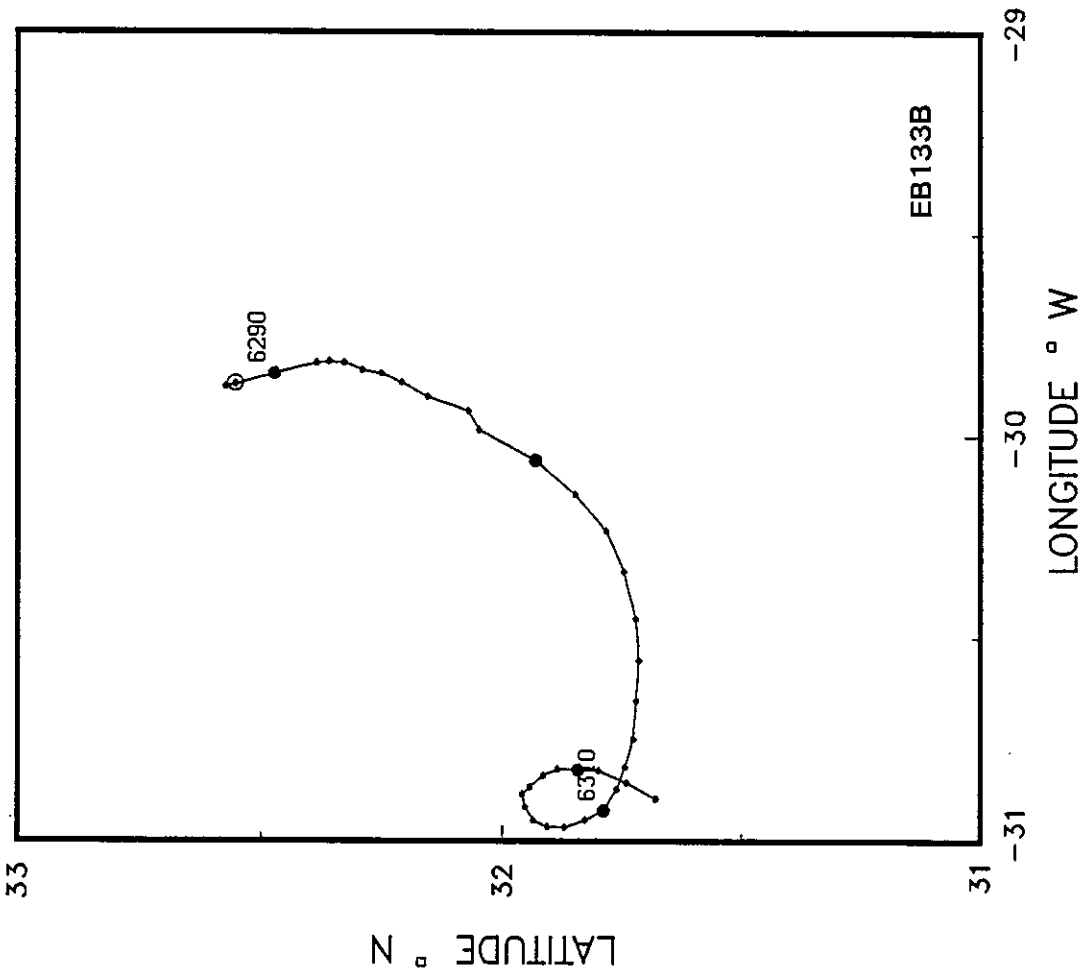


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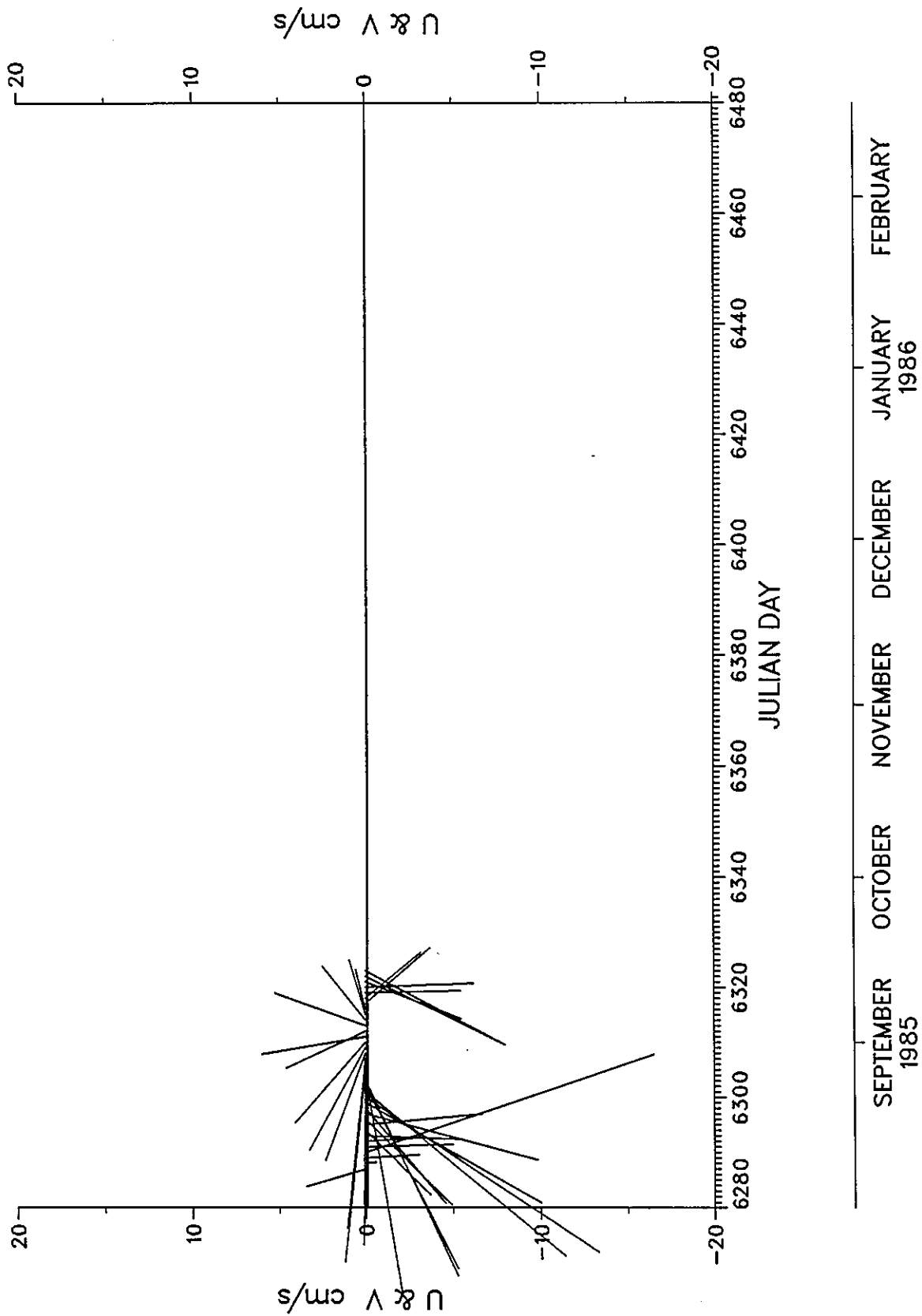
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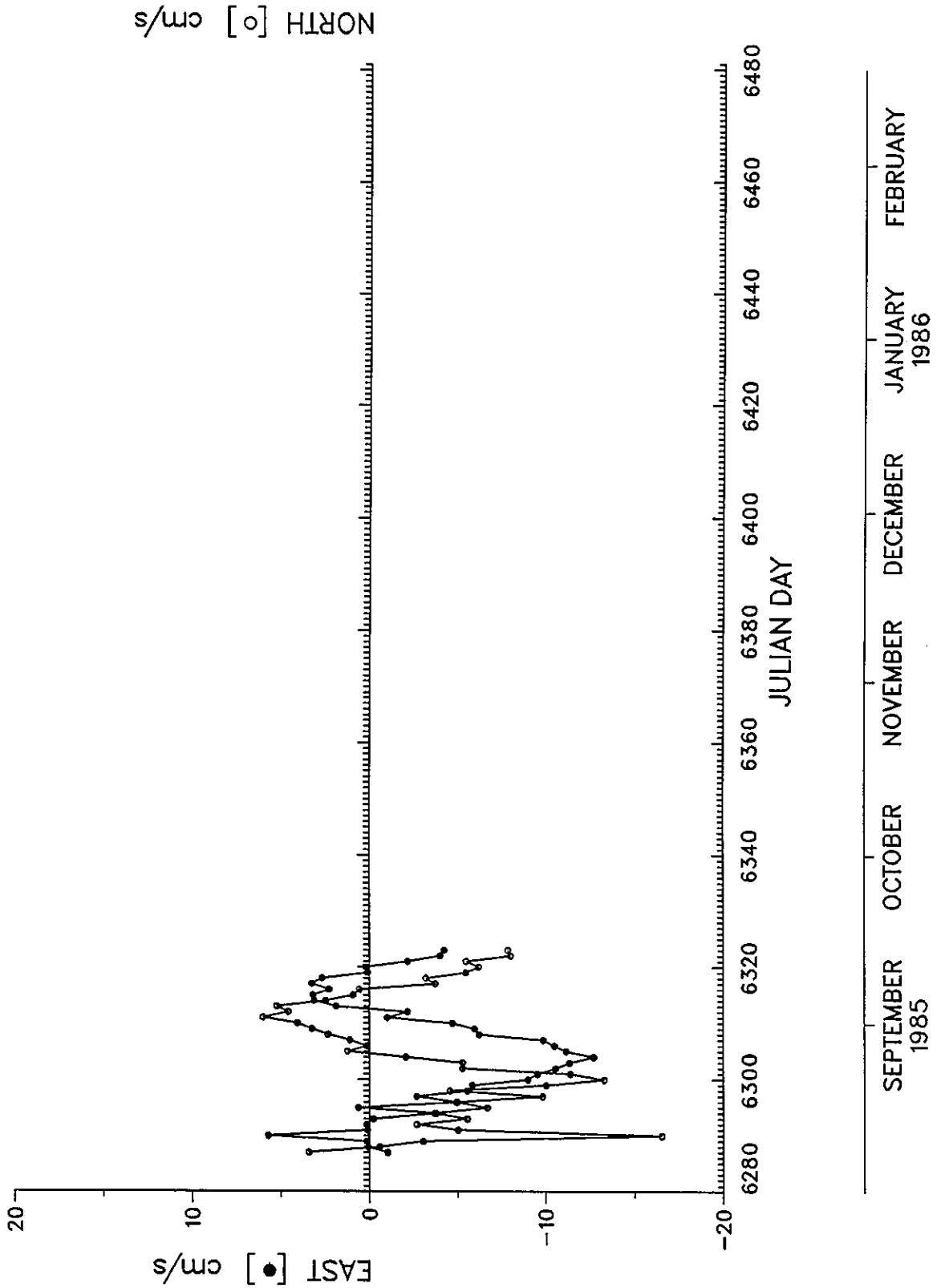
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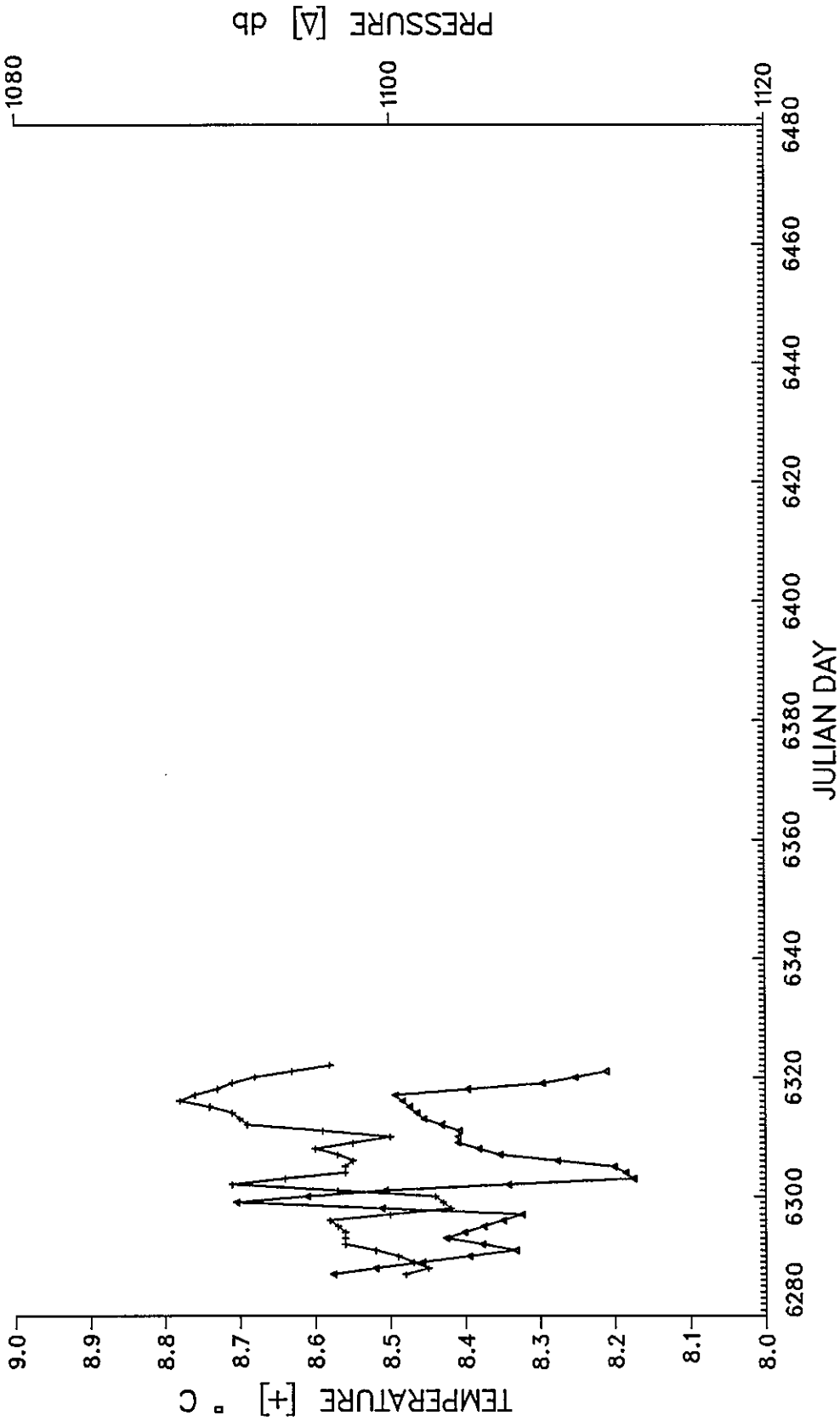
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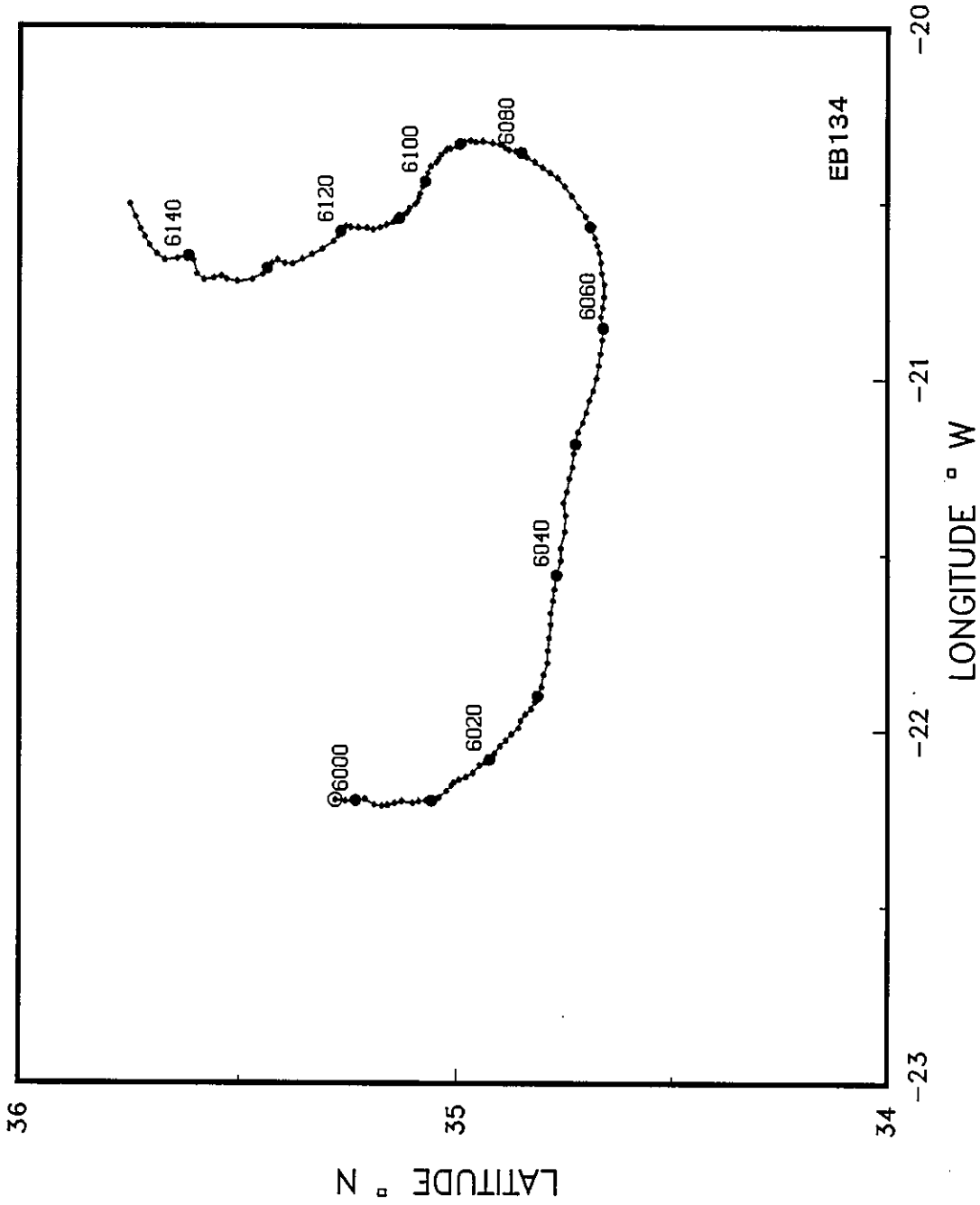
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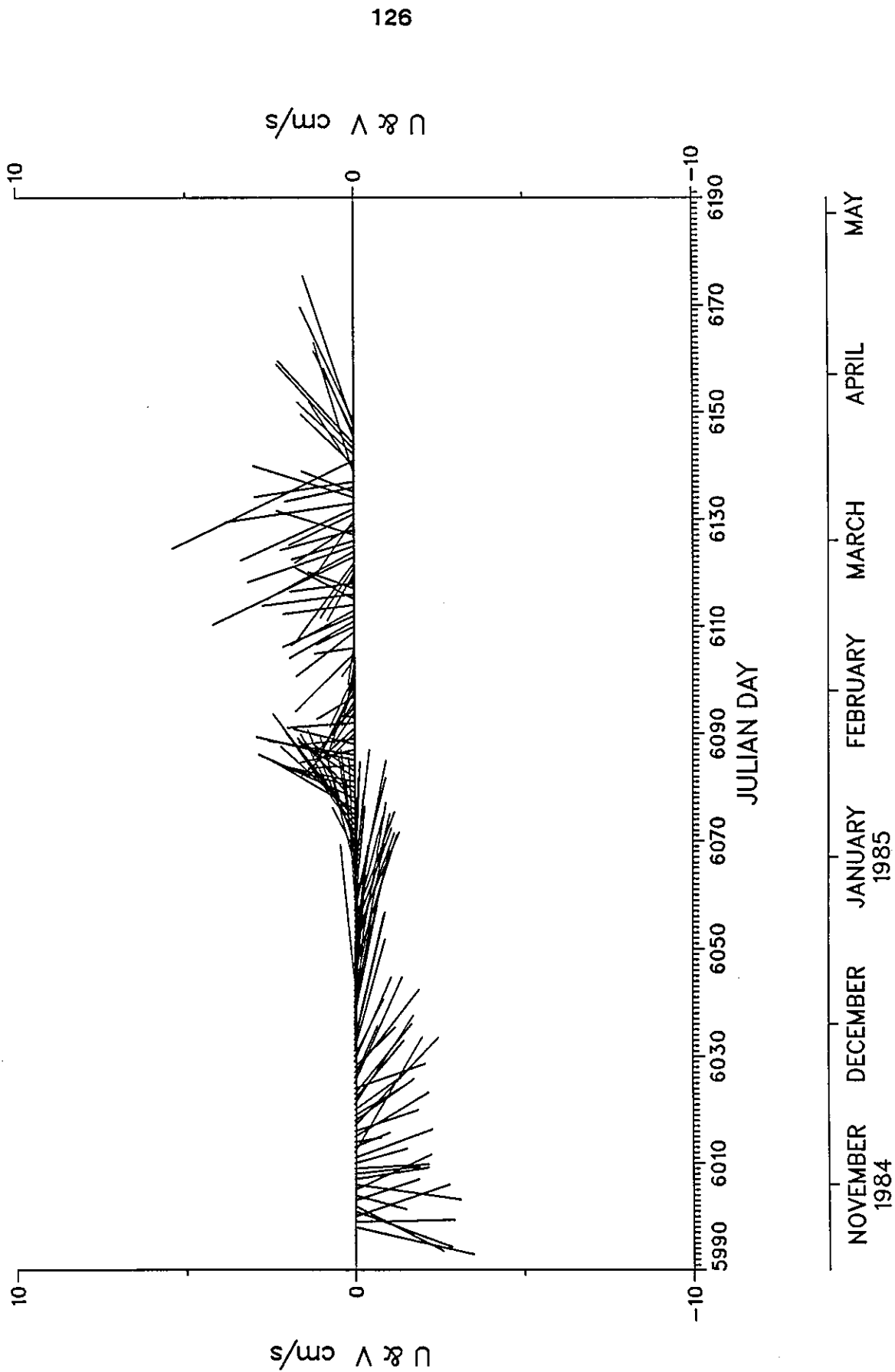
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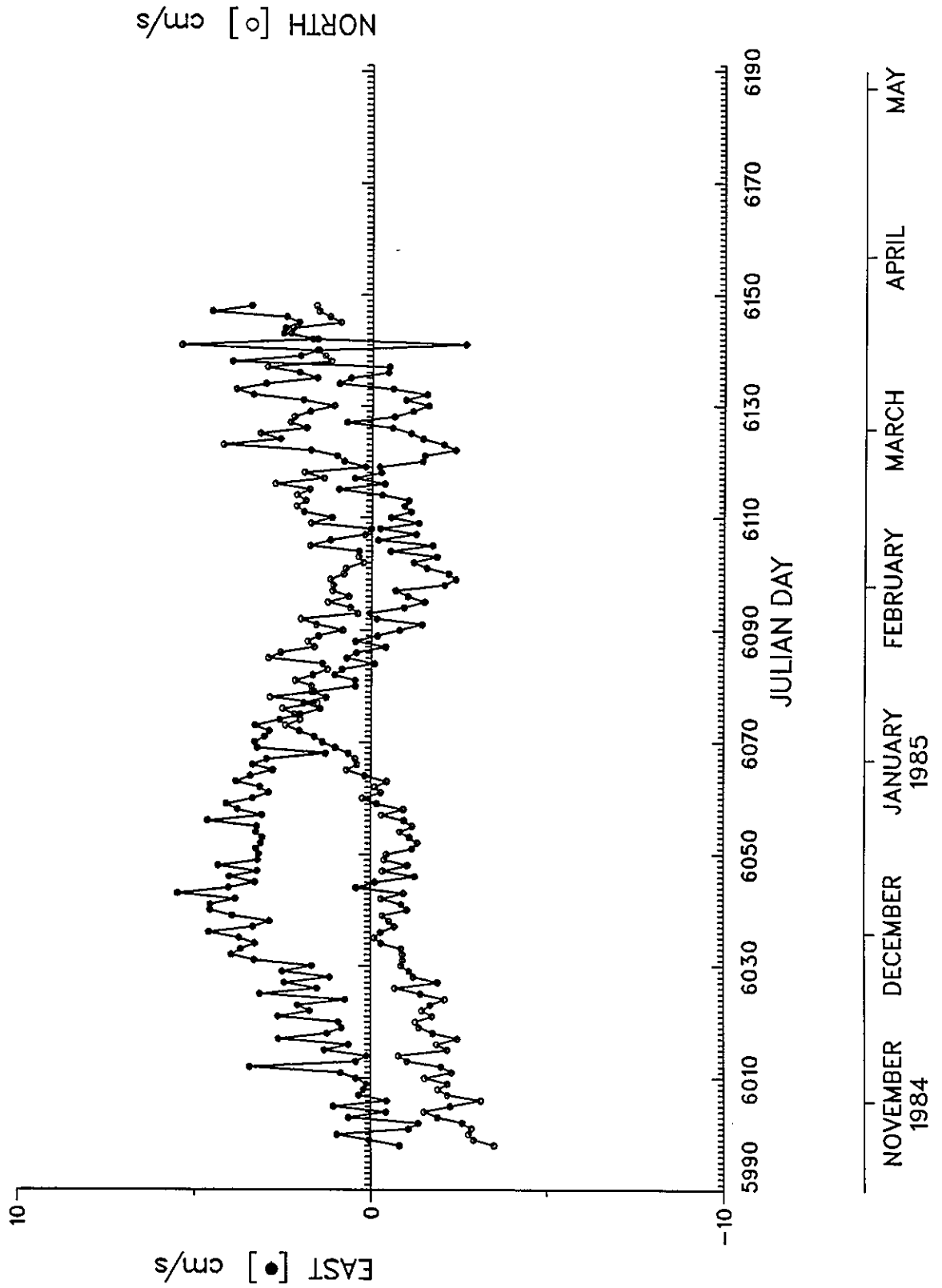
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EASTERN BASIN 134

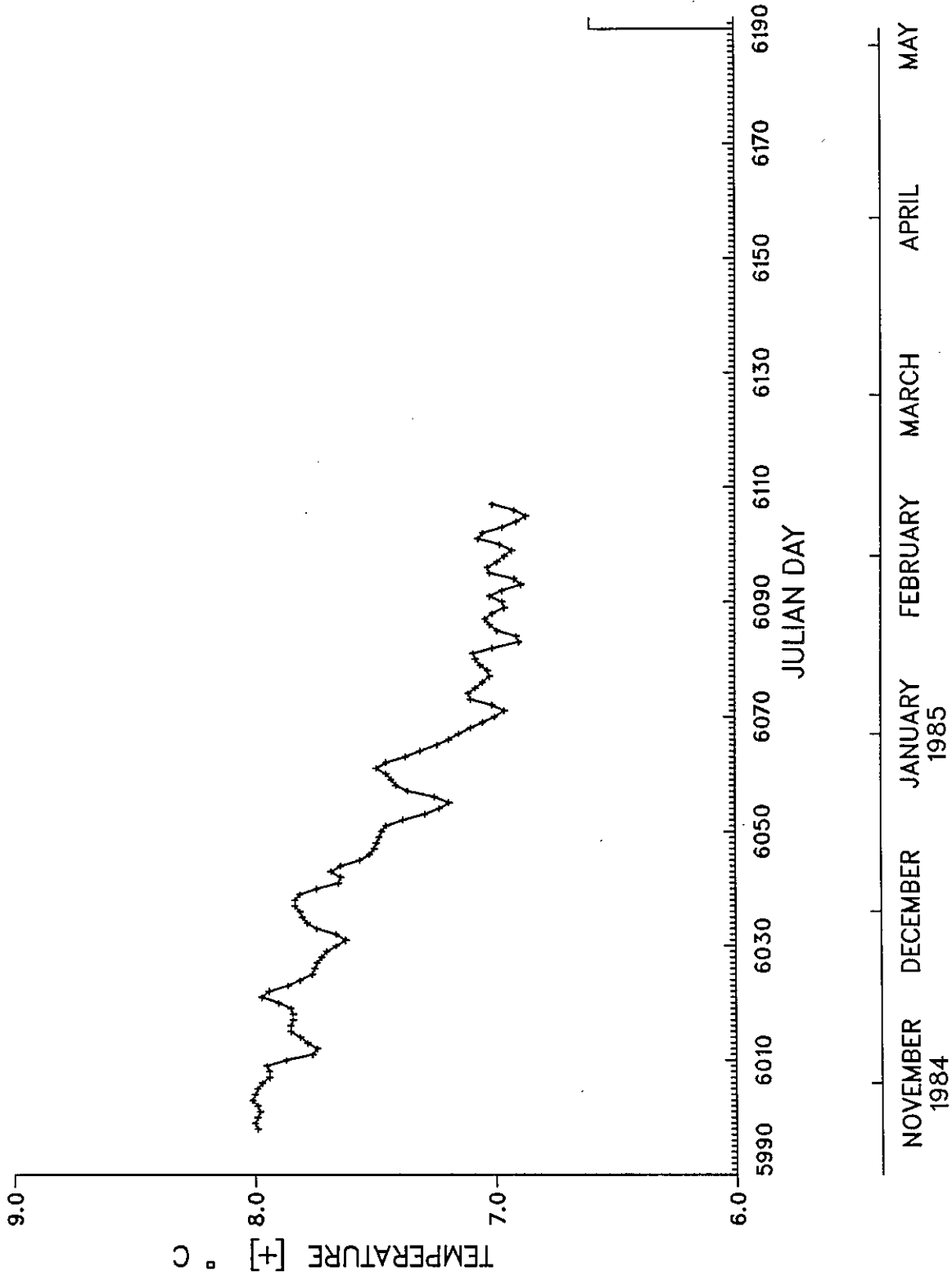


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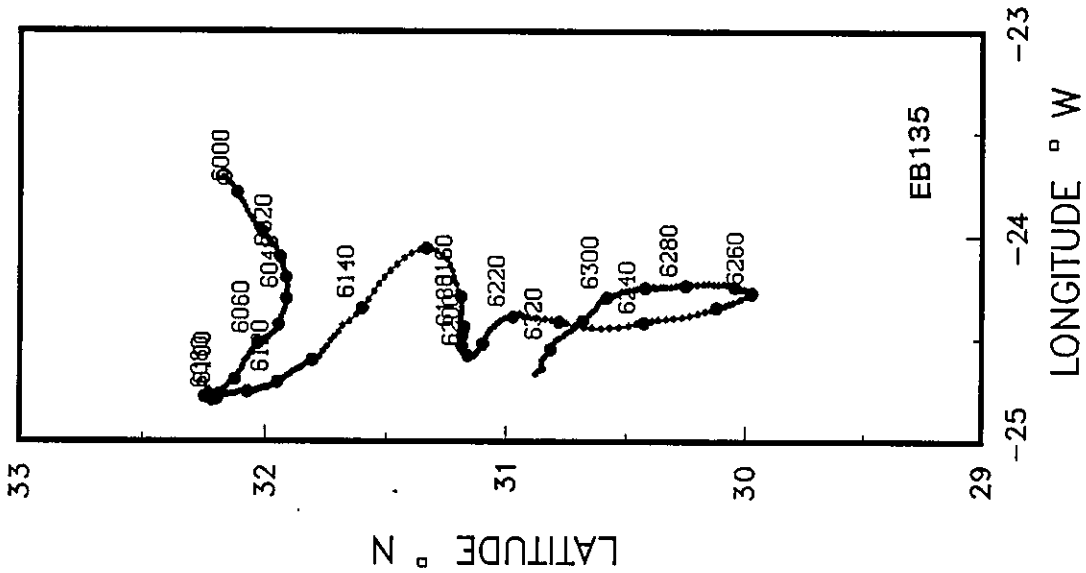


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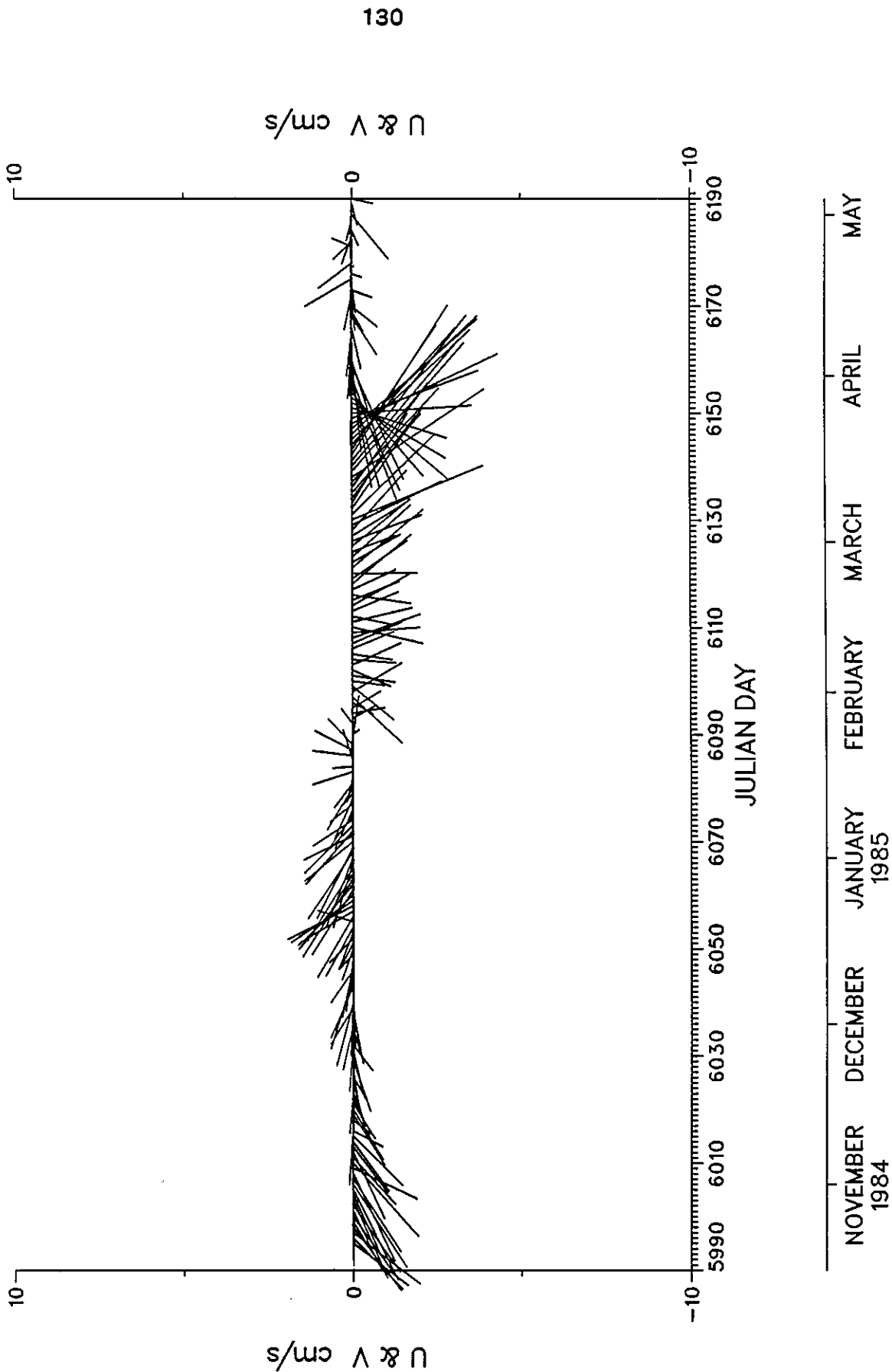
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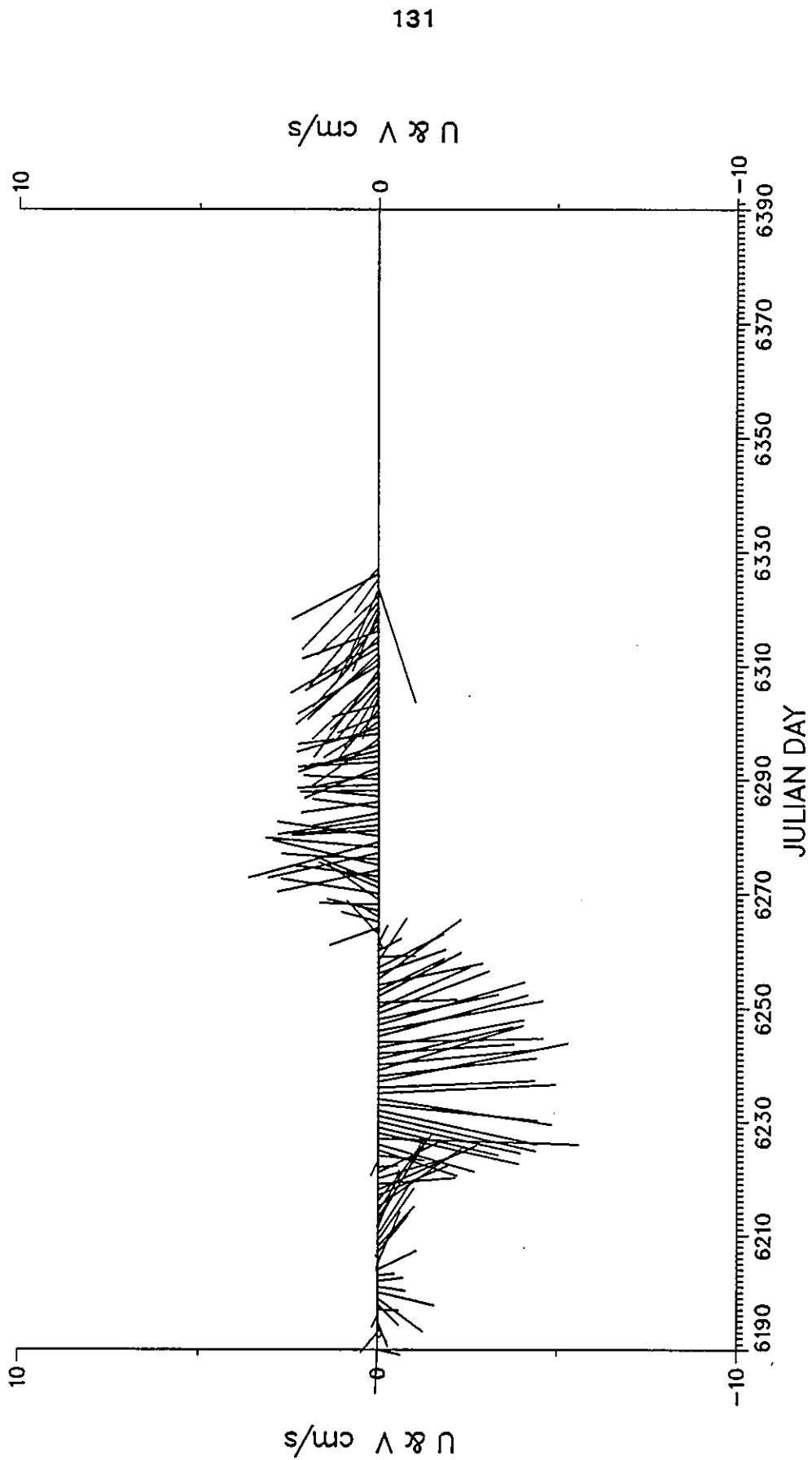
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EASTERN BASIN 135

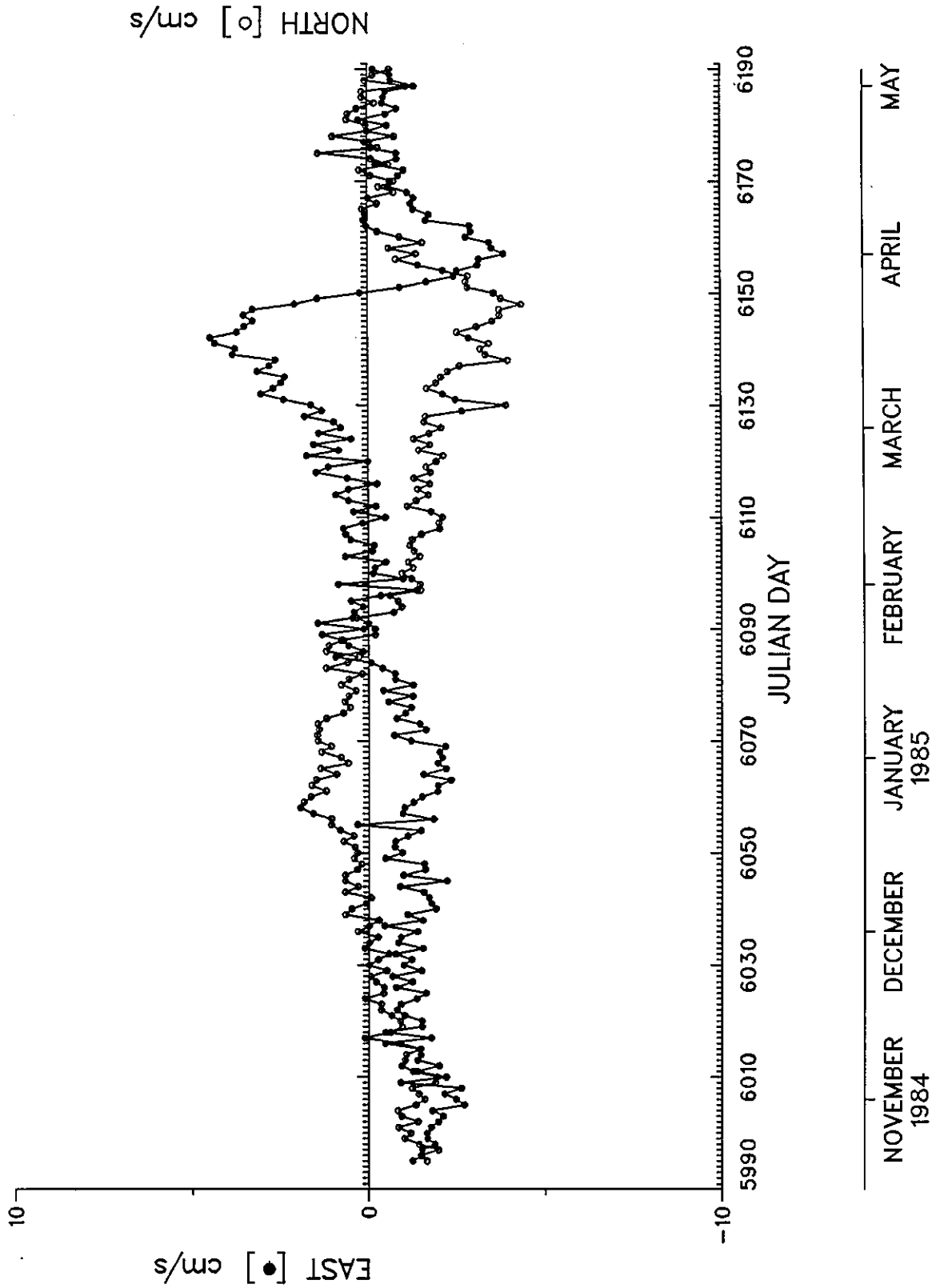


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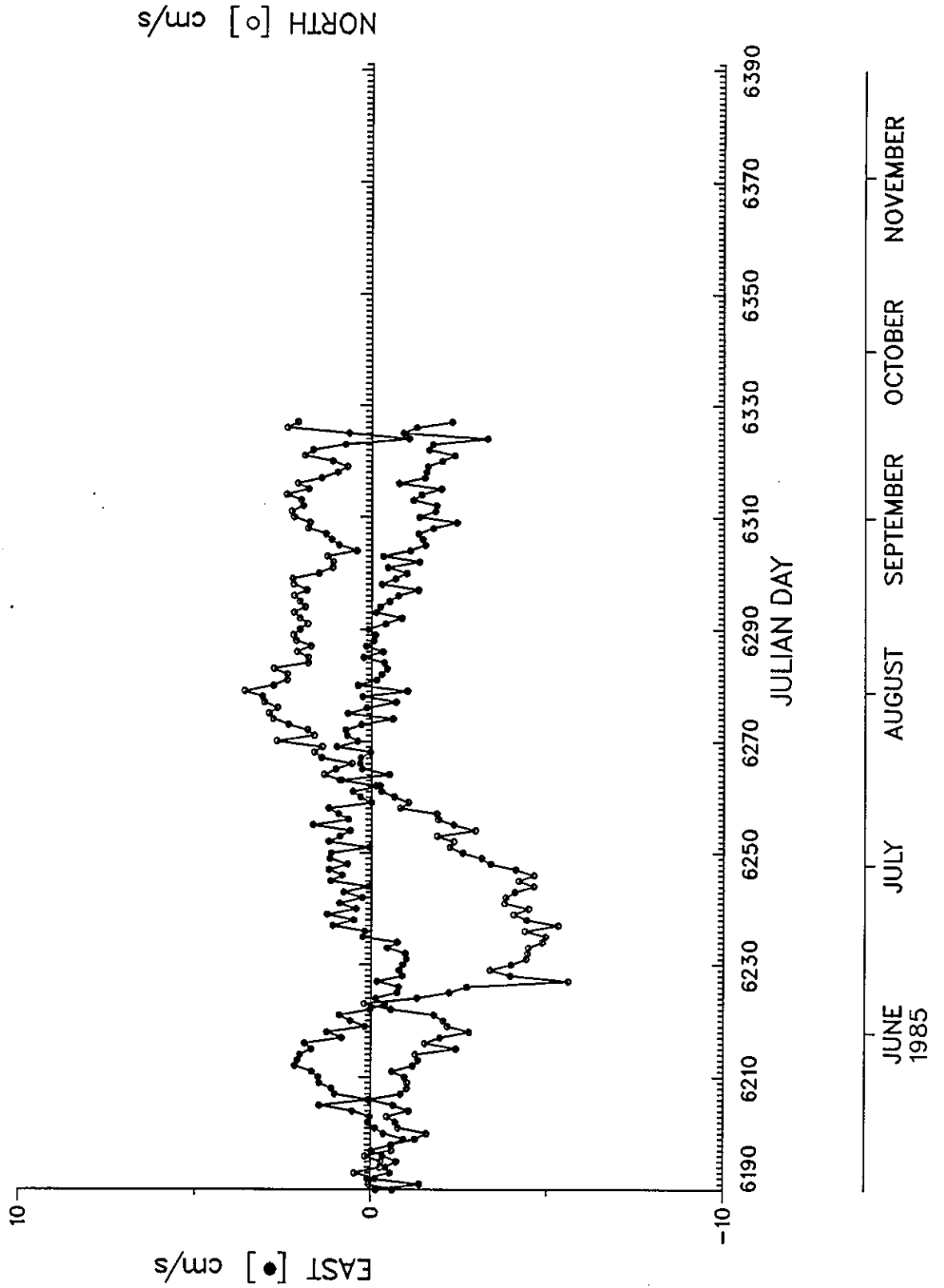


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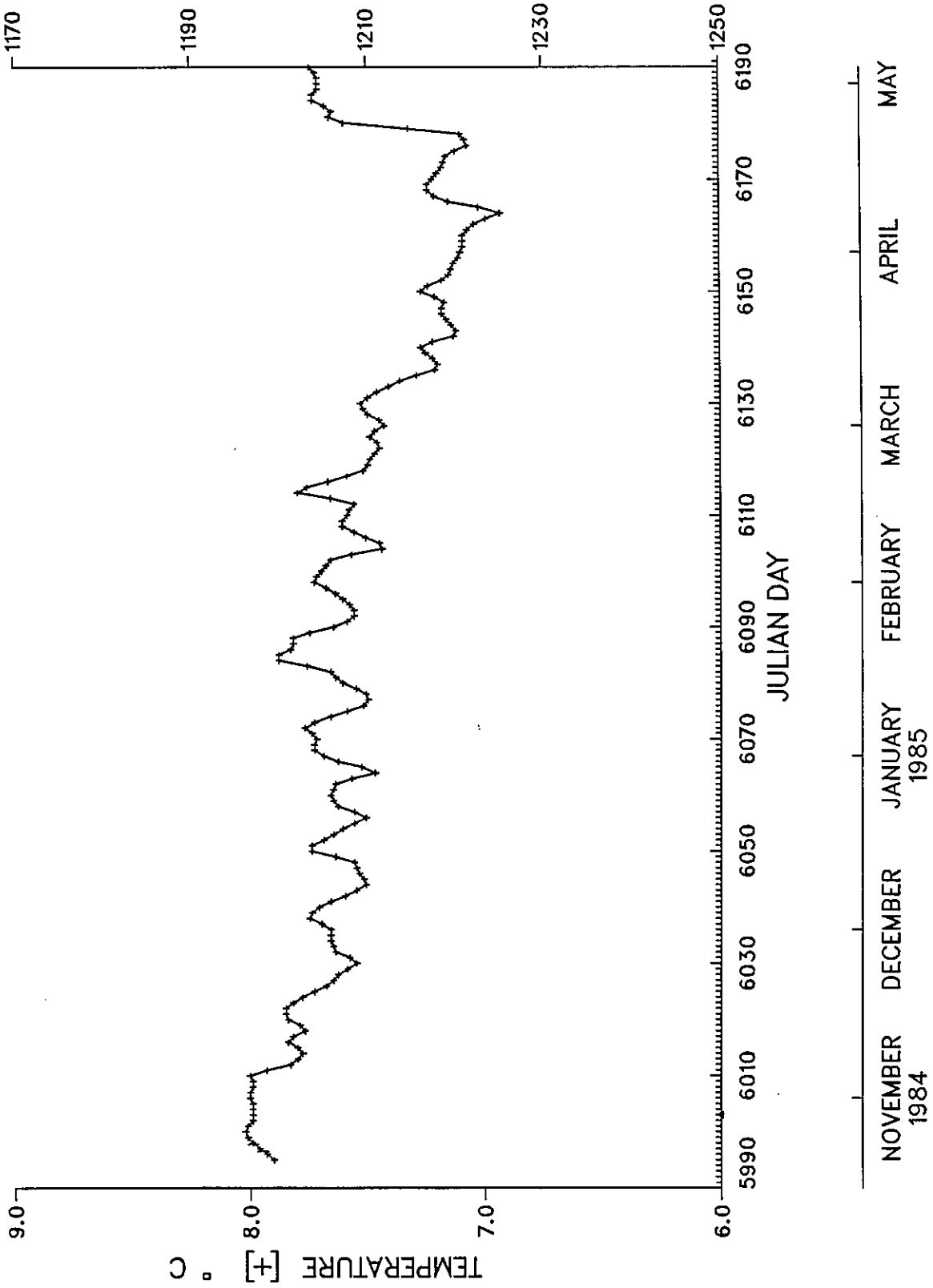
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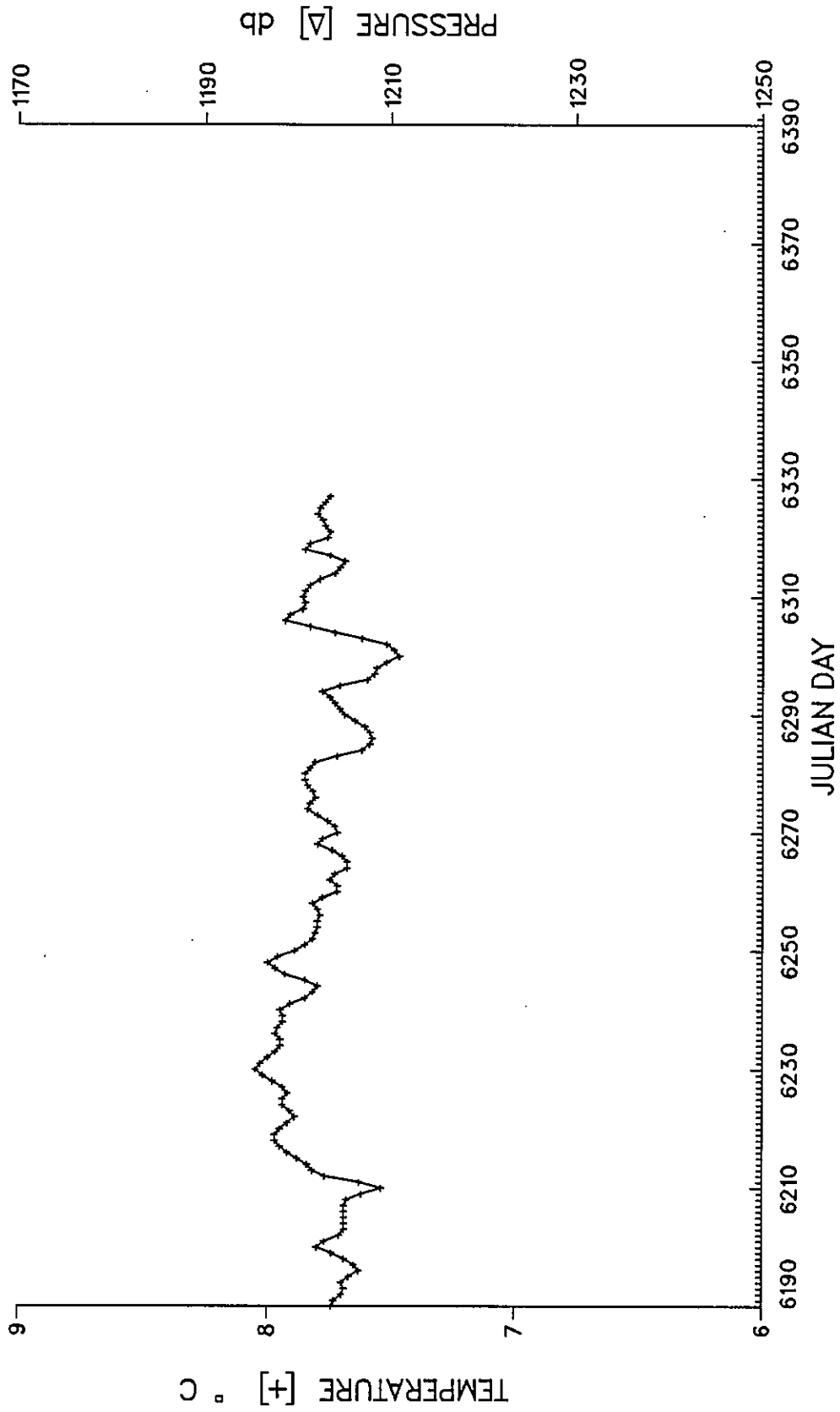
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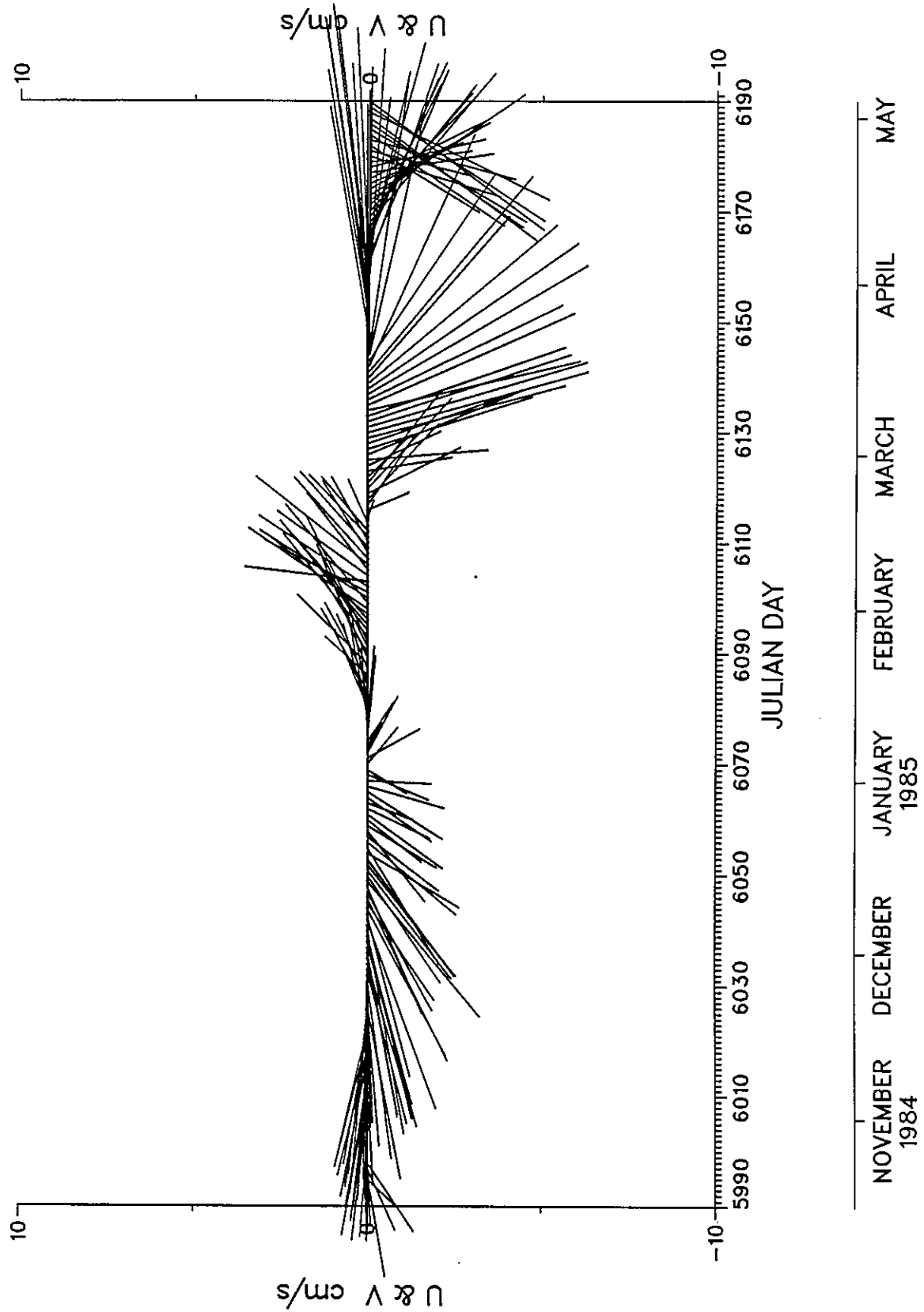
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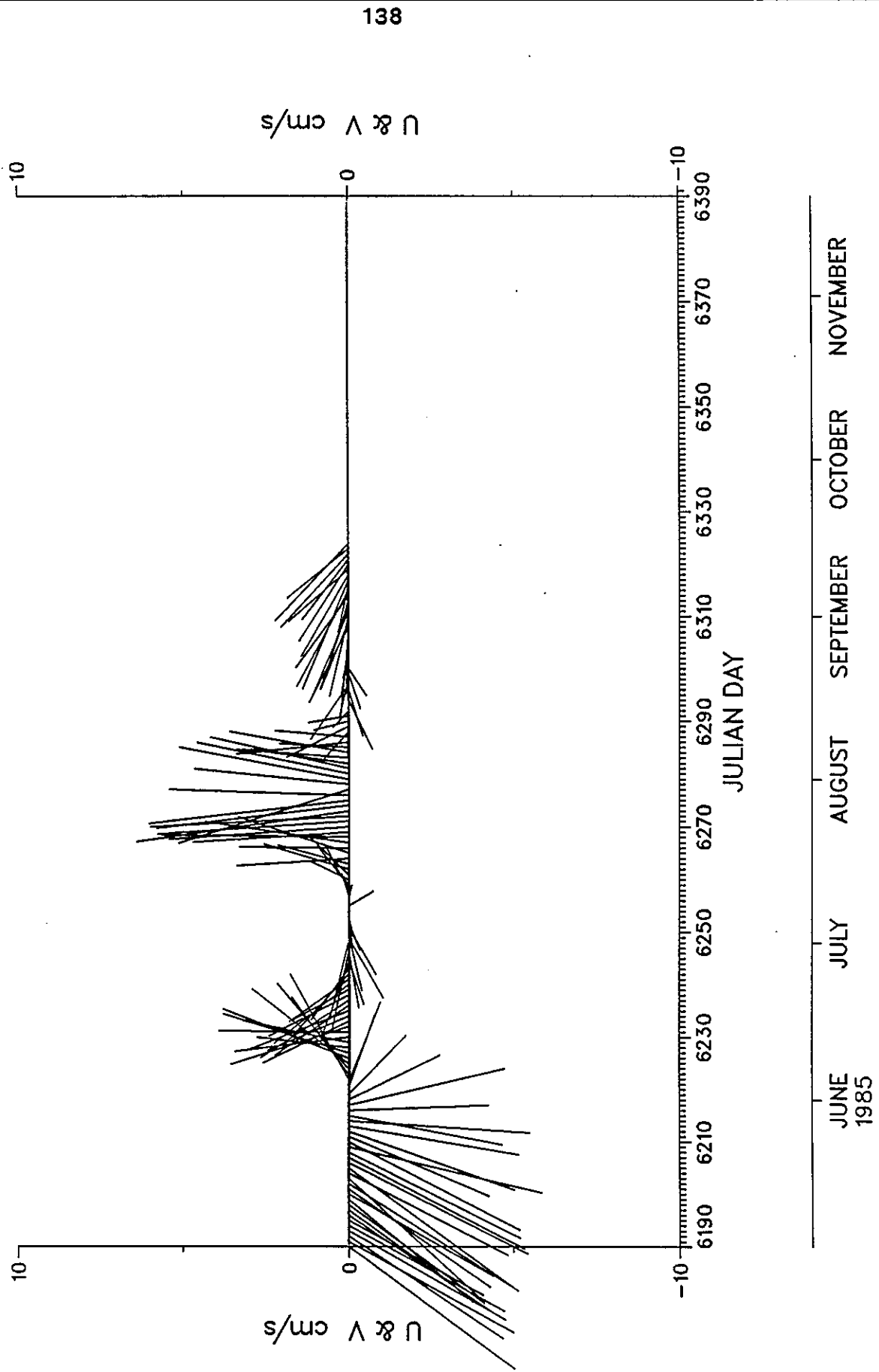
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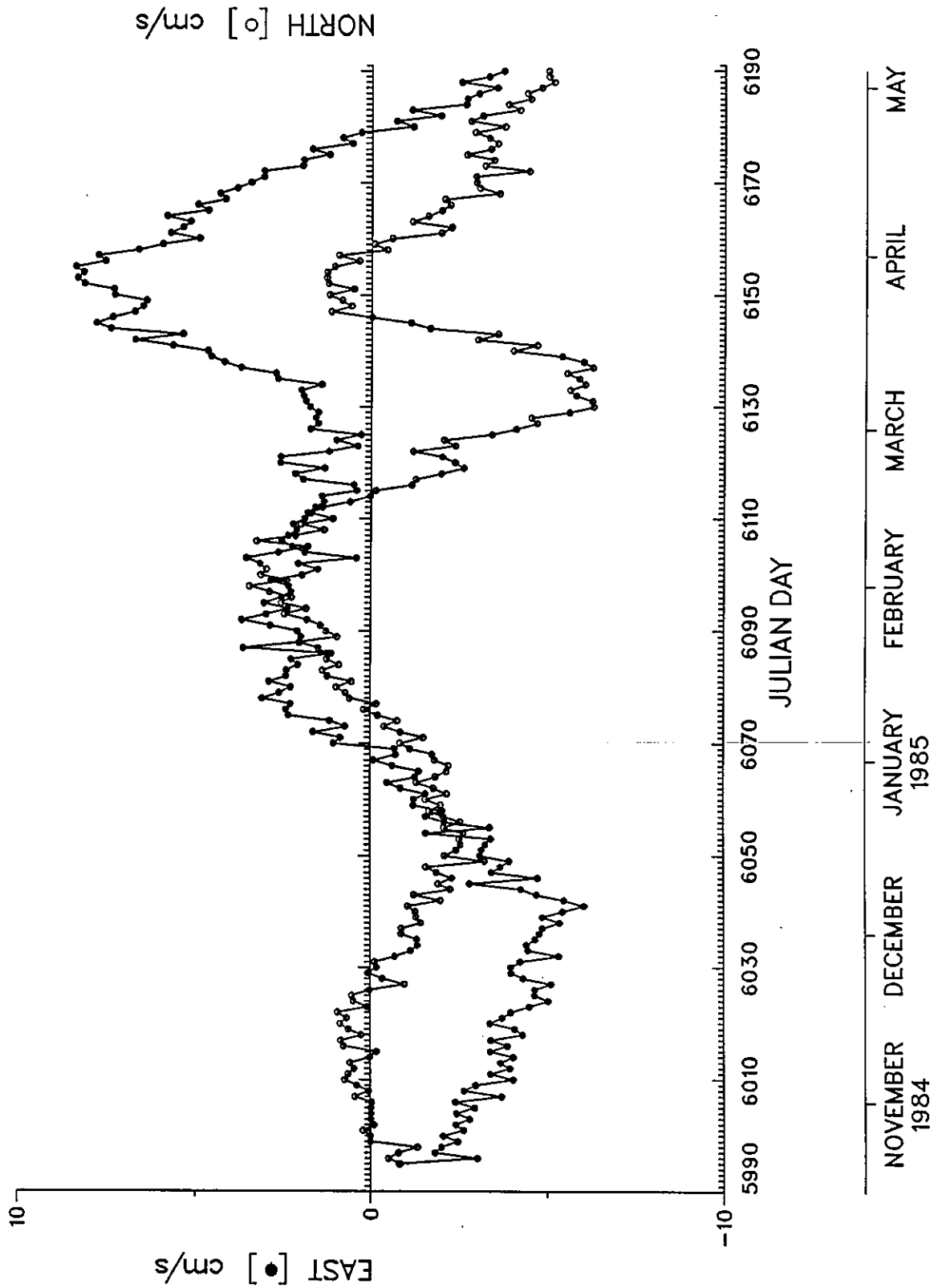
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EASTERN BASIN 136

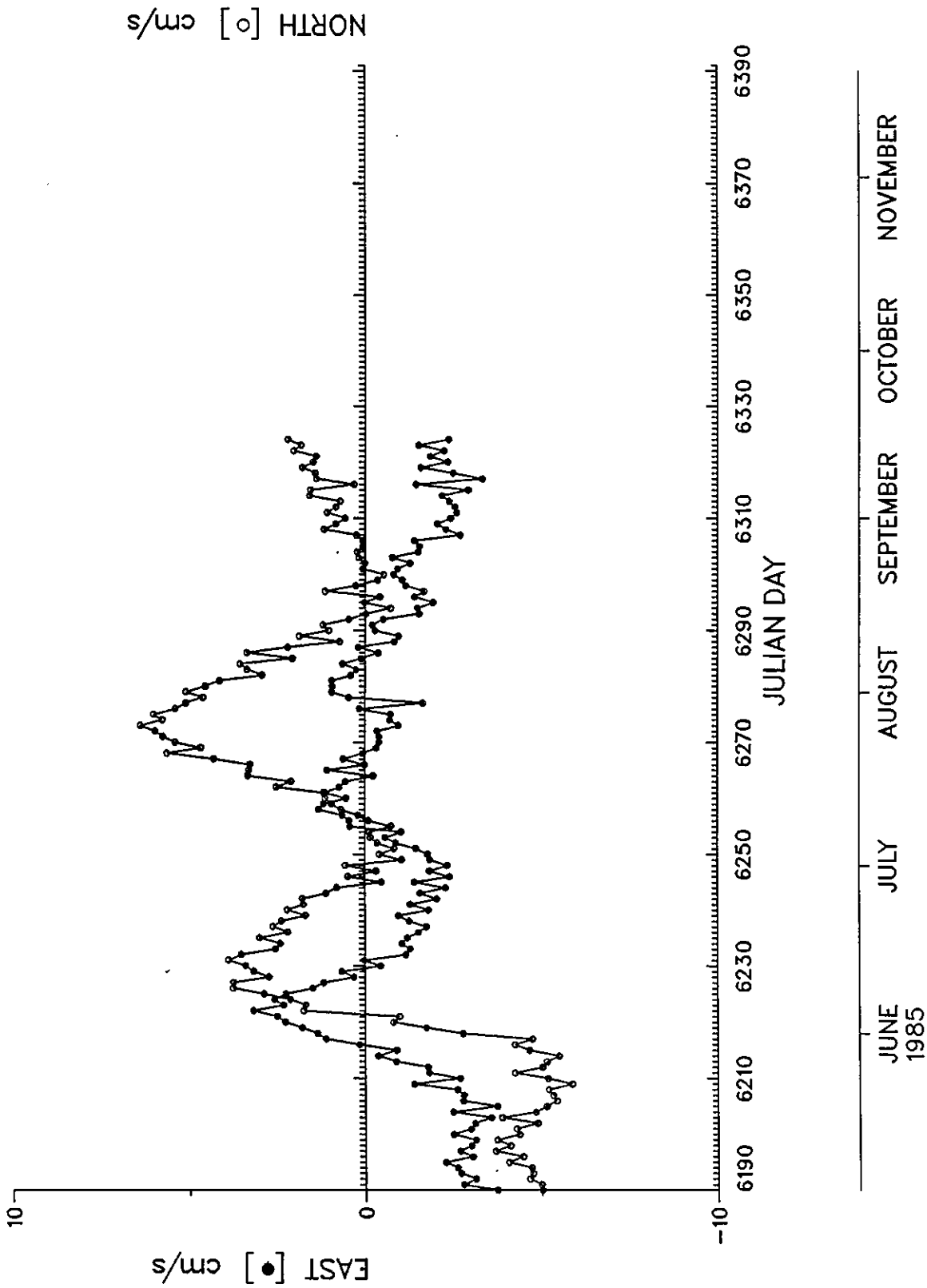


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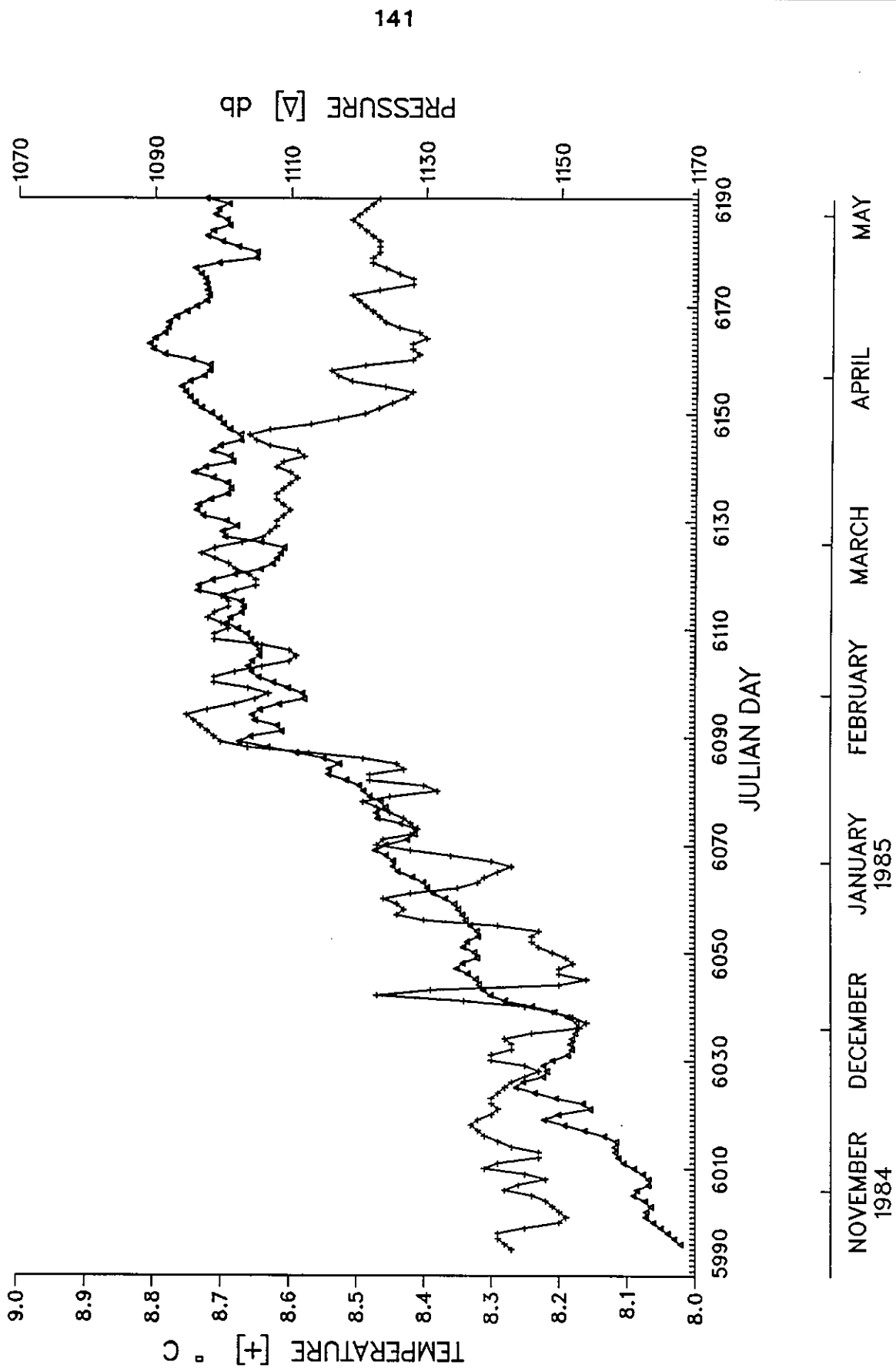


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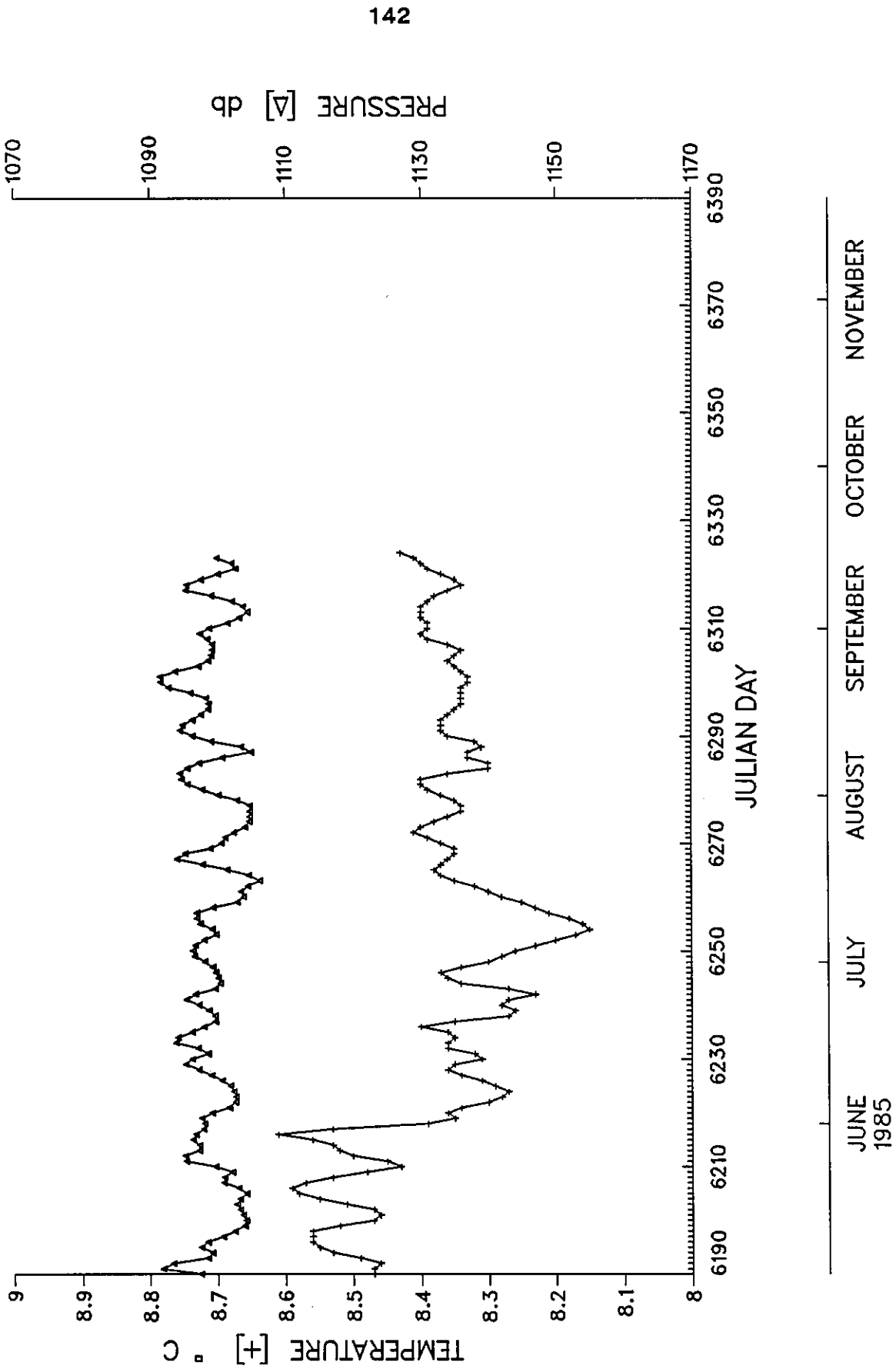


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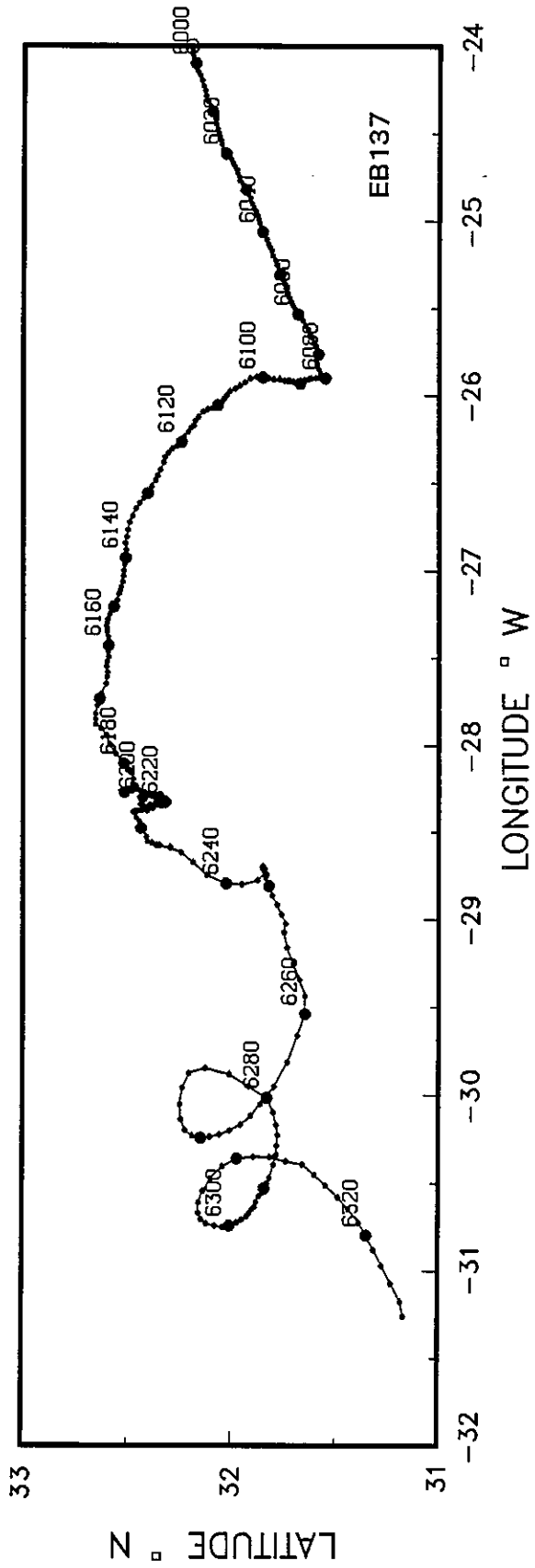


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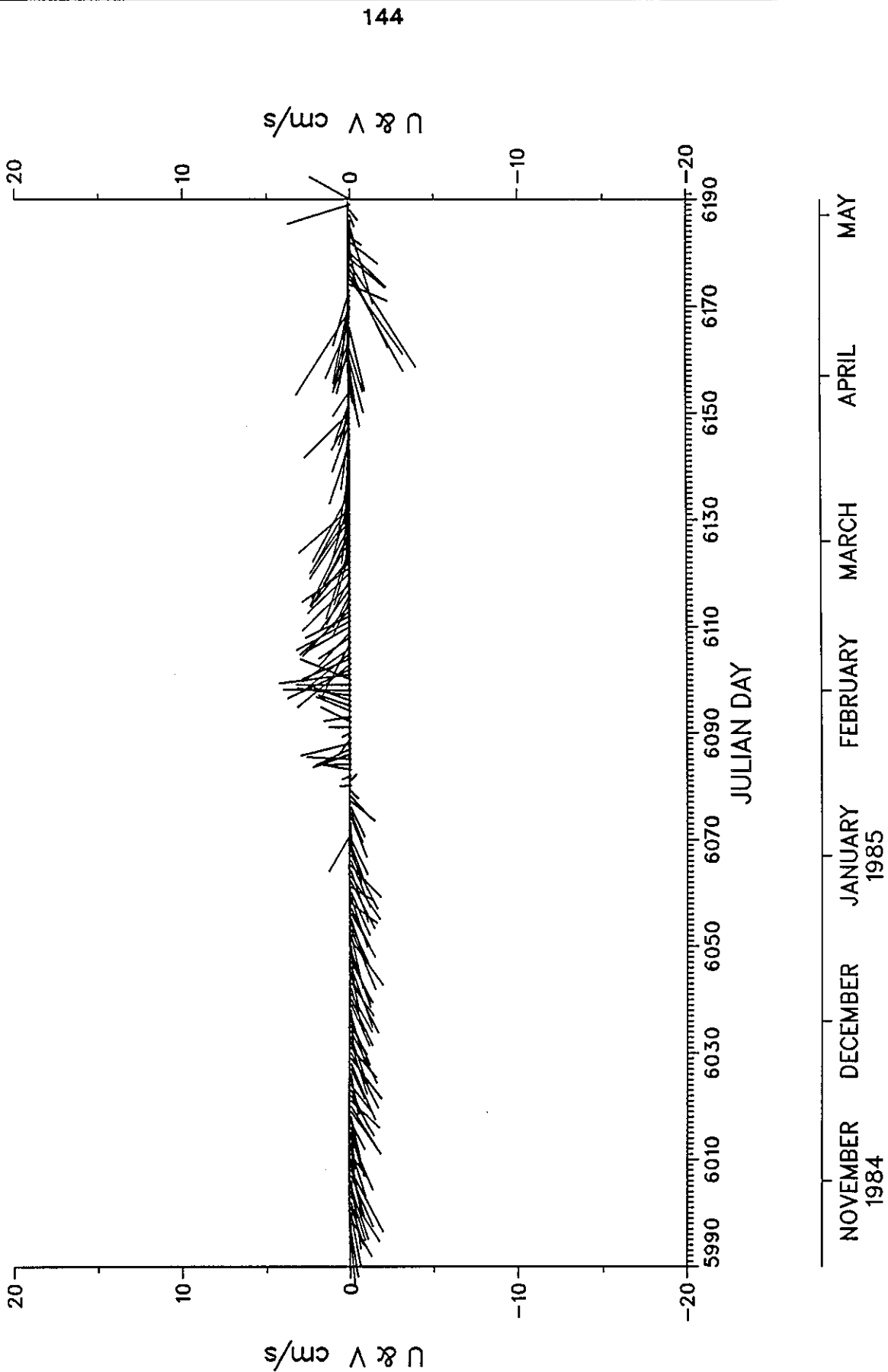
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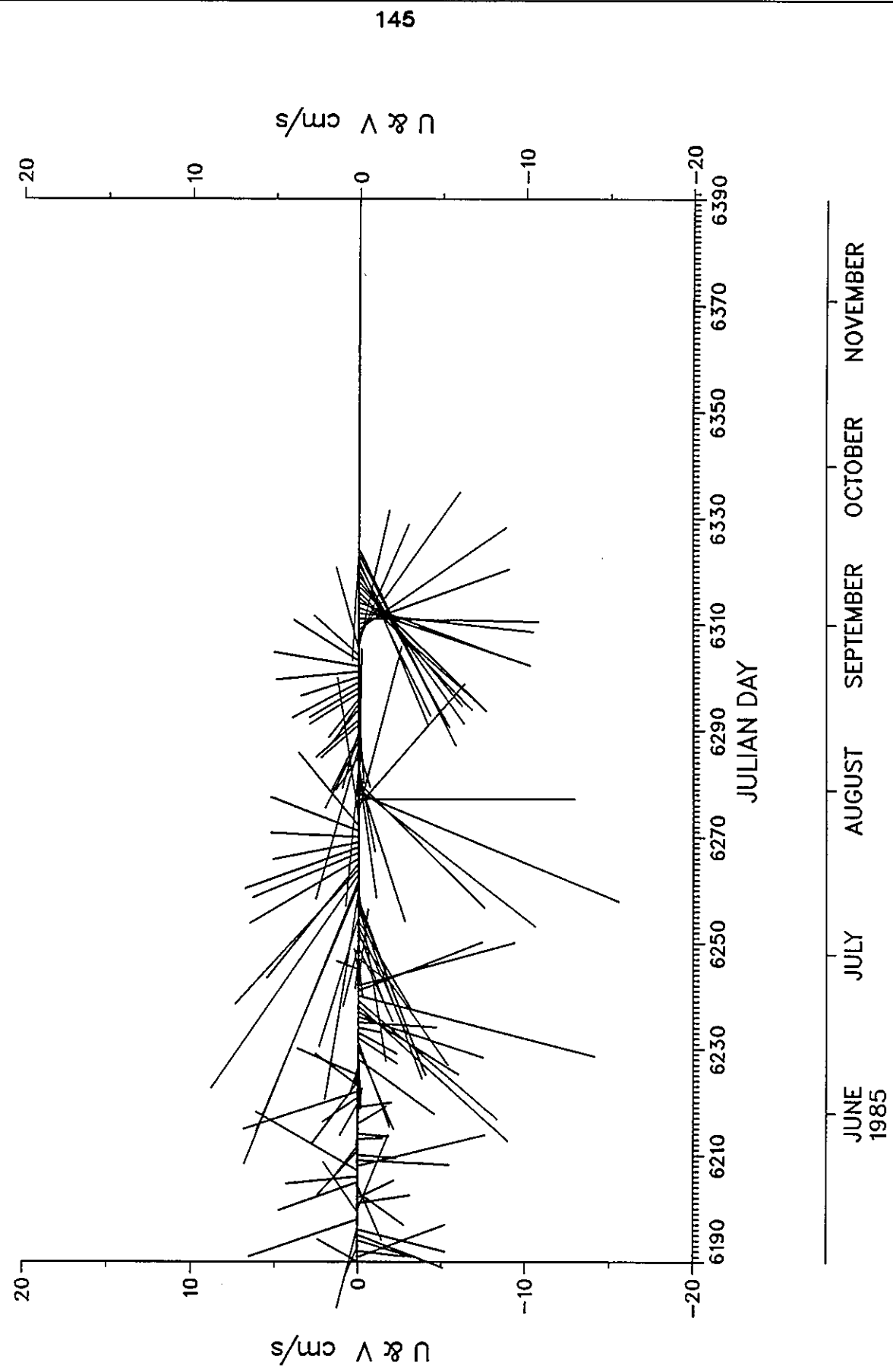
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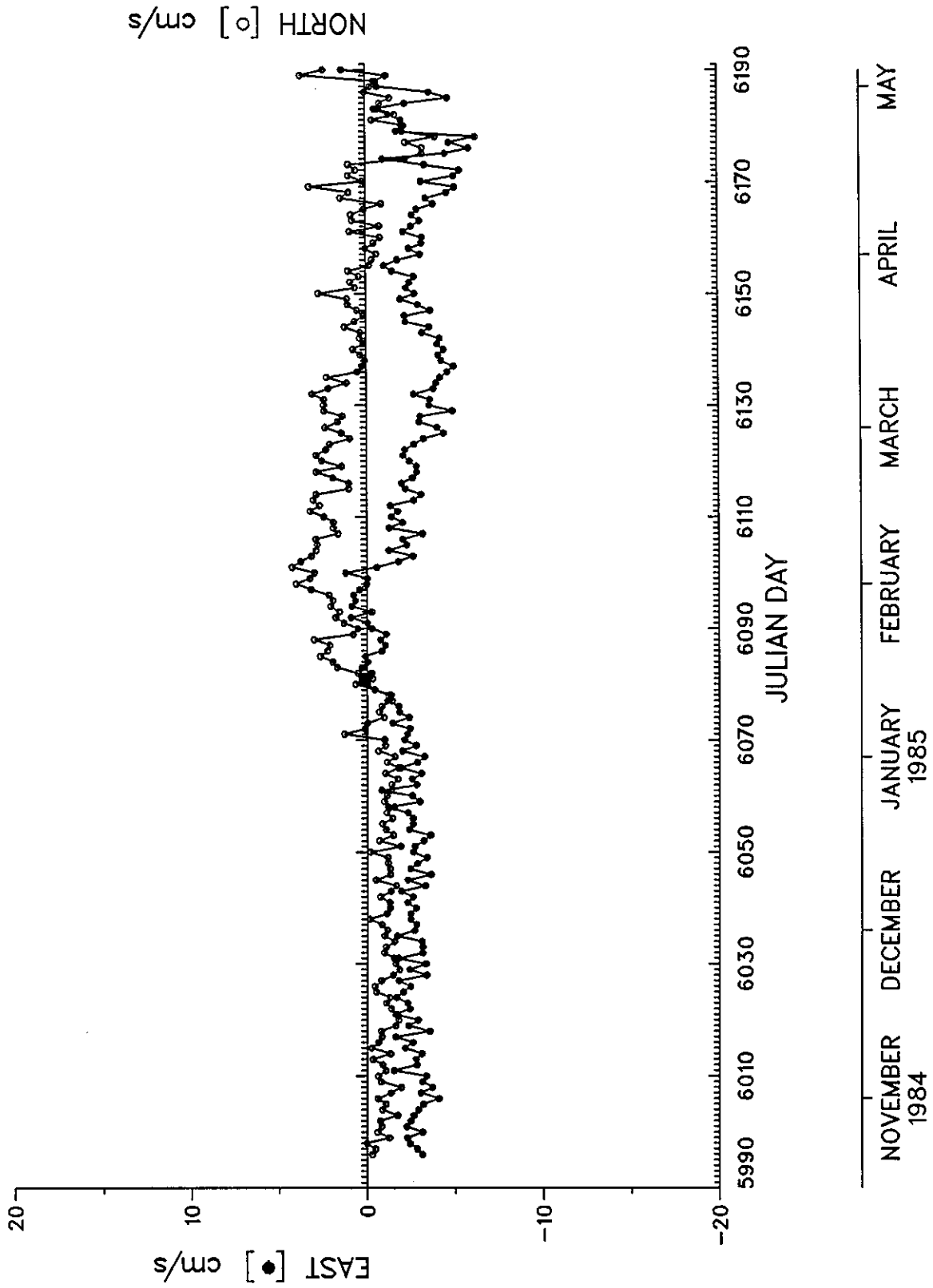
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EASTERN BASIN 137

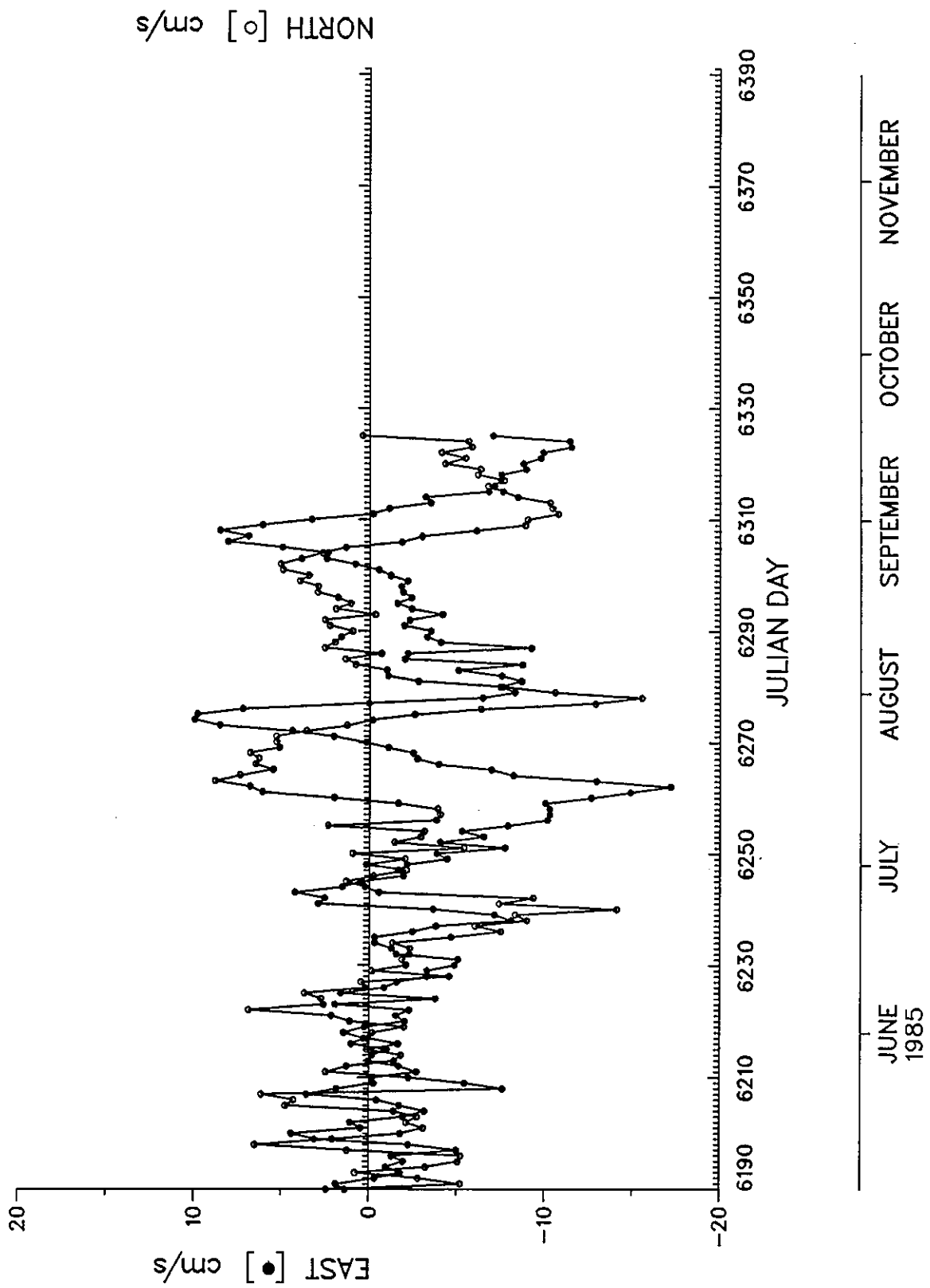


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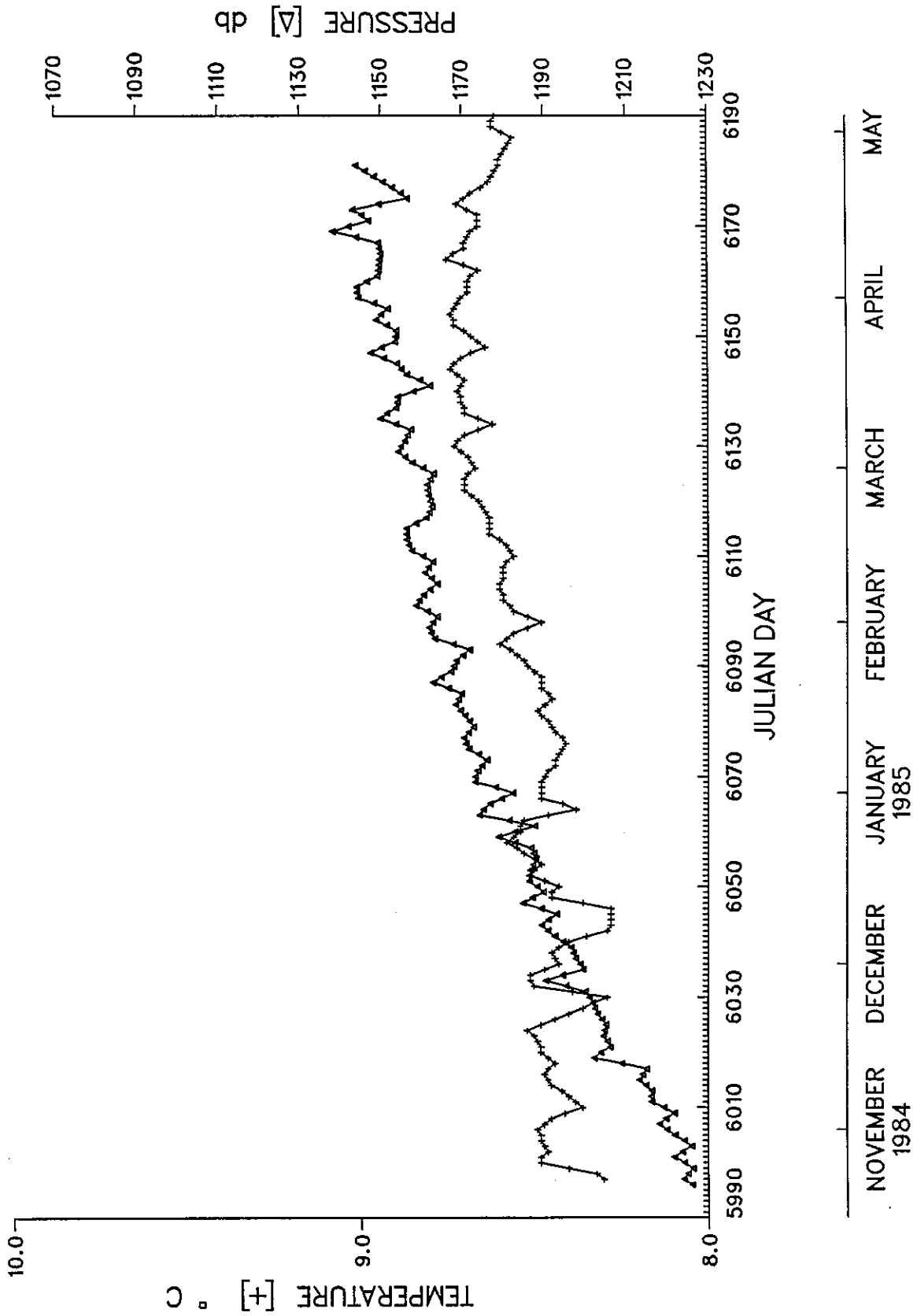


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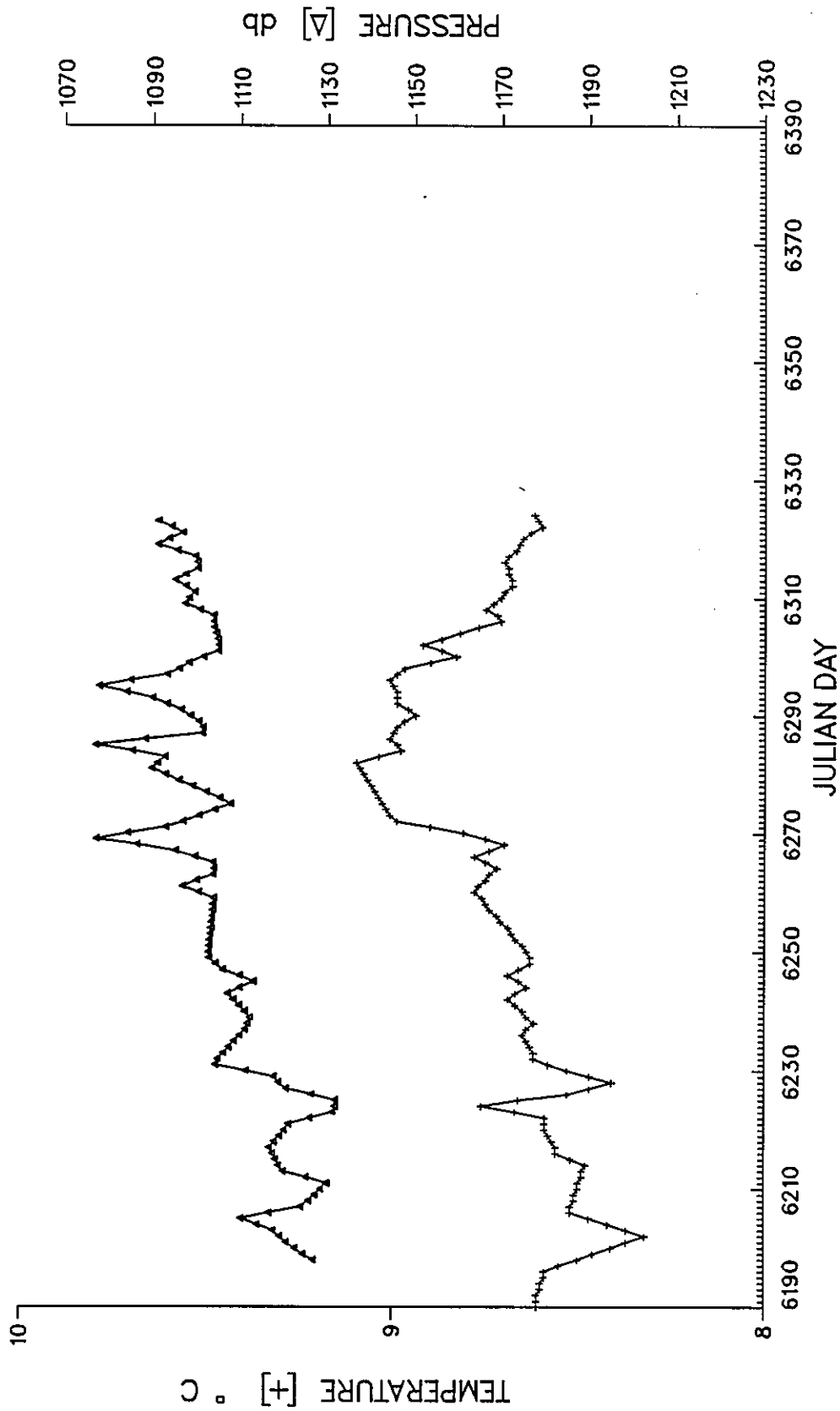


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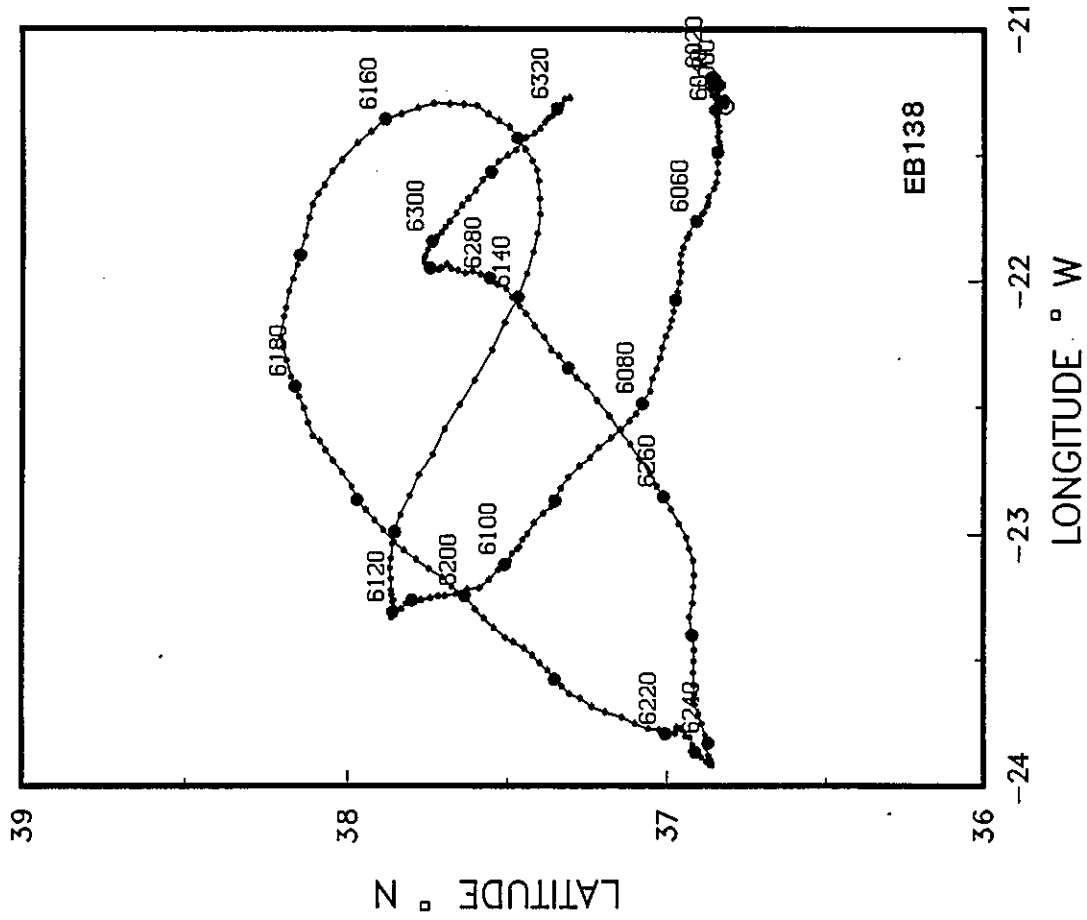


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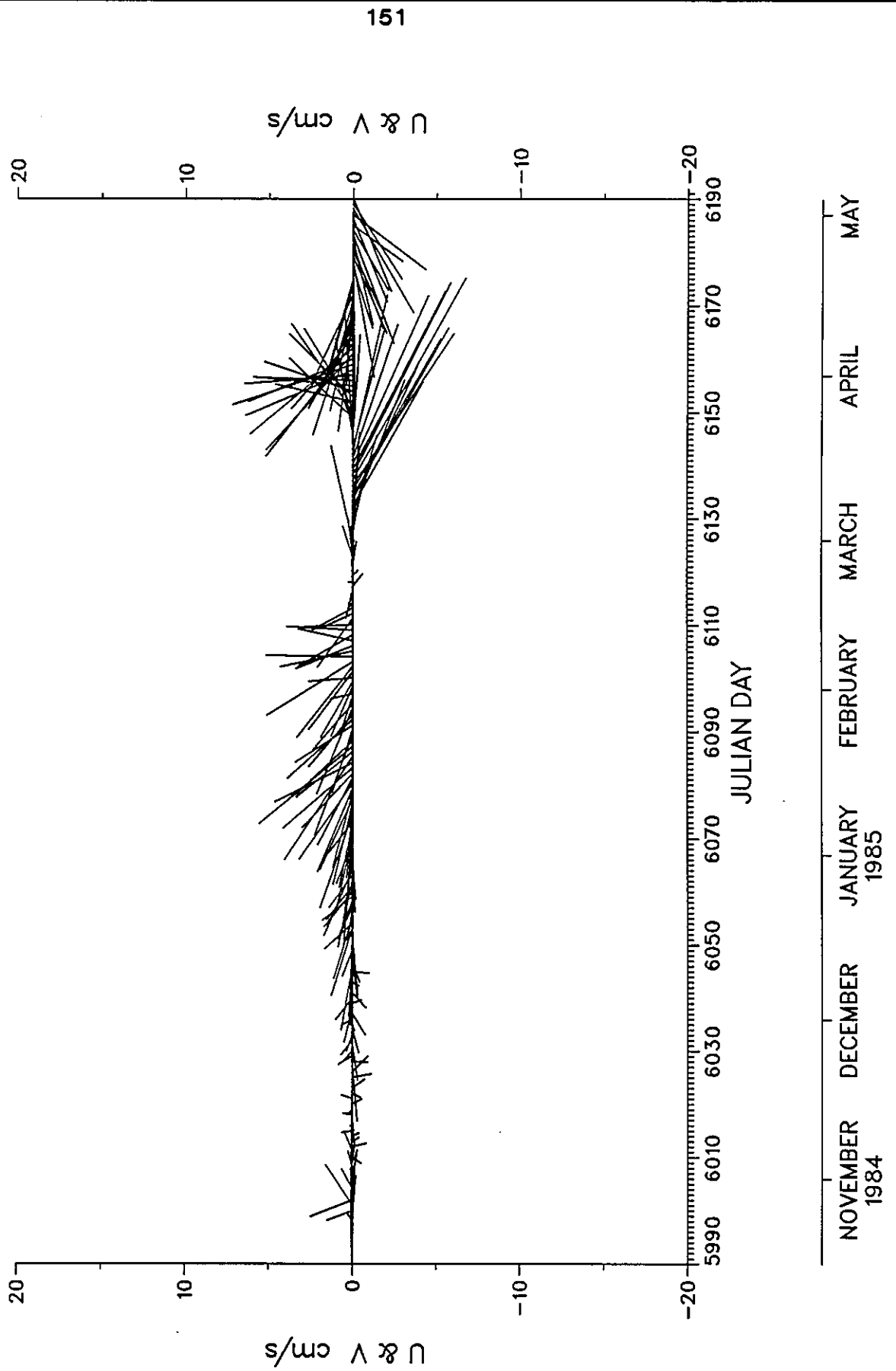
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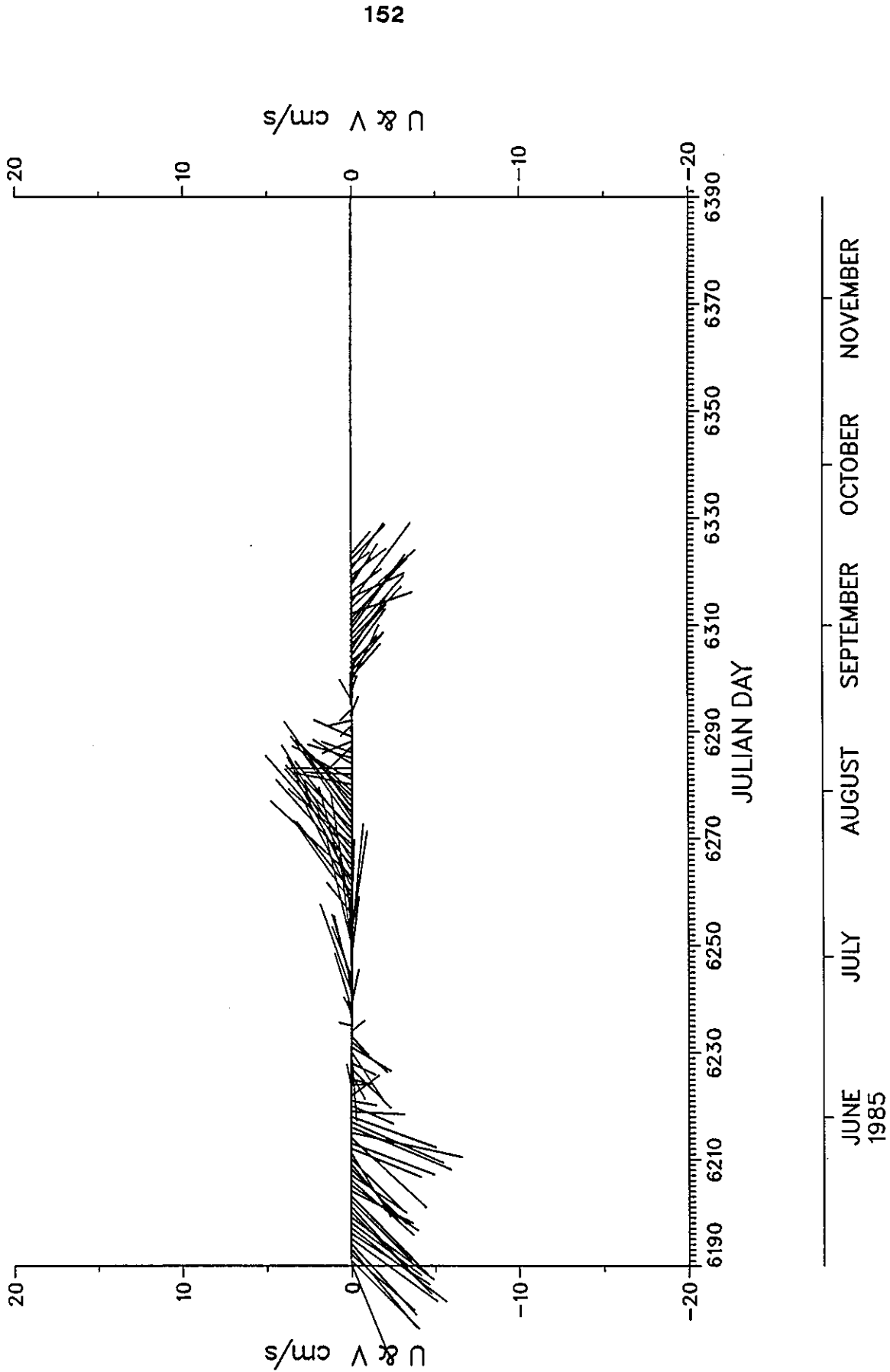
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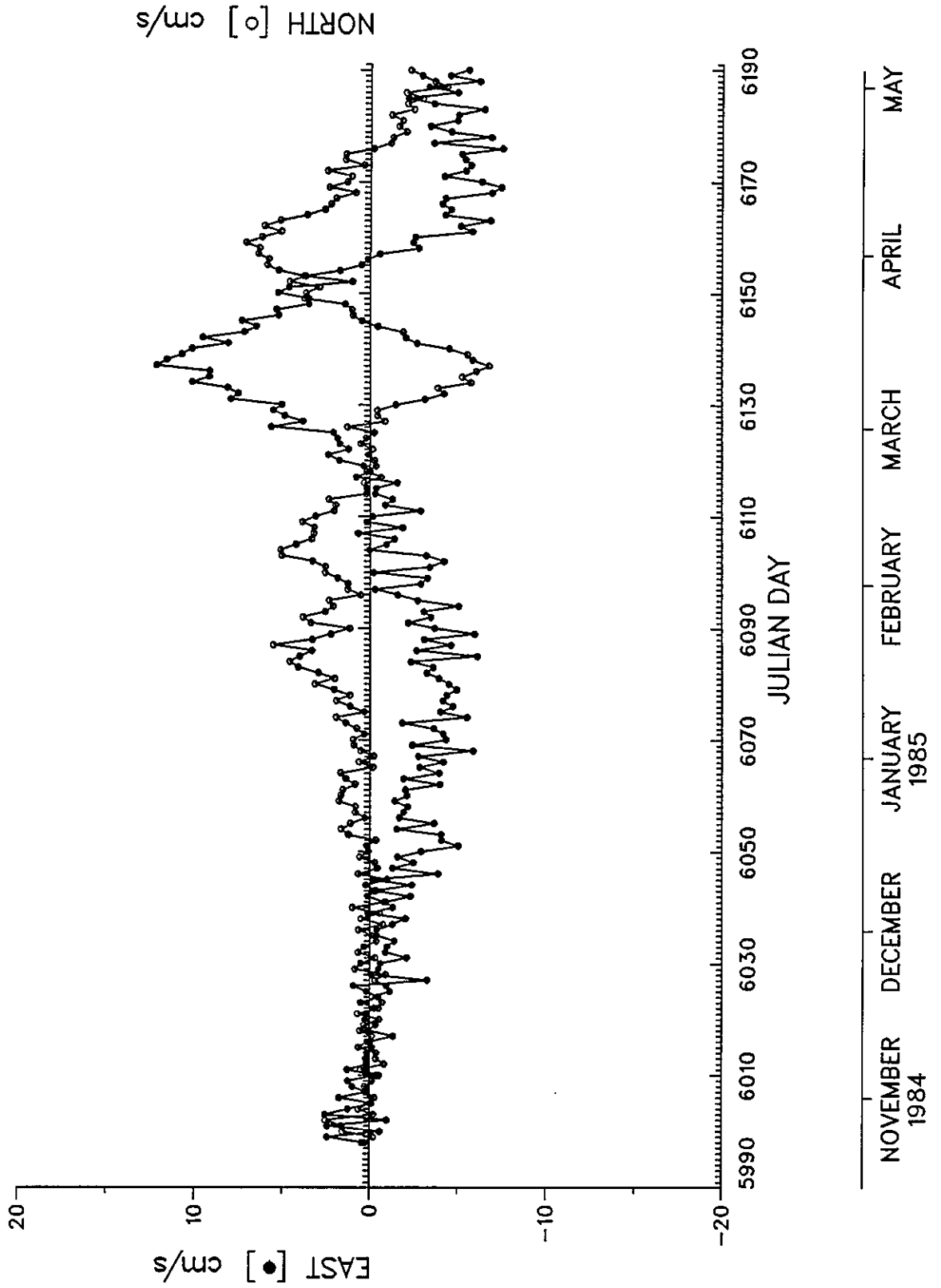
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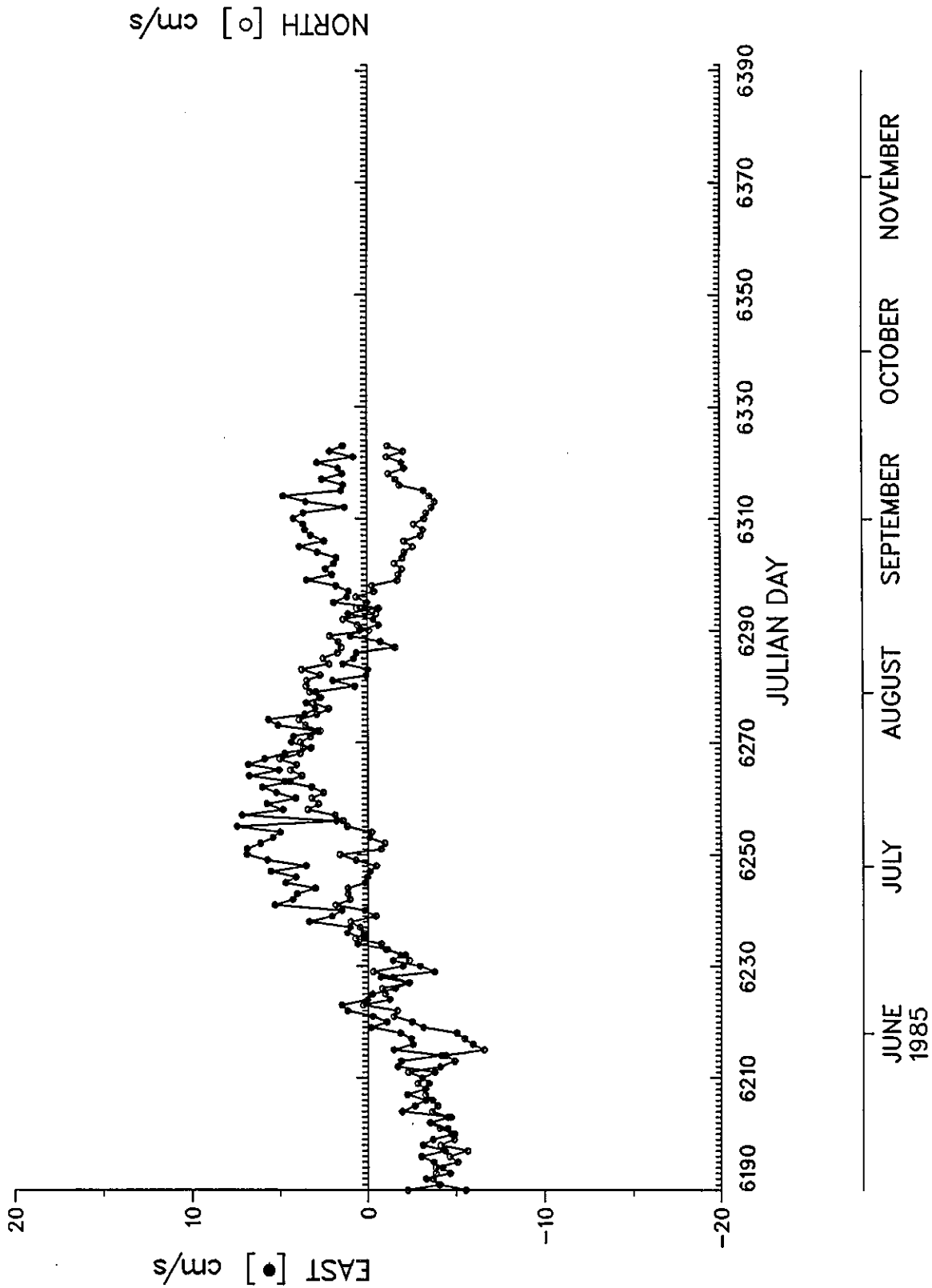
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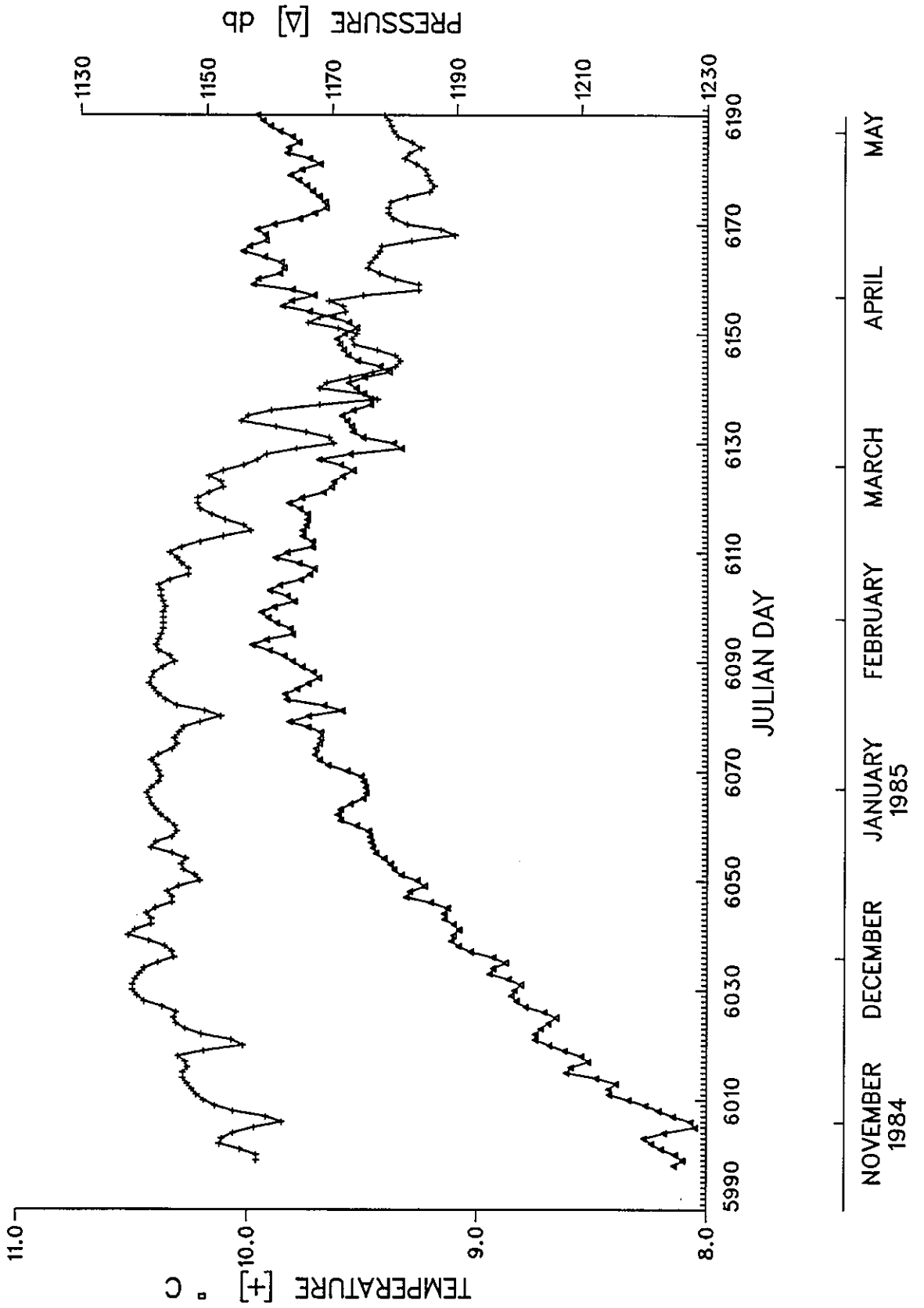
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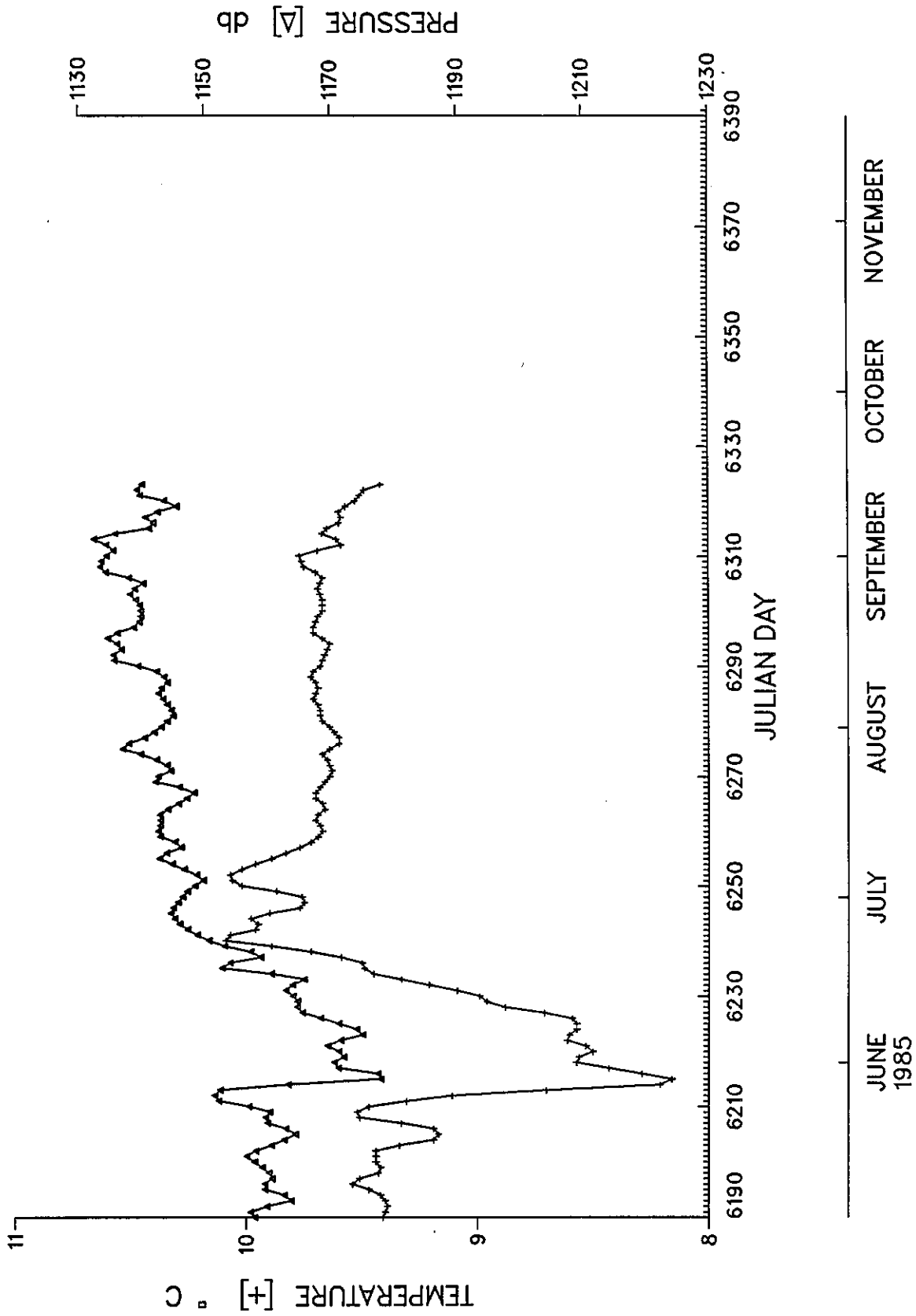
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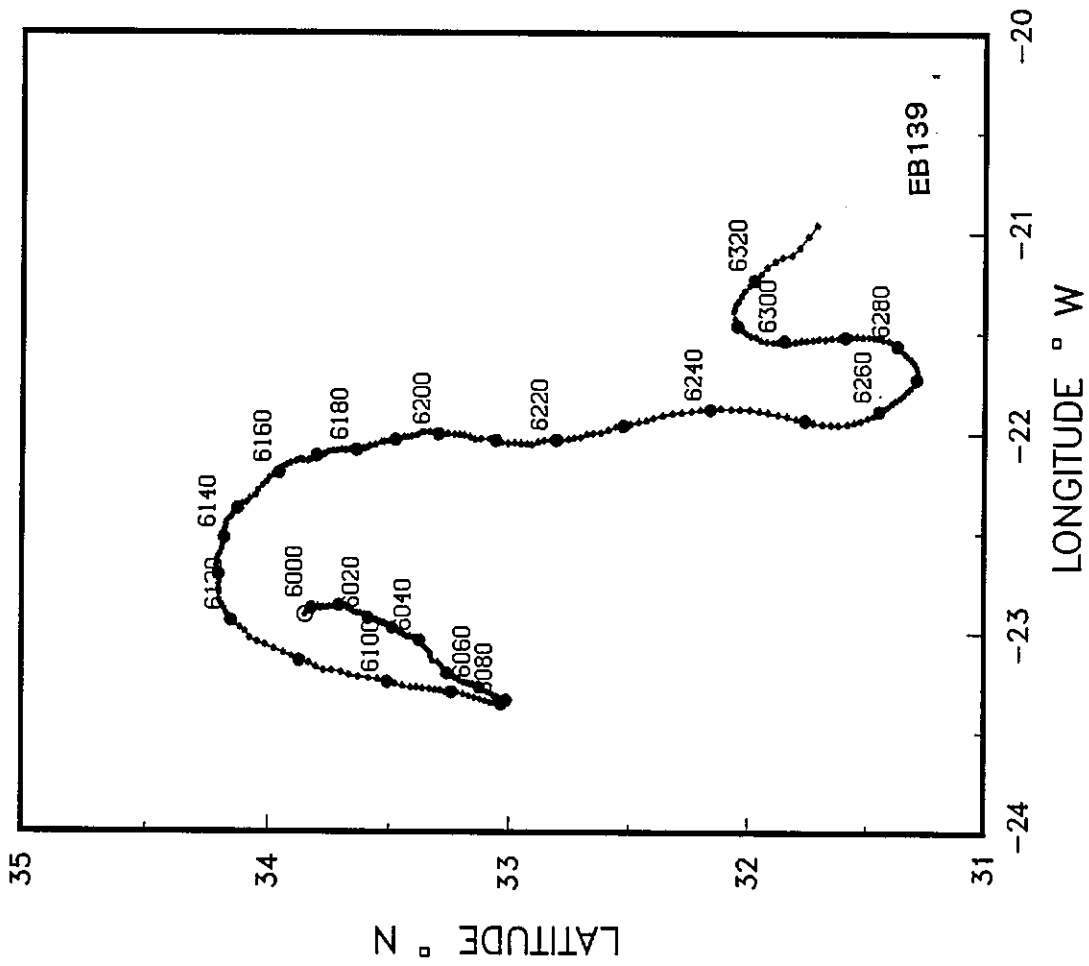
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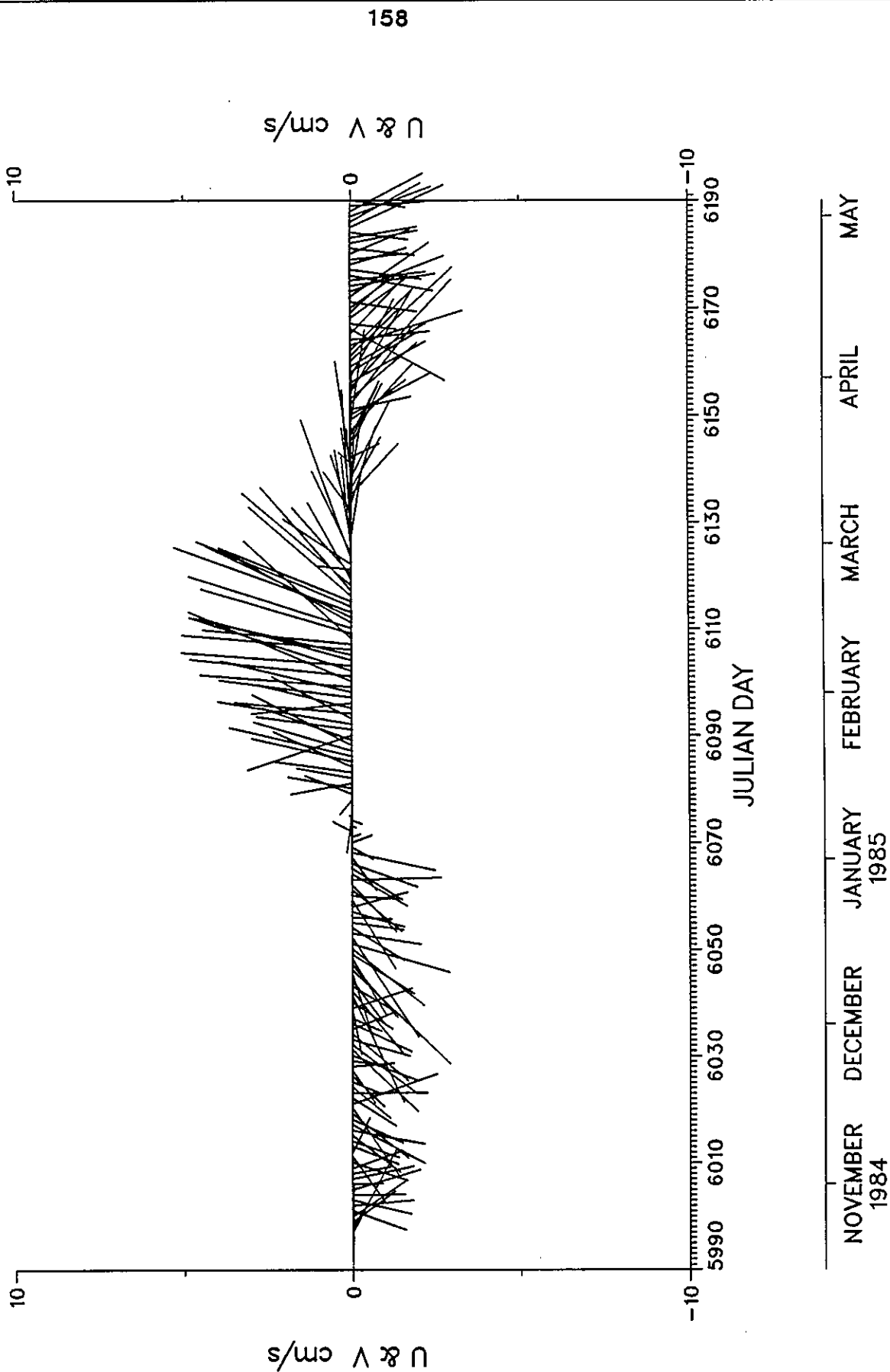
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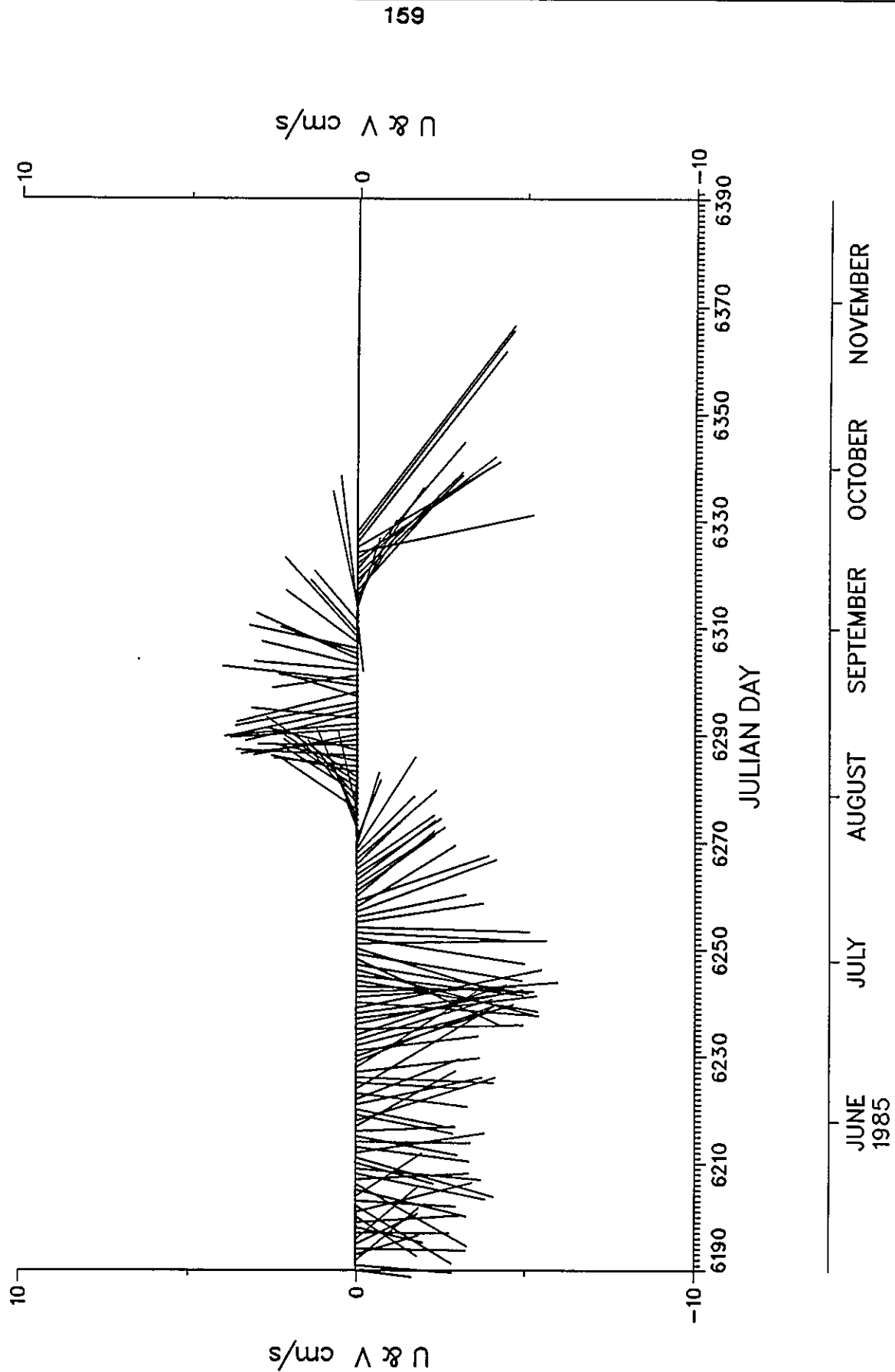
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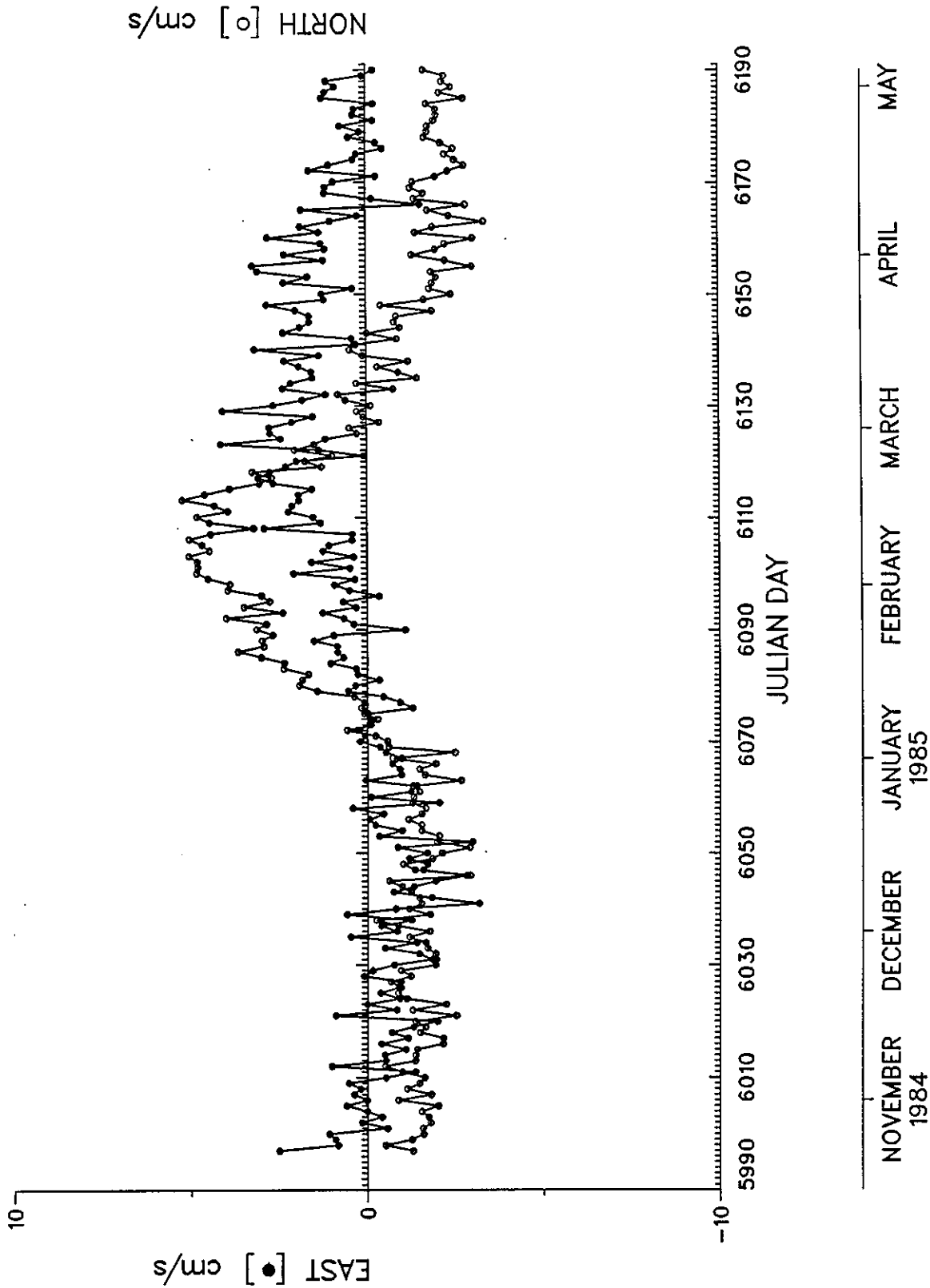
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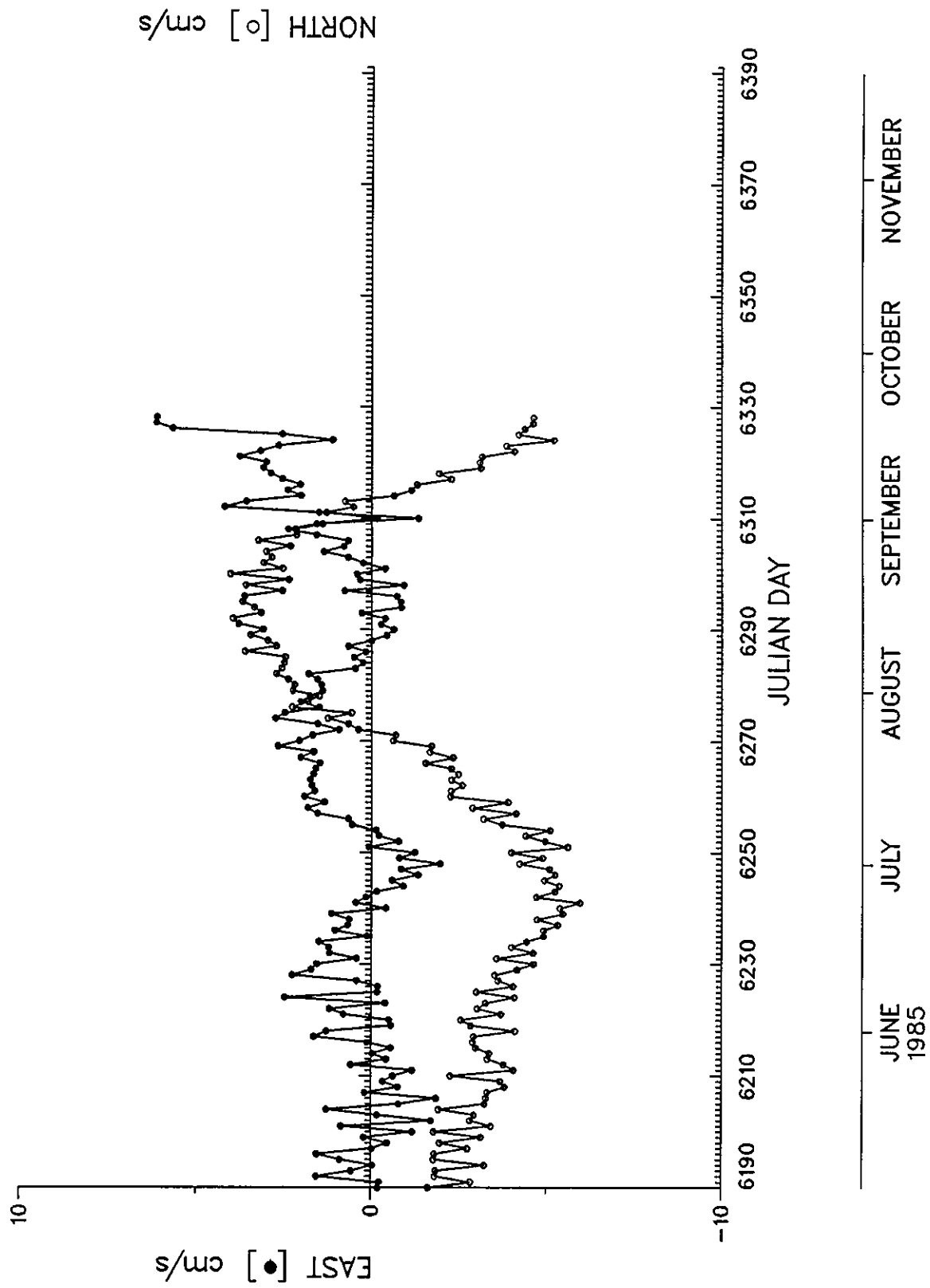
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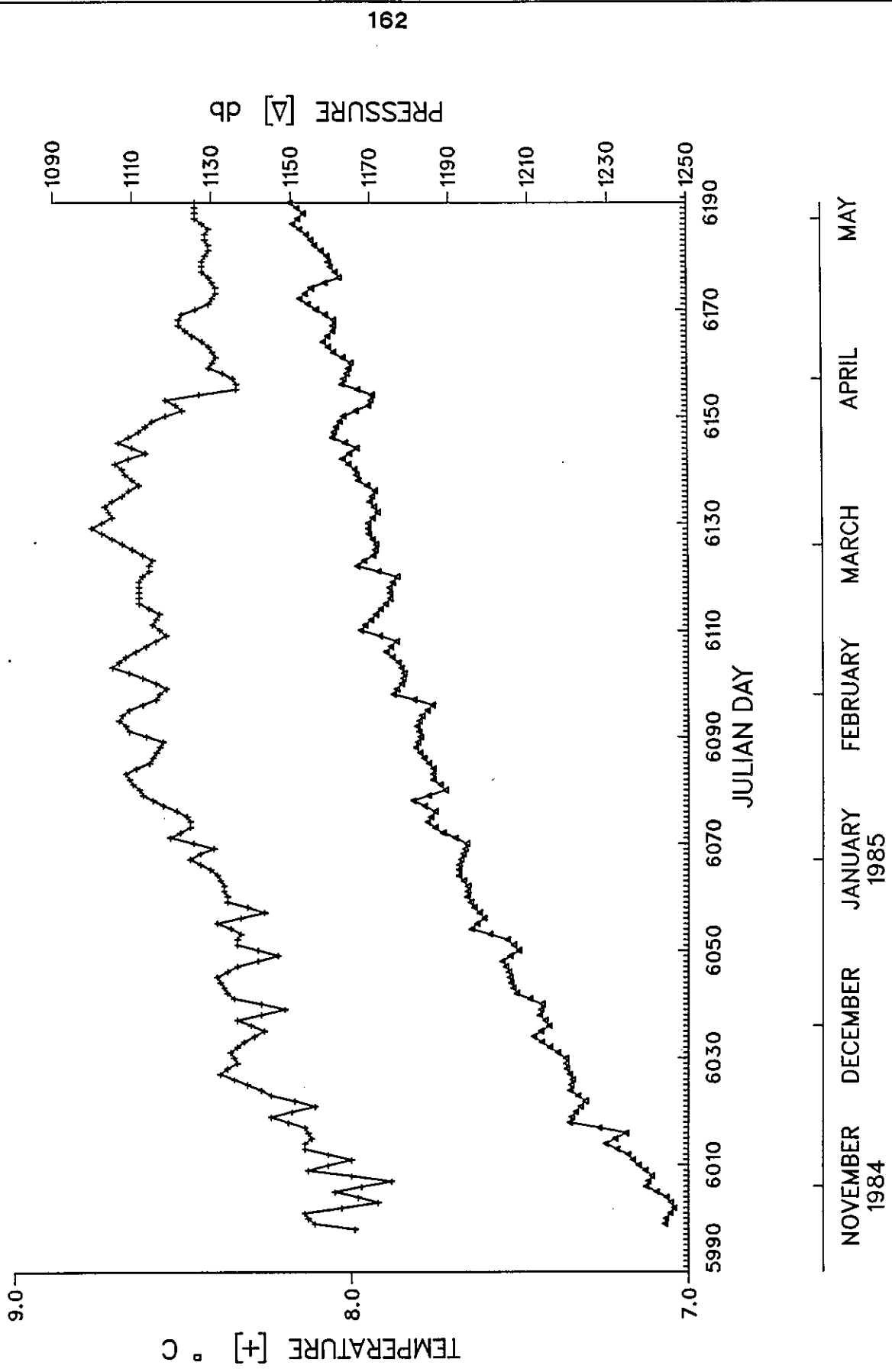
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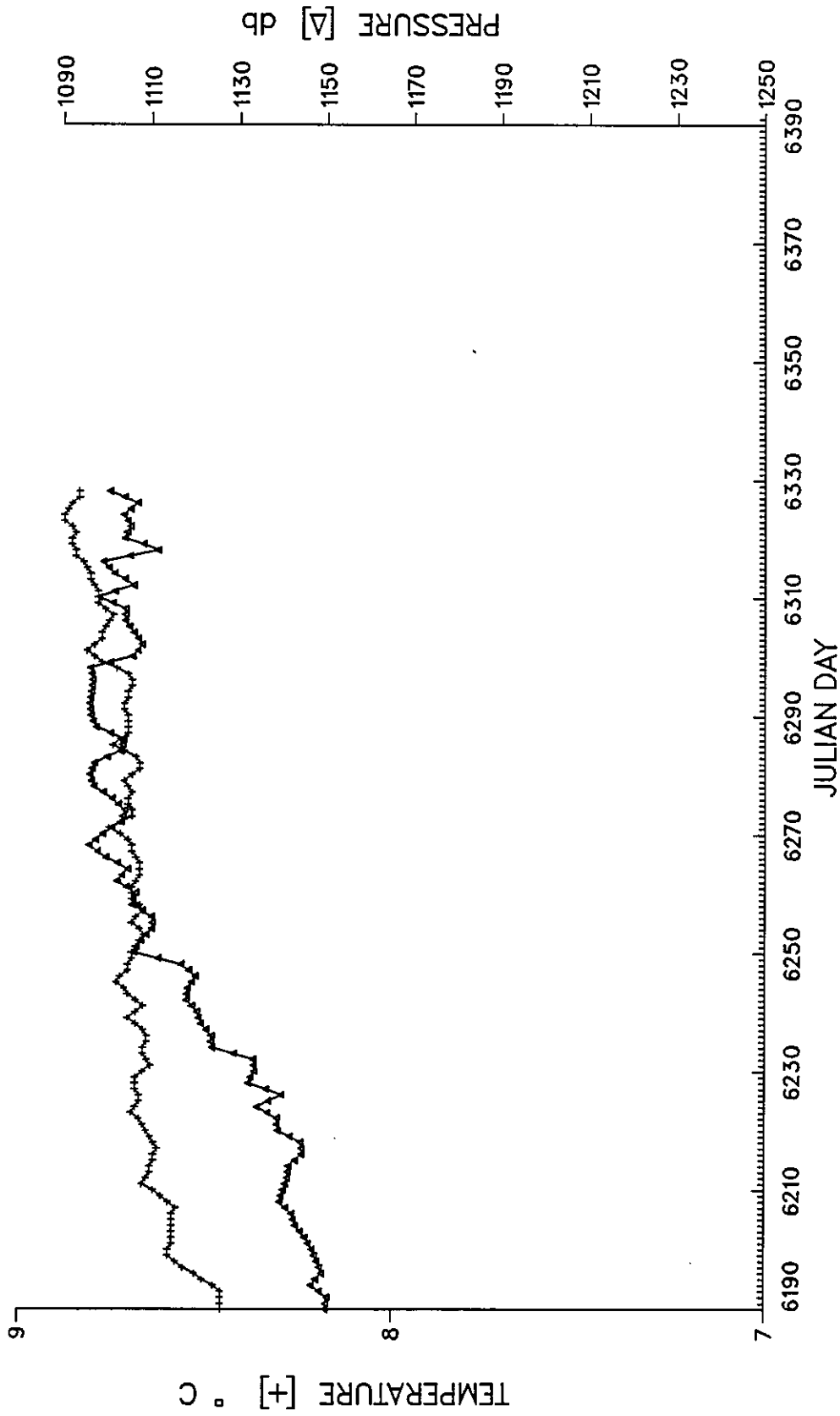
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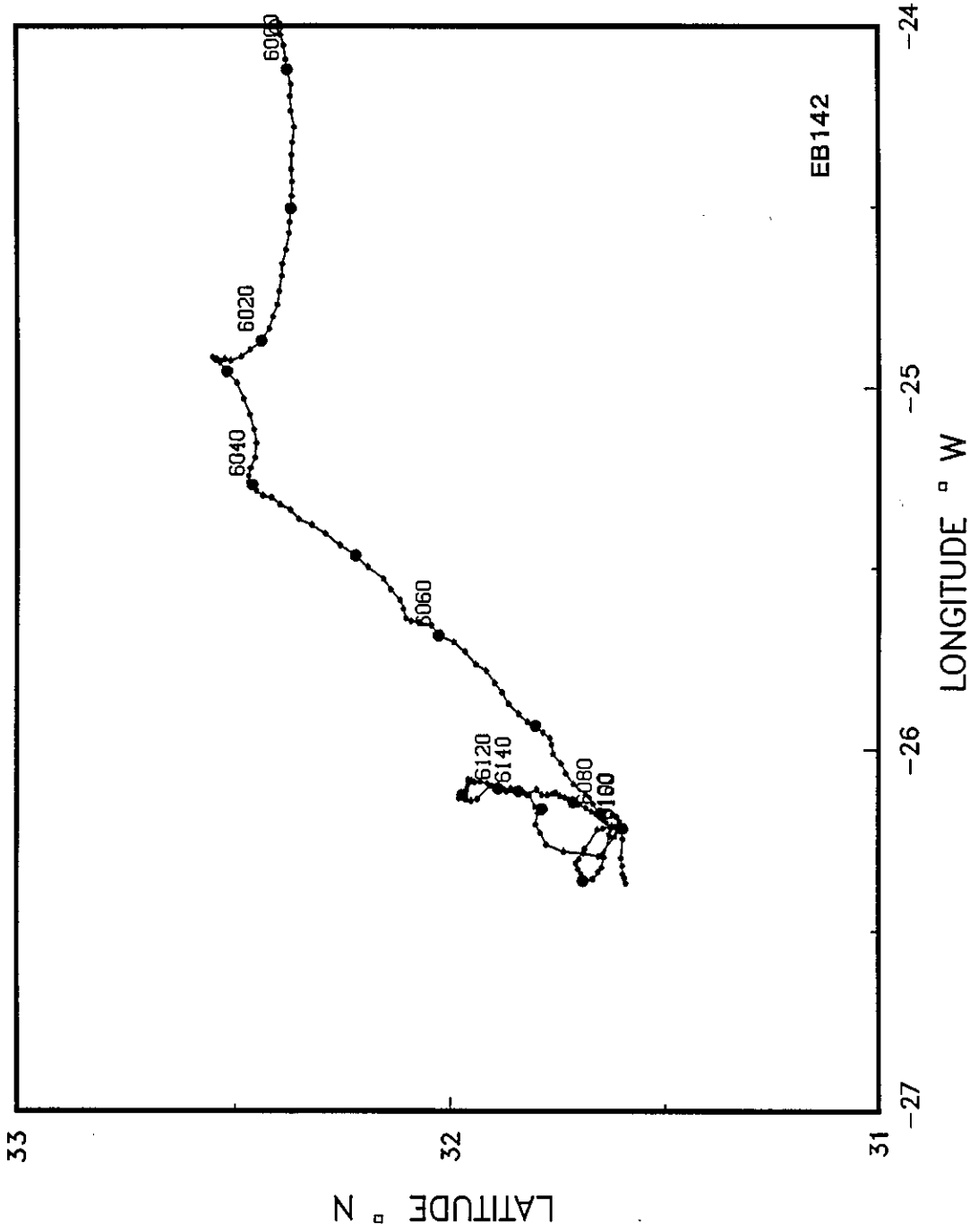


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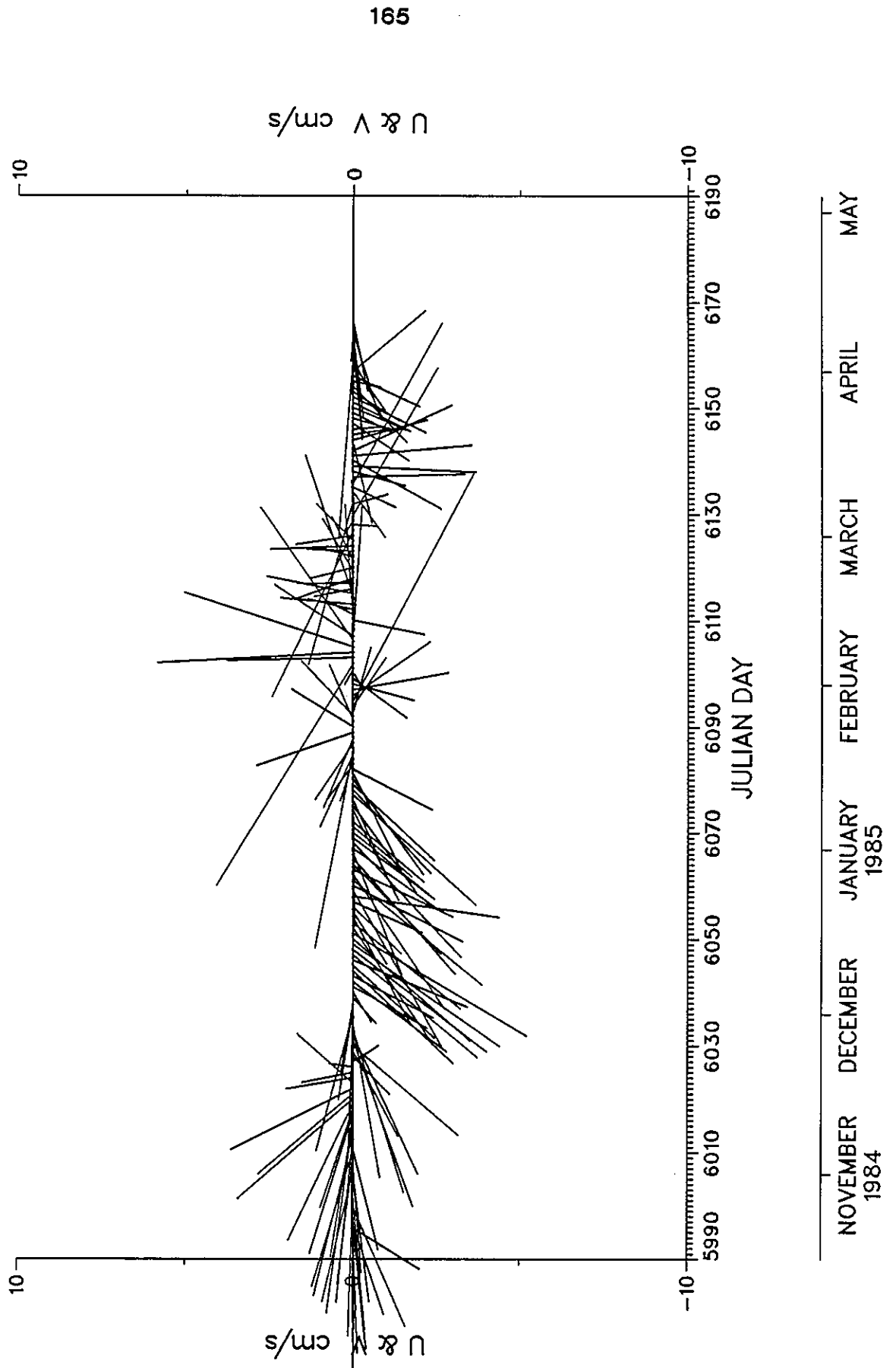


163

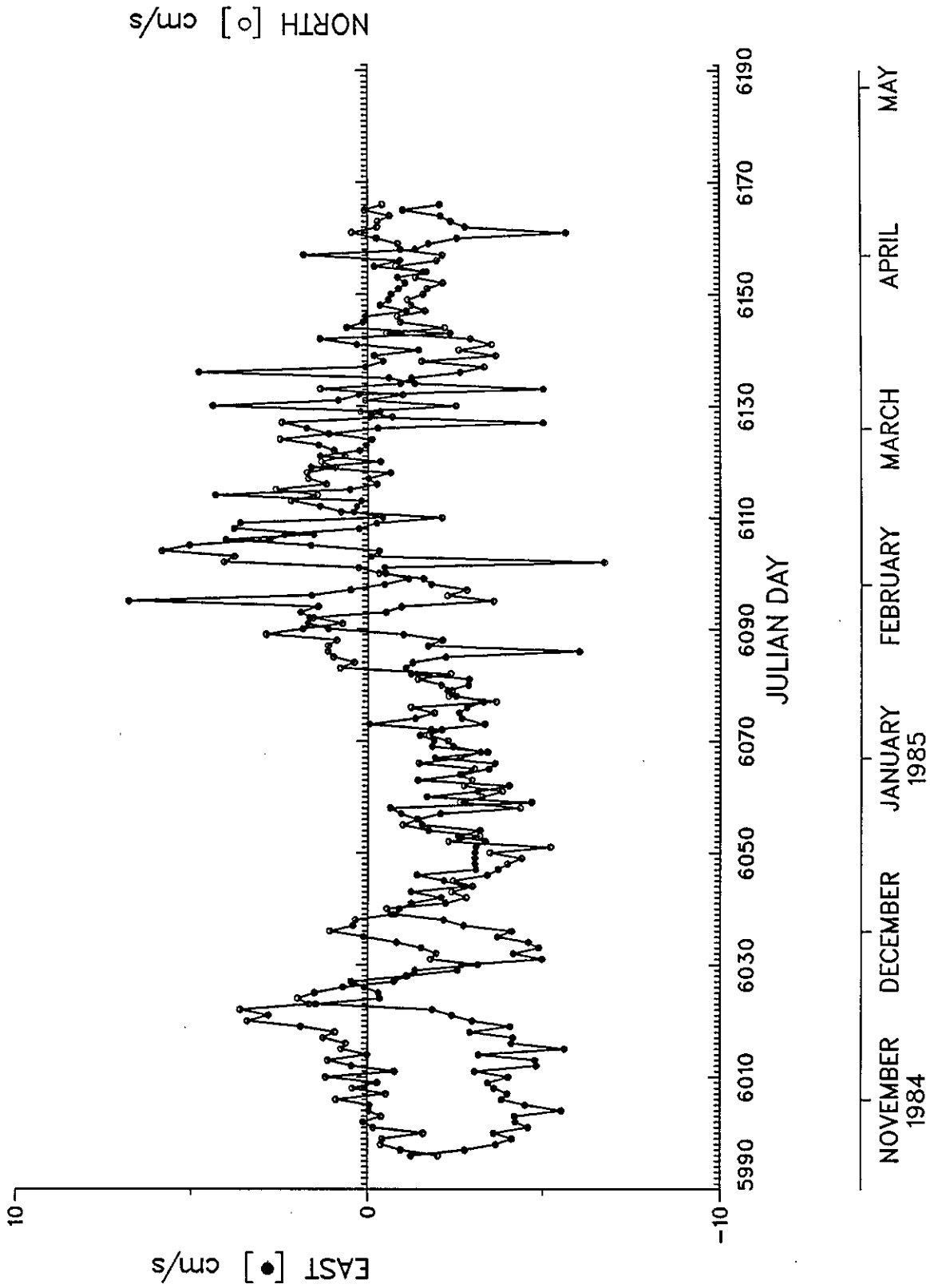
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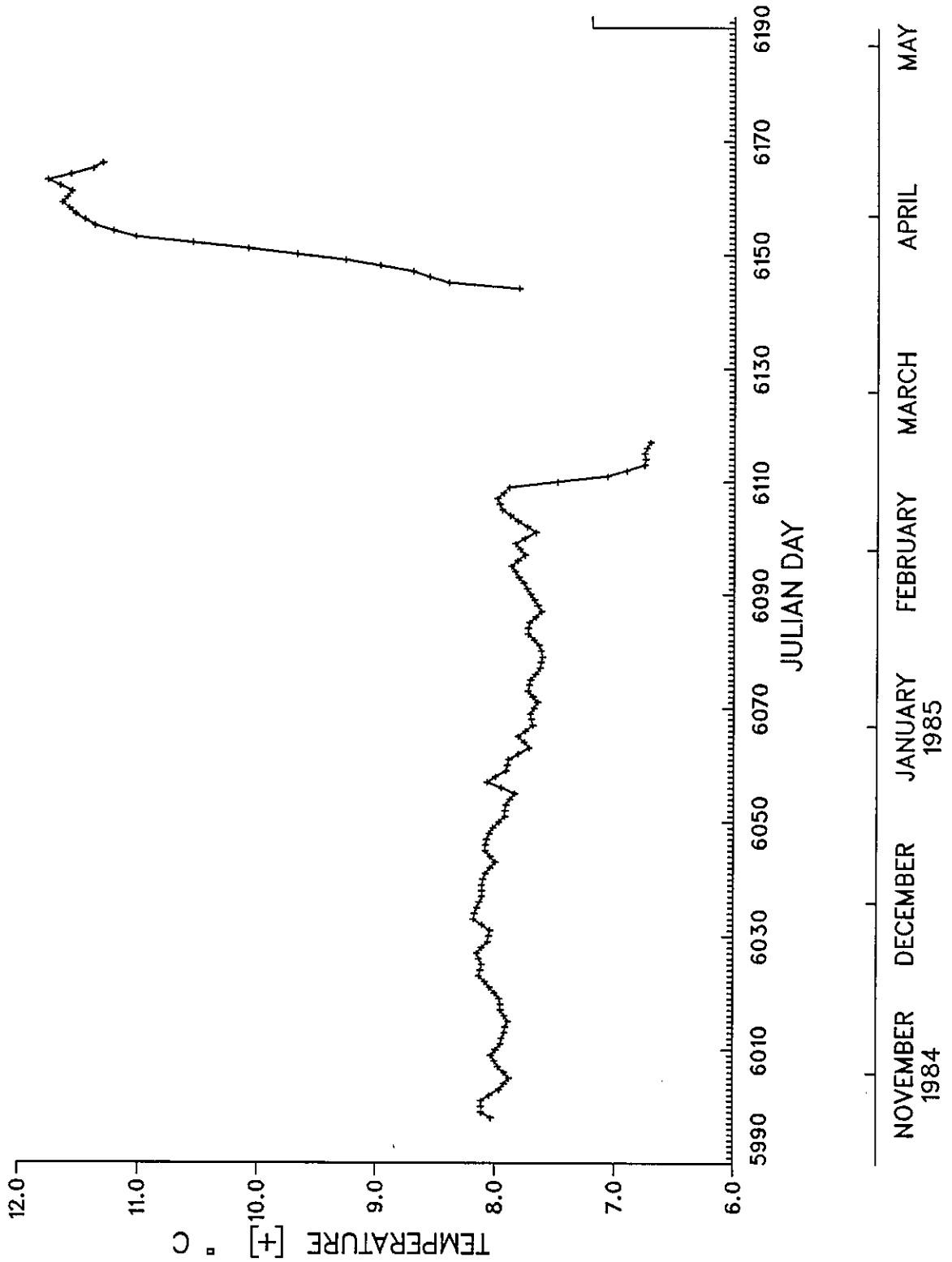
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EASTERN BASIN 142



EASTERN BASIN 142



APPENDIX B

Meddy Floats

In this report we also include a composite plot and individual float trajectory plots of the four Meddy floats launched by L. Armi. These data were processed in parallel with our own data but omitting all editing and smoothing. Speeds were calculated from consecutive positions and subsampled to one per day before plotting.

MEDDY FLOATS 1984-1985

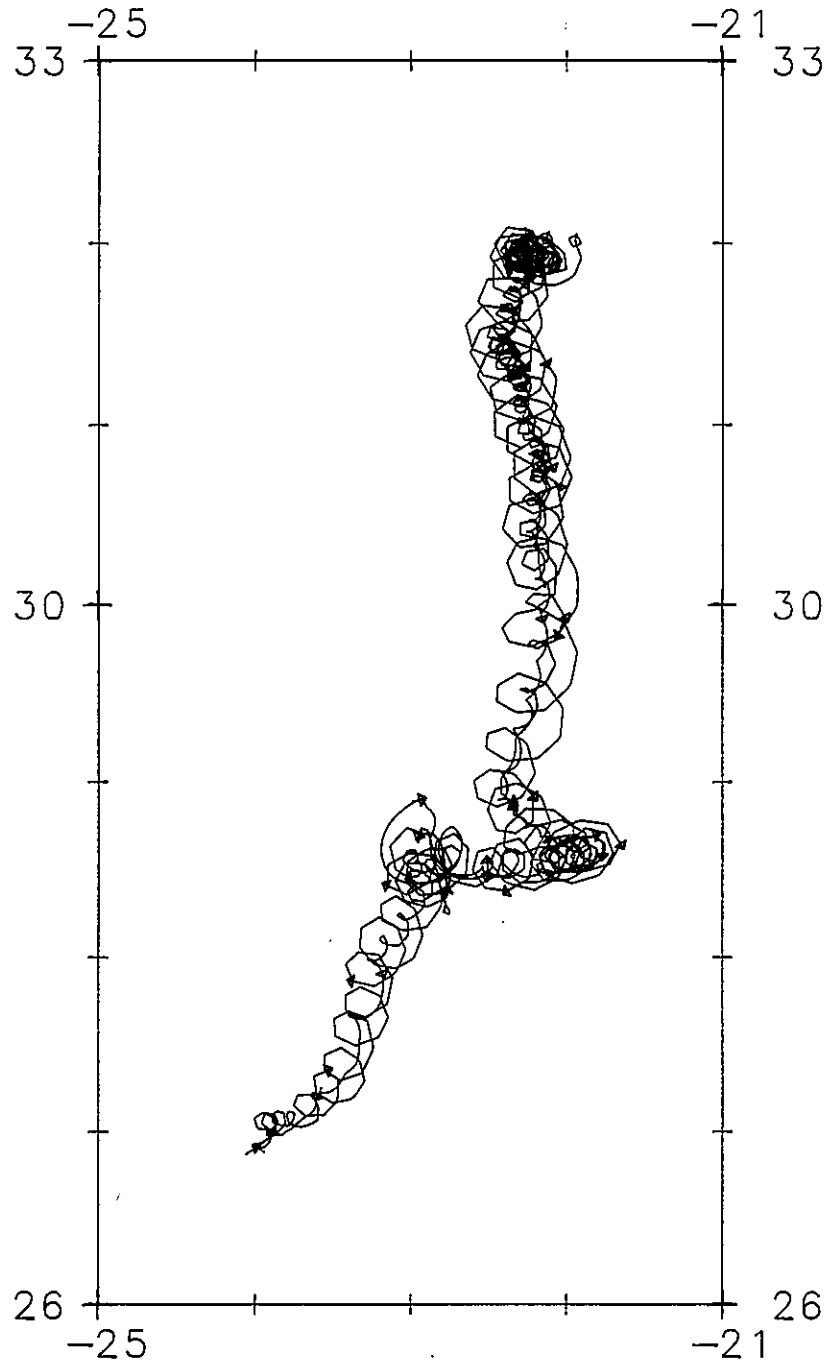
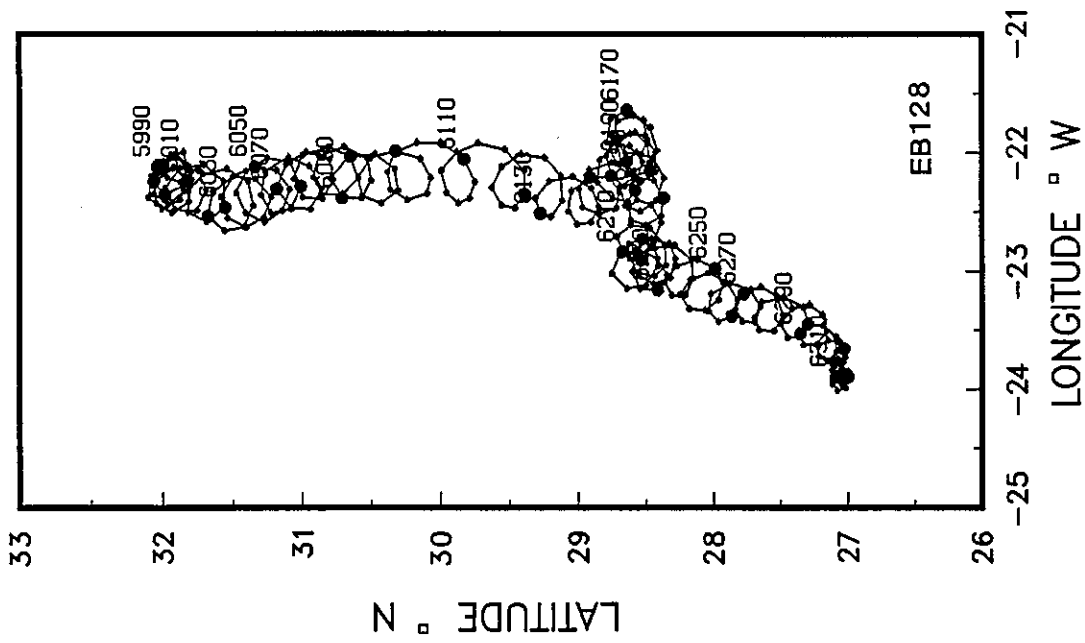
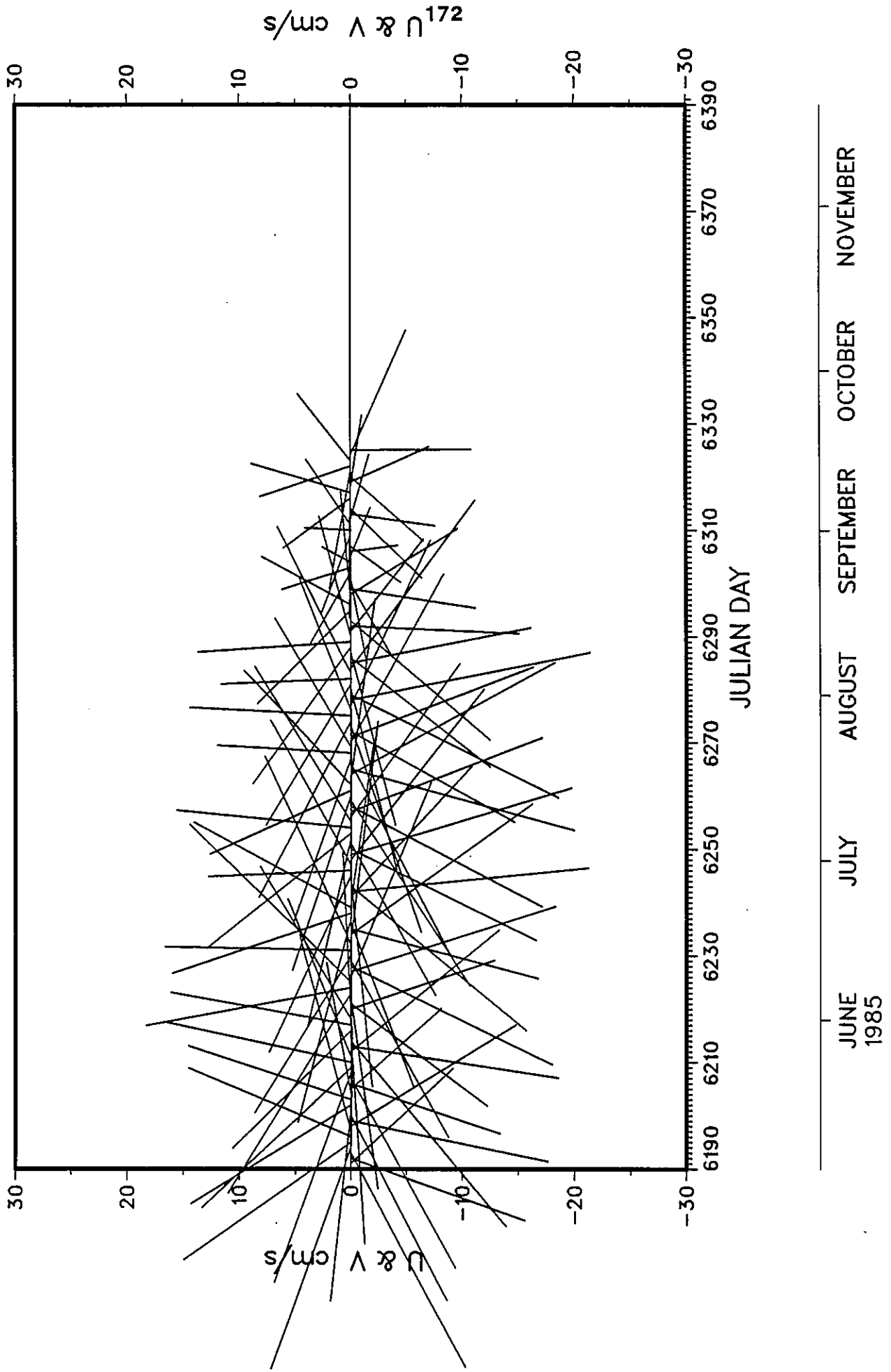


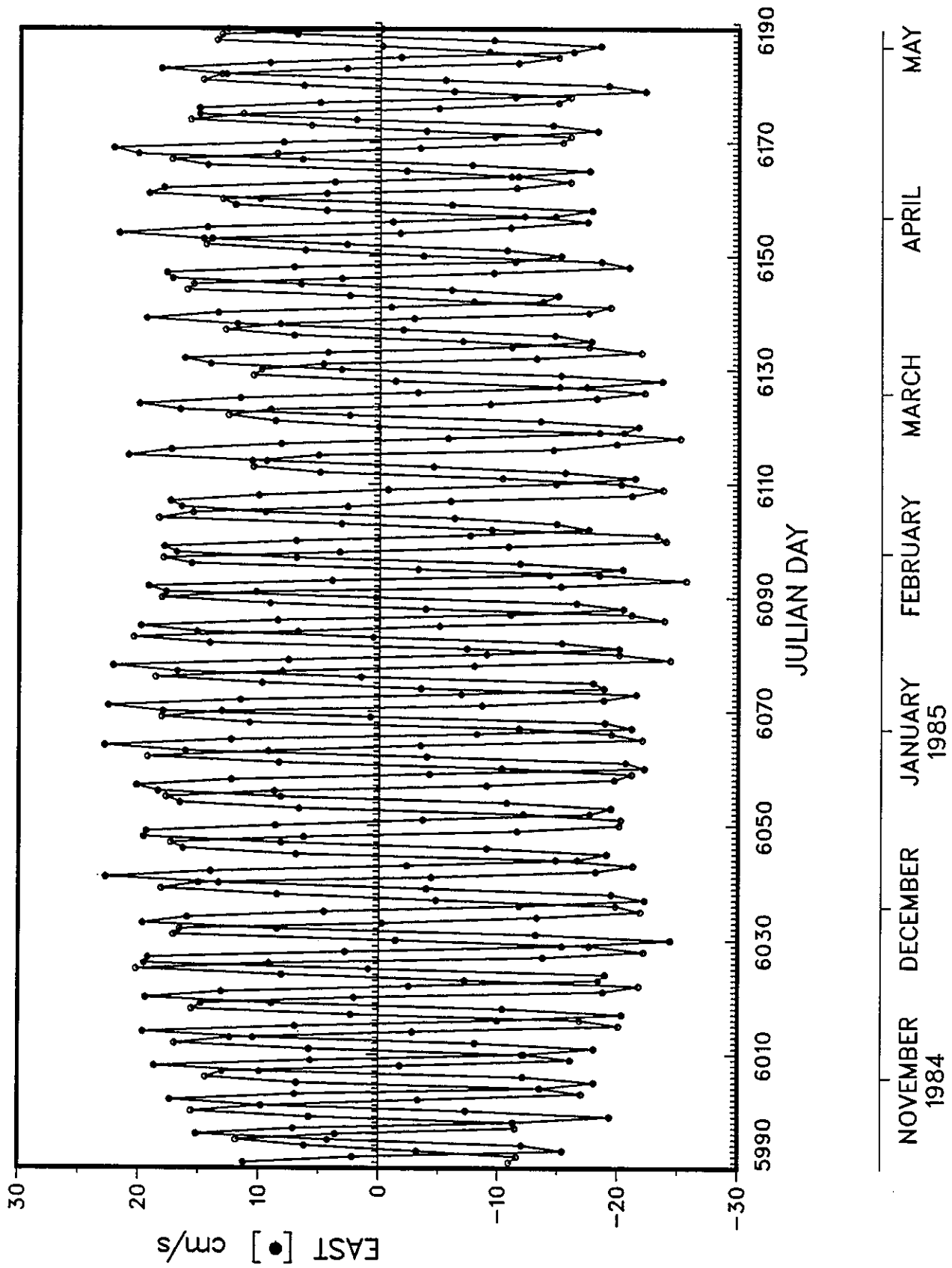
Figure 7: A composite of trajectories from four floats launched within a Meddy by L. Armi and T. Rossby.

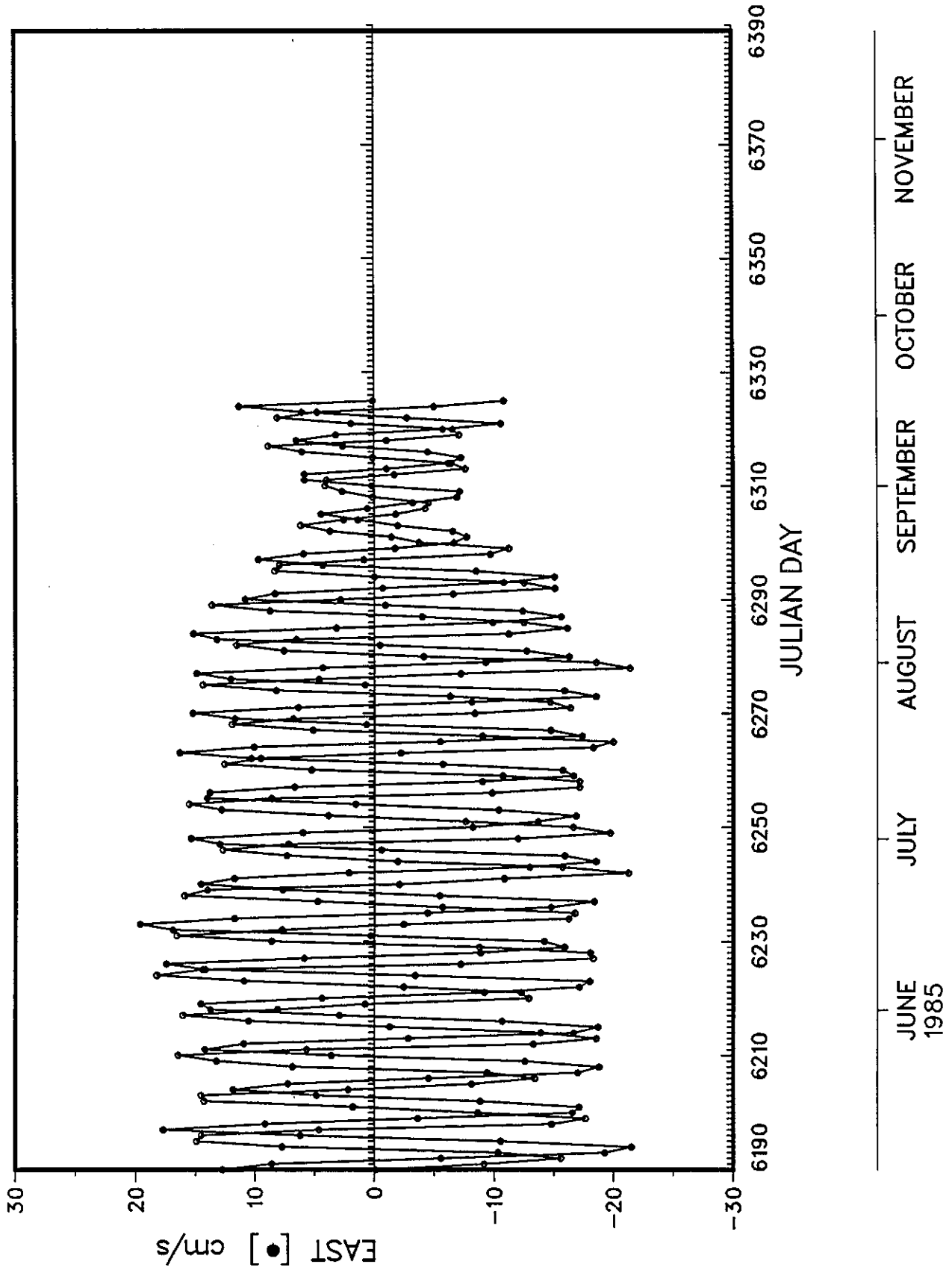
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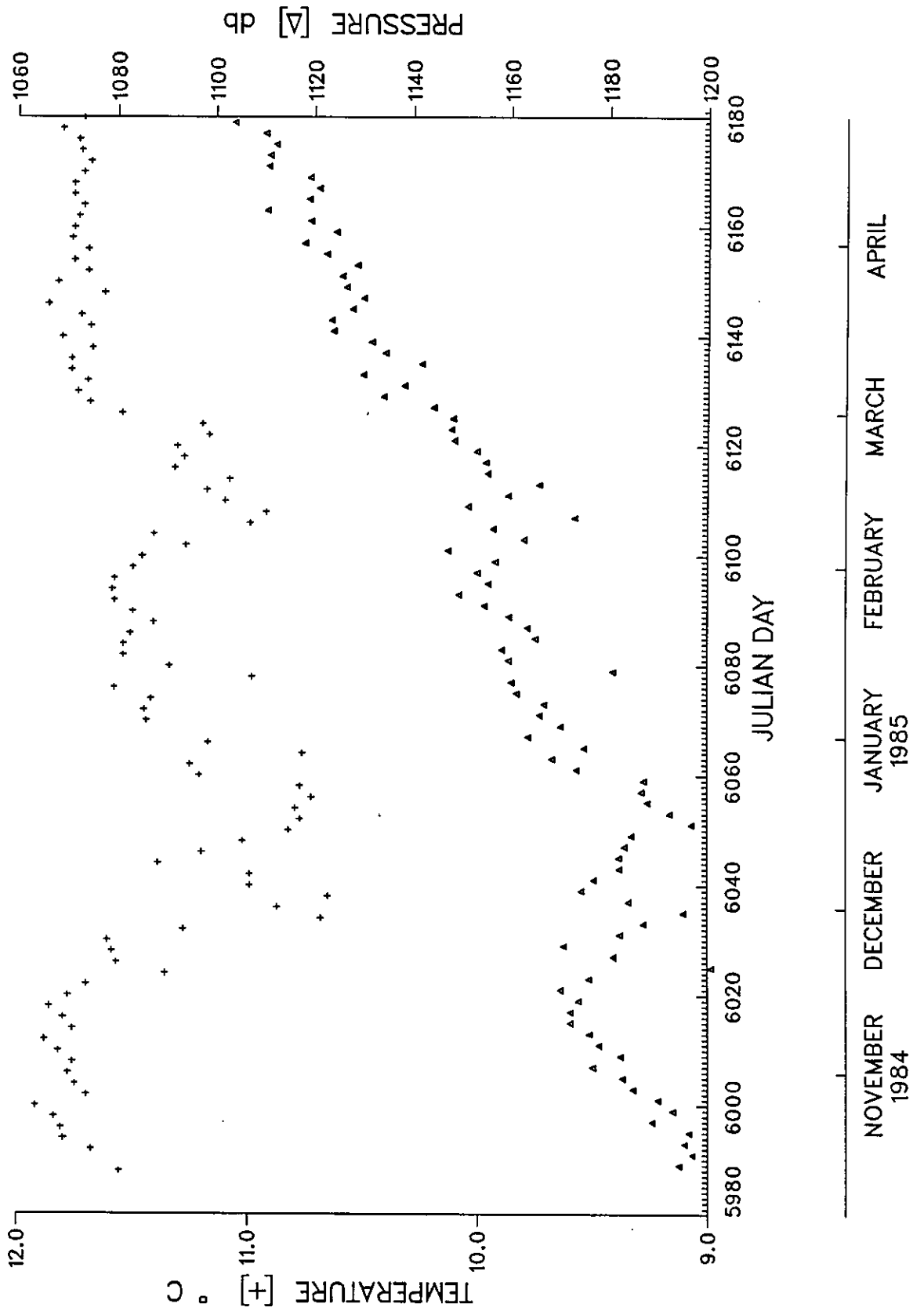
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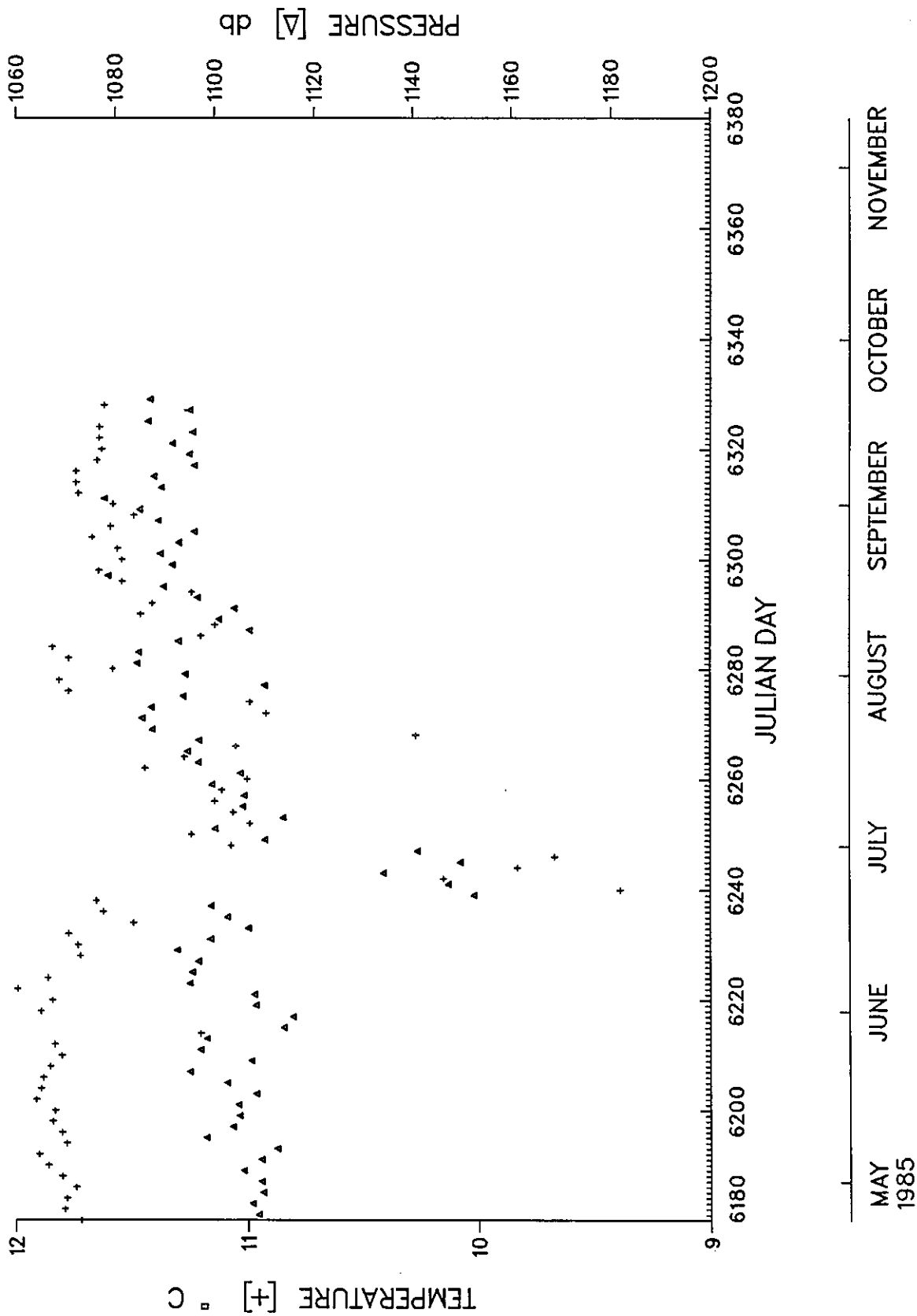




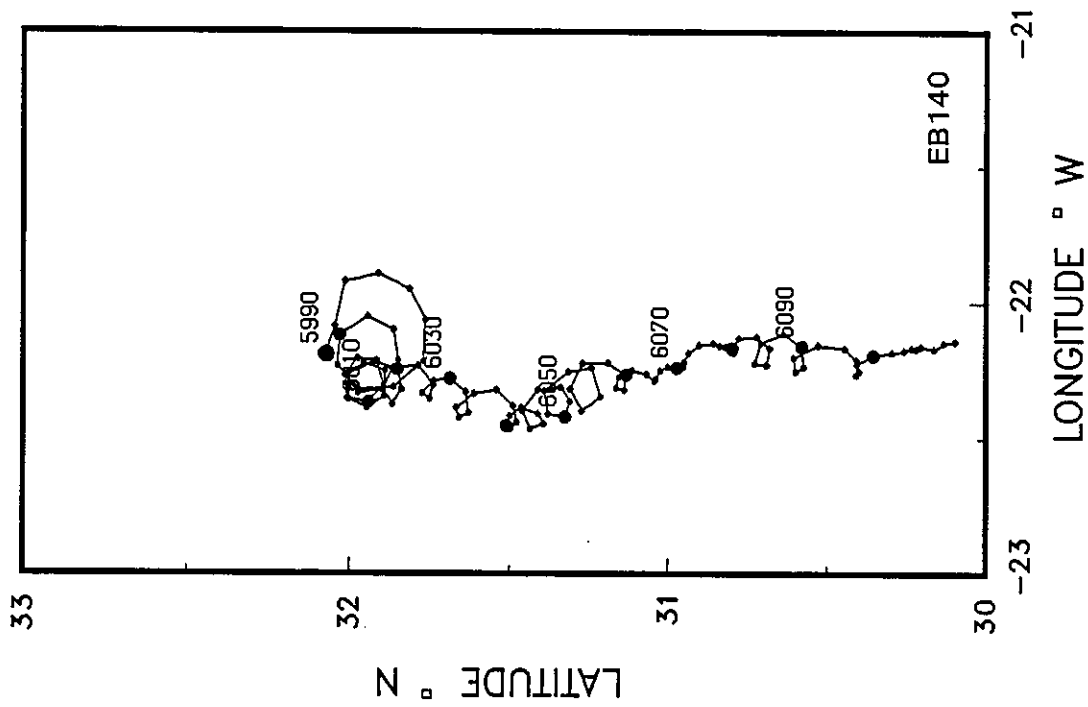
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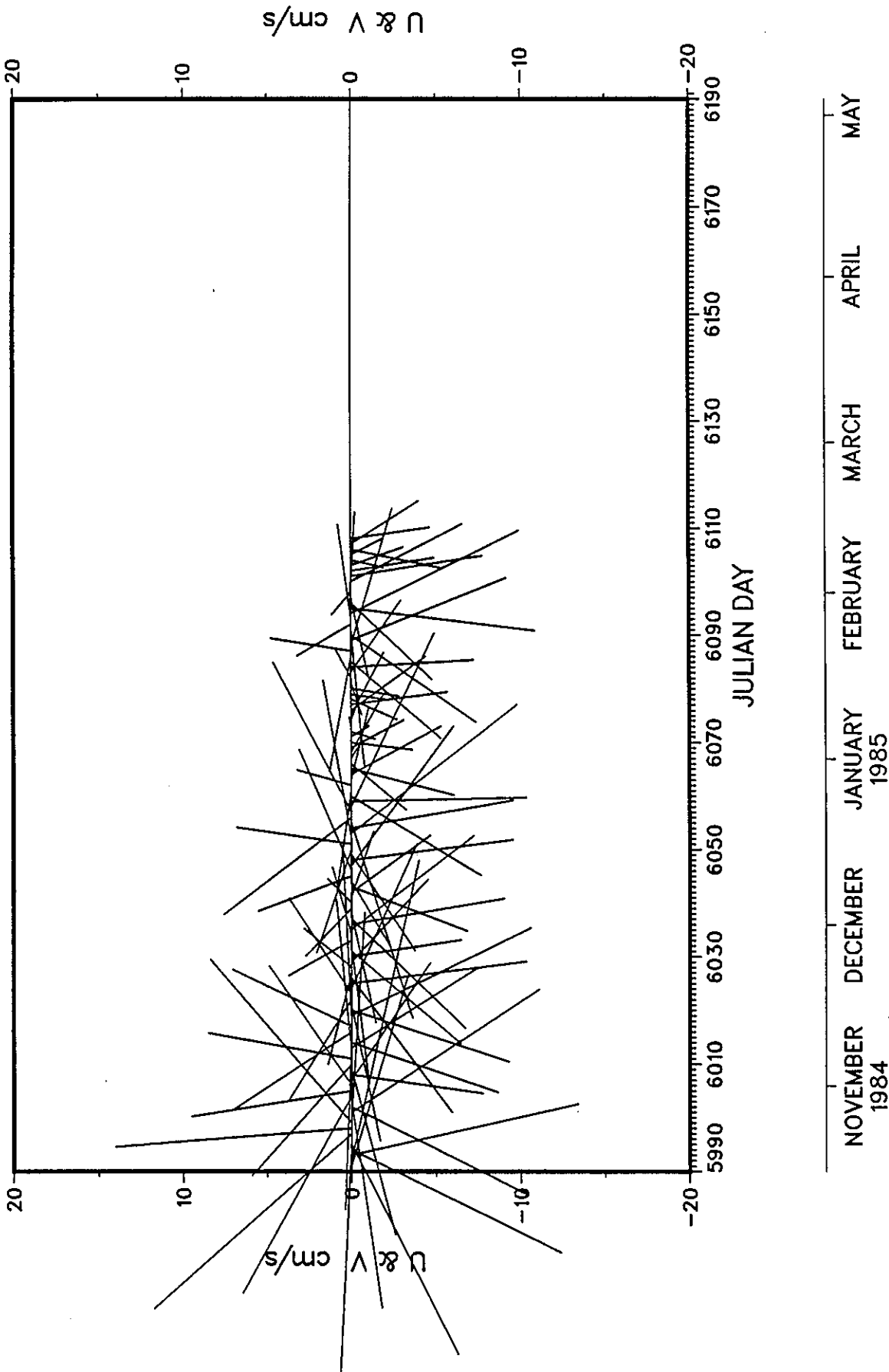
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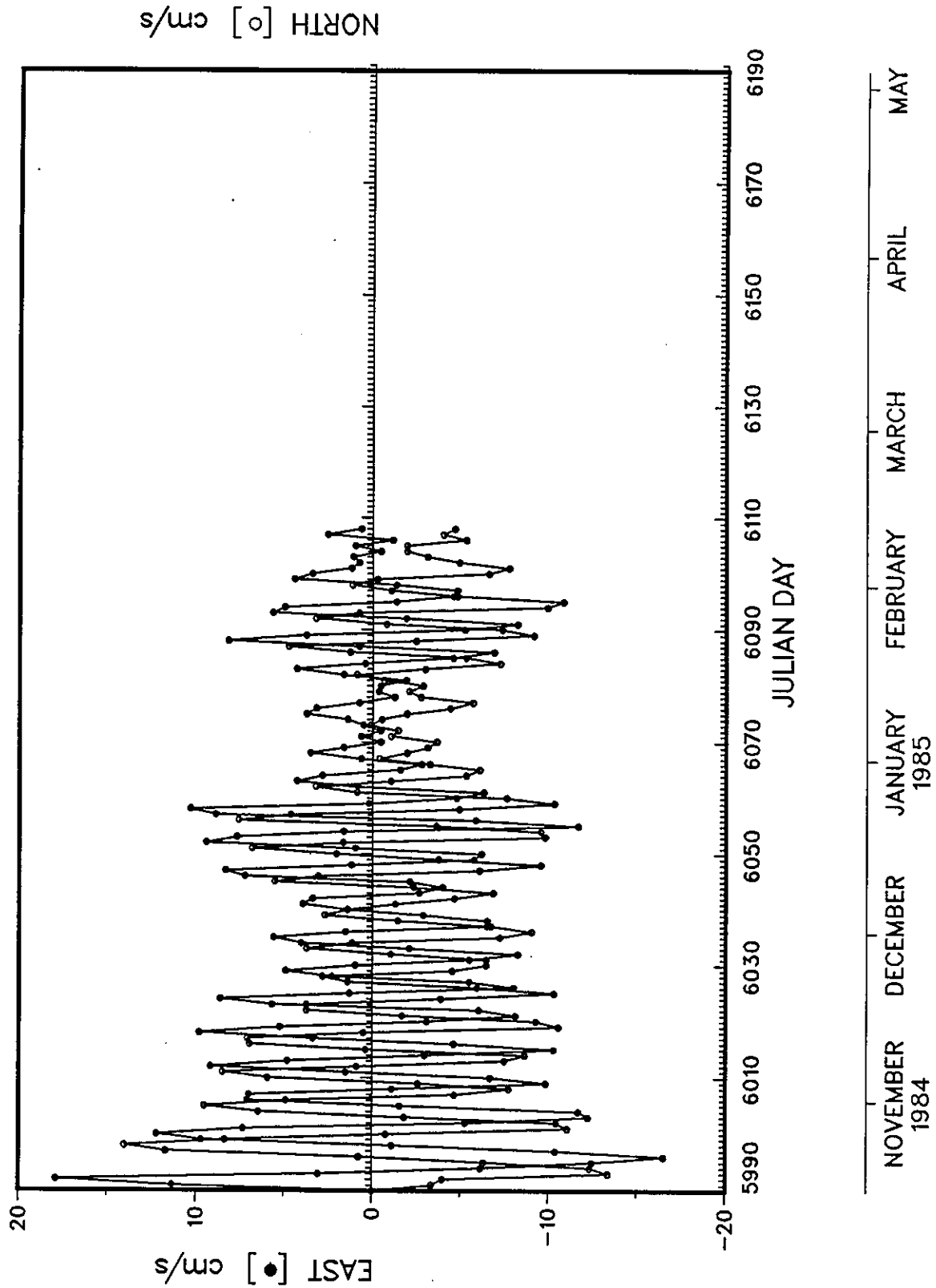
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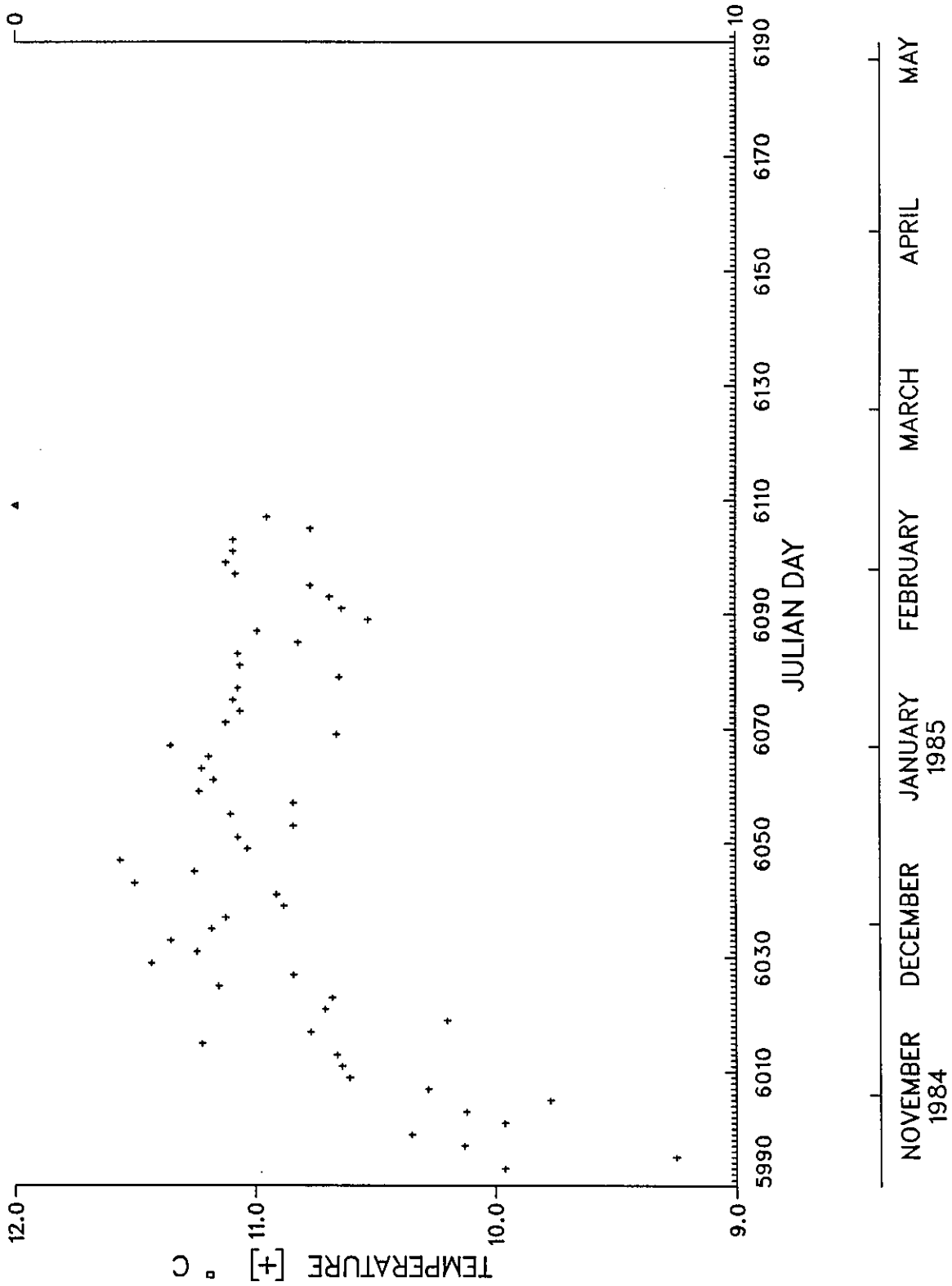
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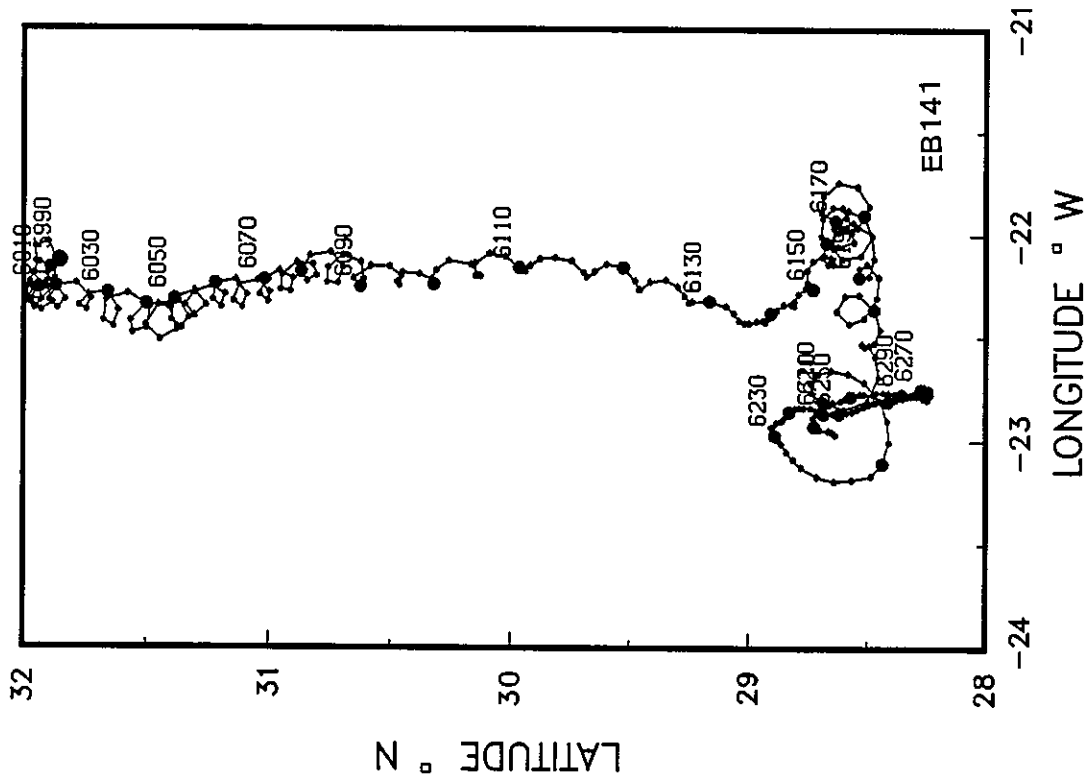
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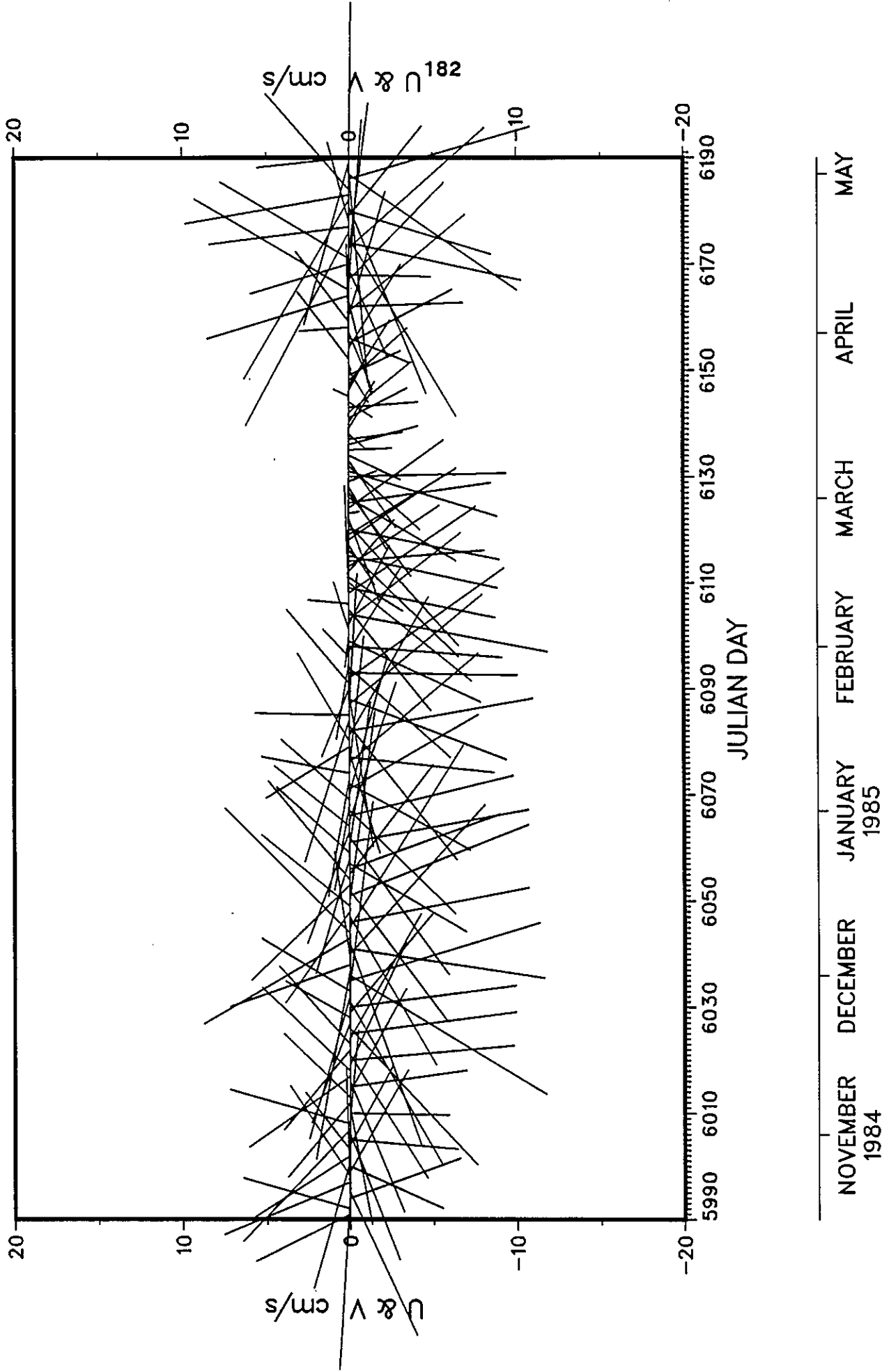
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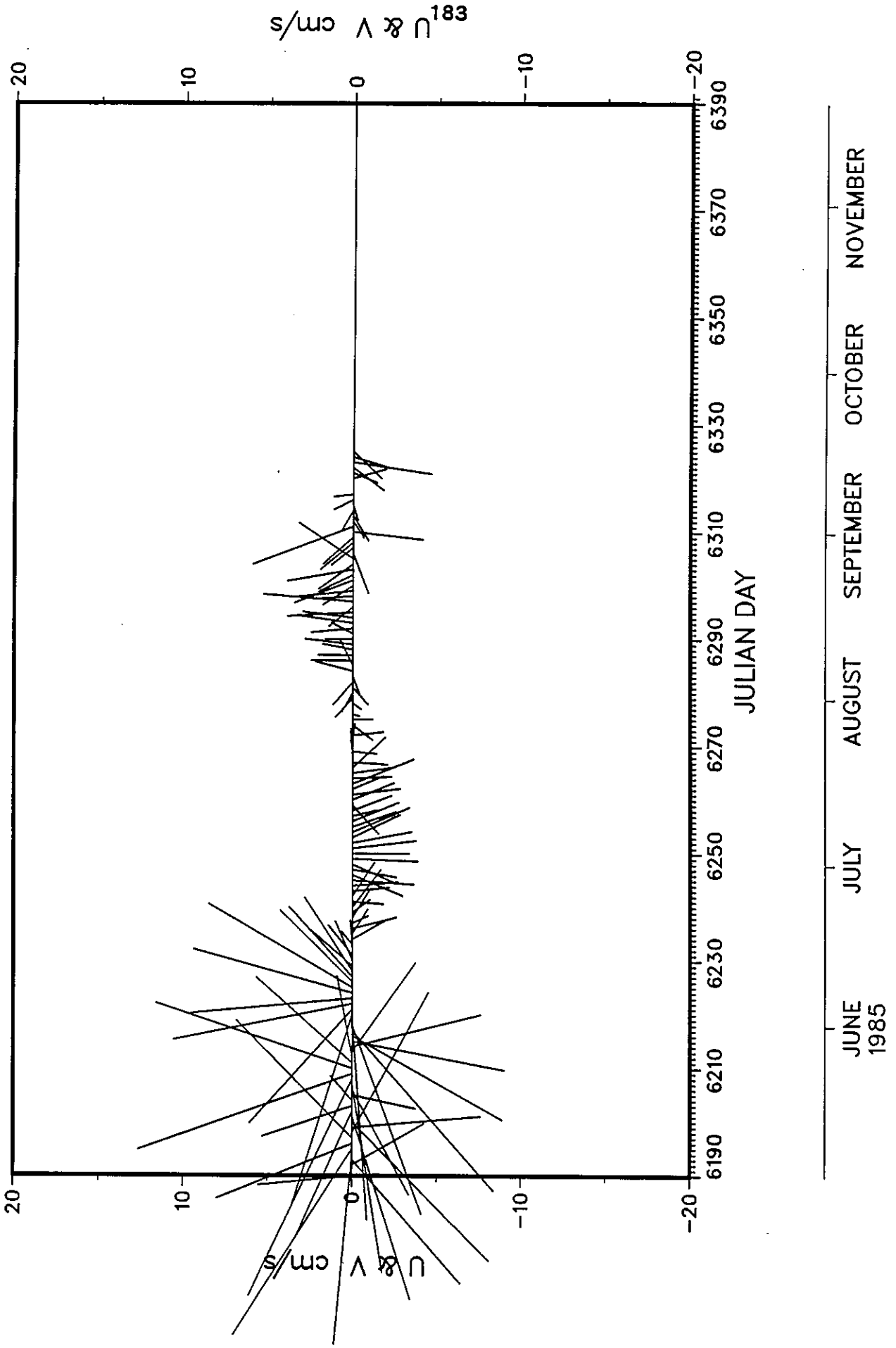
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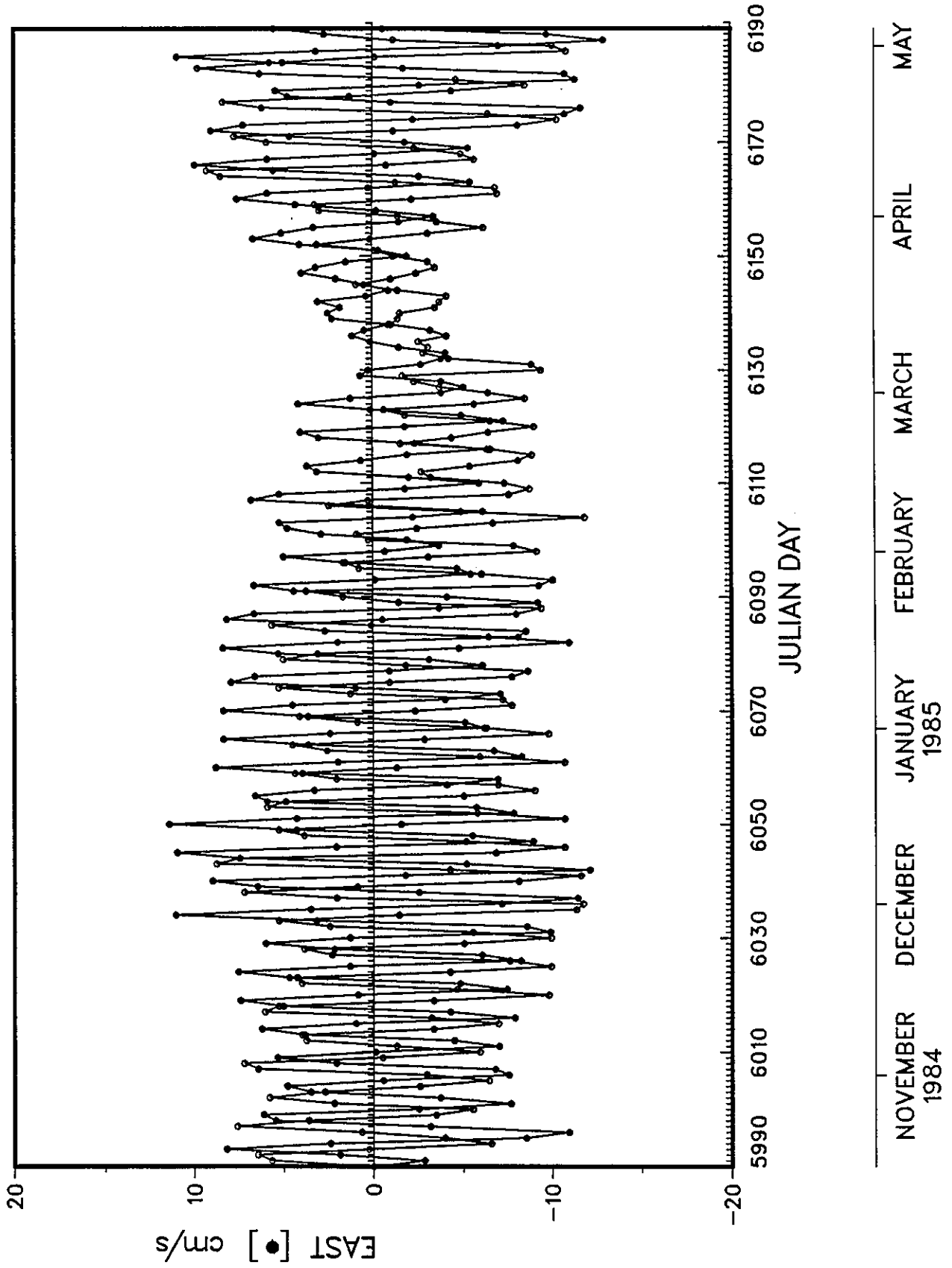


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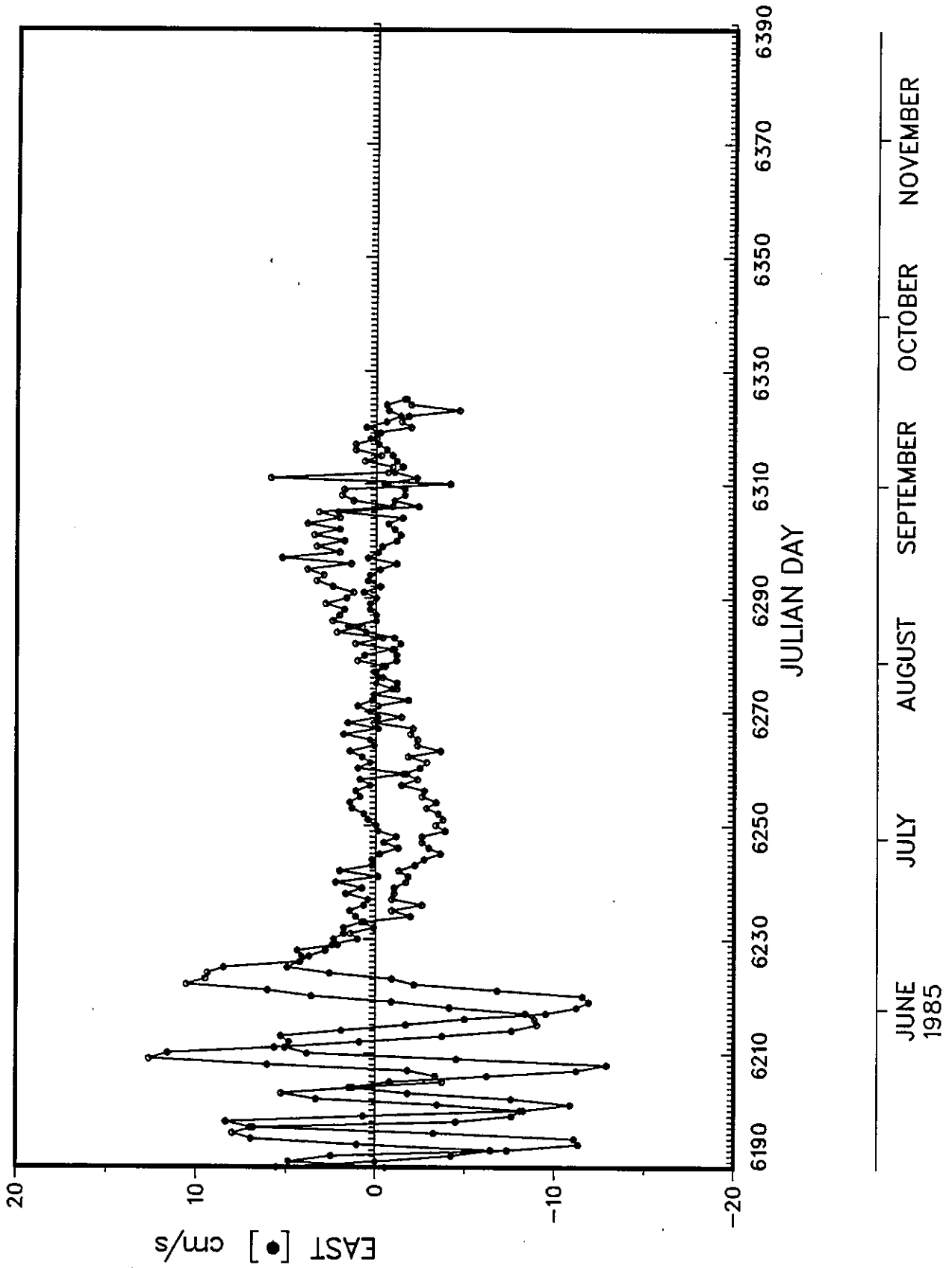


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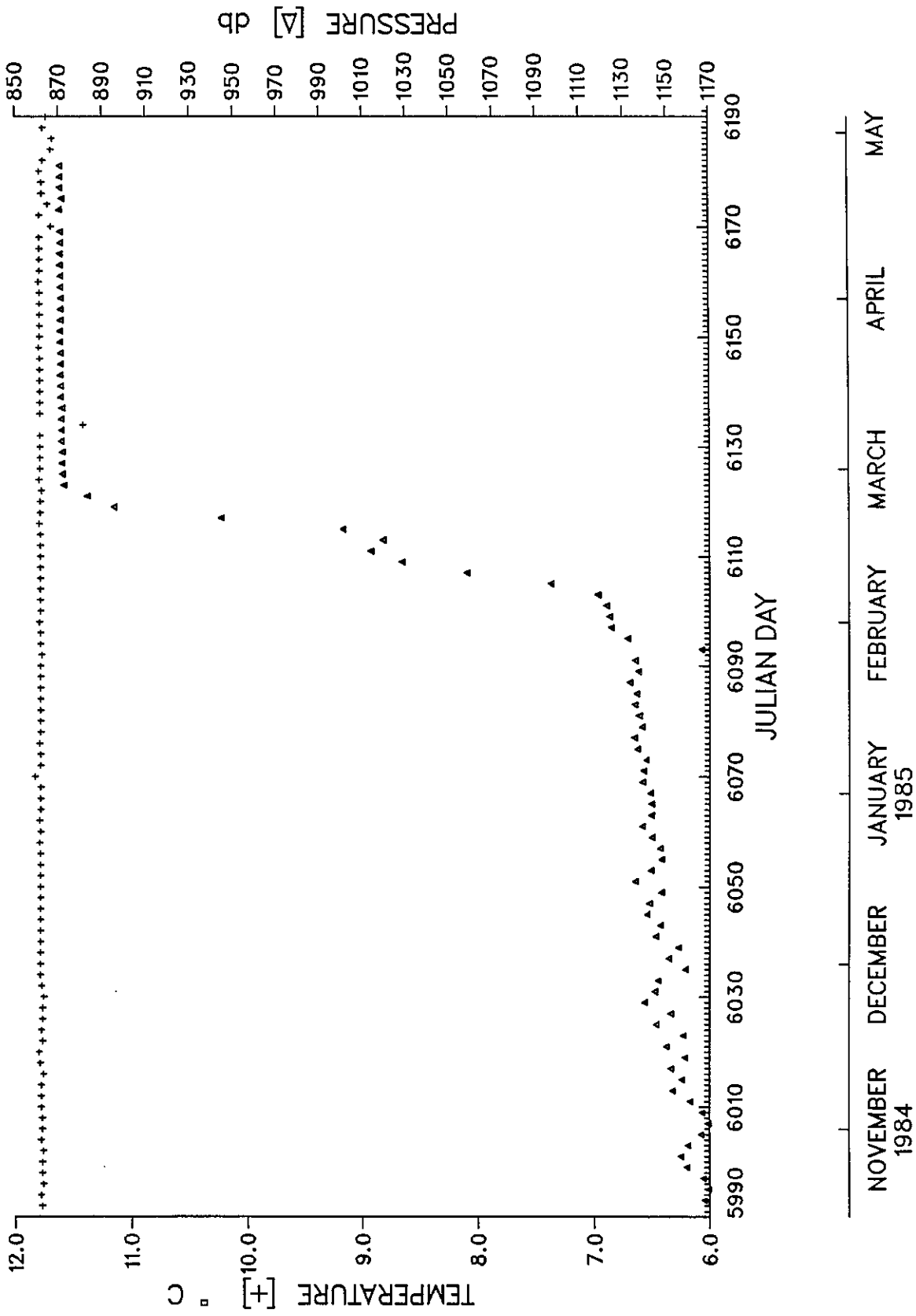




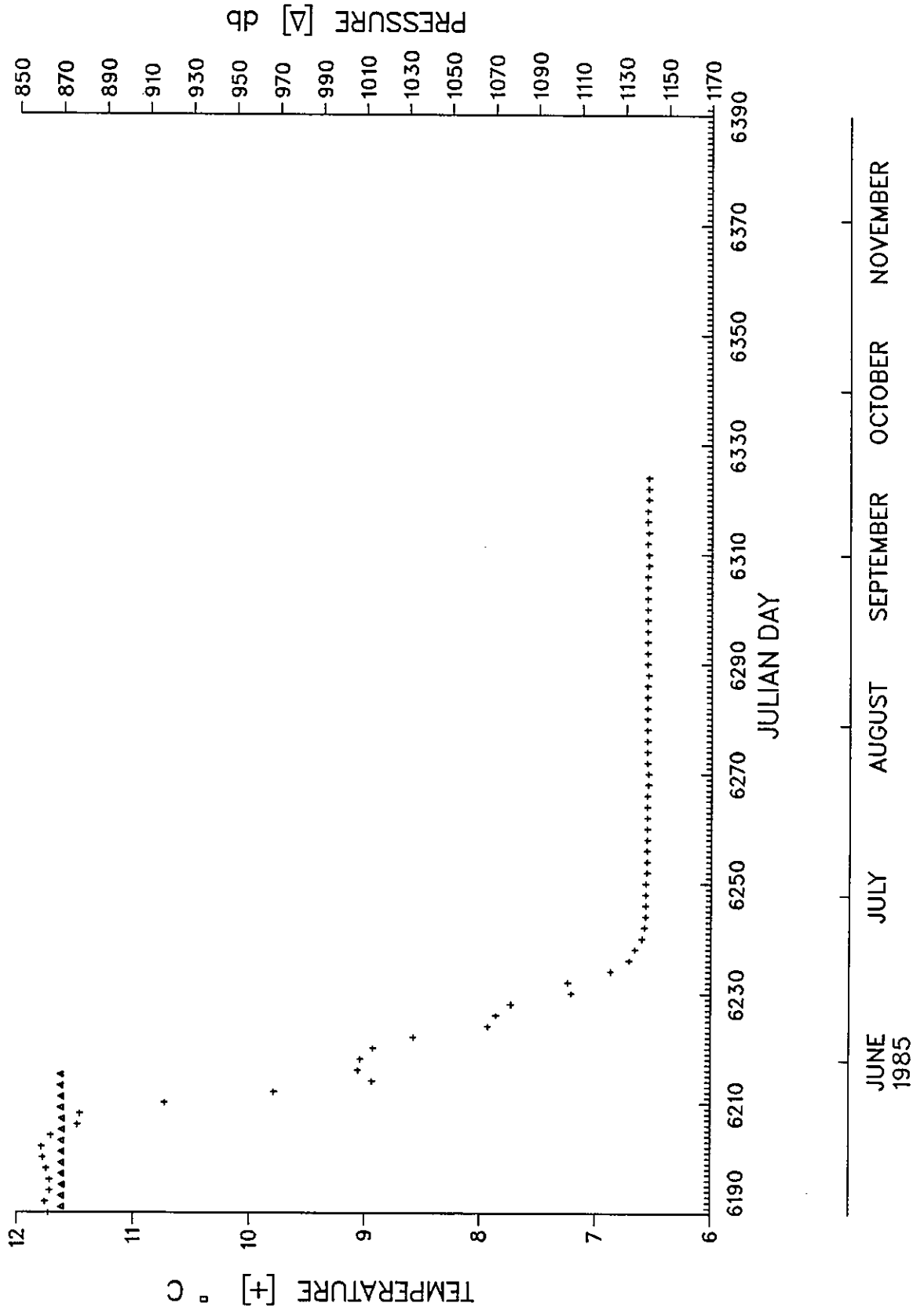
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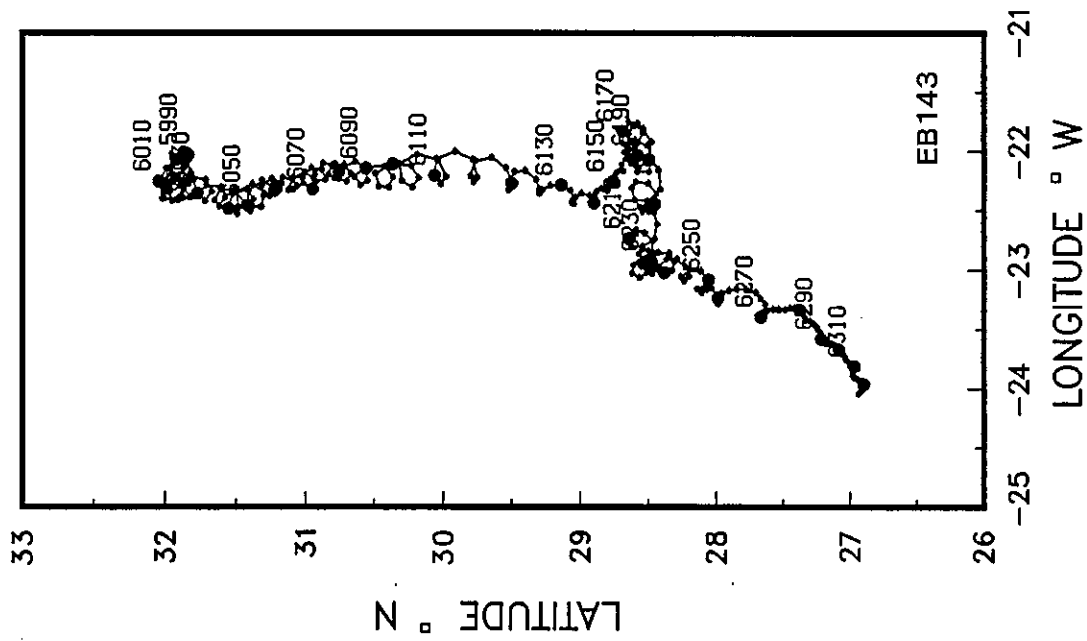
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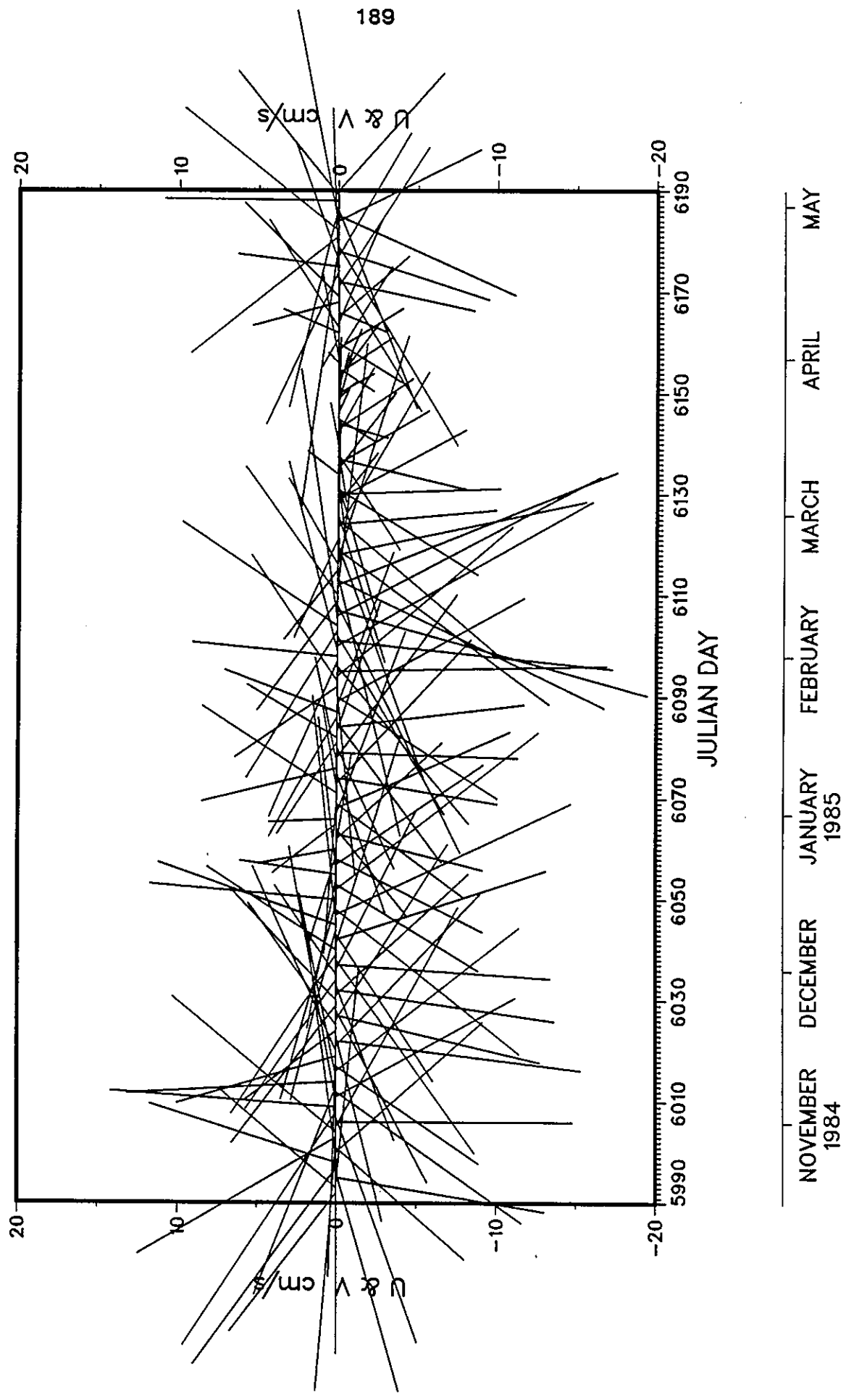
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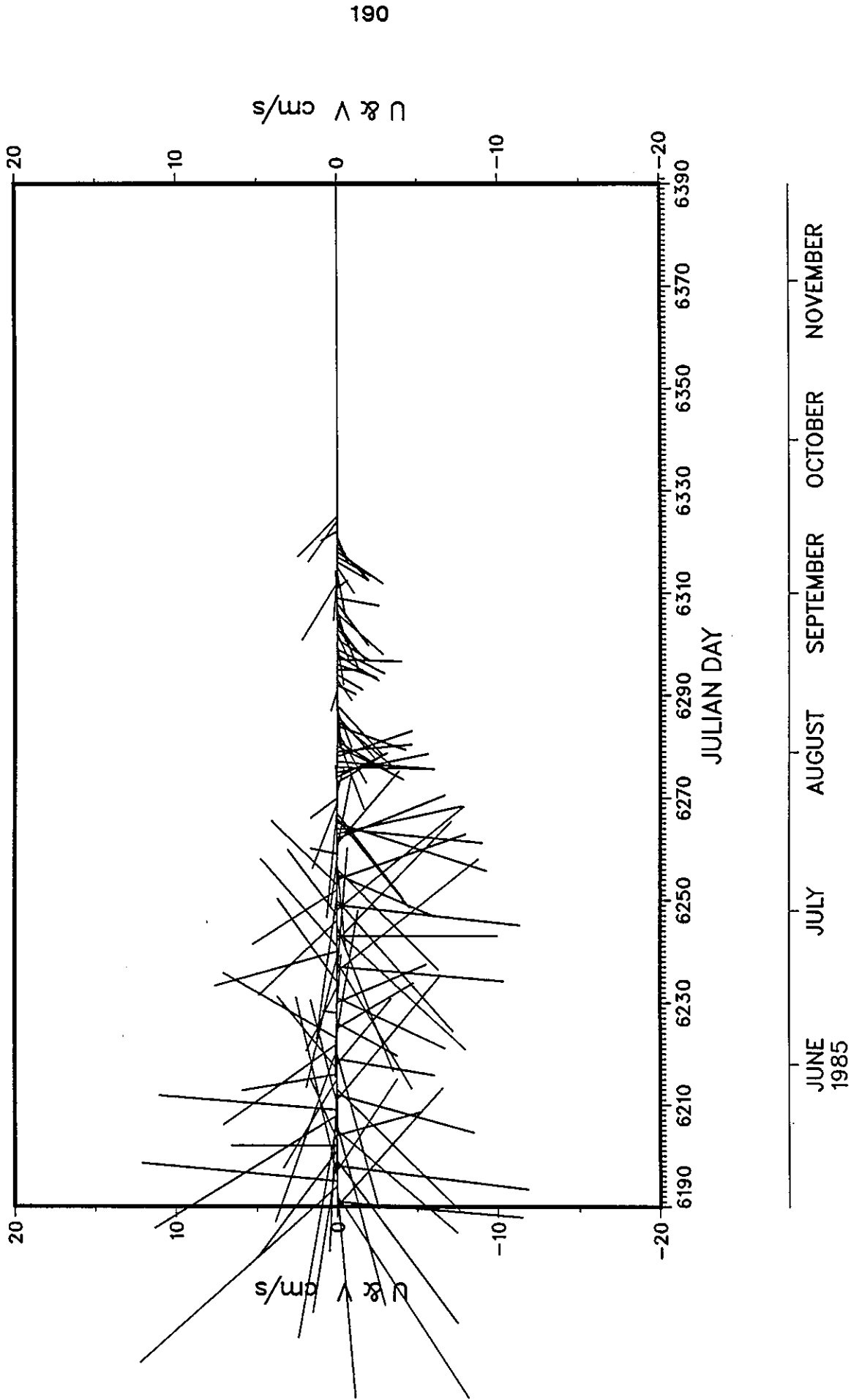
EASTERN BASIN 143



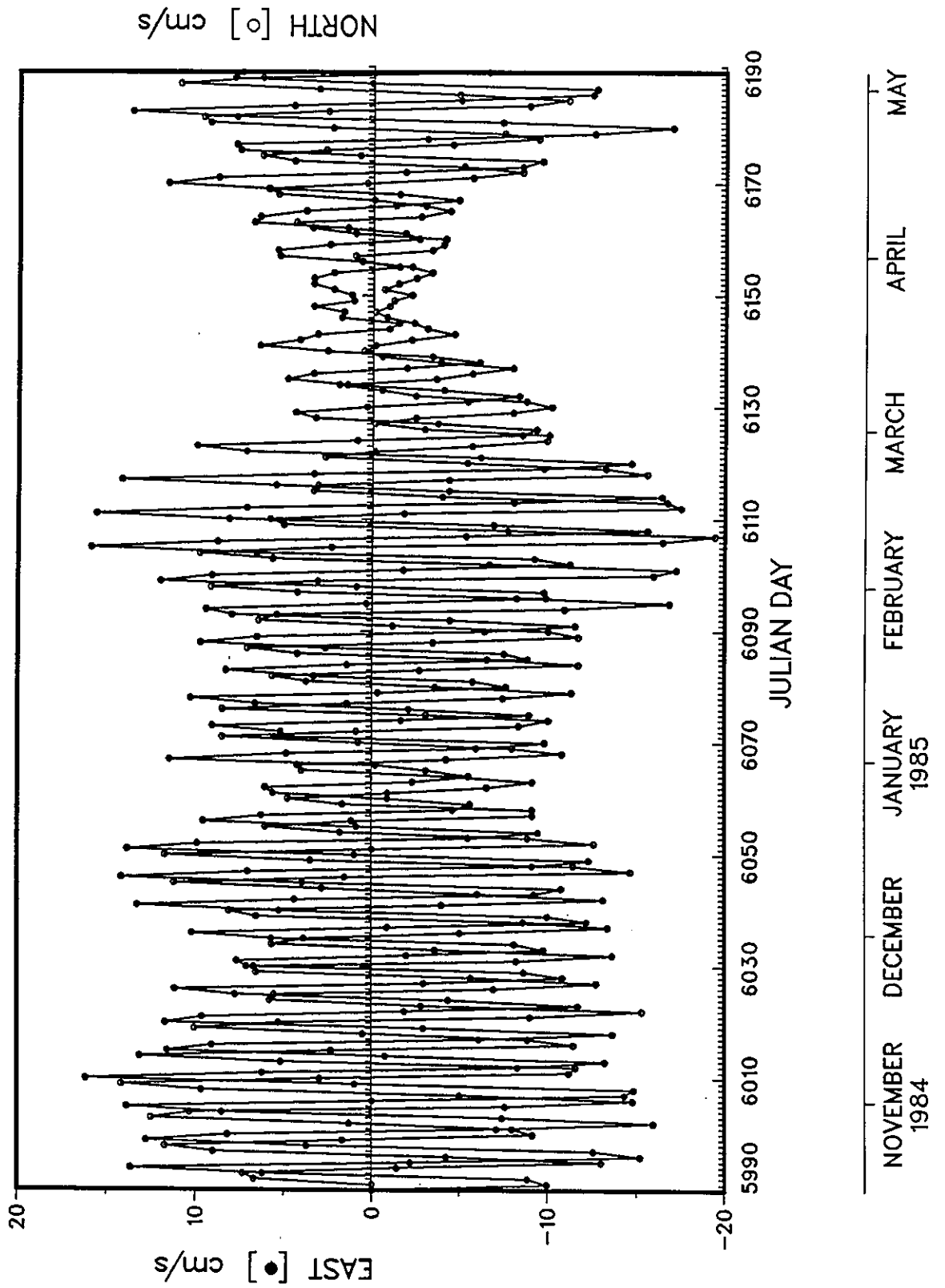
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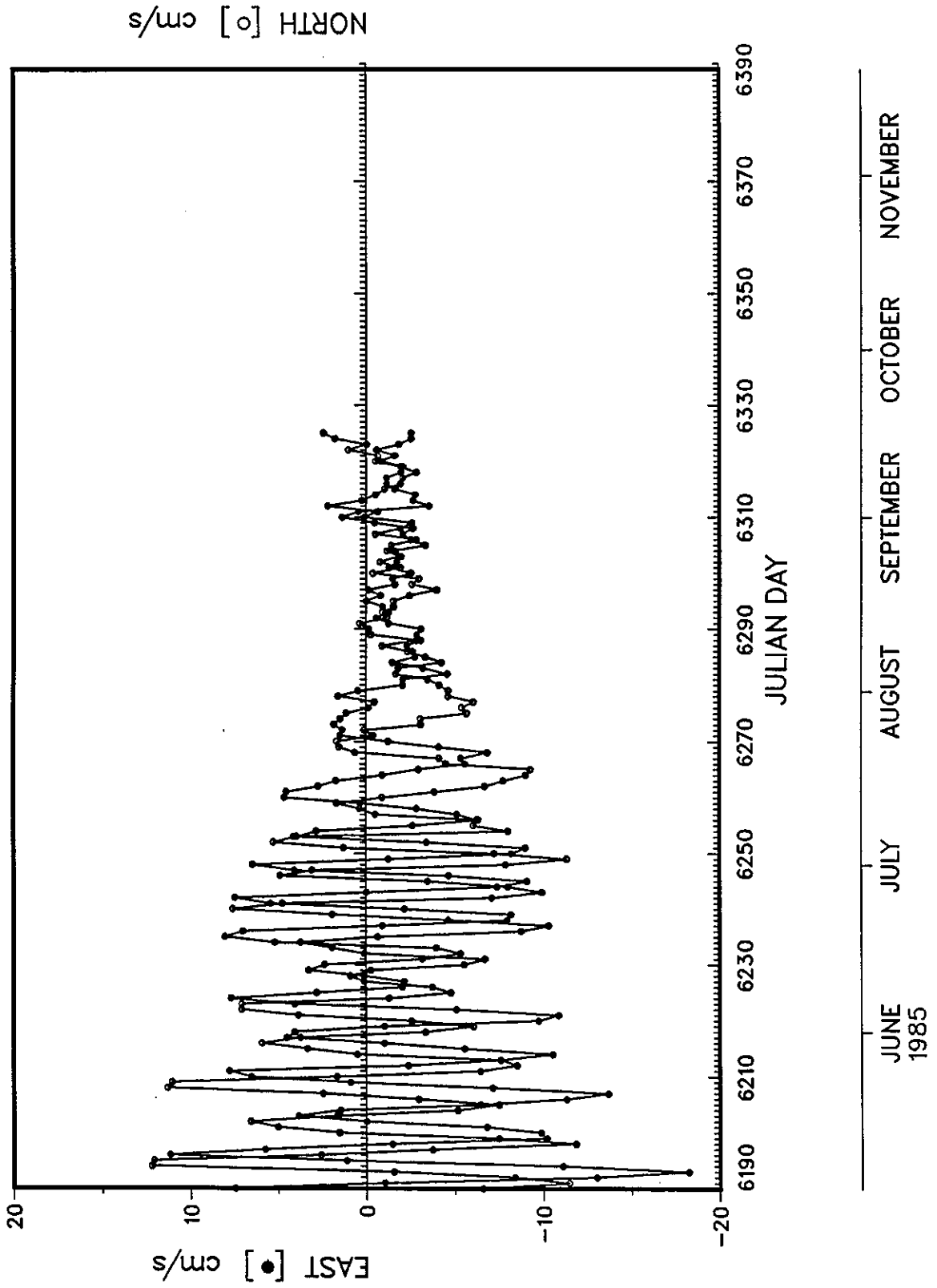
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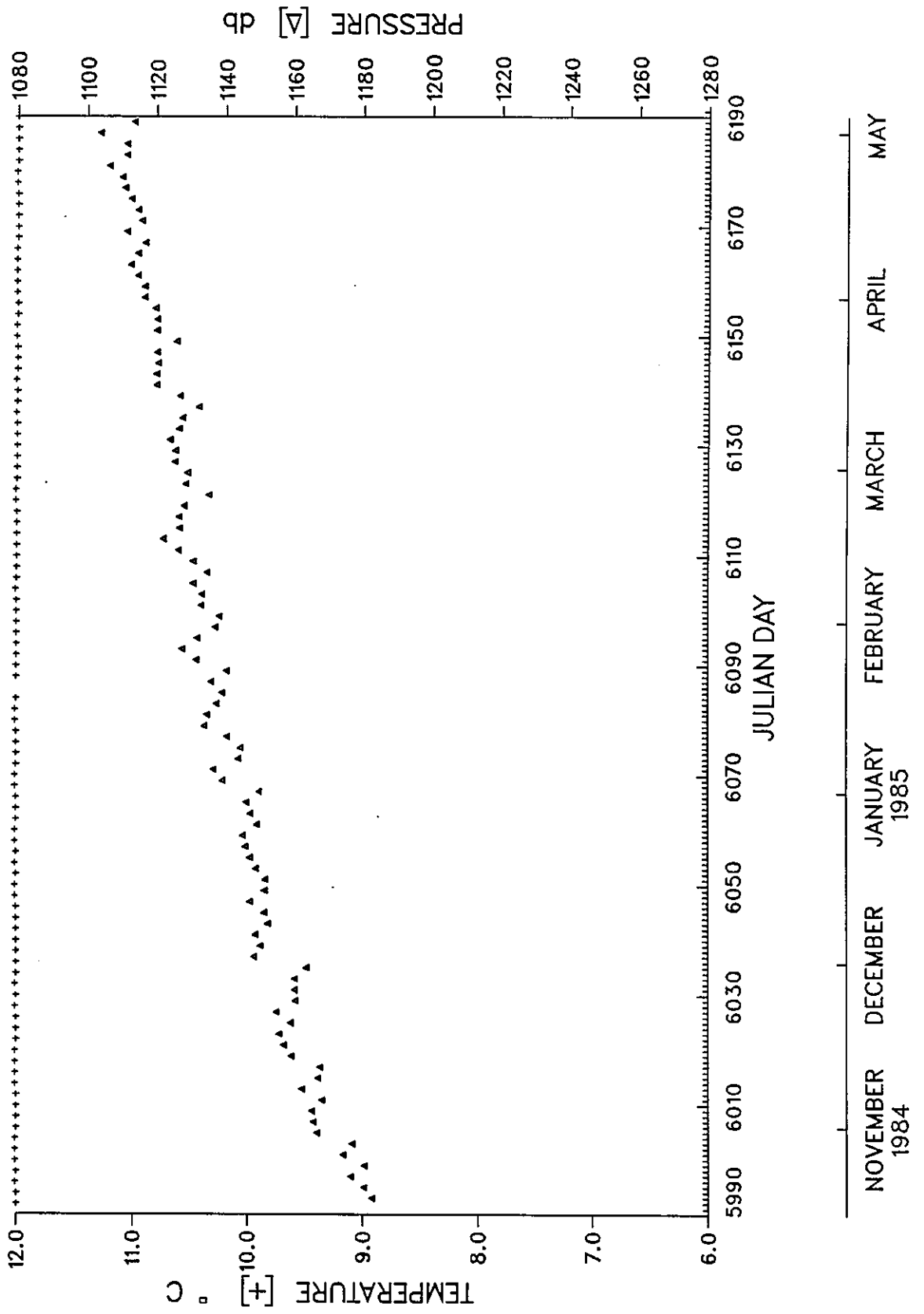
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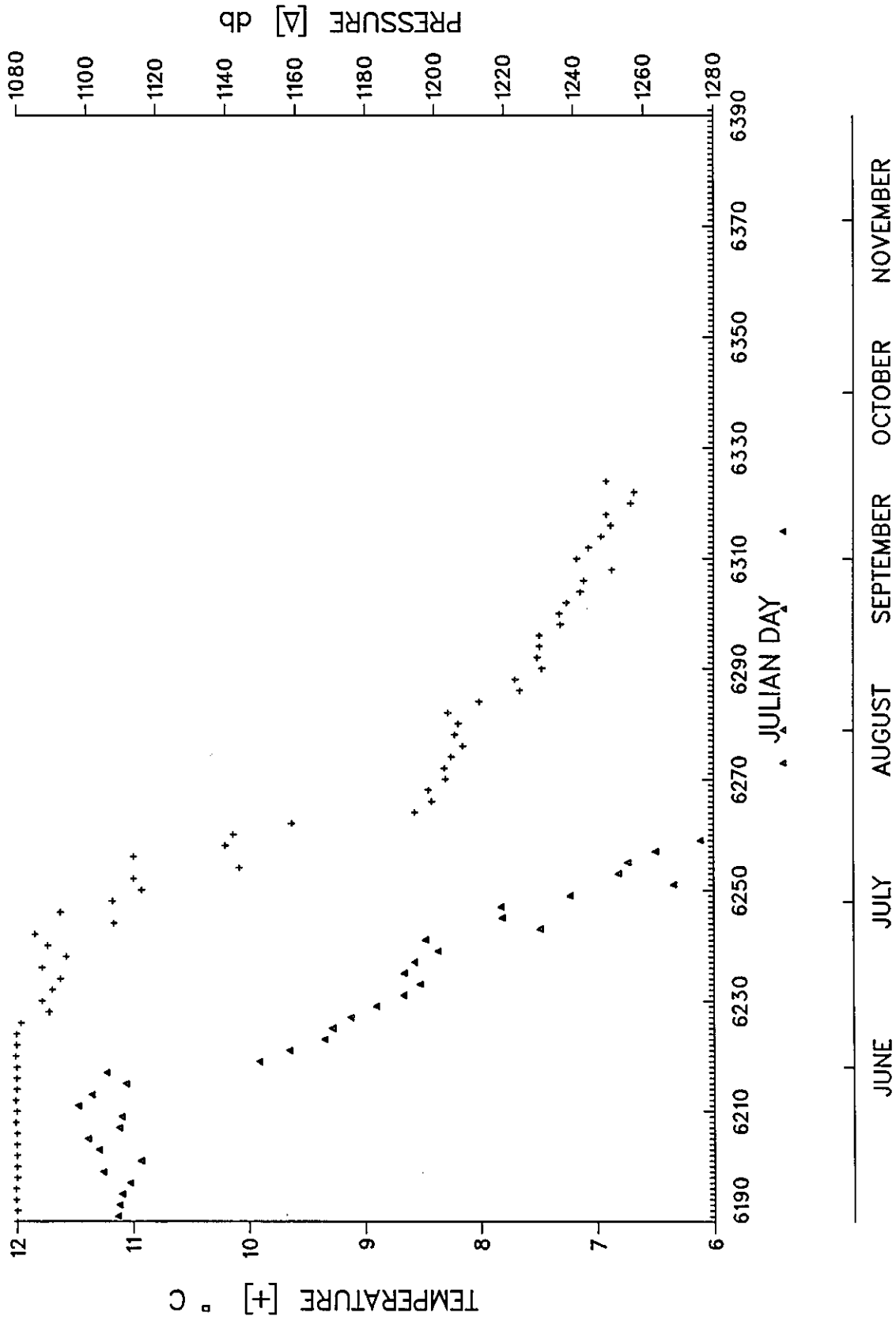
EASTERN BASIN 143



EASTERN BASIN 143



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APPENDIX C

Julian Day Calendars for 1984, 1985

These tables give the year day and truncated Julian year day for each calendar date for the years 1984 and 1985. The truncated Julian year days range from 5883 through 6431. To convert to true Julian date, add 2440000.5 to these numbers.

1984

JAN							FEB							MAR						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				
5701	5702	5703	5704	5705	5706	5707	5732	5733	5734	5735	5736	5737	5738	5761	5762	5763	5764	5765	5766	5767
5708	5709	5710	5711	5712	5713	5714	5739	5740	5741	5742	5743	5744	5745	5768	5769	5770	5771	5772	5773	5774
5715	5716	5717	5718	5719	5720	5721	5746	5747	5748	5749	5750	5751	5752	5775	5776	5777	5778	5779	5780	5781
5722	5723	5724	5725	5726	5727	5728	5753	5754	5755	5756	5757	5758	5759	5782	5783	5784	5785	5786	5787	5788
5729	5730	5731					5760	5761	5762	5763	5764	5765	5766	5789	5790	5791	5792	5793	5794	5795

APR							MAY							JUN						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				
5792	5793	5794	5795	5796	5797	5798	5823	5824	5825	5826	5827	5828	5829	5853	5854	5855	5856	5857	5858	5859
5799	5800	5801	5802	5803	5804	5805	5830	5831	5832	5833	5834	5835	5836	5860	5861	5862	5863	5864	5865	5866
5806	5807	5808	5809	5810	5811	5812	5837	5838	5839	5840	5841	5842	5843	5867	5868	5869	5870	5871	5872	5873
5813	5814	5815	5816	5817	5818	5819	5844	5845	5846	5847	5848	5849	5850	5874	5875	5876	5877	5878	5879	5880
5820	5821						5851	5852	5853	5854	5855	5856	5857	5881	5882	5883	5884	5885	5886	5887

JUL							AUG							SEP						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
183	184	185	186	187	188	189	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	246	247	248	249	250	251	252
5883	5884	5885	5886	5887	5888	5889	5914	5915	5916	5917	5918	5919	5920	5946	5947	5948	5949	5950	5951	5952
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
190	191	192	193	194	195	196	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	246	247	248	249	250	251	252
5890	5891	5892	5893	5894	5895	5896	5921	5922	5923	5924	5925	5926	5927	5946	5947	5948	5949	5950	5951	5952
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
197	198	199	200	201	202	203	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	253	254	255	256	257	258	259
5897	5898	5899	5900	5901	5902	5903	5928	5929	5930	5931	5932	5933	5934	5953	5954	5955	5956	5957	5958	5959
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
204	205	206	207	208	209	210	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	260	261	262	263	264	265	266
5904	5905	5906	5907	5908	5909	5910	5932	5933	5934	5935	5936	5937	5938	5960	5961	5962	5963	5964	5965	5966
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
211	212	213					239	240	241	242	243	244		267	268	269	270	271	272	273
5911	5912	5913					5939	5940	5941	5942	5943	5944		5967	5968	5969	5970	5971	5972	5973

OCT							NOV							DEC							
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
275	276	277	278	279	280		306	307	308	309	310	311	312	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344
5975	5976	5977	5978	5979	5980		6006	6007	6008	6009	6010	6011	6012	6037	6038	6039	6040	6041	6042	6043	6044
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344
5981	5982	5983	5984	5985	5986	5987	5988	5989	5990	5991	5992	5993	5994	6037	6038	6039	6040	6041	6042	6043	6044
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351
5988	5989	5990	5991	5992	5993	5994	5995	5996	5997	5998	5999	6000	6001	6044	6045	6046	6047	6048	6049	6050	6051
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305				351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358
5995	5996	5997	5998	5999	6000	6001	6002	6003	6004	6005				6051	6052	6053	6054	6055	6056	6057	6058
28	29	30	31				29	30	31					23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
302	303	304	305				306	307	308					358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365
6002	6003	6004	6005				6006	6007	6008					6058	6059	6060	6061	6062	6063	6064	6065
														30	31						
														365	366						
														6065	6066						

1985

JAN

FEB

MAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2						1	2
		1	2	3	4	5						32	33						60	61
		6067	6068	6069	6070	6071						6098	6099						6126	6127
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
6072	6073	6074	6075	6076	6077	6078	6100	6101	6102	6103	6104	6105	6106	6128	6129	6130	6131	6132	6133	6134
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	69	70	71	72	73	74	75
6079	6080	6081	6082	6083	6084	6085	6107	6108	6109	6110	6111	6112	6113	6135	6136	6137	6138	6139	6140	6141
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	76	77	78	79	80	81	82
6086	6087	6088	6089	6090	6091	6092	6114	6115	6116	6117	6118	6119	6120	6142	6143	6144	6145	6146	6147	6148
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29		24	25	26	27	28	29	30
27	28	29	30	31			55	56	57	58	59	60		83	84	85	86	87	88	89
6093	6094	6095	6096	6097			6121	6122	6123	6124	6125	6126		6149	6150	6151	6152	6153	6154	6155

31
90
6156

APR

MAY

JUN

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5														
		91	92	93	94	95														
		6157	6158	6159	6160	6161														
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115
		6163	6164	6165	6166	6167	6168	6169	6170	6171	6172	6173	6174	6175	6176	6177	6178	6179	6180	6181
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
97	98	99	100	101	102	103	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	153	154	155	156	157	158	159
6163	6164	6165	6166	6167	6168	6169	6191	6192	6193	6194	6195	6196	6197	6219	6220	6221	6222	6223	6224	6225
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
104	105	106	107	108	109	110	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	160	161	162	163	164	165	166
6170	6171	6172	6173	6174	6175	6176	6198	6199	6200	6201	6202	6203	6204	6226	6227	6228	6229	6230	6231	6232
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	167	168	169	170	171	172	173
6177	6178	6179	6180	6181	6182	6183	6205	6206	6207	6208	6209	6210	6211	6233	6234	6235	6236	6237	6238	6239
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
118	119	120					146	147	148	149	150	151		174	175	176	177	178	179	180
6184	6185	6186					6212	6213	6214	6215	6216	6217		6240	6241	6242	6243	6244	6245	6246

30
181
6247

JUL							AUG							SEP						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
182	183	184	184	185	186	187					213	214	215	244	245	246	247	248	249	250
6246	6249	6250	6250	6251	6252	6253					6279	6280	6281	6310	6311	6312	6313	6314	6315	6316
	8	9	10	11	12	13		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
188	189	190	191	192	193	194	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	251	252	253	254	255	256	257
6254	6255	6256	6257	6258	6259	6260	6282	6283	6284	6285	6286	6287	6288	6317	6318	6319	6320	6321	6322	6323
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20													
195	196	197	198	199	200	201	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	258	259	260	261	262	263	264
6261	6262	6263	6264	6265	6266	6267	6289	6290	6291	6292	6293	6294	6295	6324	6325	6326	6327	6328	6329	6330
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27													
202	203	204	205	206	207	208	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	265	266	267	268	269	270	271
6268	6269	6270	6271	6272	6273	6274	6296	6297	6298	6299	6300	6301	6302	6331	6332	6333	6334	6335	6336	6337
	28	29	30	31																
209	210	211	212	213	214	215	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	272	273					
6275	6276	6277	6278				6303	6304	6305	6306	6307	6308	6309	6338	6339					

OCT							NOV							DEC						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5								1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		274	275	276	277	278								335	336	337	338	339	340	341
		6340	6341	6342	6343	6344								6401	6402	6403	6404	6405	6406	6407
	7	8	9	10	11	12		4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
279	280	281	282	283	284	285	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	342	343	344	345	346	347	348
6345	6346	6347	6348	6349	6350	6351	6373	6374	6375	6376	6377	6378	6379	6408	6409	6410	6411	6412	6413	6414
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19													
286	287	288	289	290	291	292	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	349	350	351	352	353	354	355
6352	6353	6354	6355	6356	6357	6358	6380	6381	6382	6383	6384	6385	6386	6415	6416	6417	6418	6419	6420	6421
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26													
293	294	295	296	297	298	299	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	356	357	358	359	360	361	362
6359	6360	6361	6362	6363	6364	6365	6387	6388	6389	6390	6391	6392	6393	6422	6423	6424	6425	6426	6427	6428
	27	28	29	30	31															
300	301	302	303	304			328	329	330	331	332	333	334	363	364	365				
6366	6367	6368	6369	6370			6394	6395	6396	6397	6398	6399	6400	6429	6430	6431				

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE	1. REPORT NO. WHOI-86-31	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
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7. Author(s) James F. Price, Theresa K. McKee, James R. Valdes, Philip L. Richardson, Laurence Armi		6.	
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		14.	
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16. Abstract (Limit: 200 words) In October, 1984, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution SOFAR float group began a three-year long field program to observe the low frequency currents in the Canary Basin. The principal scientific goal was to learn how advection and diffusion by these currents determine the shape and amplitude of the Mediterranean salt tongue. Fourteen floats were launched at a depth of 1100 m in a cluster centered on 32N, 24W, and seven other floats were launched incoherently along a north/south line from 24N to 37N. At the same time investigators from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of Rhode Island used four other SOFAR floats to tag a submesoscale lens of Mediterranean water. Slightly over twenty years of float trajectories were produced during the first year of the experiment. In this report we briefly describe the 1984 field operations and show the first year's SOFAR float data. Perhaps the most striking result is that westward flow within the Mediterranean salt tongue was found to be confined to a rather narrow jet (roughly 150 km in meridional extent) which had a mean speed of roughly 2 cm s^{-1} . To the north or south of this jet the mean flow was much weaker and eastward. This suggests that currents associated with the salt tongue itself (rather than the gyre scale circulation) may be most important for determining the salt distribution.			
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