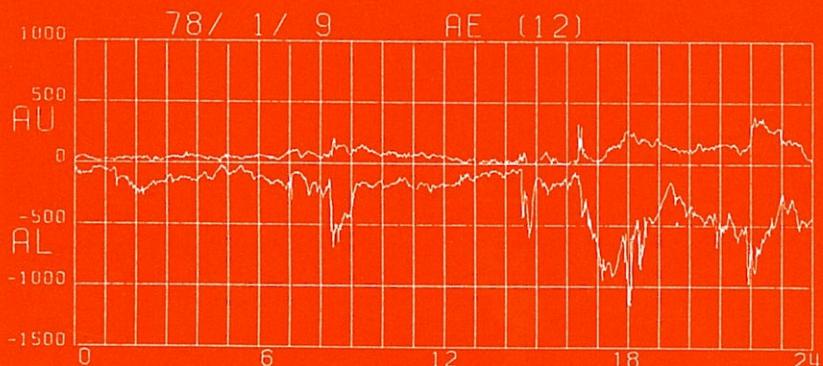
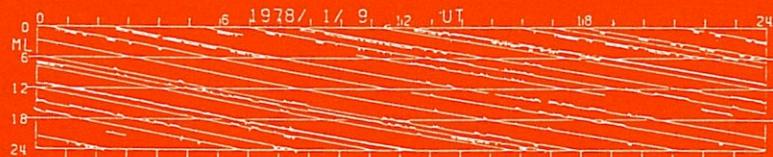


World Data Center C2 for Geomagnetism

DATA BOOK

No. 3

Auroral electrojet indices (AE)
for January-June 1978



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Data Analysis Center for
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WDC-C2 for Geomagnetism
Faculty of Science
Kyoto University

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Auroral Electrojet Indices (AE)

for January - June 1978

by
T. Kamei and H. Maeda

1. Introduction

The Auroral Electrojet index (AE) was originally introduced by Davis and Sugiura in 1966 as a measure of global electrojet activity in the auroral zone, and it is now widely used for studying geomagnetism, aeronomy and solar-terrestrial physics. The index was first derived at the Geophysical Institute of the University of Alaska, and hourly values were published for the years 1957 to 1964. The production of 2.5 min values was then tried at the Goddard Space Flight Center of NASA, and the results from September 1964 to June 1968 were published.

After that, the index was regularly published at the World Data Center A in Boulder, Colorado, and the Center published 2.5-min values for the years 1966 to 1974 and 1.0-min values for 1975 and a half of 1976. Because of man-power and other reasons, it became difficult to continue the production of the AE index at the WDC-A, and it was requested that the index be produced at the WDC-C2 for Geomagnetism in Kyoto. Upon such a request we discussed the possibility and agreed to cooperate in producing the index during the IMS at least.

2. Derivation and Representation

The AE index is derived from the horizontal component of geomagnetic variations observed at some (10-13) observatories along the auroral zone in the northern hemisphere. To normalize the data from each station, a base value of each station for each month is first calculated by averaging all the data of the station on the five international quiet days, and this base value is subtracted from every-day data of the station in that month. Then the largest and smallest values are selected from all the stations. The largest value is called the AU index and the smallest value is called the AL index. These names came from the upper and lower envelopes of the overlapped figure of the data from these stations. The difference between the AU and AL indices gives the AE index, and the mean value of the AU and AL indices gives the AO index. The term "AE indices" is usually used to describe those four indices (AU, AL, AE and AO) in all.

The AU and AL indices are understood to express the strongest current density of the eastward and westward auroral electrojet, respectively. The AE index is understood to represent the overall activity of the electrojets, and the AO index is regarded as a measure of the equivalent zonal current.

In this report we shall present every-day diagrams and hourly values of the AE indices and also a trial plot named "contributing stations plot" of the AE indices which may give more information about the indices. That is, we named the stations which give the AU and AL indices "the contributing stations of the AU and the AL index, respectively, and a pair of these AU and AL contributing stations "the contributing stations of AE indices". The plot gives these AE contributing stations on a plane whose coordinates are UT in abscissa and LT in ordinate at the stations. For users who want to check the AE indices precisely, this plot gives an information about data availability of each station. Thus the plot will give us an idea which data are to be checked. For these users, we would like to suggest to check our way of derivation of the AE indices and our estimation of errors.

3. Selection of Observatories

To obtain good AE indices, we must use as many observatories as possible, but we meet two big difficulties: One is that the distribution of active observatories are not uniform over the auroral zone, and the other is that the digitization of analogue data (magnetograms) is a heavy job.

We selected 12 observatories listed in Table 1. Of these, only 5 stations are taking digital data directly (called digital stations). Our selection is almost the same as that of the WDC-A. (see Fig. 1)

Three of the stations (Forthchurchill, Great Whale River, and Yellowknife) are the digital stations which give data in the X, Y, Z coordinate system. To make these data more compatible to other stations, we converted the X and Y components to H component by $H=(X^2+Y^2)^{1/2}$, and we treated the resulted H component to be missing for the period either X or Y is missing. For other two digital stations (Barrow and College), we used the original digital H-component data. However, the digital data from College were missing from January to March 1978, so we digitized College analogue data in this period.

4. Digitizing Machine

Our digitizing machine is made of a semi-automatic sonic digitizer, a large size microfilm reader and a mini computer system.

Table 1. List of AE(12) stations.

Observatory	Abbreviations		Geographic		Geomagnetic	
	IAGA	WDC-A	Lat. ($^{\circ}$ N)	Long. ($^{\circ}$ E)	Lat. ($^{\circ}$ N)	Long. ($^{\circ}$ E)
Abisko	ABK	AI	68.36	18.82	66.04	115.08
Dixon Island	DIK	DI	73.55	80.57	63.02	161.57
Cape Chelyuskin	CCS	CC	77.72	104.28	66.26	176.46
Tixie Bay	TIK	TI	71.58	129.00	60.44	191.41
Cape Wellen	CWE	UE	66.17	190.17	61.79	237.10
Barrow	BRW	BW	71.30	203.25	68.54	241.15
College	CMO	CO	64.87	212.17	64.63	256.52
Yellowknife	YKC	YEK	62.40	245.60	69.00	292.80
Fort Churchill	FCC	FC	58.80	265.90	68.70	322.77
Great Whale River	GWC	GWR	55.27	282.22	66.58	347.36
Narssarssuaq	NAQ	NAS	61.20	314.16	71.21	36.79
Leirvogur	LRV	LR	64.18	338.30	70.22	71.04

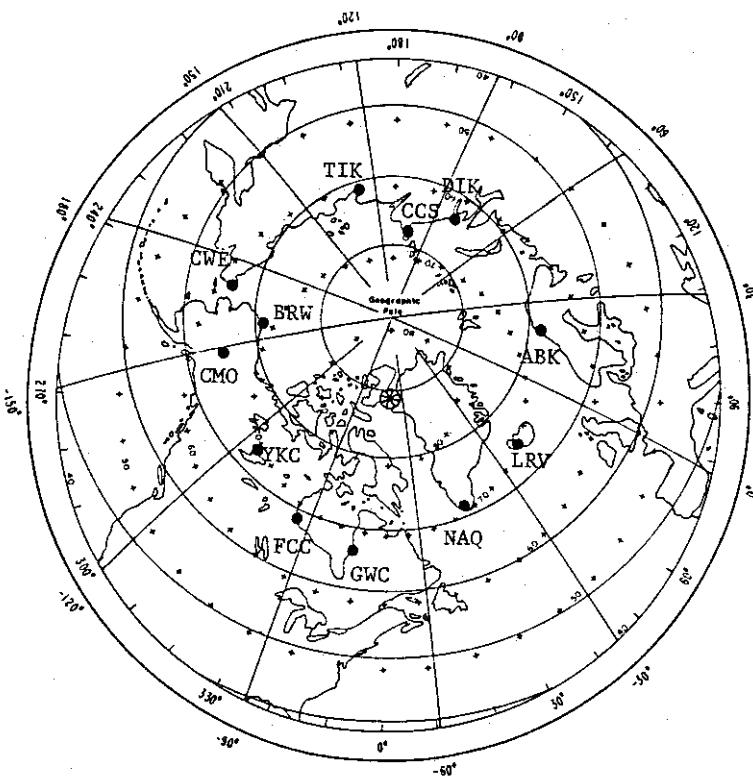


Fig. 1. Distribution of AE(12) stations.

Geographic latitude is indicated by the concentric circles of solid lines. Geomagnetic latitude is indicated by the numbered concentric circles formed by + signs. Geographic longitude is given by the outer circle of numerical values with meridians shown as solid lines every 30° . Geomagnetic longitude is given by the inner circle of numbers and the border of hash-marks at 10° intervals.

The sonic digitizer has a pointing pen and two microphone arrays. The pen emits a small sonic pulse from a small electric spark at the top of it. The position of the pen is detected by time lags between the spark and signals received by the microphone arrays. One of the microphone arrays is placed on the upper side of a microfilm reader and detects Y position of the pen, and another array is placed on the left side of the reader and detects X position of the pen.

The operator traces the projected figure (magnetogram) on the screen of the microfilm reader. The effective size of the screen is about 60 cm in width and about 40 cm in height. This screen is divided into 4000 x 3000 digital points. The emitting speed of the sparks can be controlled either by the computer or by the operator. Although the emitting speed can be as fast as 100 points per second, available speed is limited to 20 points per second, because of the speed of the CPU of computer and the recording media.

5. Digitization of Analogue Data

The magnetogram on 35 mm microfilm is projected directly on our microfilm reader. The projected figure is almost the same size as the original magnetogram whose size is about 2 cm/hour or 48 cm/day.

Usually, the magnetograms are digitized day by day. When the time marks on the magnetogram are not spaced uniformly or base lines are not straight enough, one magnetogram is divided into several uniform parts and then digitized. We used the ordinary magnetogram for all days. When the H trace crosses other traces, we tried to identify the H trace by referring the insensitive or storm magnetogram. When we trace the H component on magnetograms, we also feed three basic points to define the time and the absolute value of the digitized data, and feed other necessary information like the station identification and observation date.

In digitizing analog data, we could have trouble from the digitizer noise. To be free from such a noise, we digitized as many points as possible to get one value. In determining the three basic points we digitized each point more than 20 times, and we picked the point only when these consecutive 20 readings are all within a limited area. The traced digital data are logically checked by a quality control program to reject spikes caused by the noise. After cleaning by the quality program, the data are averaged to get the final one minute value. Usually, one-min value is determined from an average of 3 or 4 digital

readings. We checked all the digitized data visually by the plot on a monitoring graphic display at the reading stage and by the finer common scale plot made by a X-Y plotter after processed by the quality control program.

6. Estimation of Errors

Although we are very careful to read magnetogram, there can be some errors. Users should be aware of these possible errors.

First, a magnetogram is recorded on a photographic paper, and the recorded line is sometimes too wide and sometimes too faint. The wide line causes an ambiguity of the reading. Error by such a wide line is usually less than 1.5 nT (standard deviation), but in some cases it can be about 5 nT. The faint line is not readable in a disturbed condition and may cause a missing period or tracing mistakes whose error cannot be estimated.

Second, when the original magnetograms are photographed on the 35 mm microfilms, some distortions come about and make the base lines and time marks round lines. In some stations this may result in errors of about 5 nT and/or 2 min. Also, when the magnetogram is photographed the paper moves or shrinks which make double images resulting in errors of up to 5 nT and/or 2 min.

Third, though we are very careful to trace the data, it is very difficult to be free from parallax and to trace the data smoothly. This may cause 5 nT and/or 2 min errors.

Fourth, when recording the magnetogram, chart speed sometimes fluctuates, resulting in non-uniform spacing of the time marks. In this case we divided one magnetogram into several parts, but we neglected small changes which cause a temporal error less than 2 minutes.

Fifth, in calculating a base value for one station every month, we average the data on 5 quiet days, but the year 1978 was a quite disturbed year and so the quiet days contained a number of disturbed periods. This may result in errors from 1 to 3 nT.

The last most severe problem is the missing data of the contributing stations. It is suggested to users that if they use the one minute AE value for precise studies the availability of the possible contributing stations by the contributing stations plot is checked.

As a whole we estimate that the error in the one-minute AE indices is about 5 nT to 20 nT in quiet periods. For disturbed periods, however, it is difficult to estimate the error in the indices, and we will only be able to say

that most of the error are resulted from the error in the time scale (about 1.5 to 3.0 min).

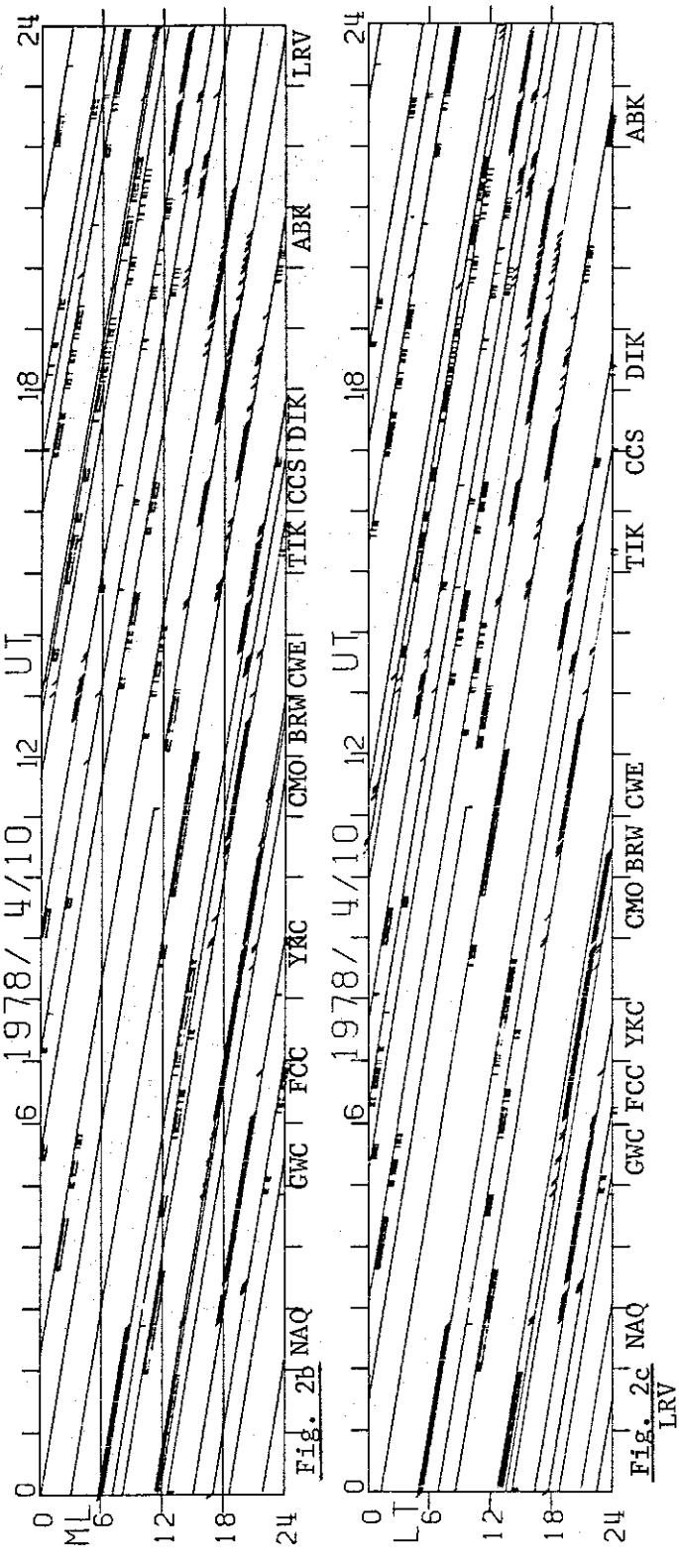
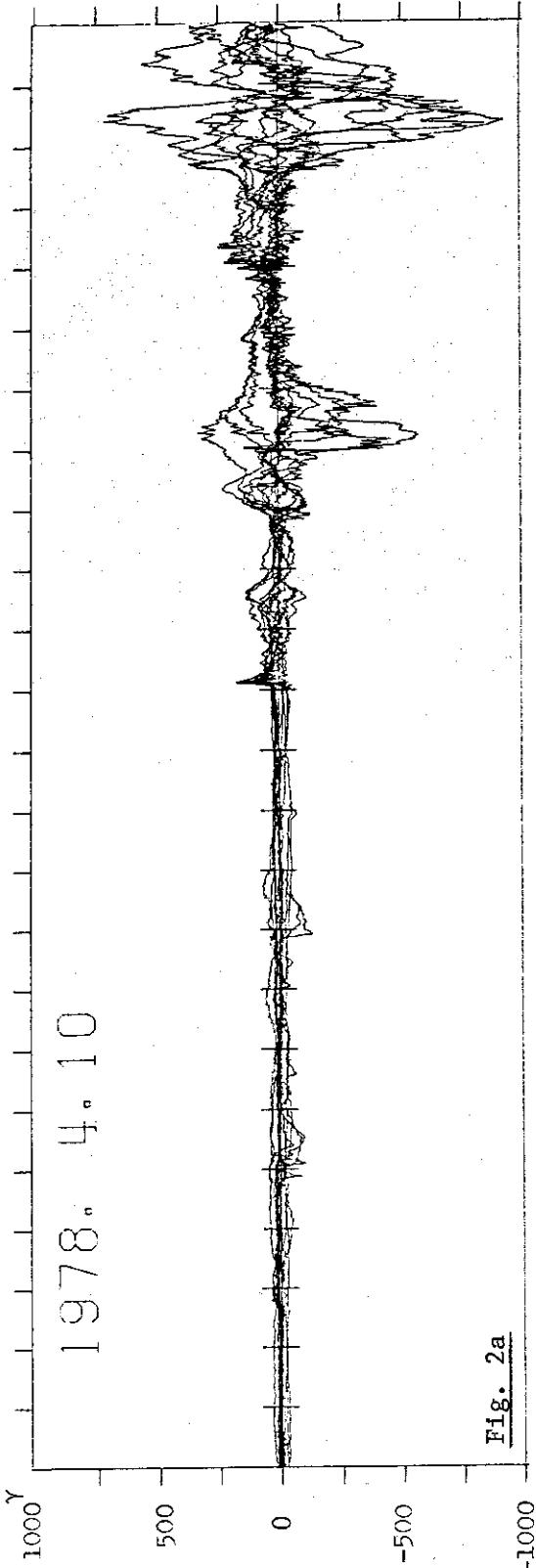
For the hourly values of AE indices, the random errors are reduced by $1/(60)^{1/2}$. However, the base line error and errors caused by the distortion of magnetograms are still included in the hourly values. We may estimate that the total error in the hourly values is in the range between 4 and 15 nT.

7. The Overlapped Plot and the Plot of the Contributing Stations of the AE Indices.

Fig. 2a shows an example of the overlapped plot of the H traces from the AE stations on April 10, 1978. The upper envelope gives the AU index and the lower envelope gives the AL index. Figs. 2b and 2c show example plots of the contributing stations for the same day as in Fig. 2a, in the geomagnetic (2b) and geographic (2c) local times, where the upper and lower plumes on a diagonal line for each station show the contribution to the AU and AL indices of this station. In Fig. 2b, for example, the data of Dixon Island (DIK) give the AU index from 0000 to 0240 UT and again from 1330 to 1530 UT, and the AL index from 0640 to 0830 UT. It is seen that from 1100 to 1200 UT Leirvogur (LRV) offers no data. Since this is a key station for the AL index at that time, the exact AL values at that time have been lost.

We think some explanation are necessary for our trial plots of the contributing stations. On the plots hereafter, the ordinate is the geomagnetic local time (MLT). The MLT is defined by the difference of the geomagnetic longitude of the station and the geomagnetic longitude of the Sun, and it is a function of the geomagnetic longitude of the station, season, and universal time. Figs. 3a, 3b, 3c show the difference between the GLT and the MLT of the stations used to derive AE indices for winter, summer and equinox, respectively. In these figures the GLT is shown by the straight line which runs diagonally, and the MLT is shown by the T (or inverted T) shaped mark. The length of the vertical line between the T (or inverted T) shaped mark and the diagonal line is the difference between GLT and MLT.

Note that for some stations the difference between GLT and MLT is as much as 2 hours. The geomagnetic longitude of Cape Wellen (CWE) and Barrow (BRW) are very close, and so it is difficult to separate these two stations on the contributing stations plot. Sometimes, Cape Wellen gives AU and Barrow gives AL, and vice versa. This is thought to be an effect of local current system between the high latitude station and the low latitude station.



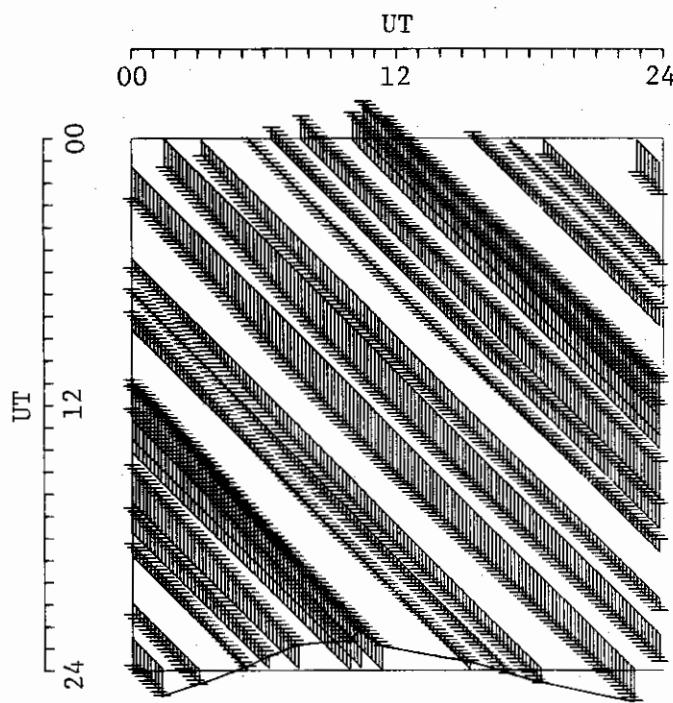


Fig. 3a Difference between GLT and MLT in winter.

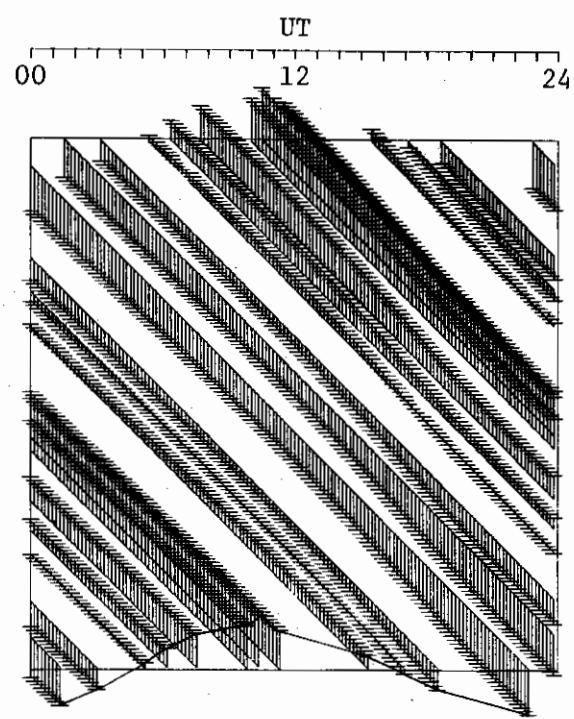


Fig. 3b Difference between GLT and MLT in summer.

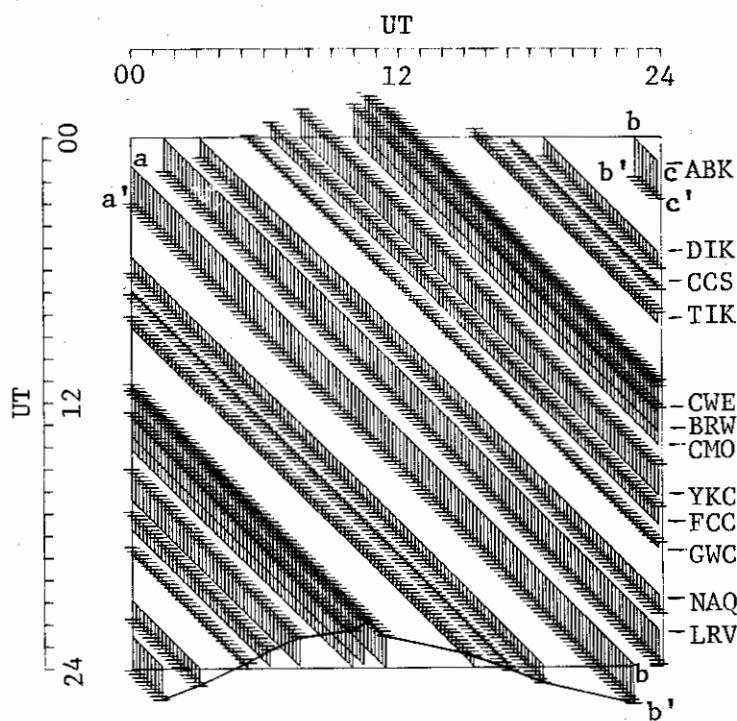


Fig. 3c Difference between GLT and MLT in equinox.

Fig. 3a, 3b and 3c show the difference between the geographic local time (GLT) and the geomagnetic local time (MLT) for winter, summer and equinox, where a-b-c (full line on the top or bottom of the vertical lines) shows the relation between UT and GLT, and a'-b'-c' (crossing of the vertical and horizontal lines) shows the relation between UT and MLT for each of the AE(12) stations.

When we assume that the observed geomagnetic H component is a result of a simple combination of some simple current systems, this plot of the contributing stations can be regarded as an index of dominant current system at a certain time, though the current system in the auroral zone is not very simple, and users must be very careful to check if local current systems may give a false impression of different current systems.

Although we have such limitation of the plot of the contributing stations, and we need more precise analyses, we can point out some characteristics from the plot, most of them confirm our previous knowledge.

(1) In quiet periods, the geomagnetic local time of the contributing stations to the AL index (called here AL time, shortly) is around noon. This is seen best in equinox. This may come from the low latitude Sq current system or from the field-aligned current system connected to the cusp region, or from both of them.

(2) In disturbed periods, the AL time is between midnight and morning.

(3) In some transition periods between quiet and disturbed states, the AL time moves gradually from noon to morning. Then, very sharp and short period AL spikes are seen and the AL time goes pre-midnight. Afterward, the AL time comes back to early morning.

(4) The geomagnetic local time of the AU contributing station (called AU time) is confined in the evening in disturbed periods. But in quiet periods, the AU time is distributed widely and it can be seen at midnight or in the morning.

8. Results

Monthly quiet-time H reference values for January-June 1978 are listed in Table 2, where for four stations only deviations (H_0^+) from the H base line are given, because we did not find out any base values. Table 3 gives the hourly average of AE indices on every day from January to June 1978.

Daily graphs of 1.0-min AE indices (AU, AL, AE and AO) are shown in Fig. 4, and corresponding plots of the contributing stations are given in Fig. 5. Finally, Fig. 6 shows the H-traces of magnetograms from AE(12) stations in every month from January to June 1978.

Acknowledgments

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Table 2. MONTHLY QUIET-TIME H REFERENCE VALUES (UNITS : NT = GAMMAS)
(YEAR 1978)

STATION	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE
ABISKO	11831	11831	11830	11823	11831	11840
DIXON ISLAND	-370	-373	-368	-382	-373	-373 (H0+)
CAPE CHELYUSKIN	544	534	538	544	552	557 (H0+)
TIXIE BAY	264	266	261	255	263	277 (H0+)
CAPE WELLEN	199	193	185	190	193	202 (H0+)
BARROW	9842	9835	9842	9837	9850	9864
COLLEGE	13049	13051	13038	13036	13038	13045
YELLOWKNIFE	8722	8722	8719	8724	8722	8738
GREAT WHALE RIVER	10503	10503	10501	10513	10524	10538
FORT CHURCHILL	7441	7438	7437	7456	7470	7485
NARSSARSSUAQ	12021	12025	12028	12029	12032	12030
LEIRVOGUR	12377	12378	12384	12382	12391	12395

(H0+) : DEVIATION FROM THE H BASE LINE
ON THE ORDINARY MAGNETOGram

TABLE 3

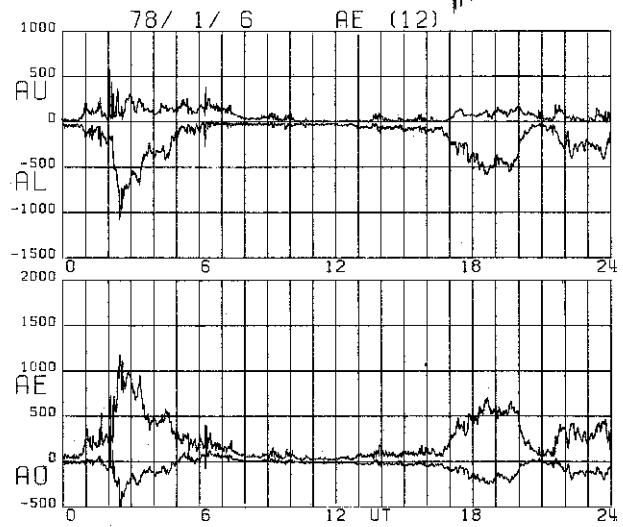
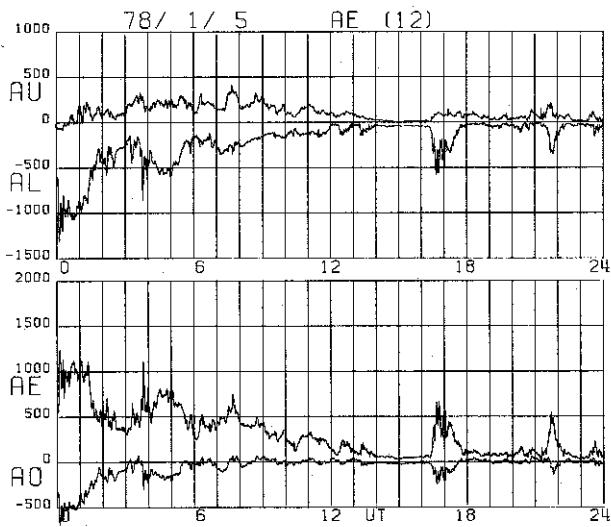
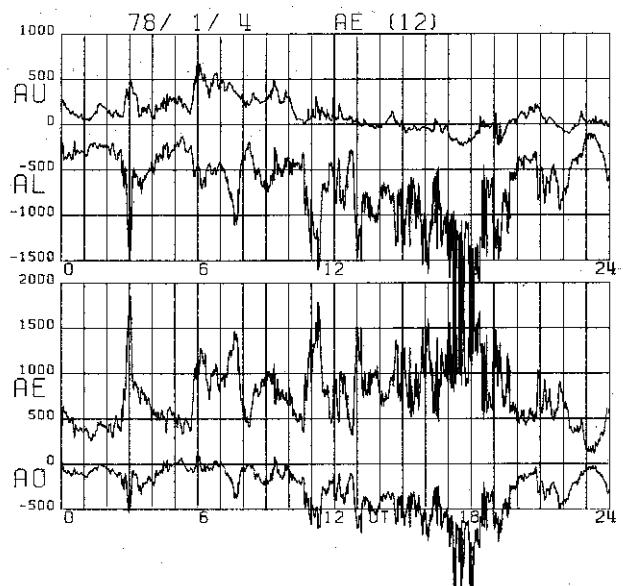
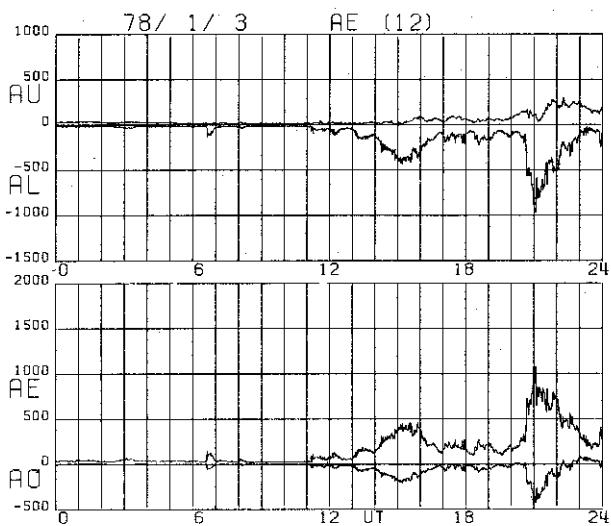
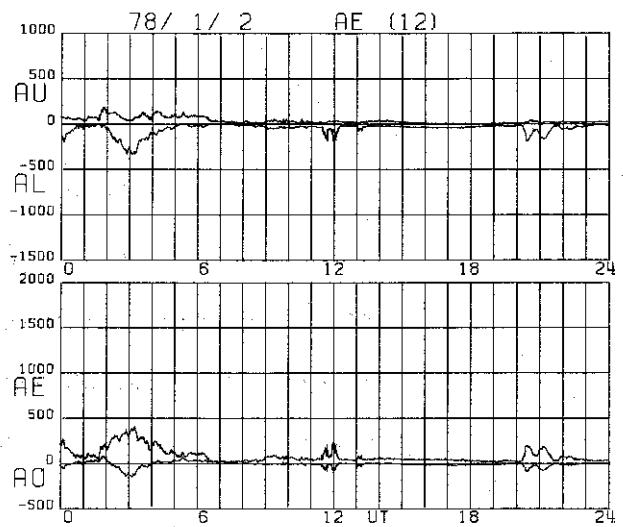
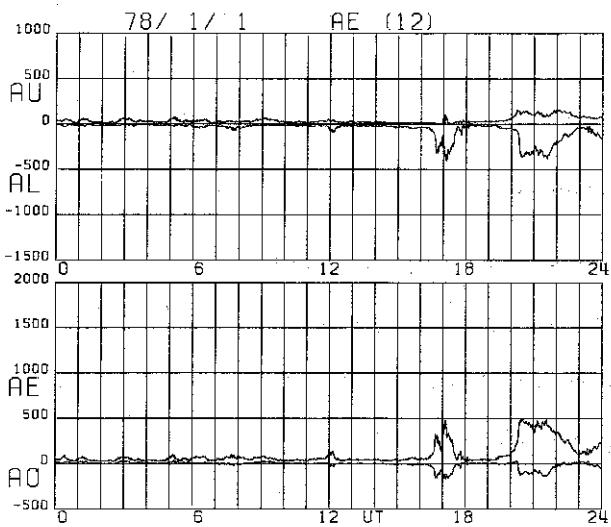
Hourly average AE indices (AU, AL, AE and AO) for
January–June 1978.

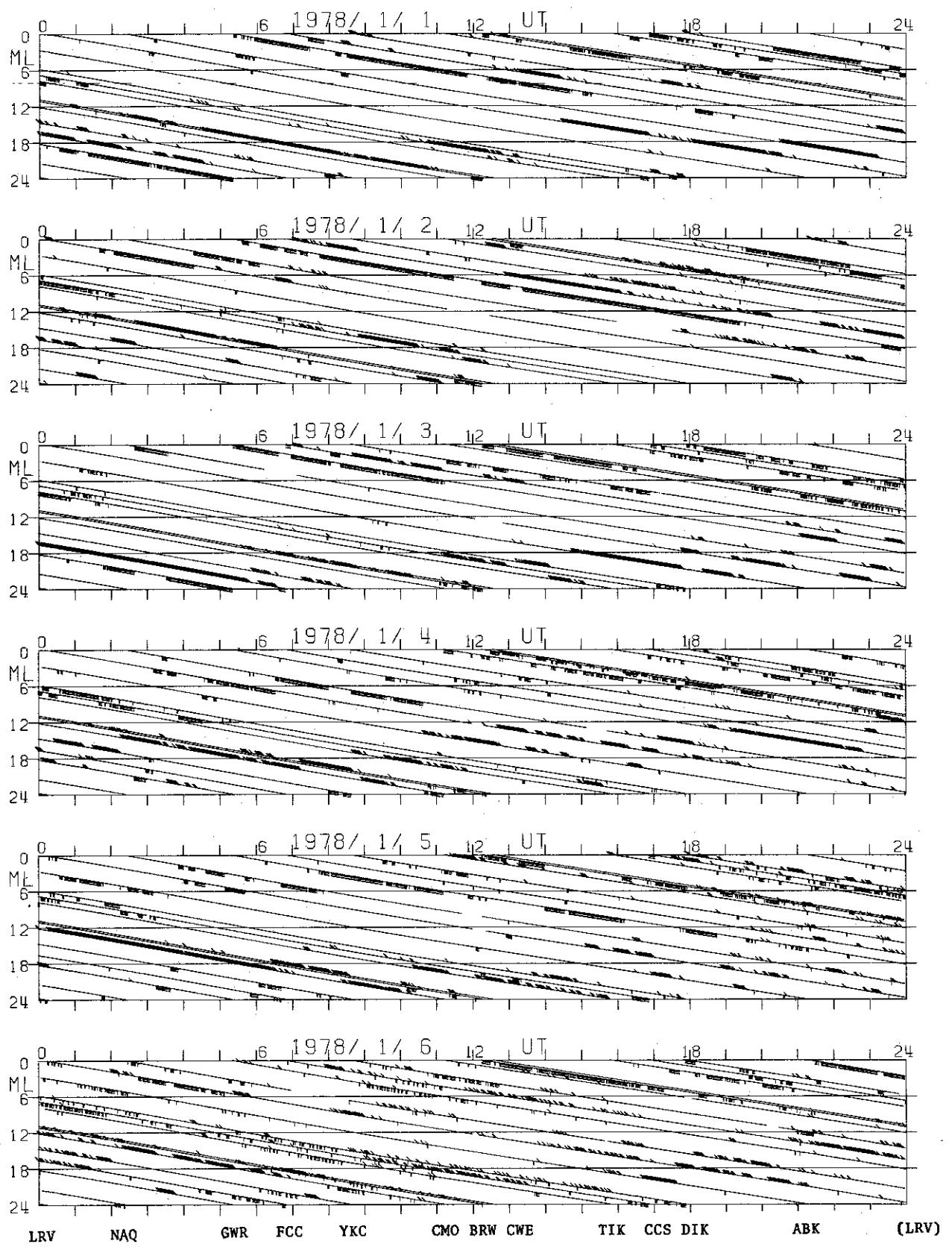
FIGURE 4 (on even pages)

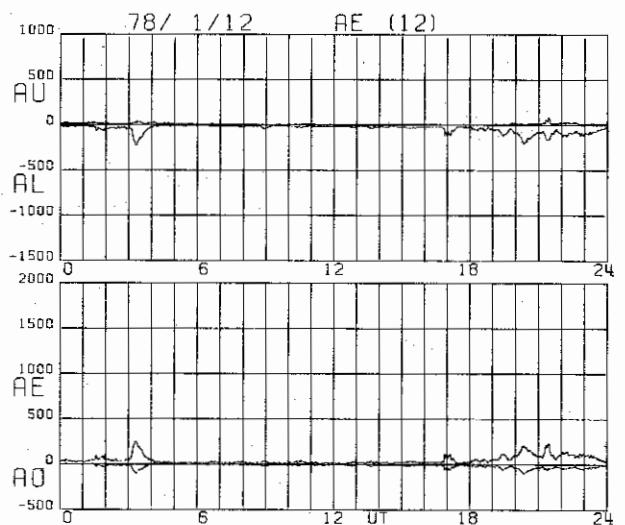
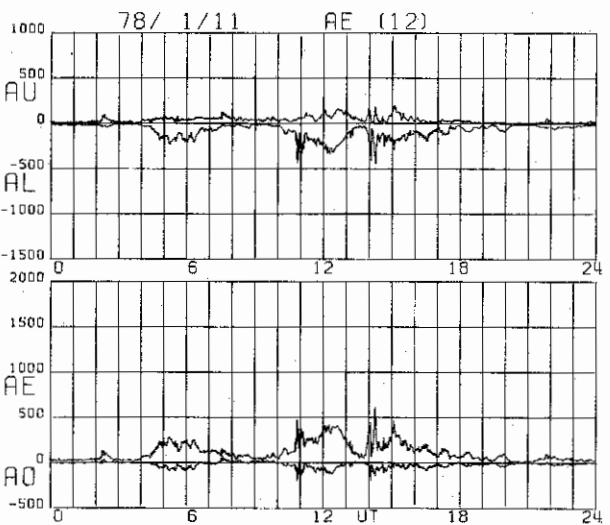
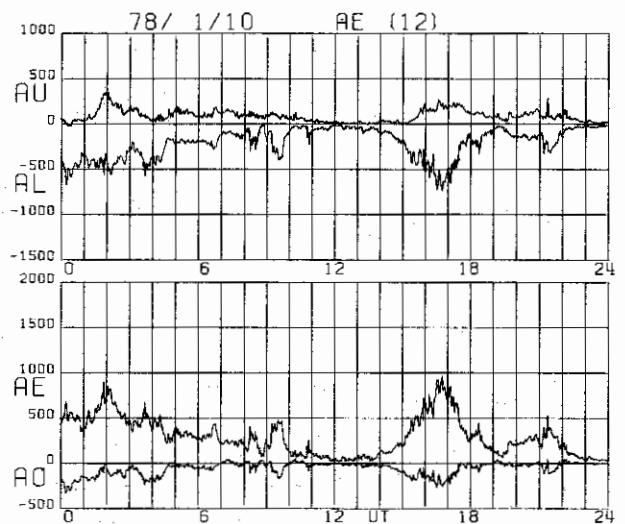
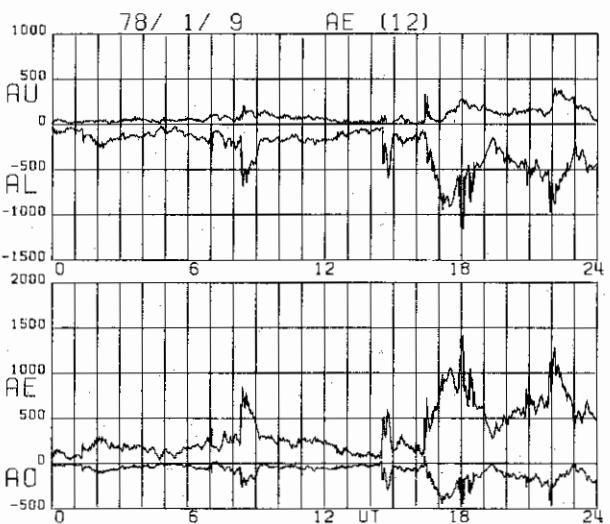
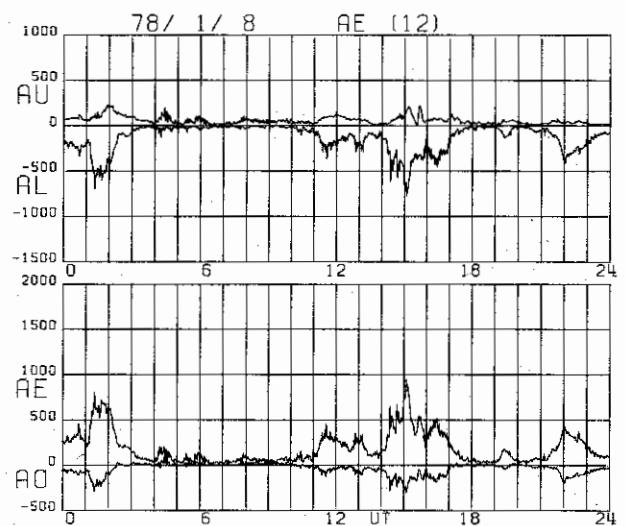
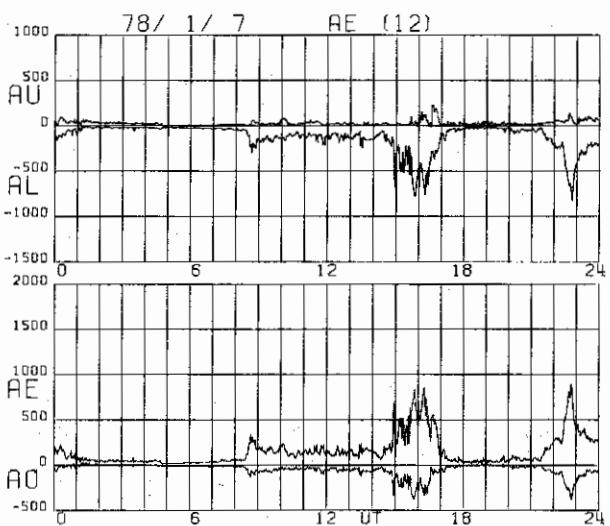
Daily graphs of 1.0-min AE indices (AU, AL, AE and AO) for January–June 1978. Graphs on very disturbed days (January 4 and 30, February 15, April 30, May 1, 4 and 9) are reproduced on pages 100 and 101.

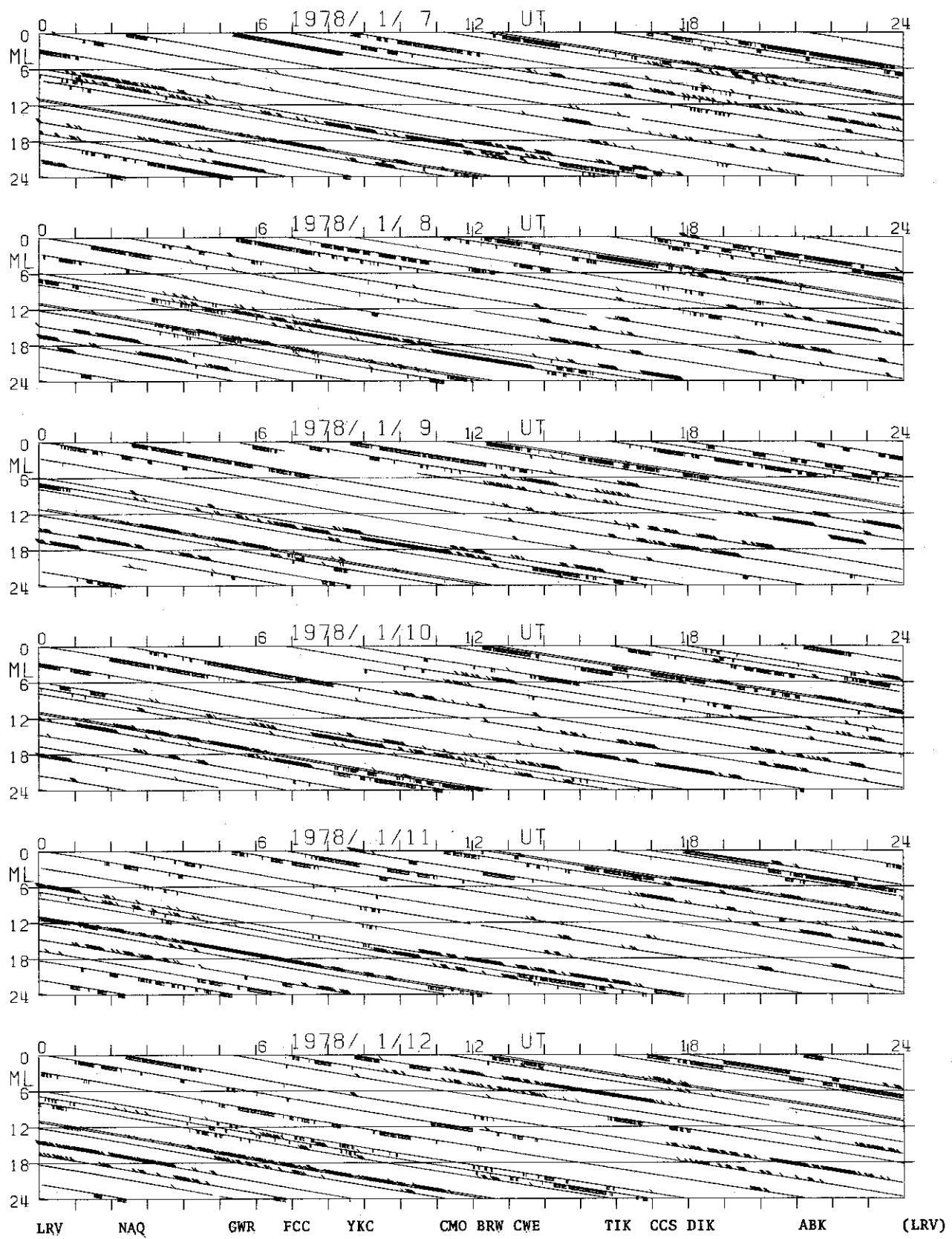
FIGURE 5 (on odd pages)

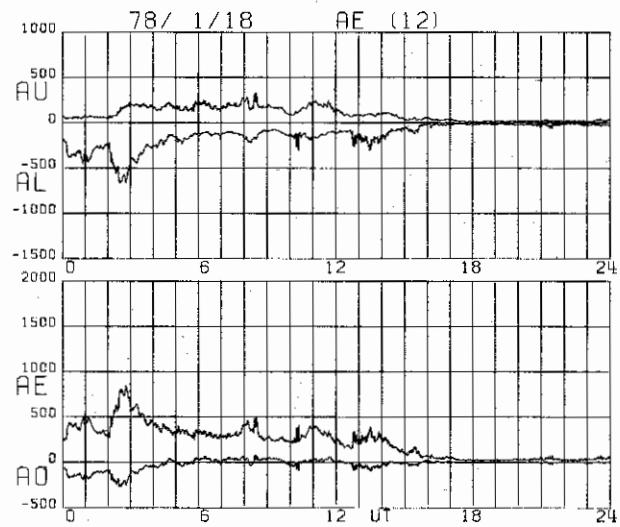
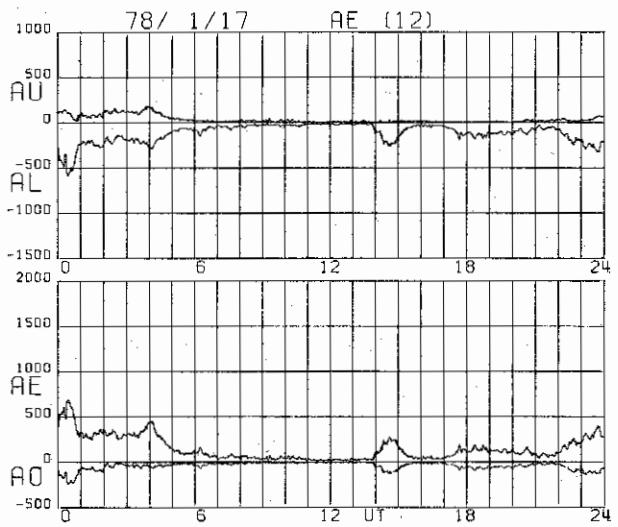
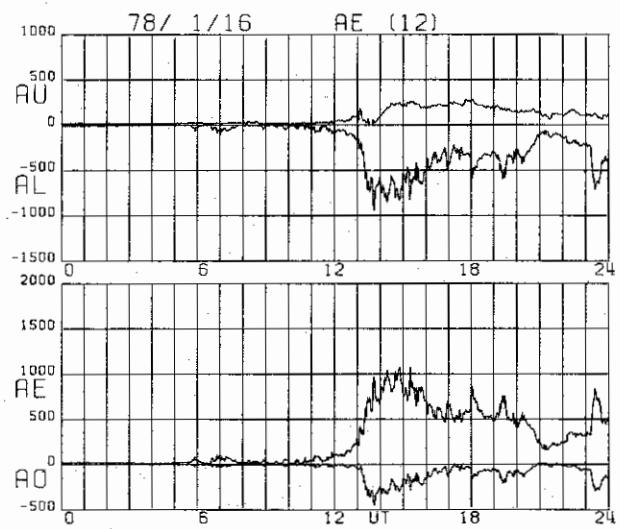
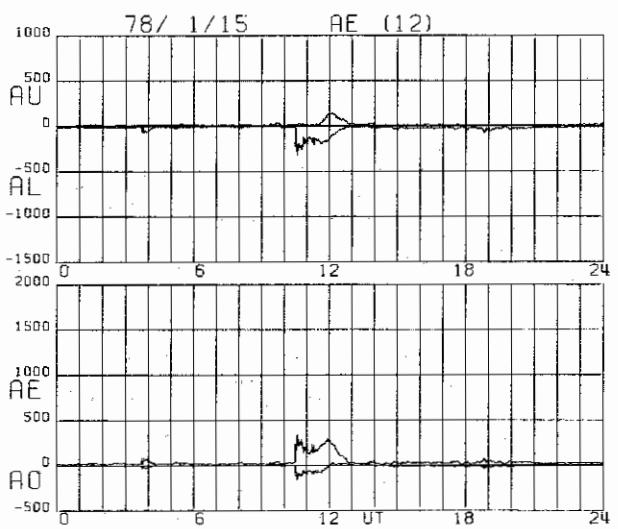
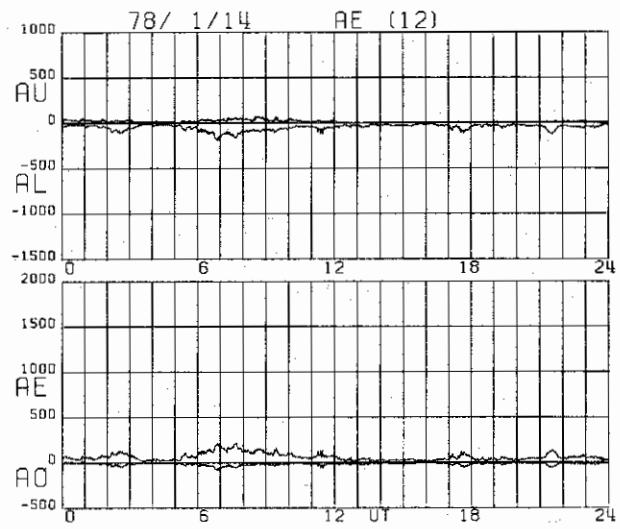
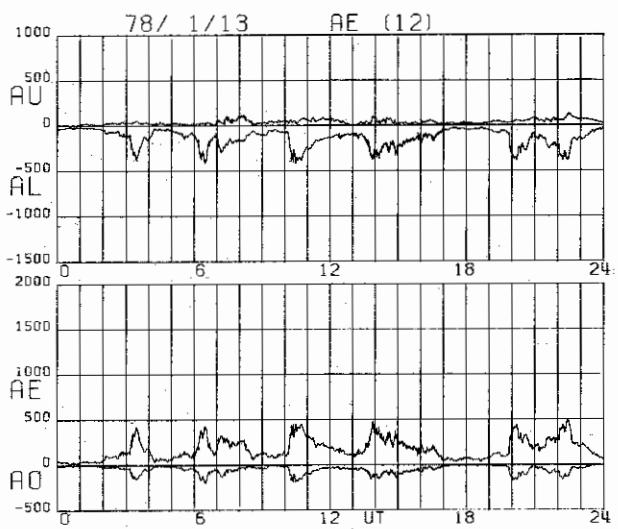
Plots of the contributing stations to the AU (upper plumes) and AL (lower plumes) indices, where you can see which station contributes to these indices at every UT hour.

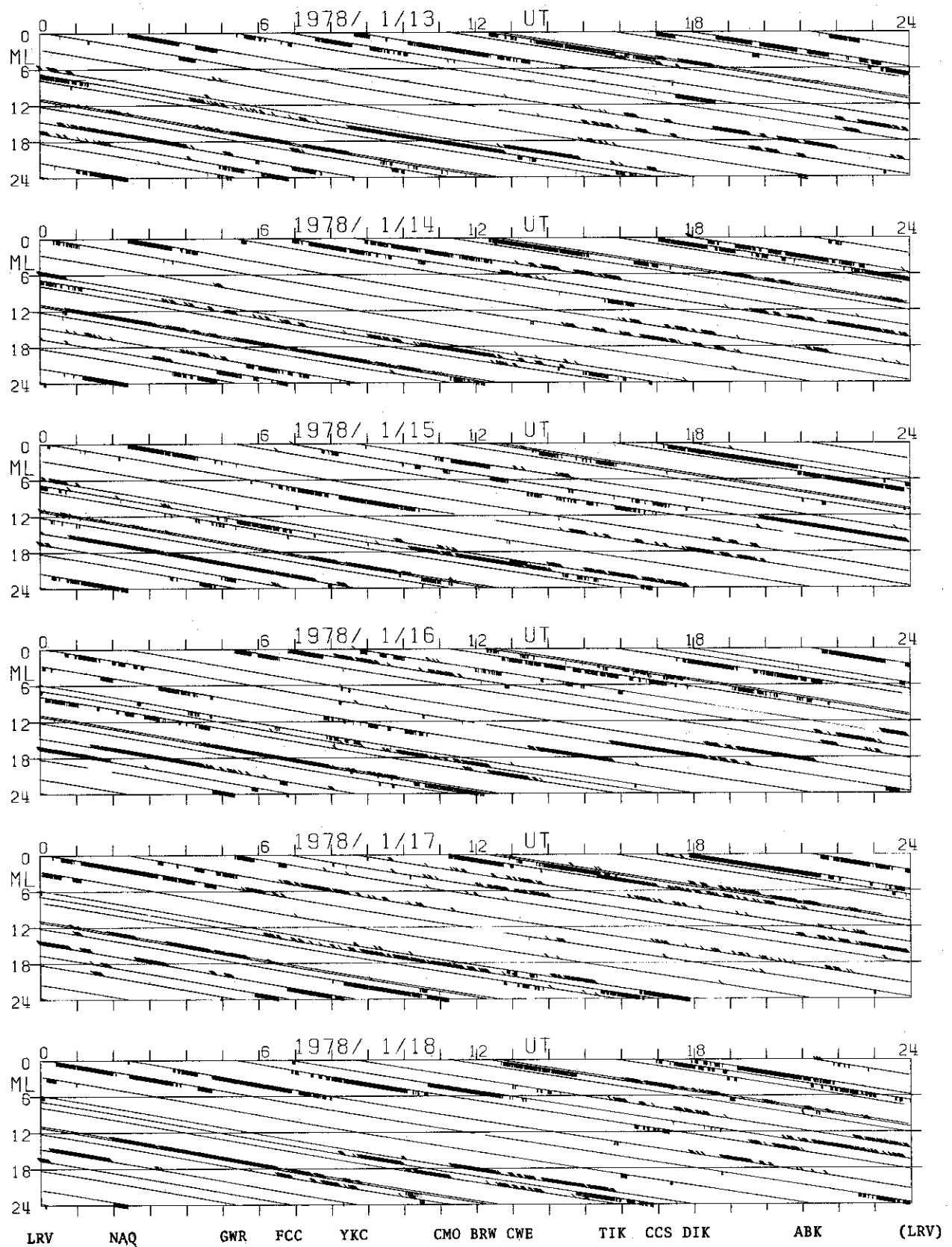


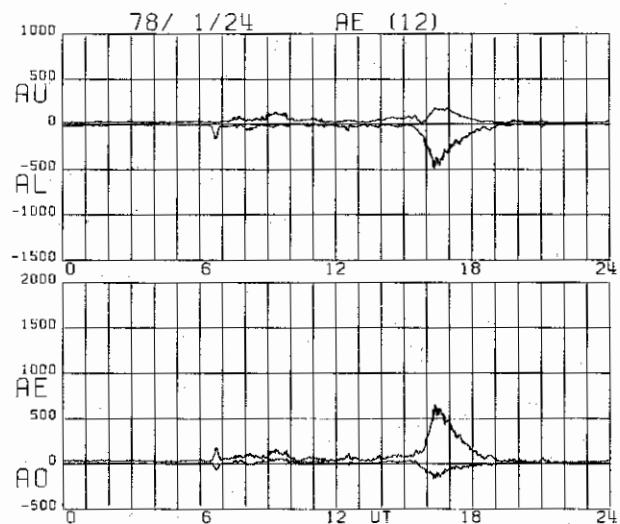
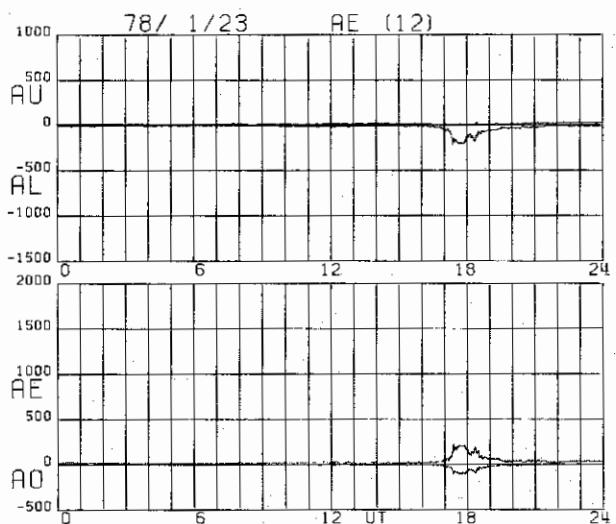
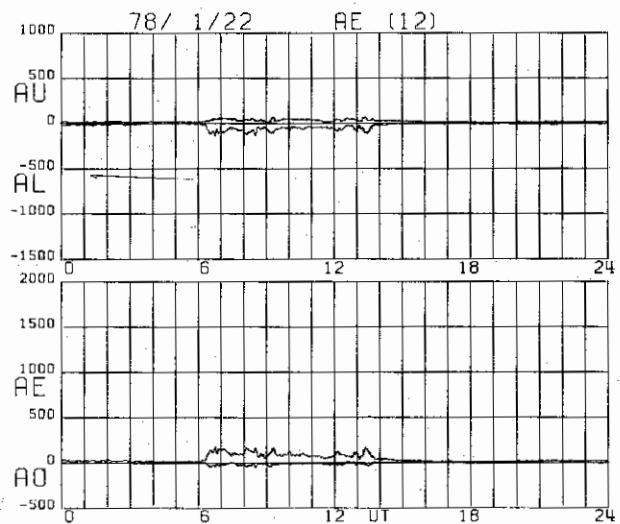
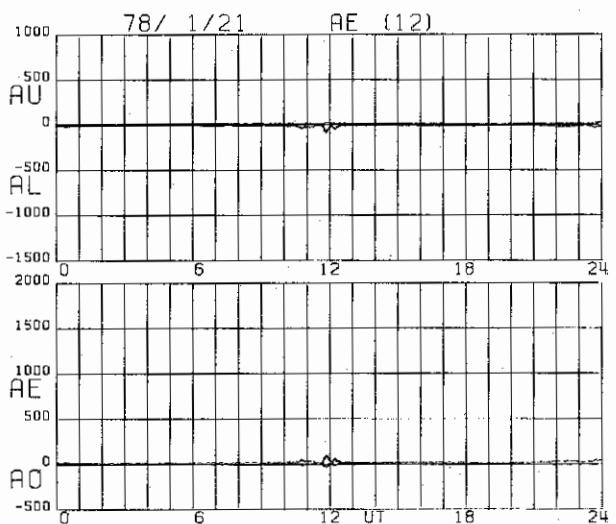
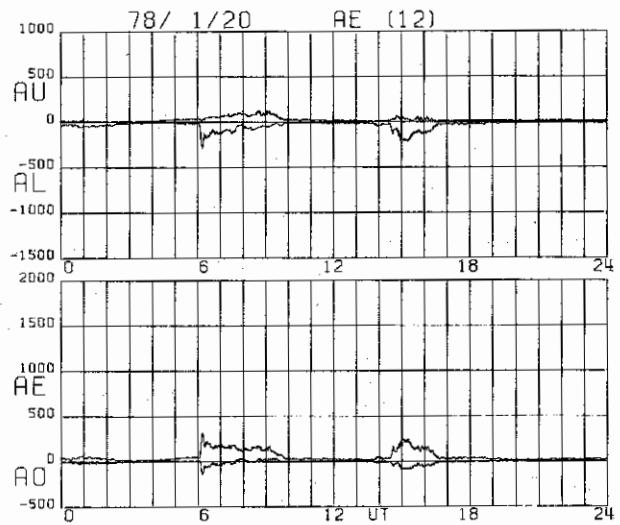
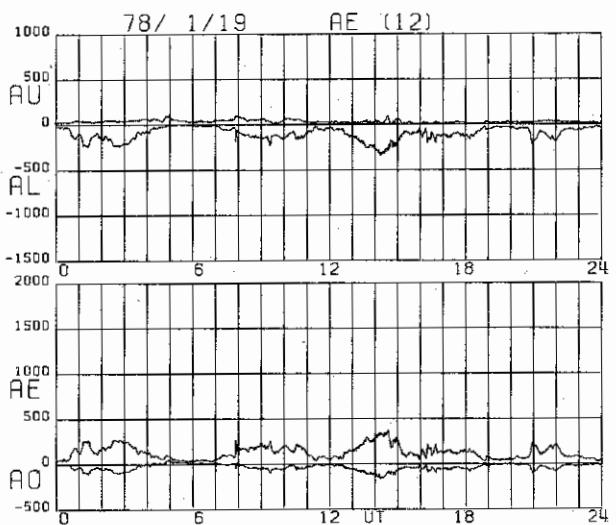


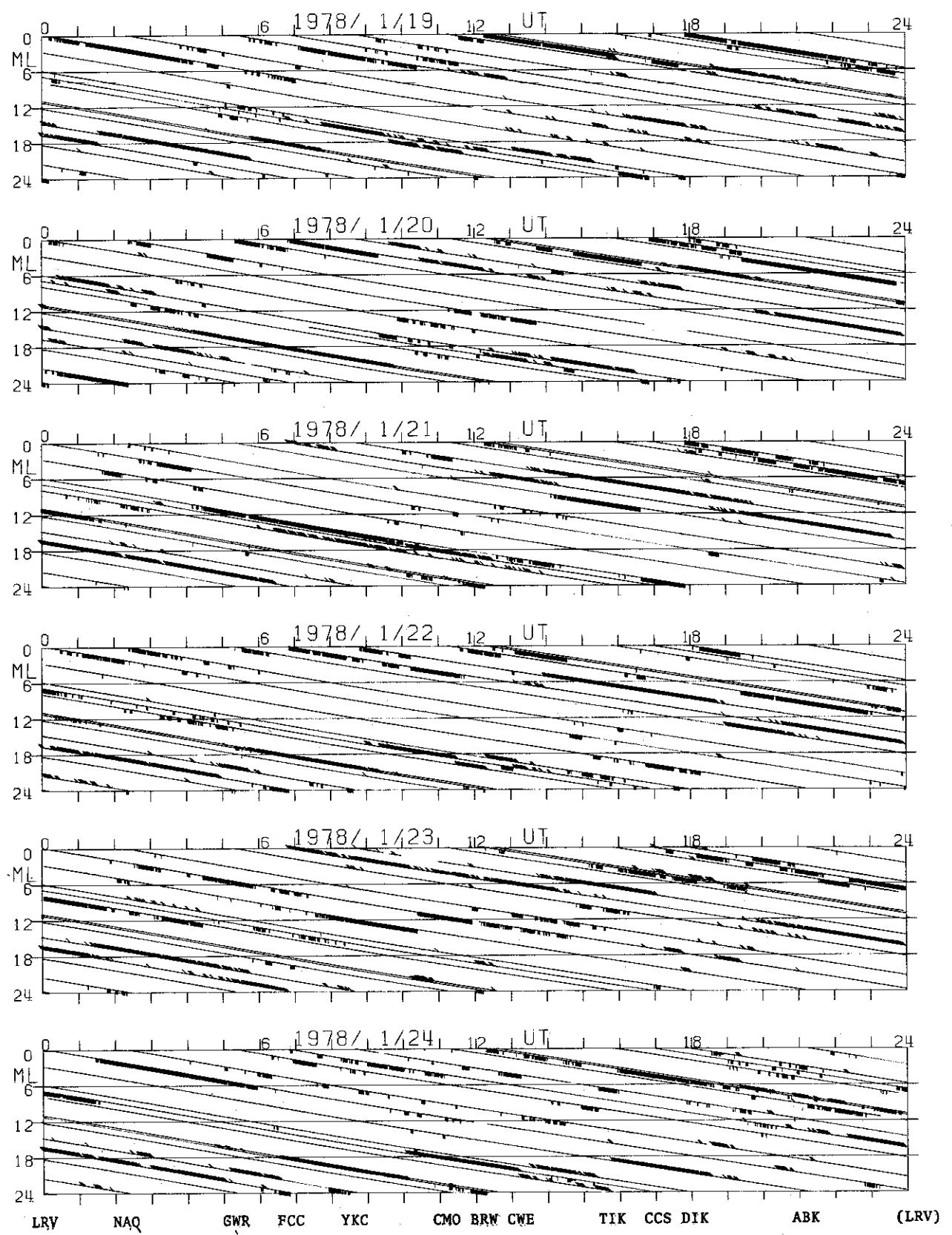


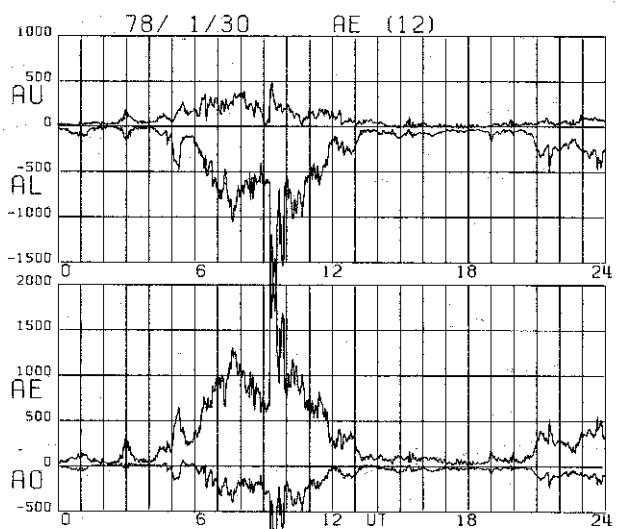
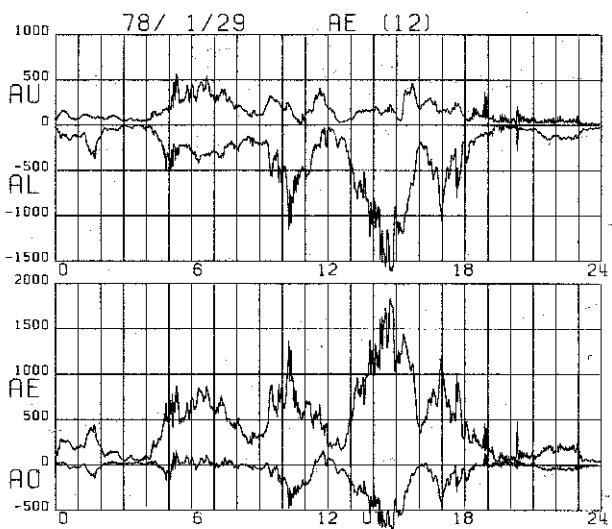
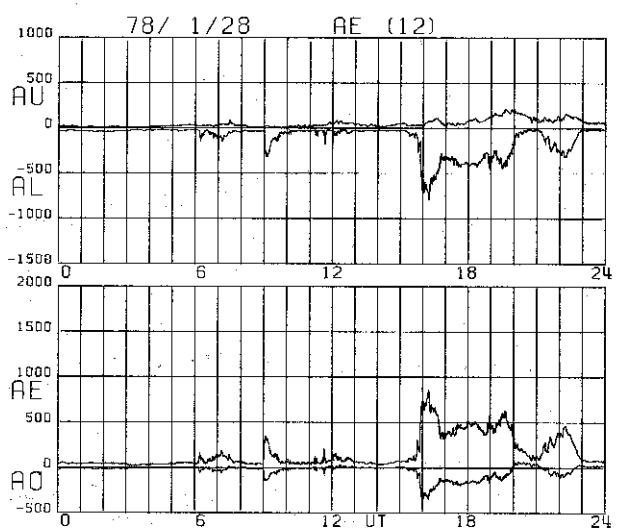
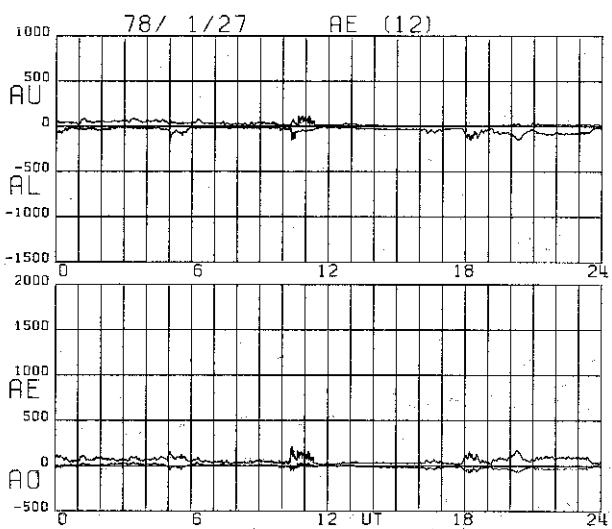
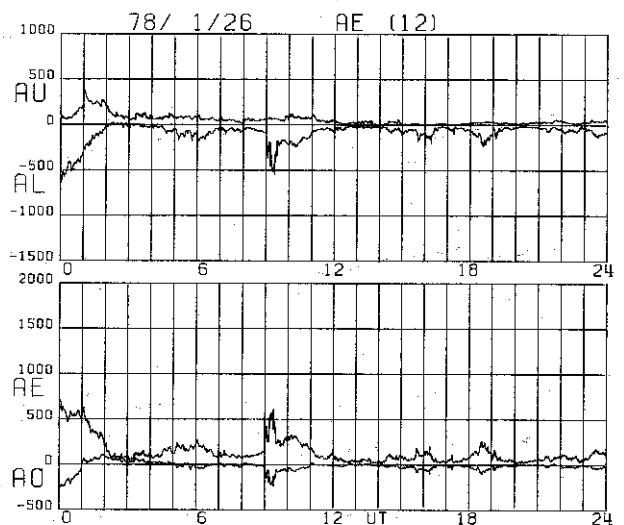
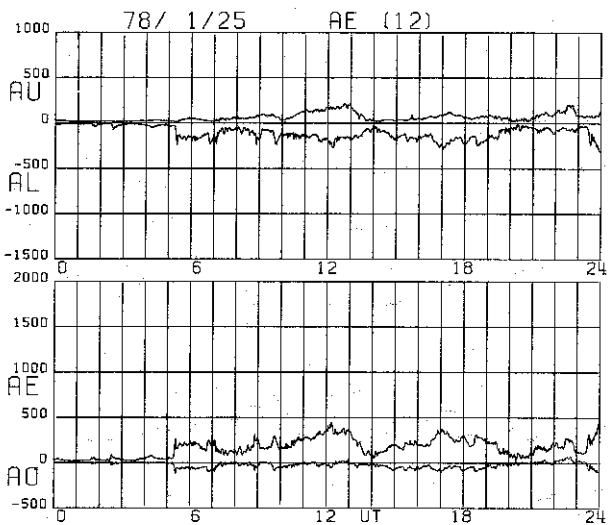


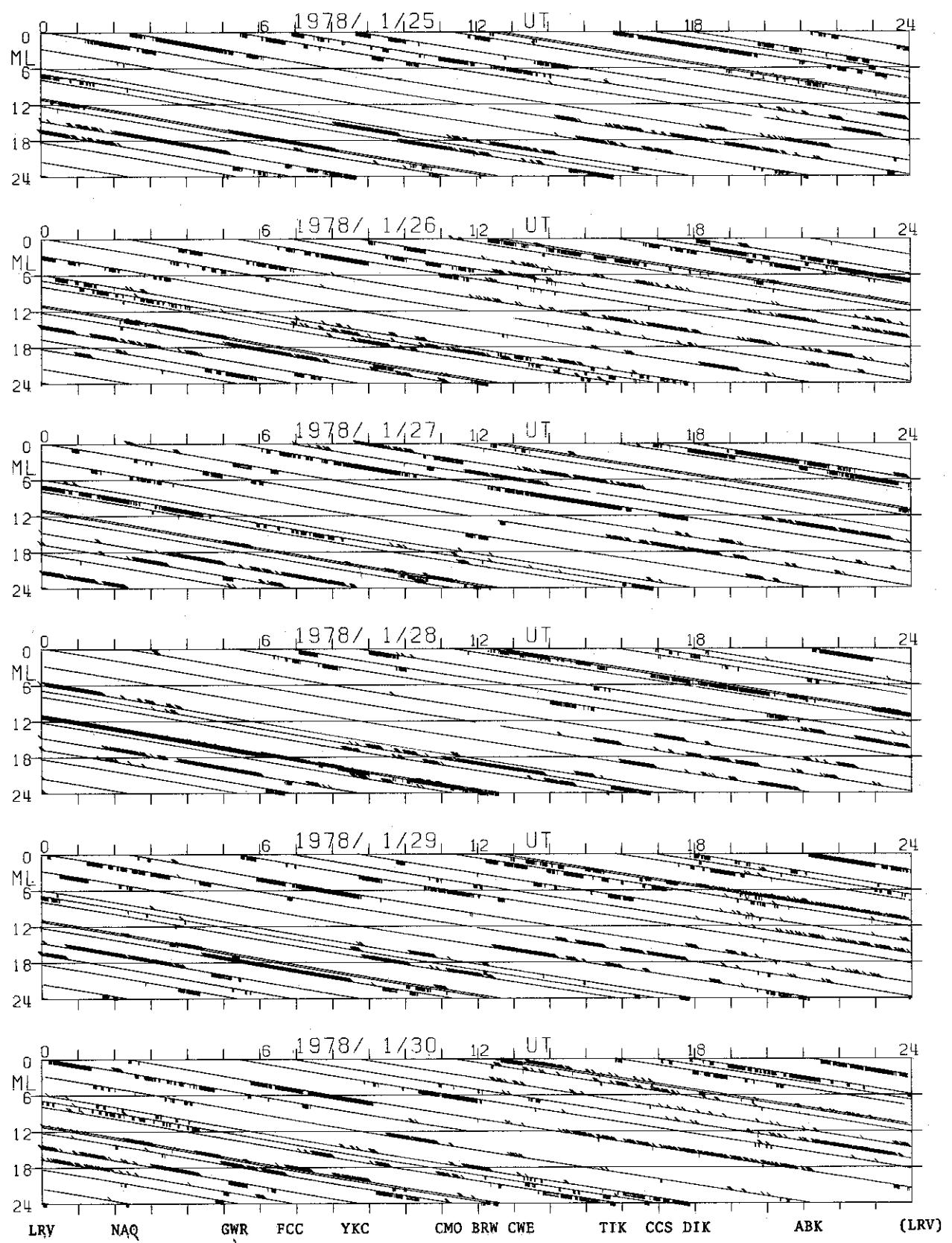


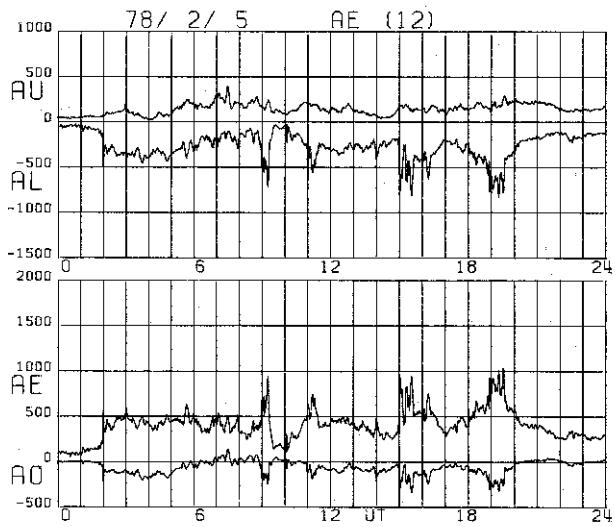
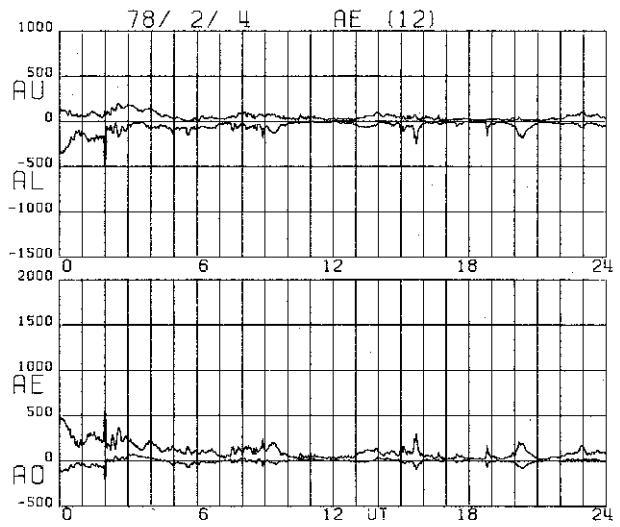
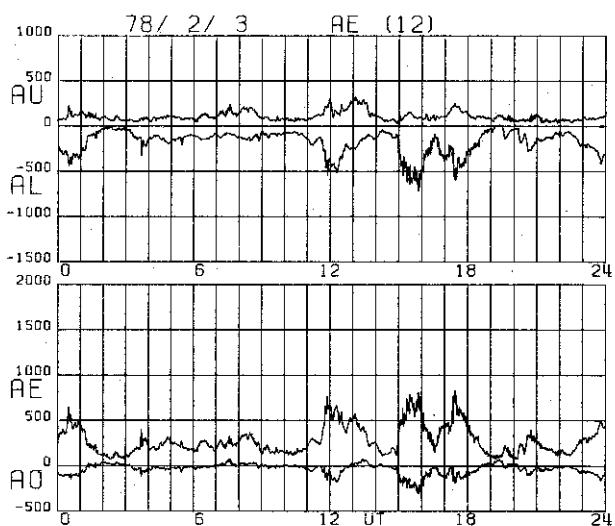
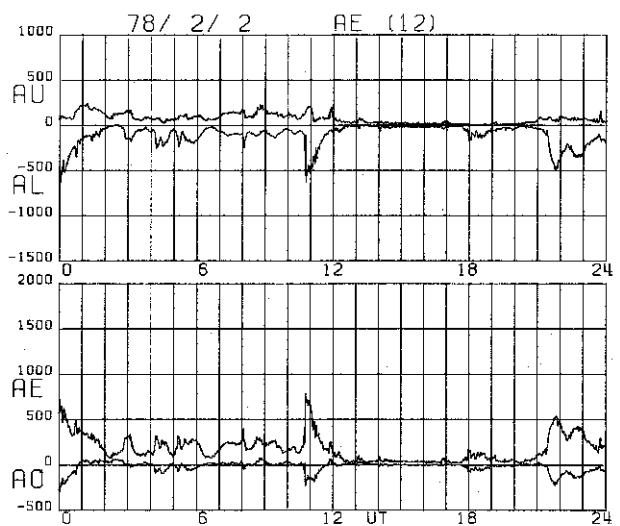
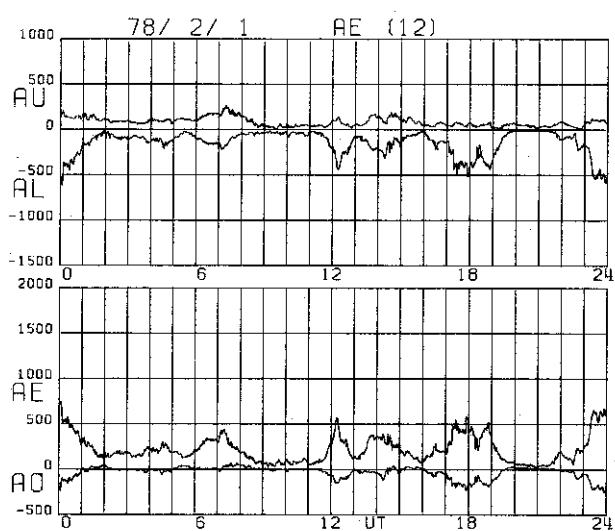
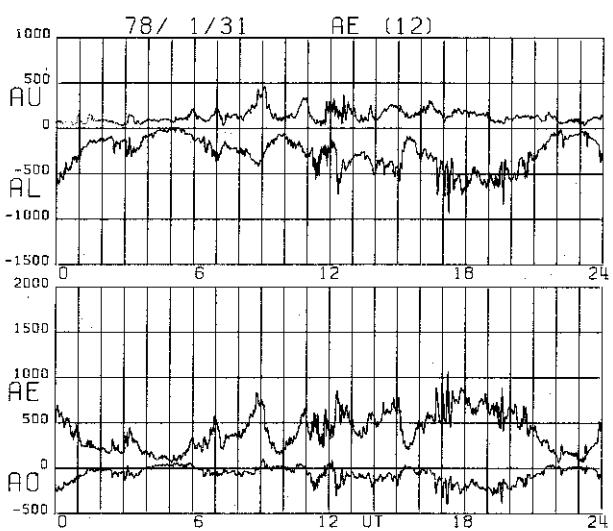


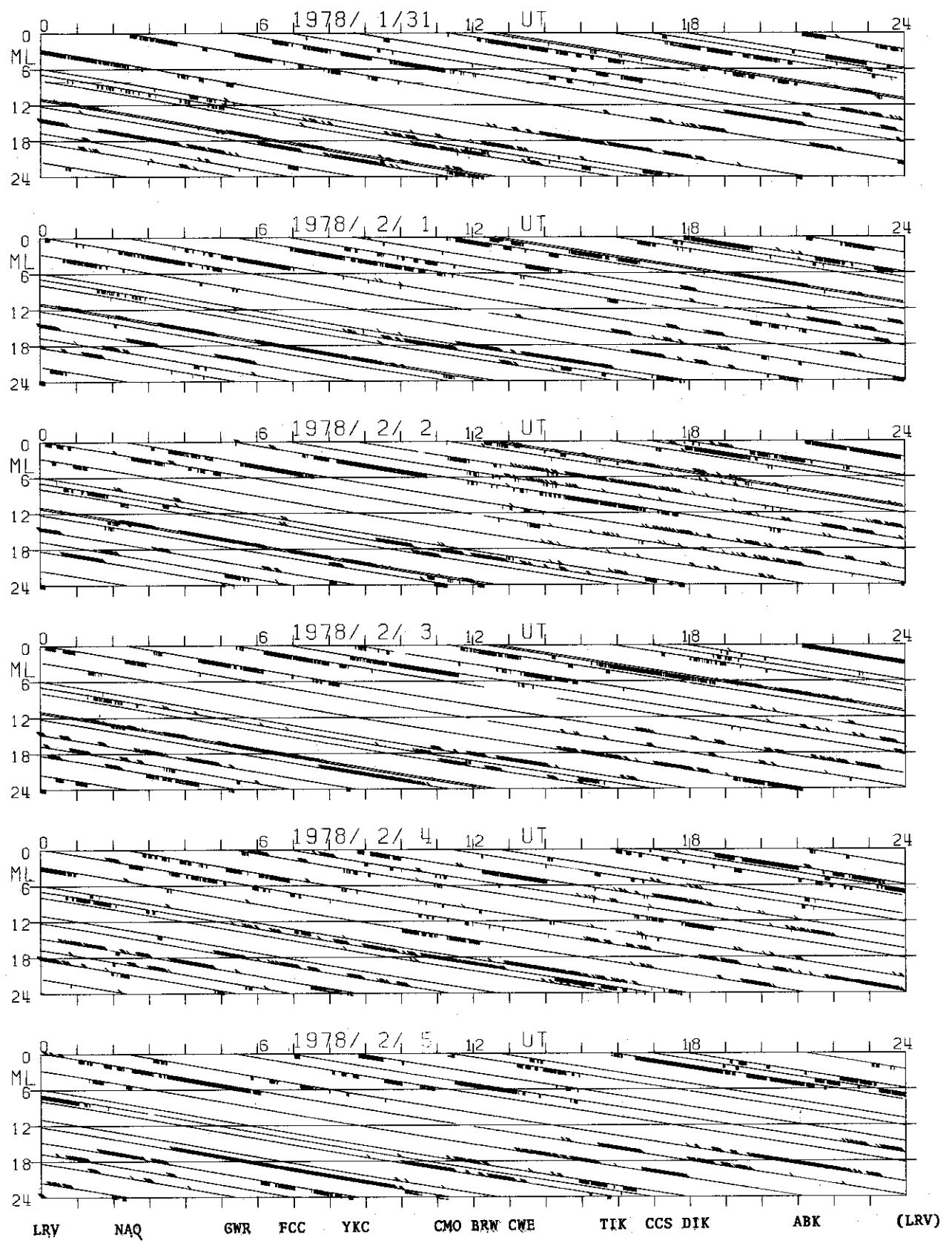


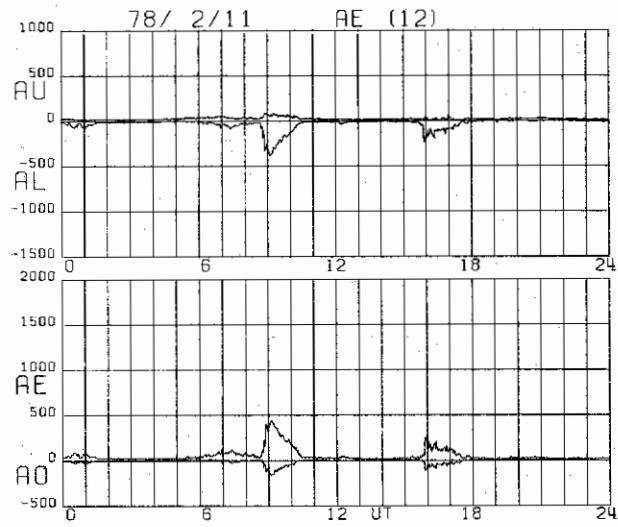
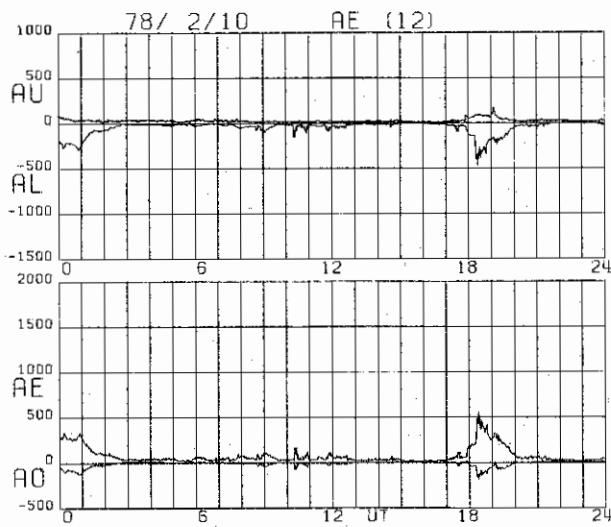
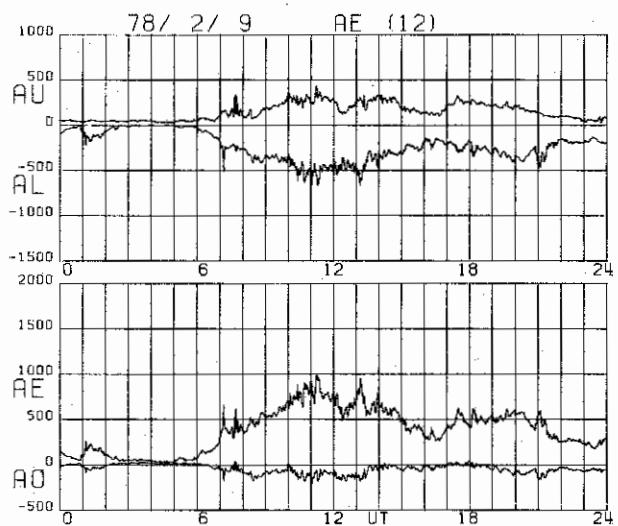
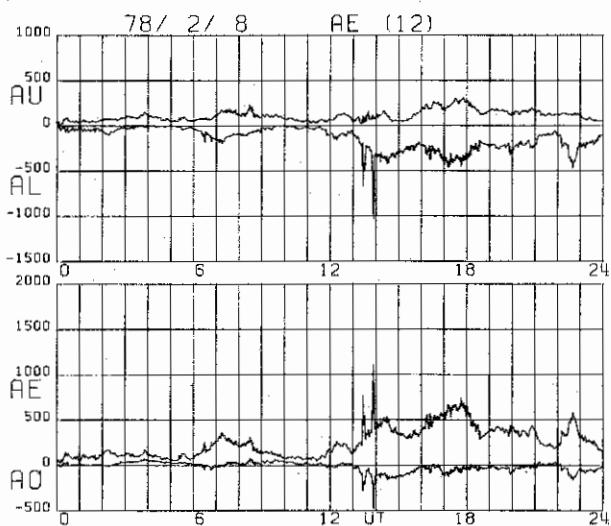
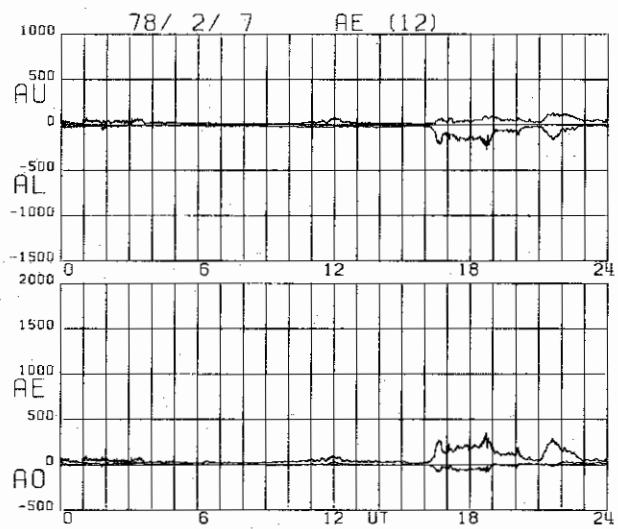
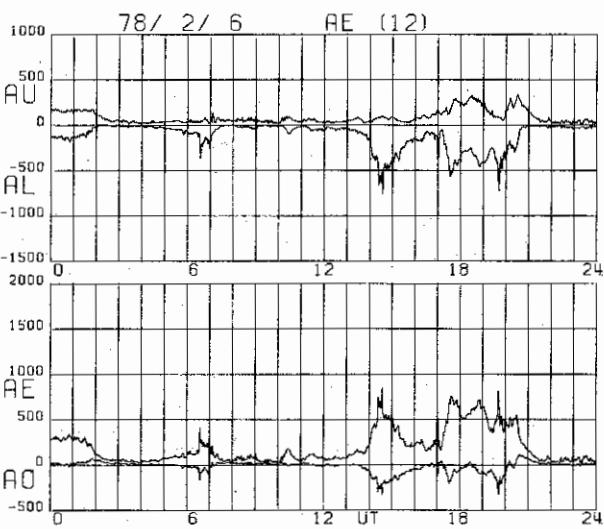


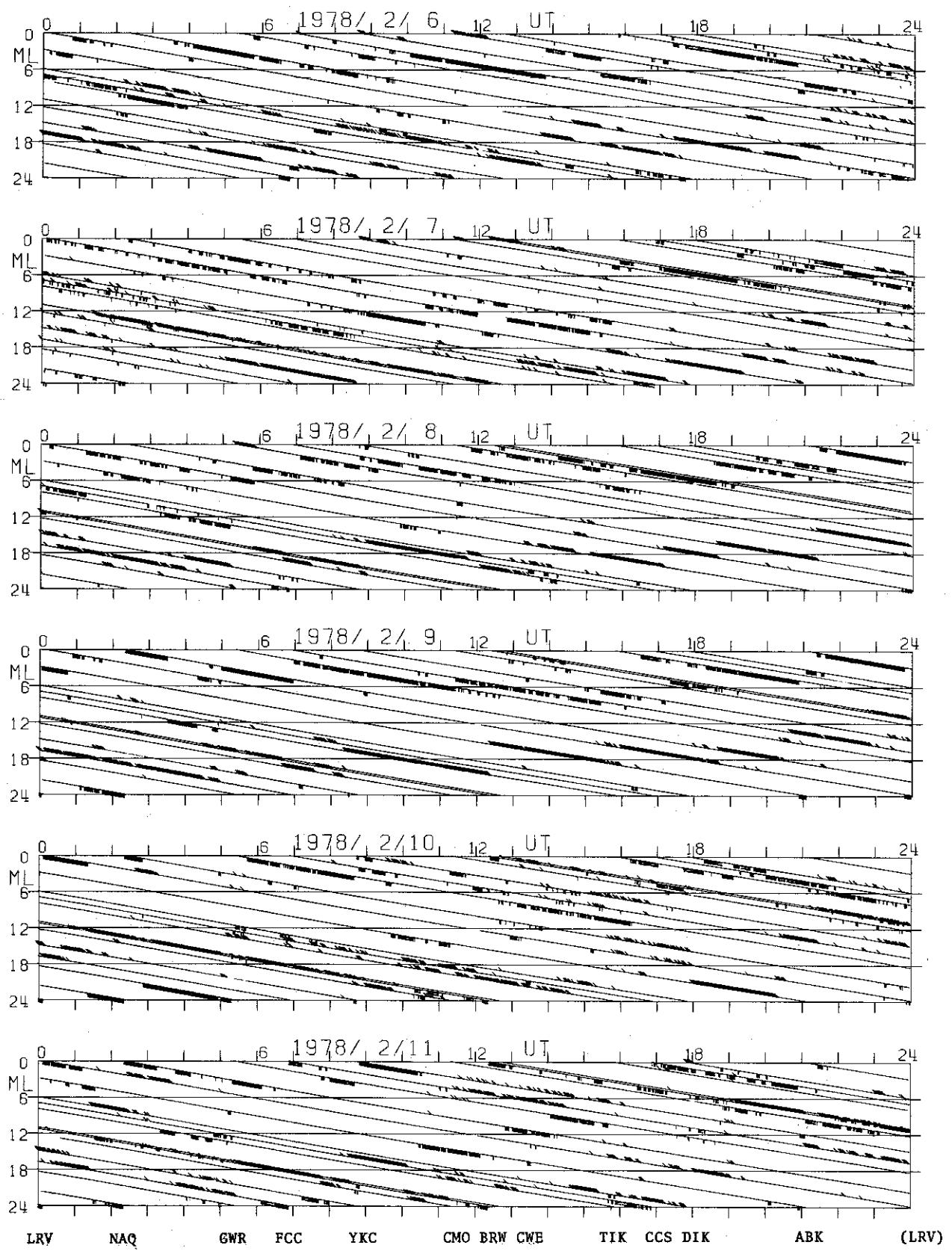


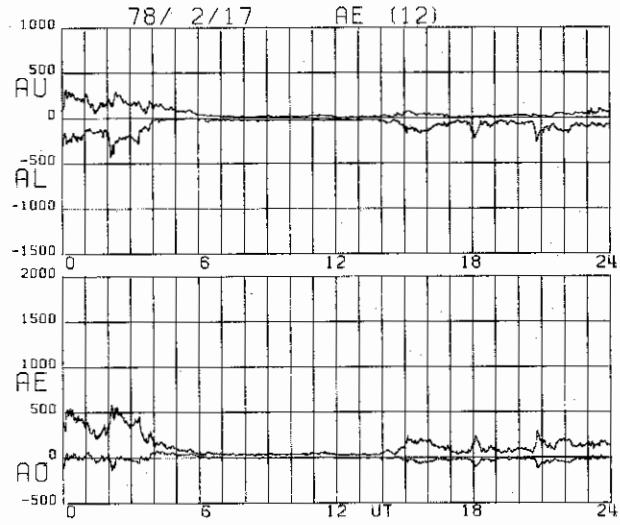
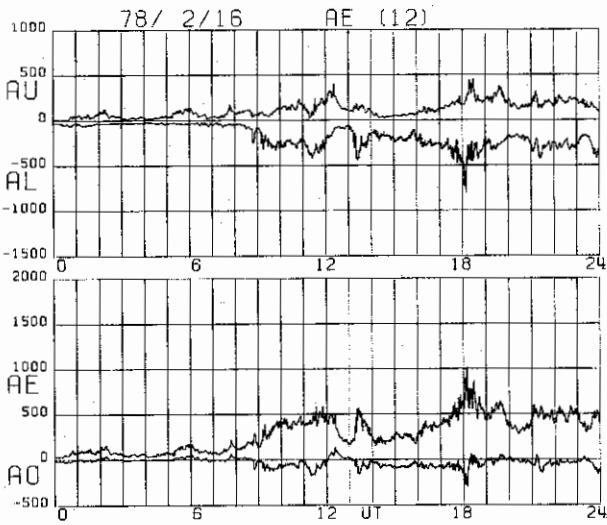
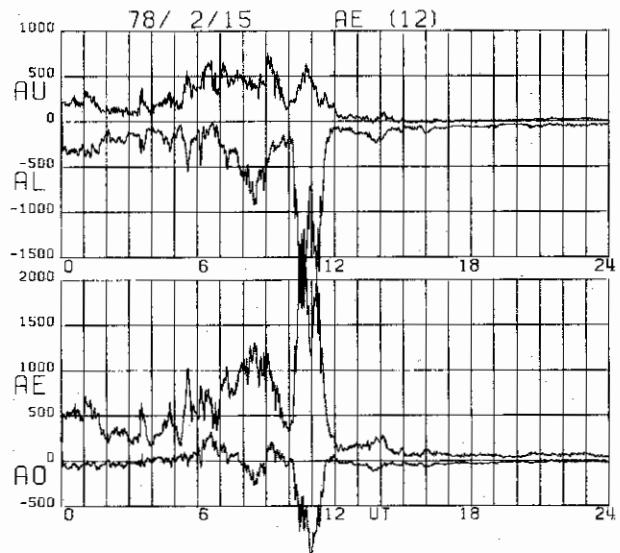
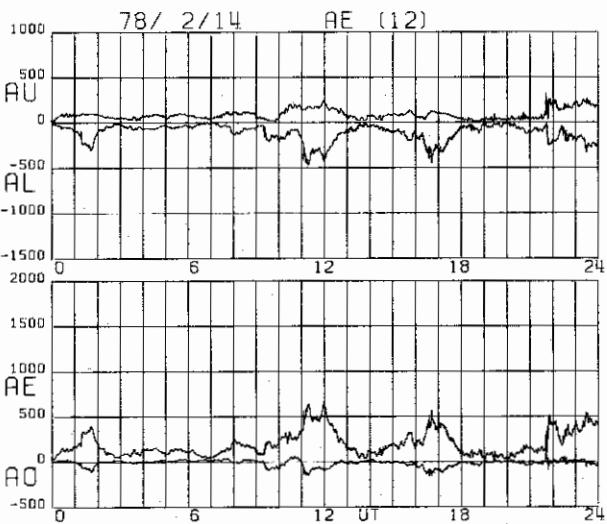
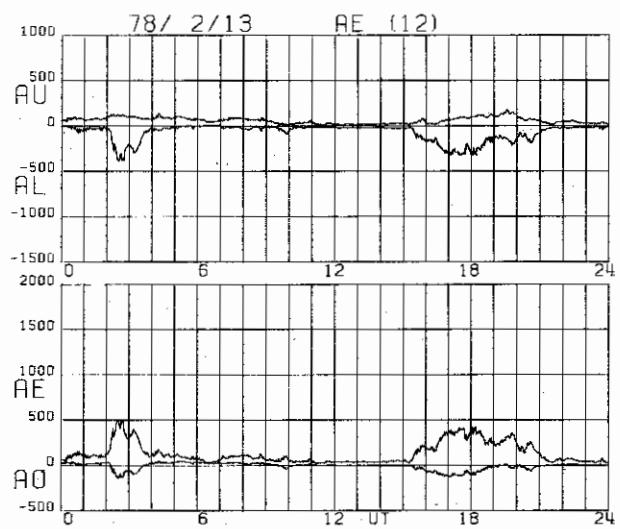
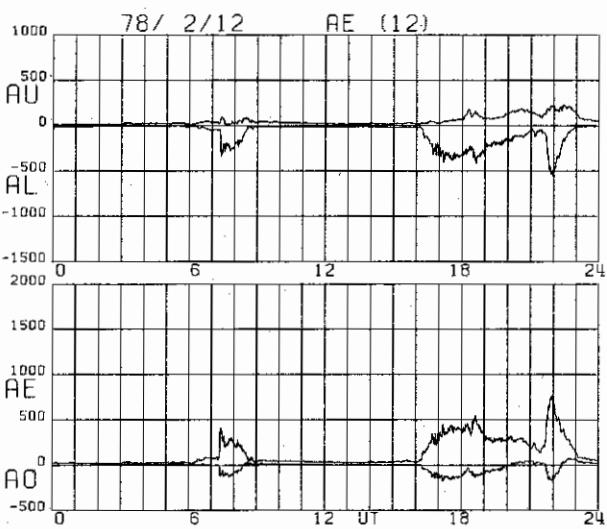


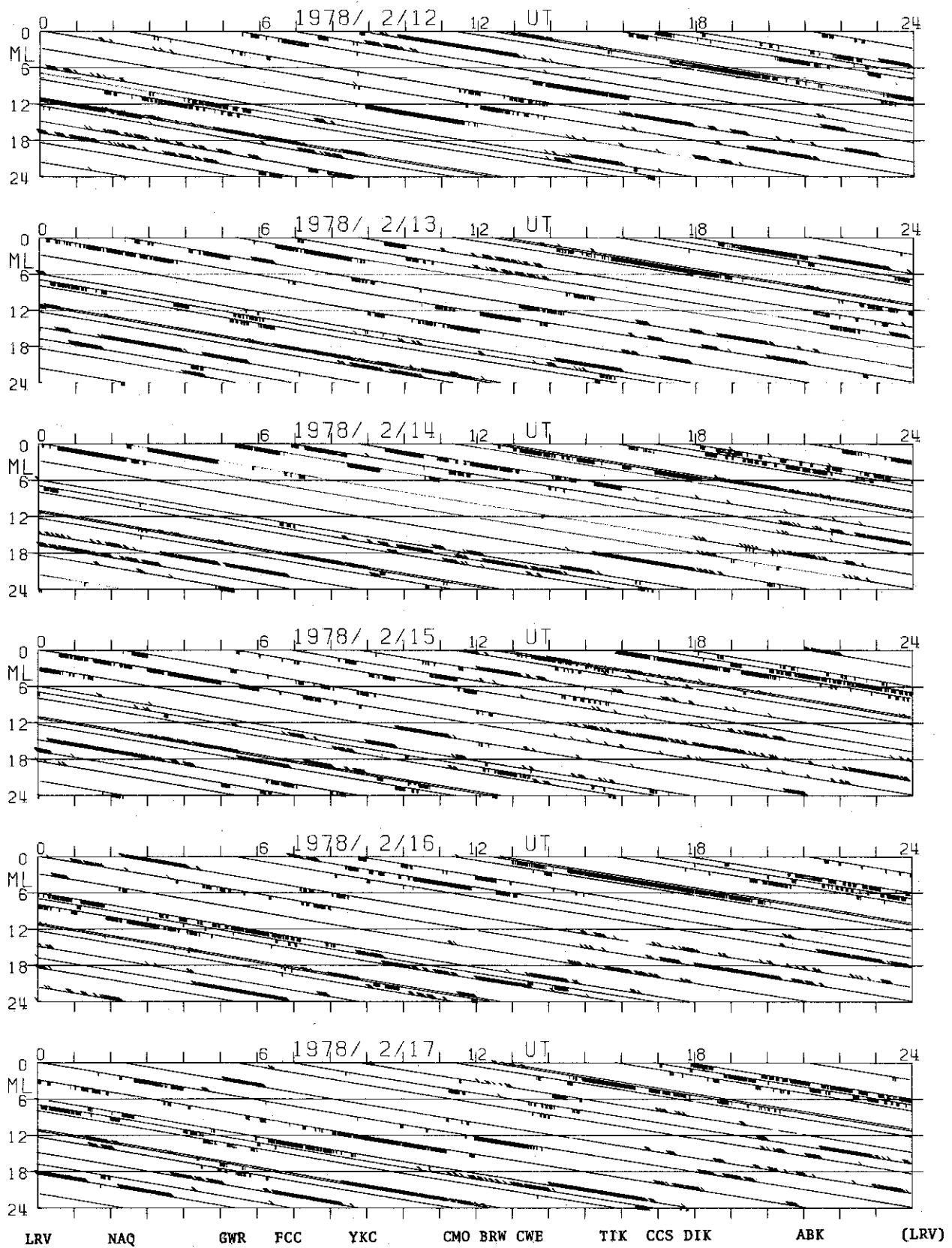


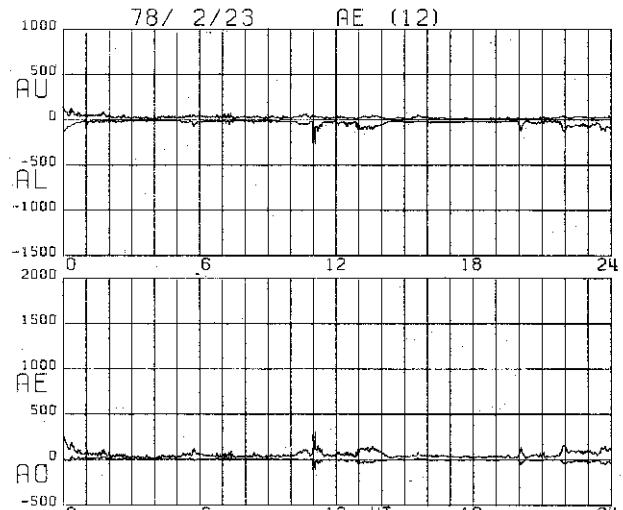
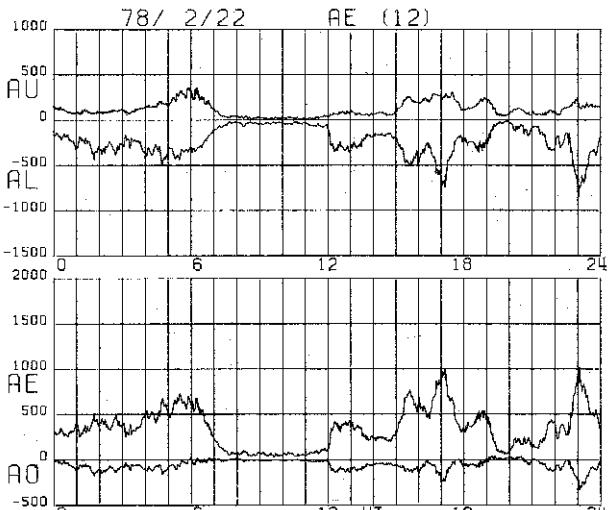
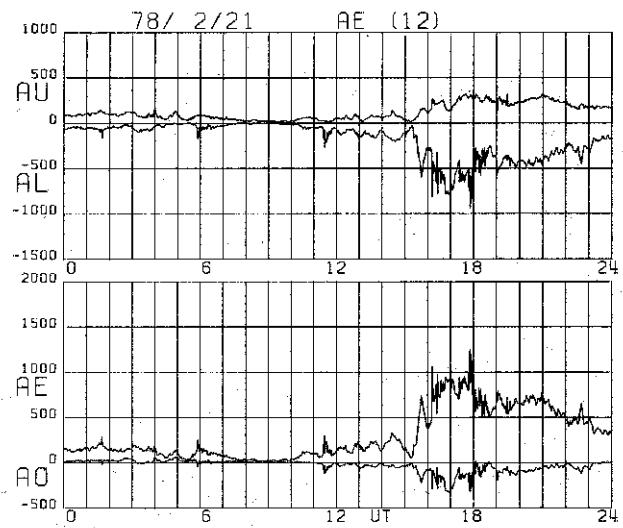
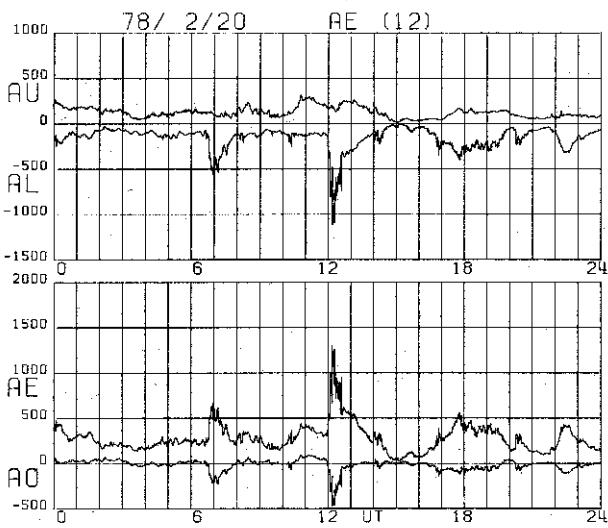
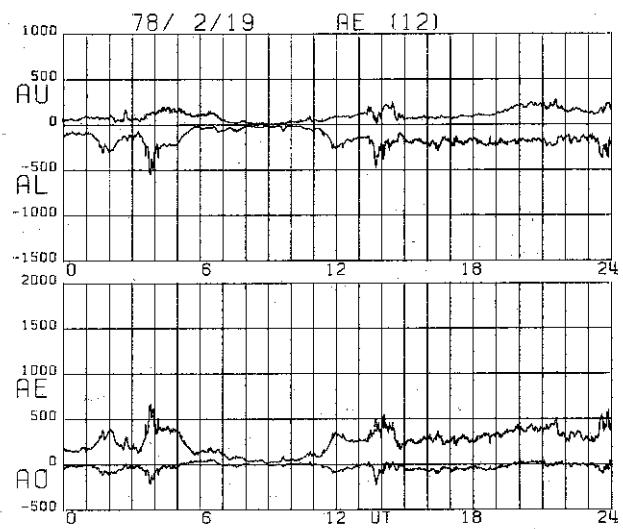
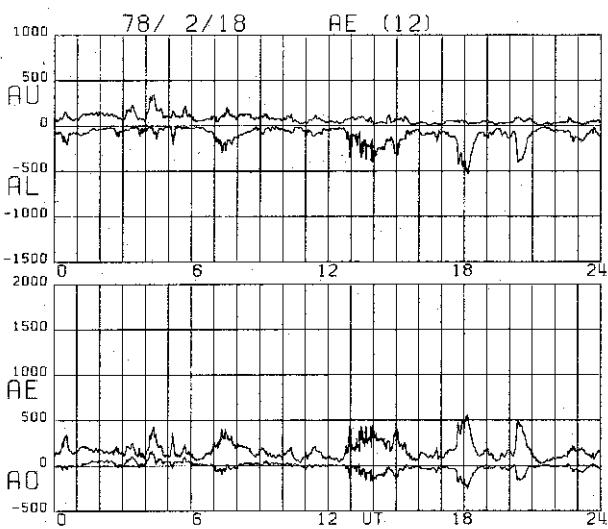


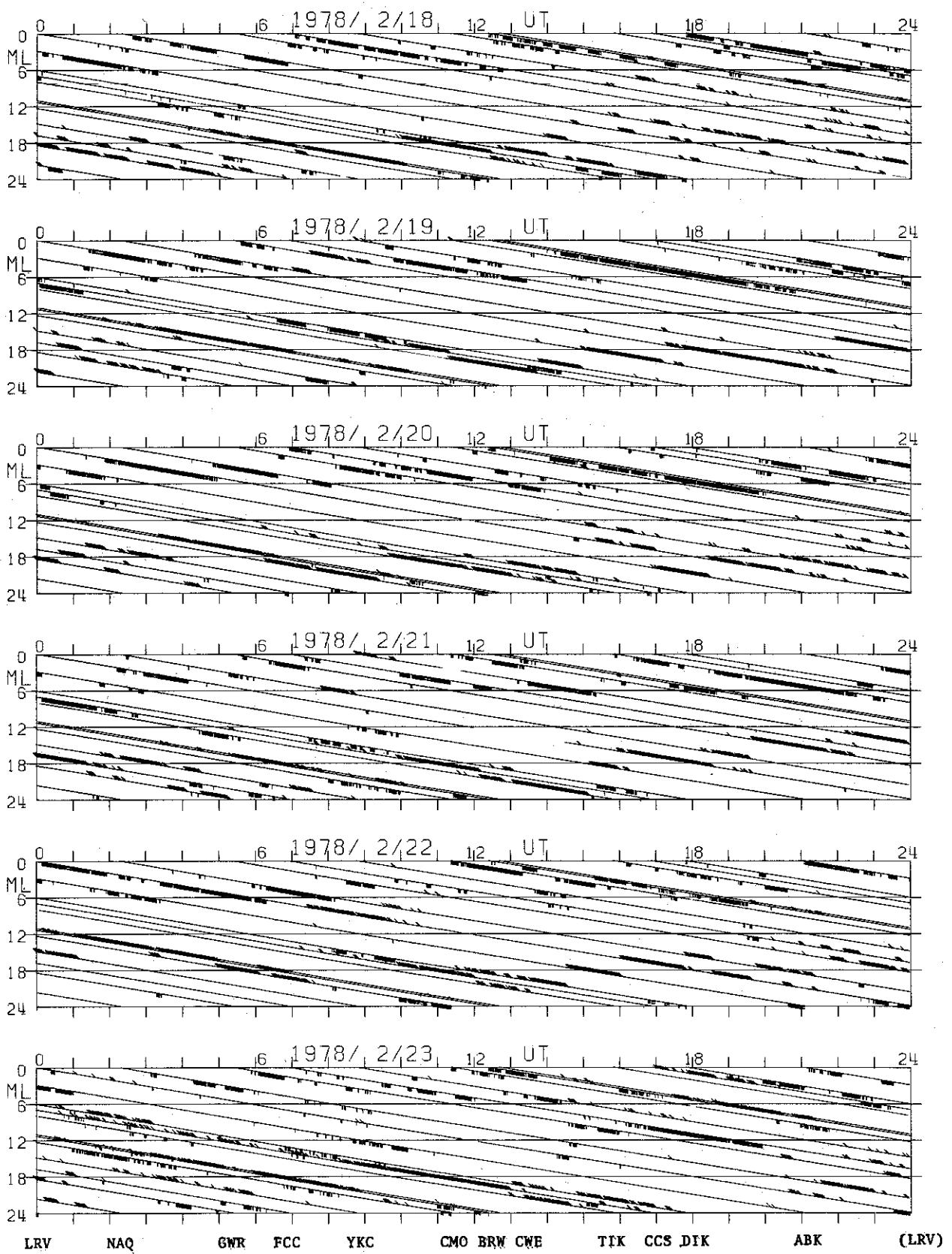


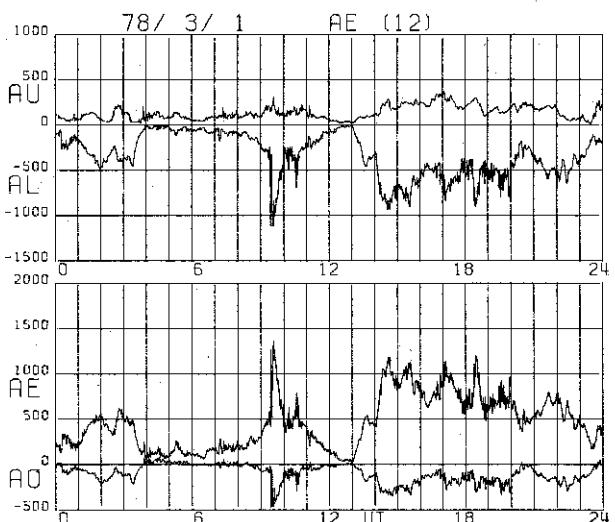
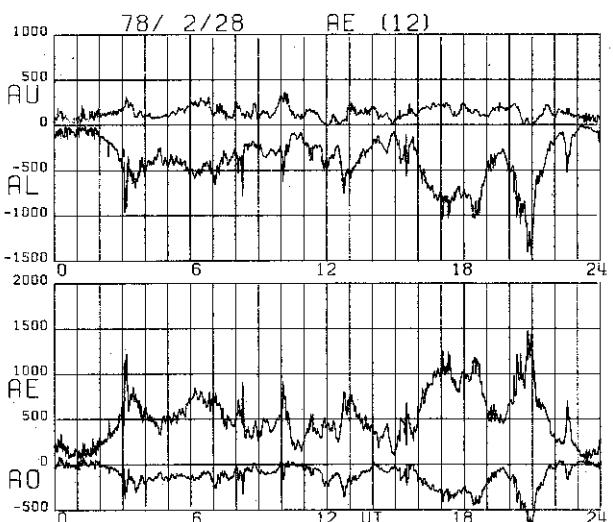
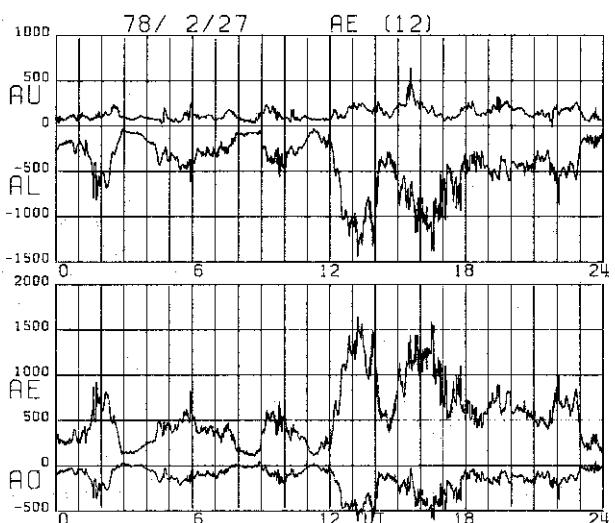
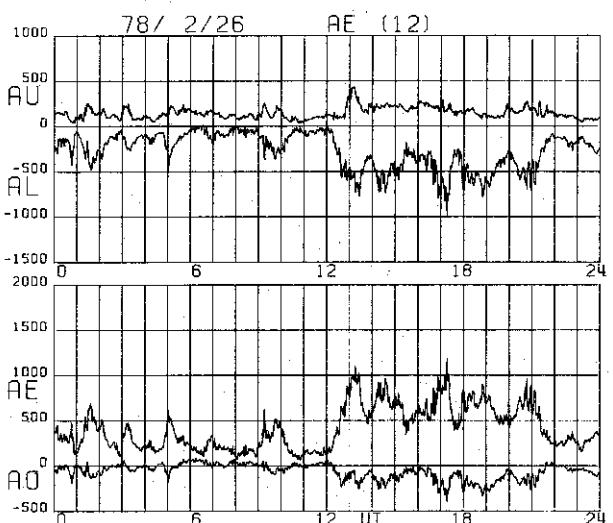
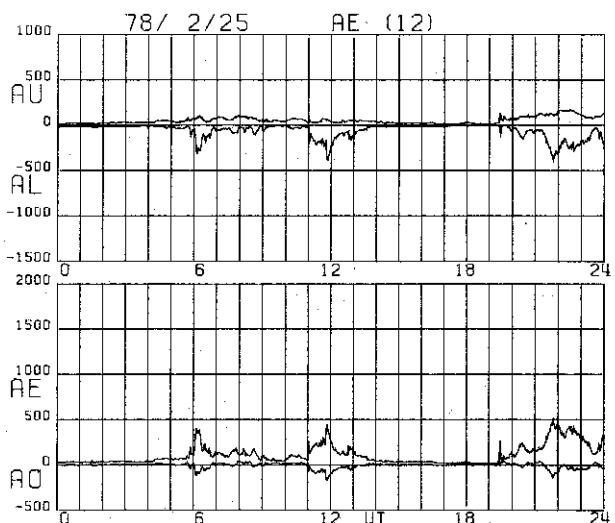
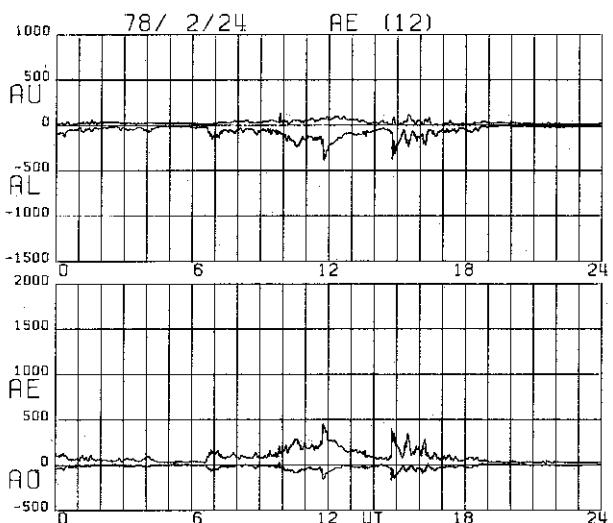


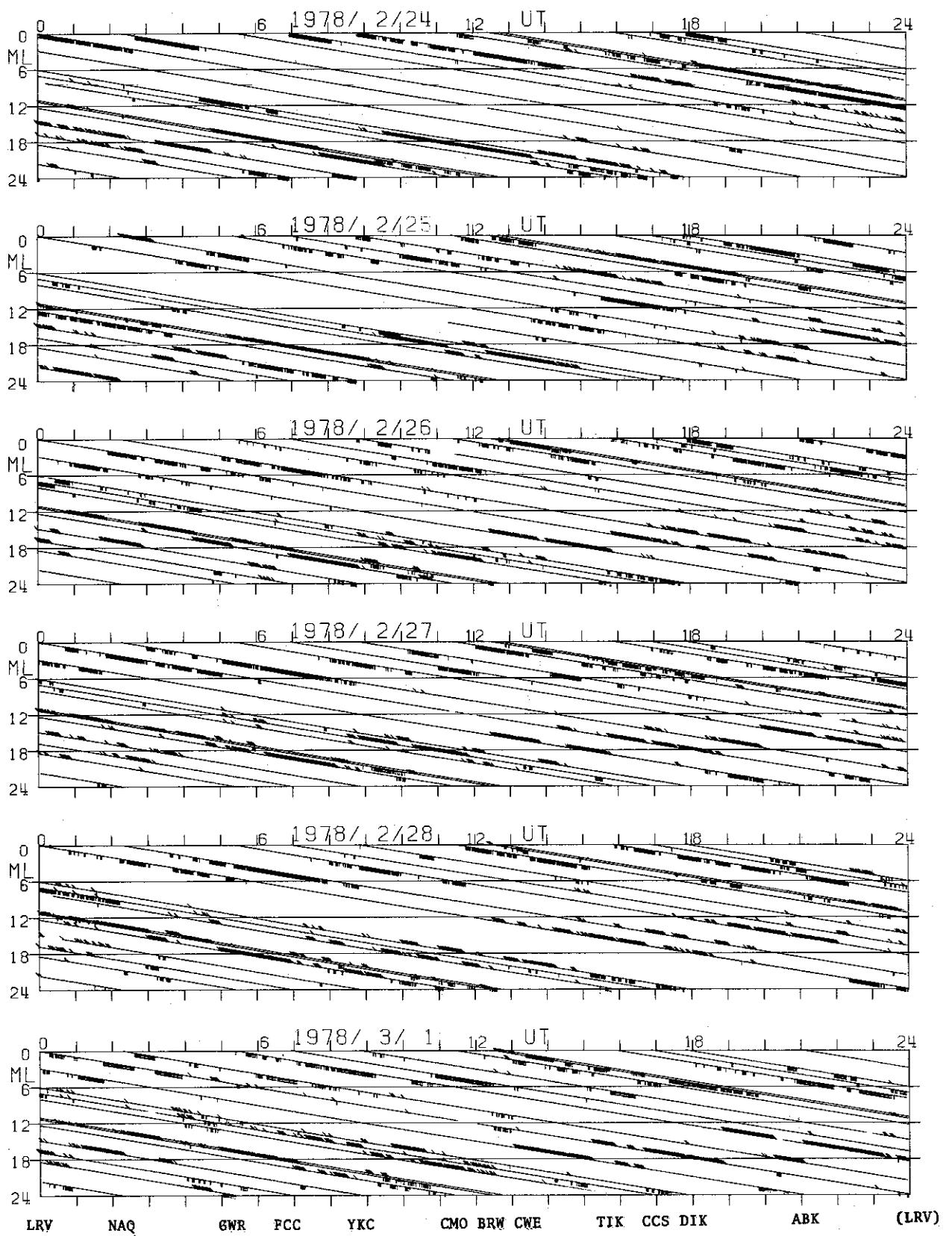


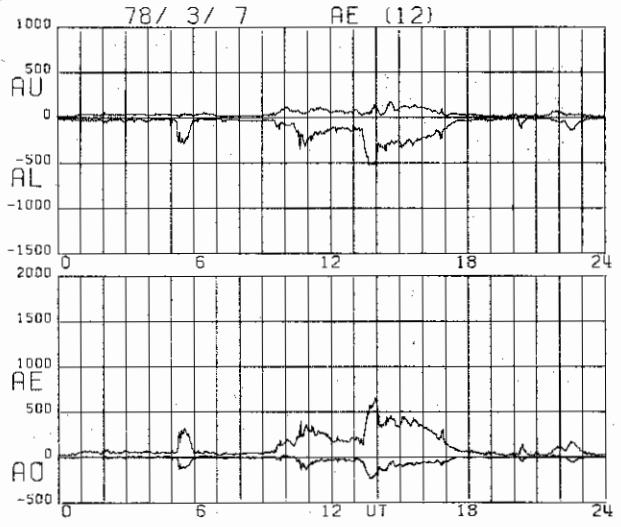
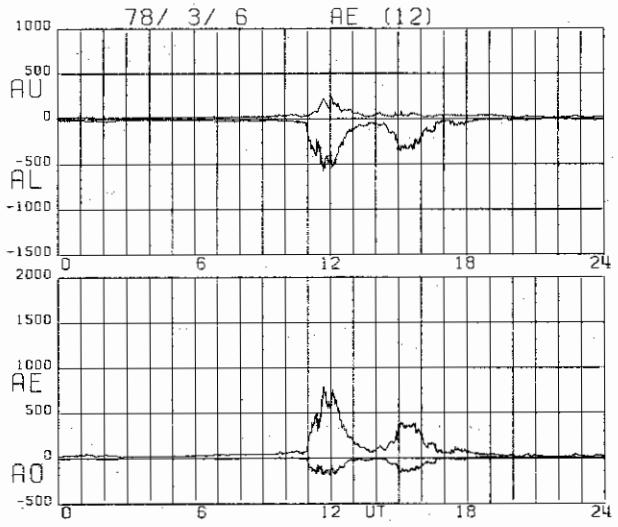
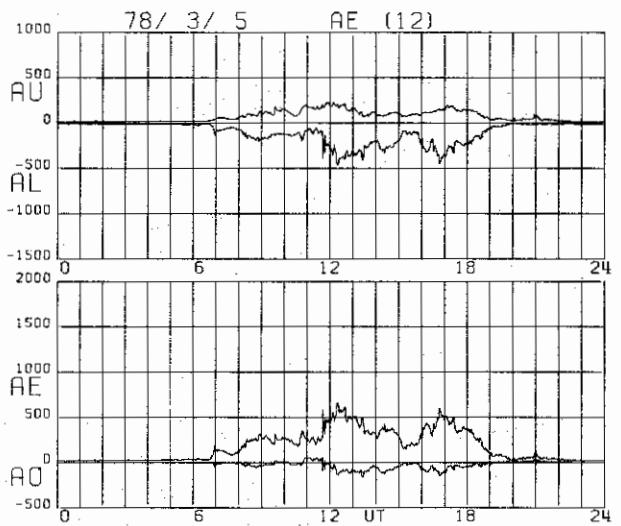
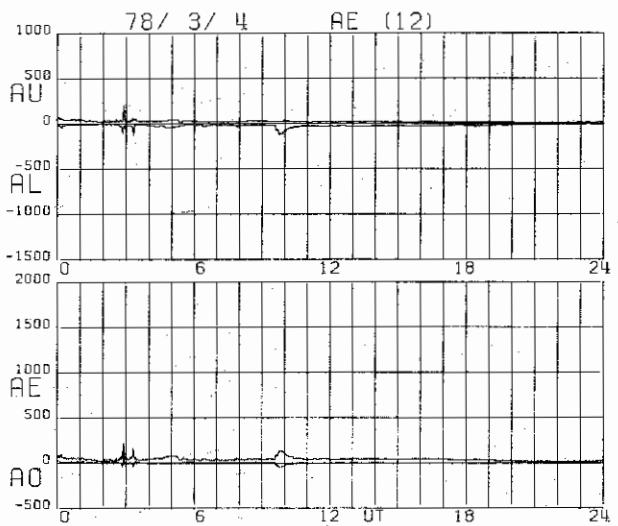
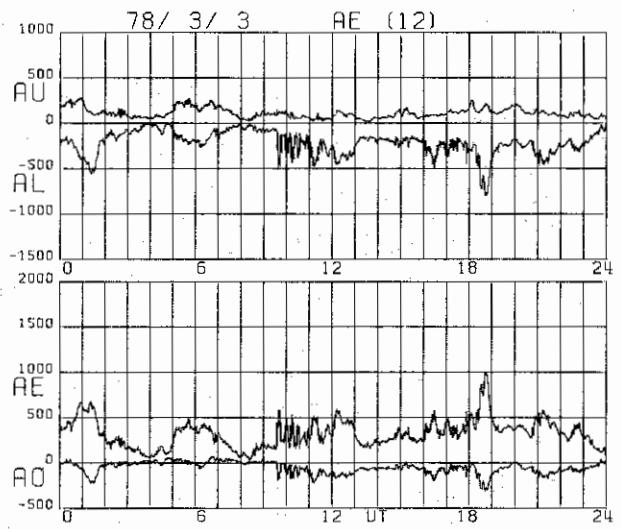
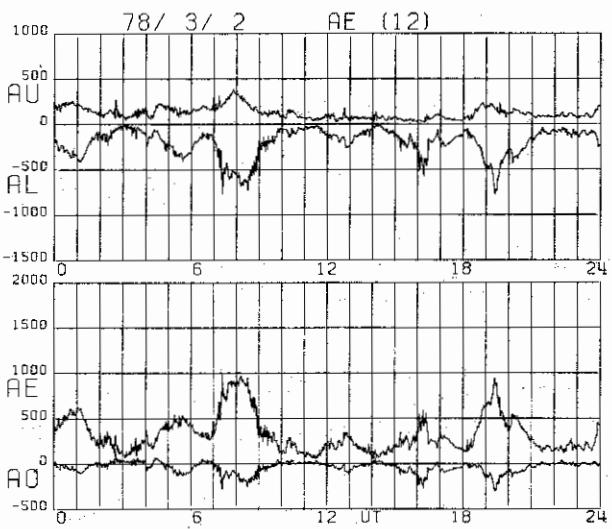


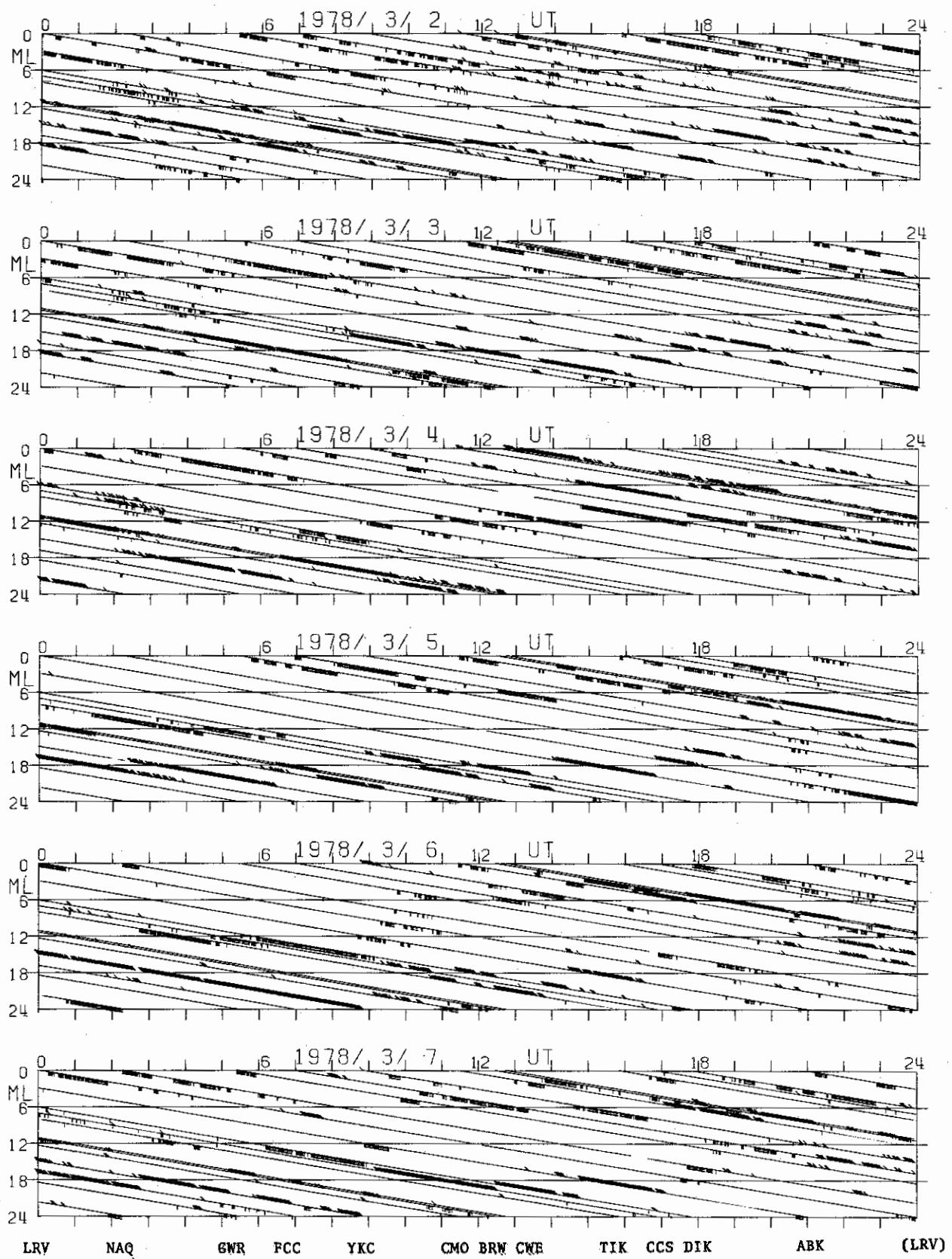


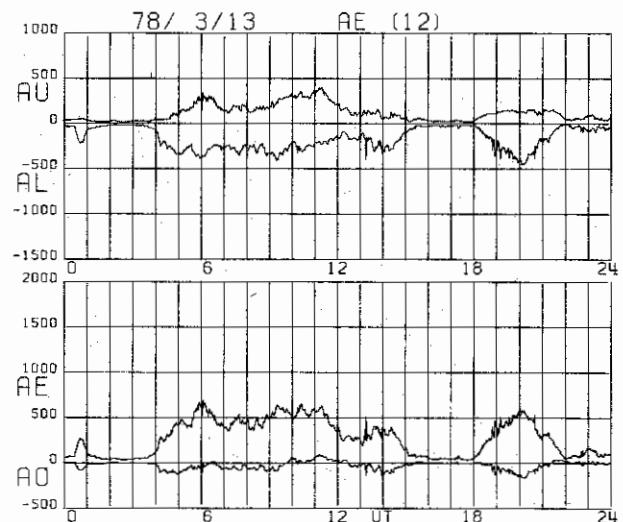
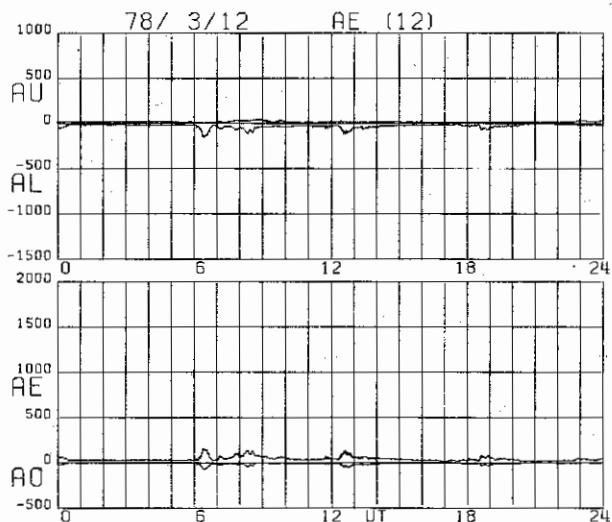
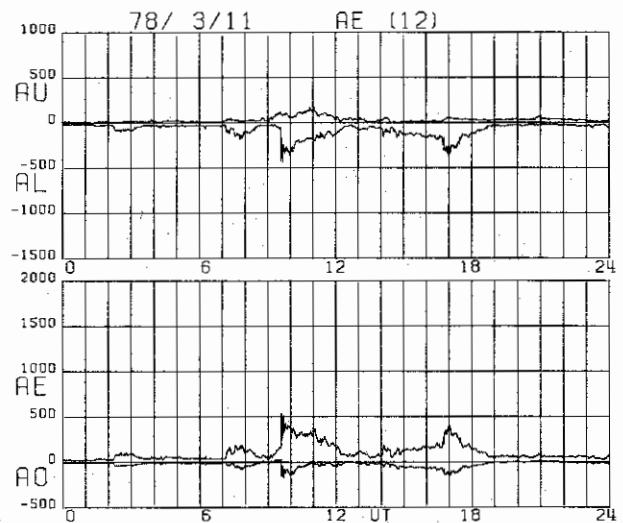
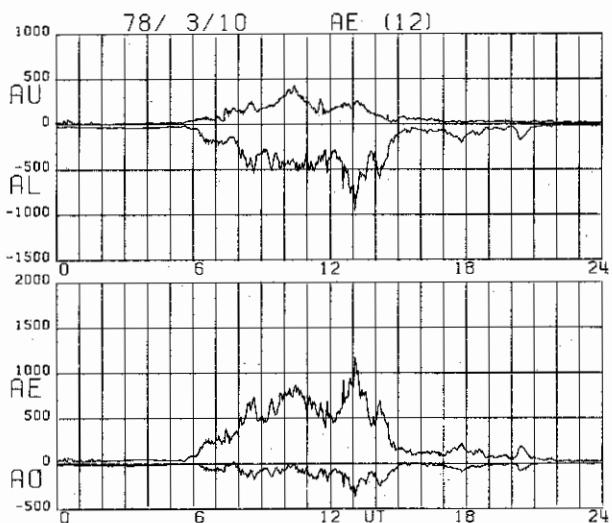
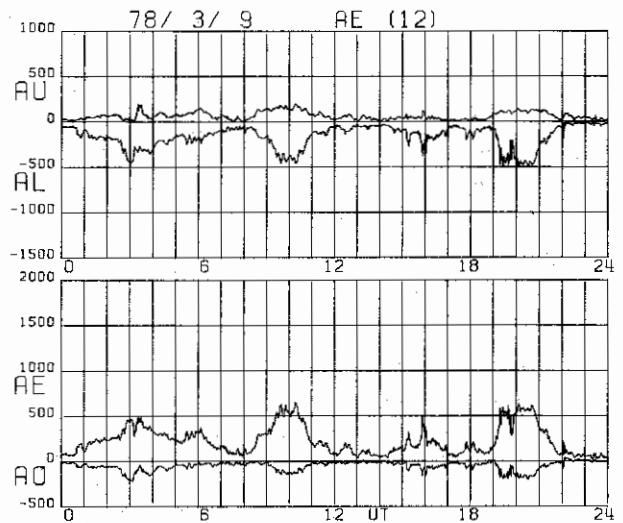
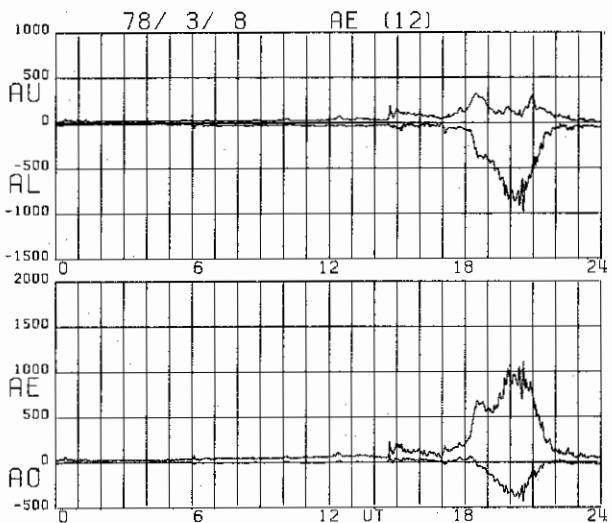


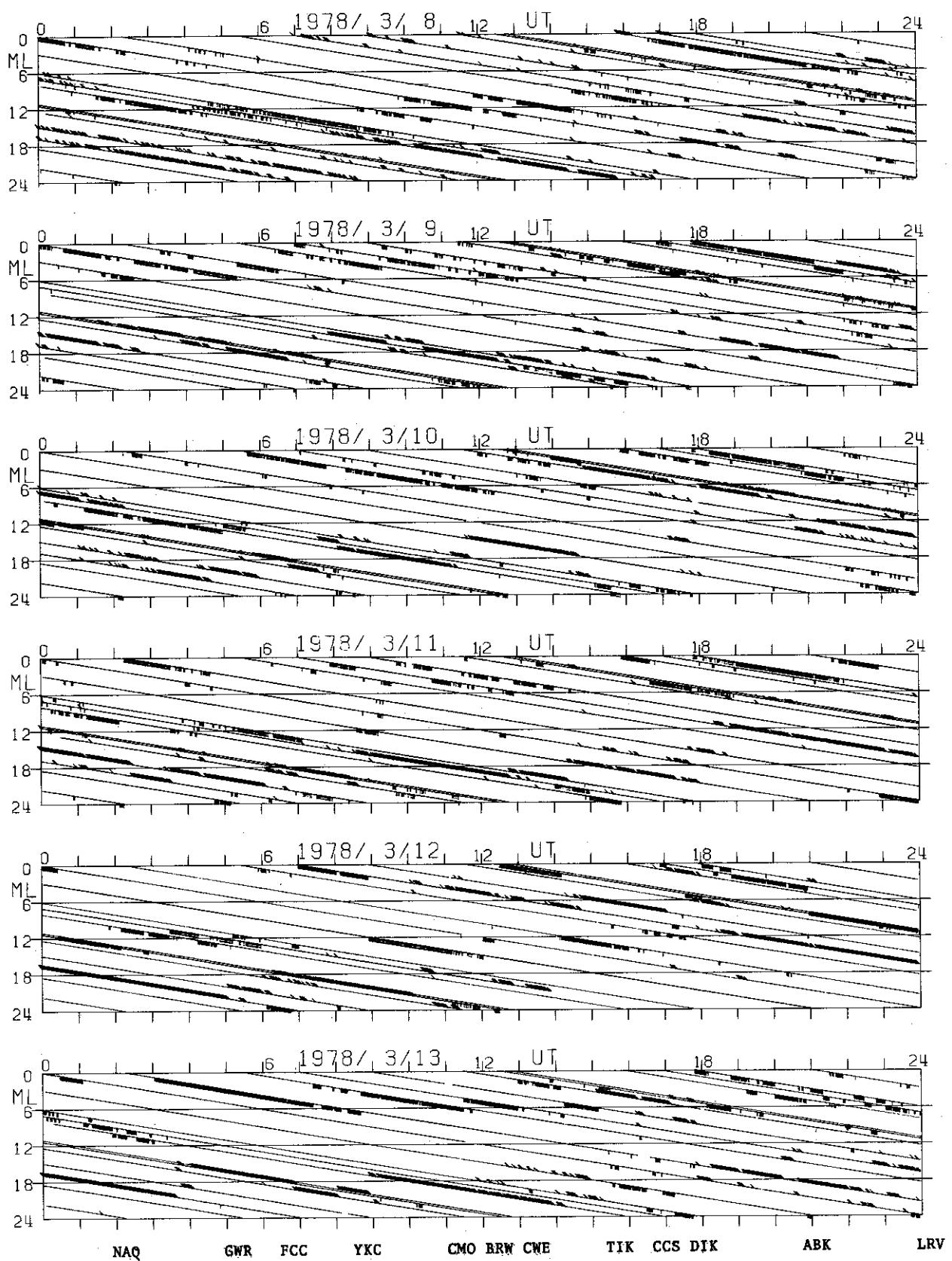


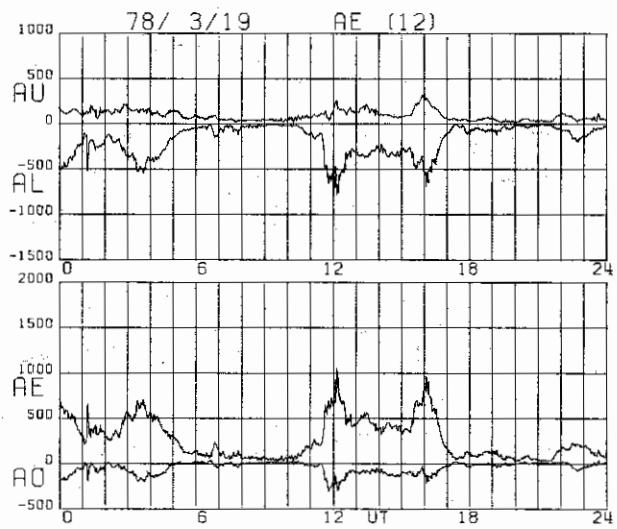
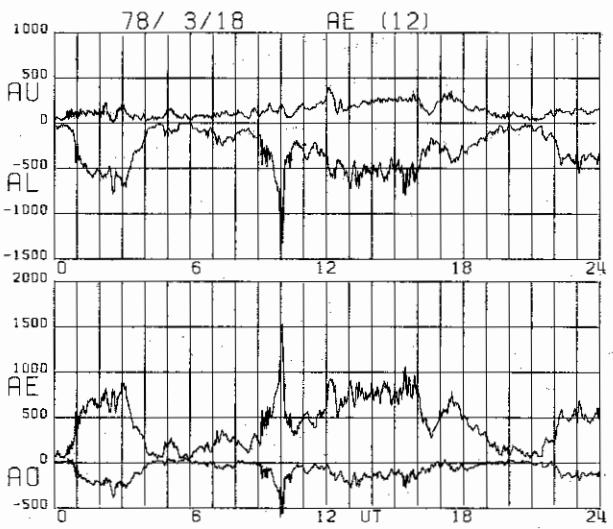
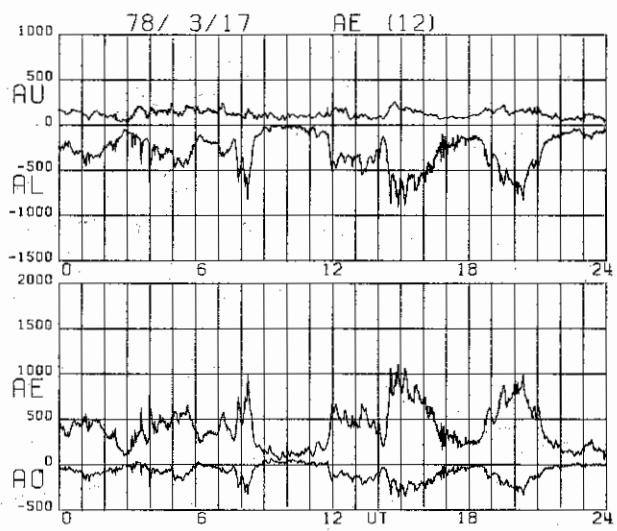
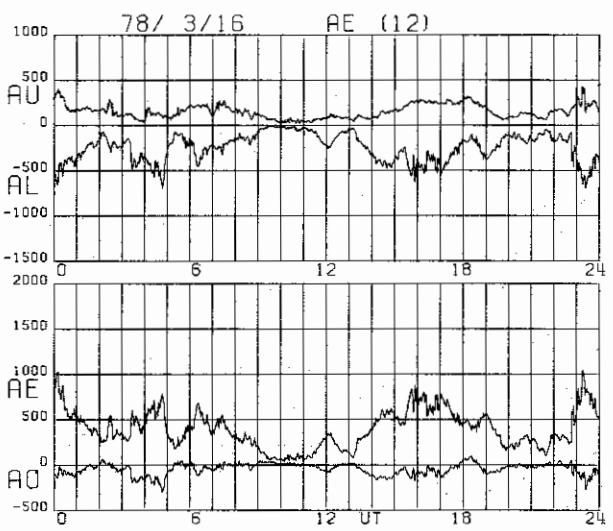
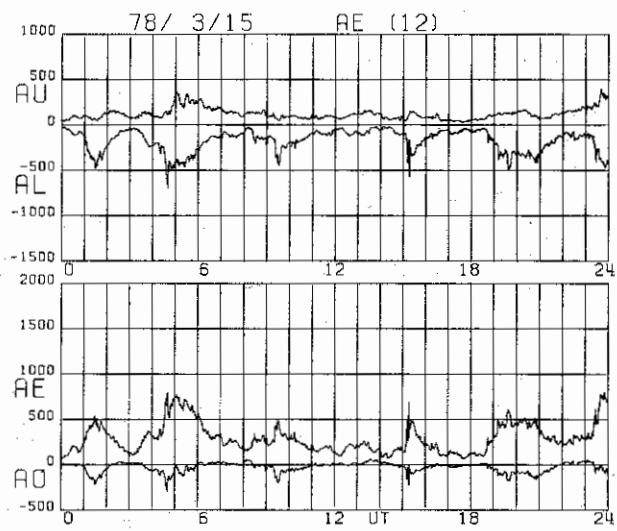
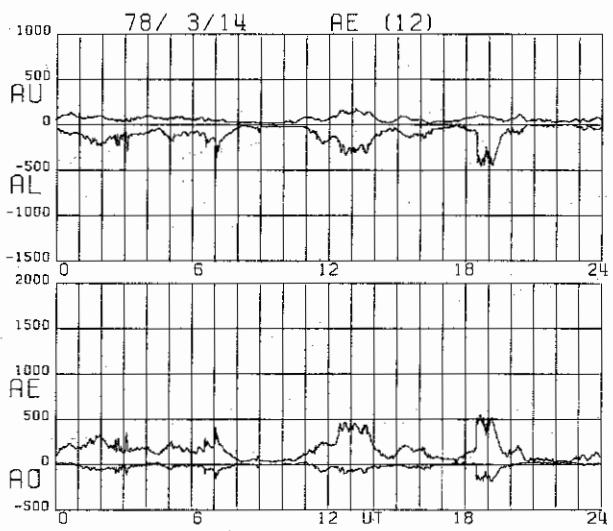


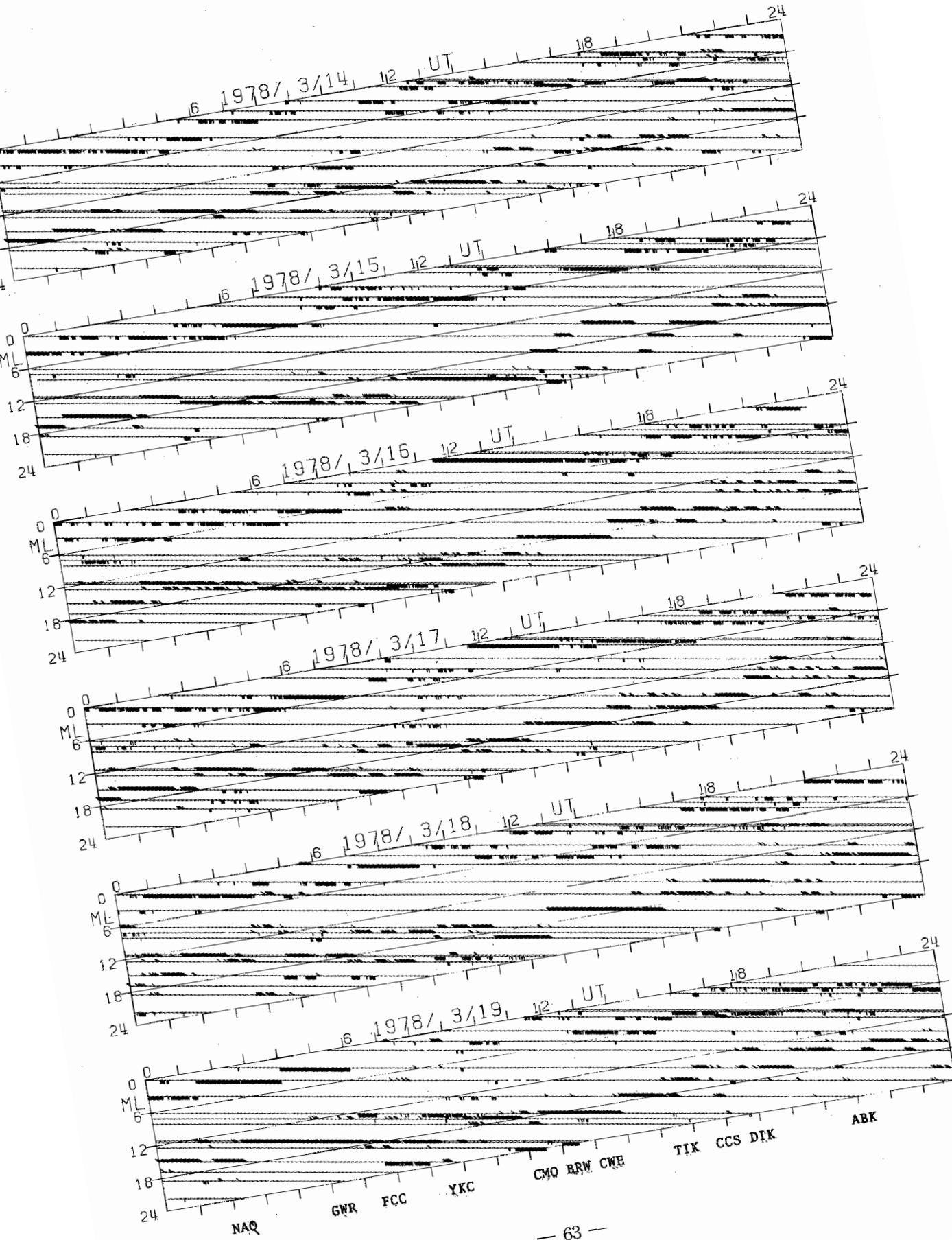


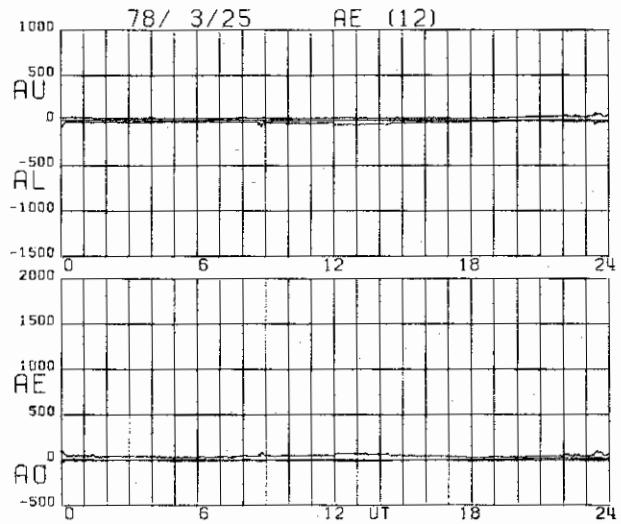
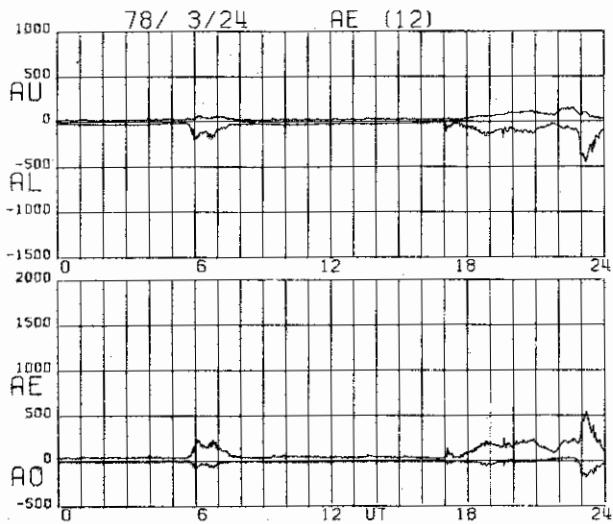
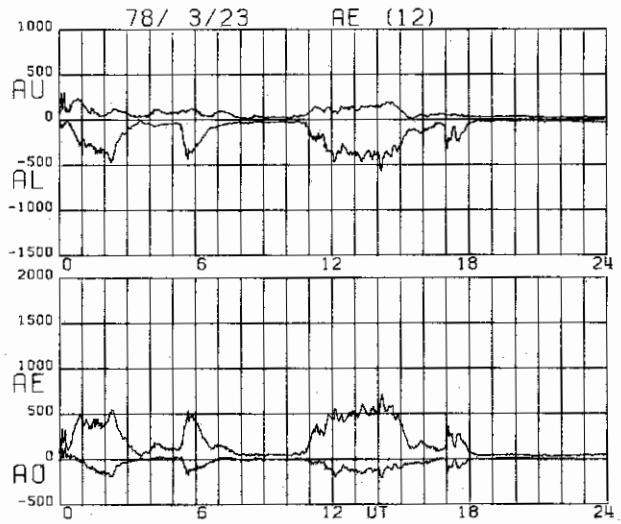
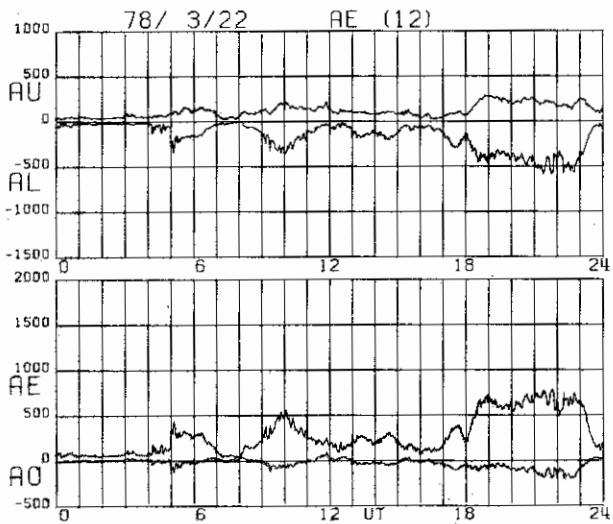
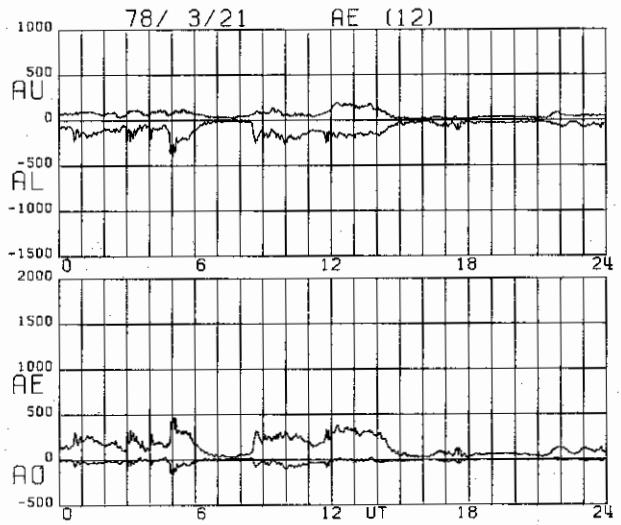
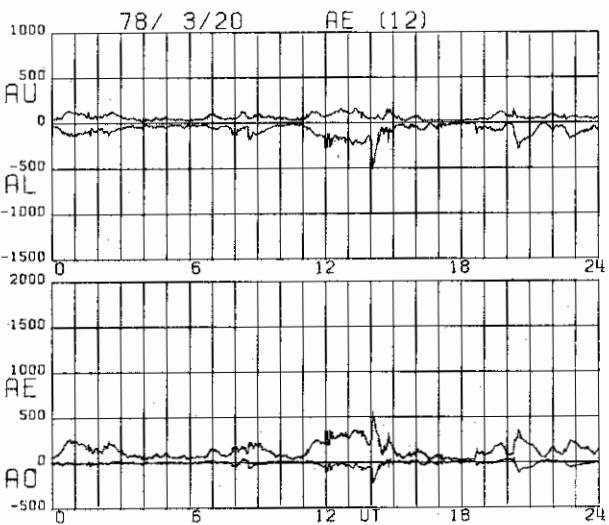


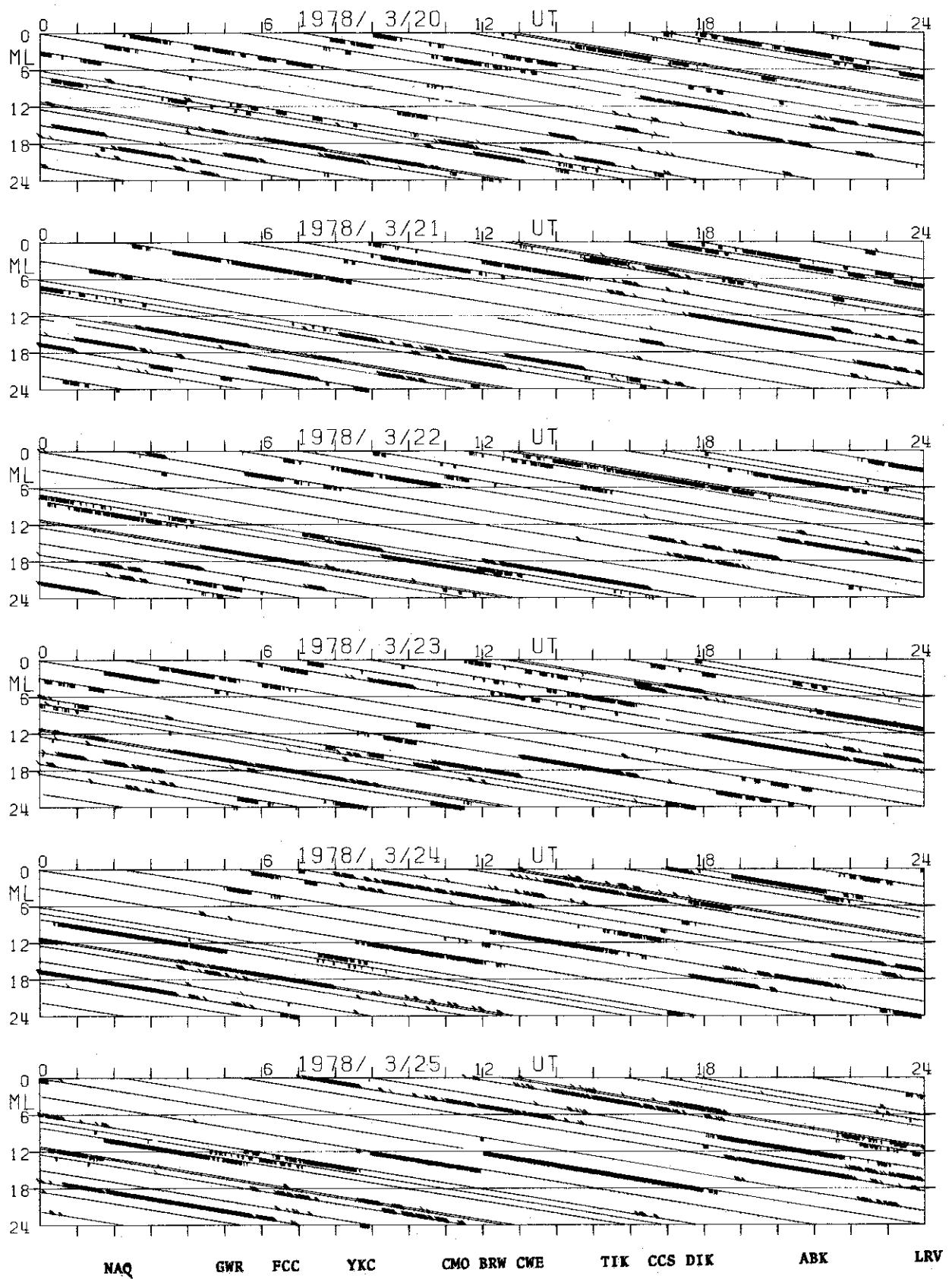


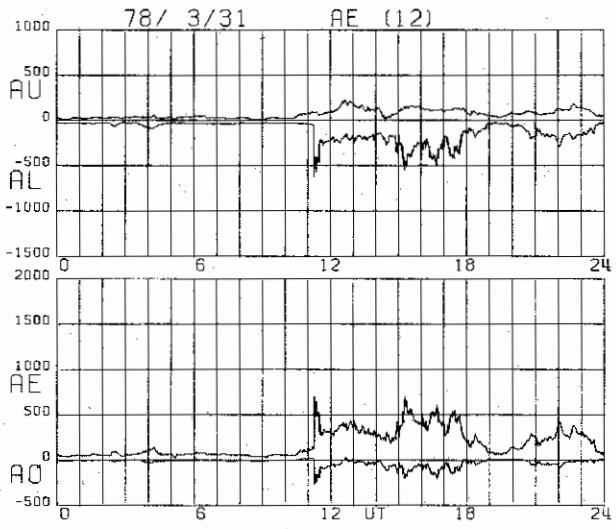
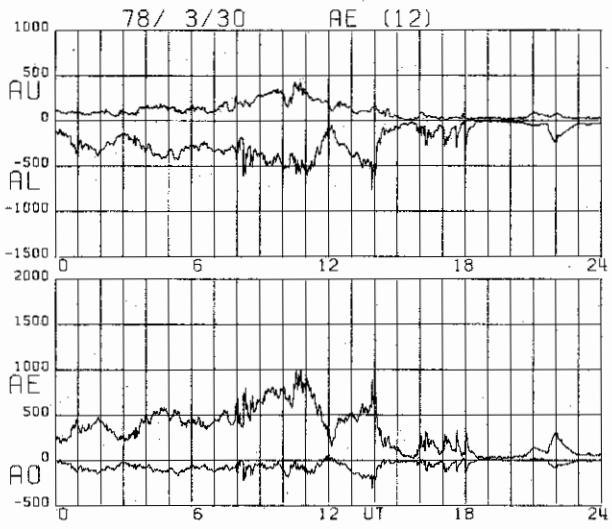
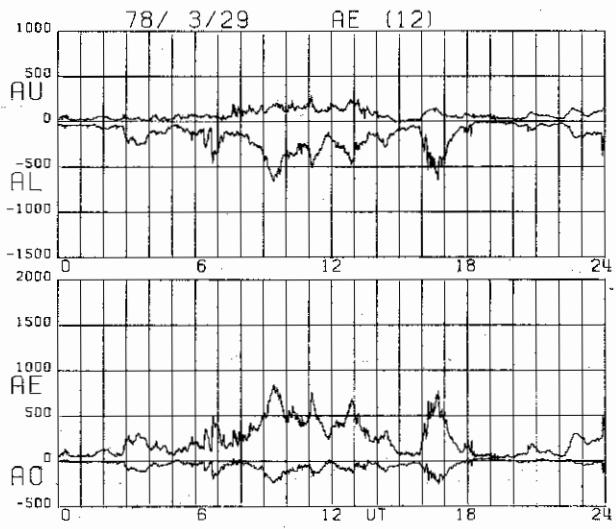
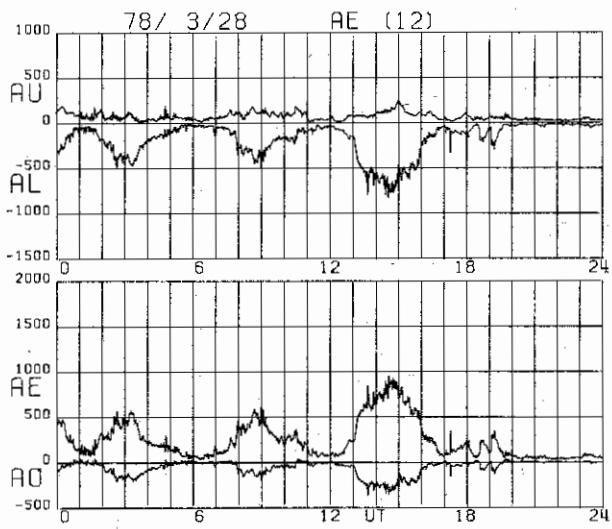
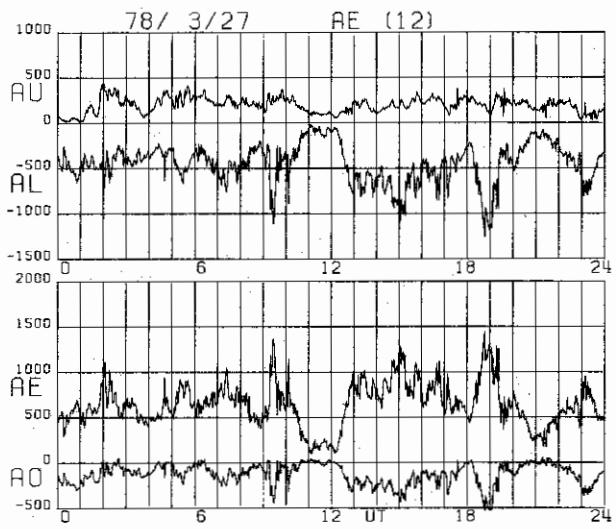
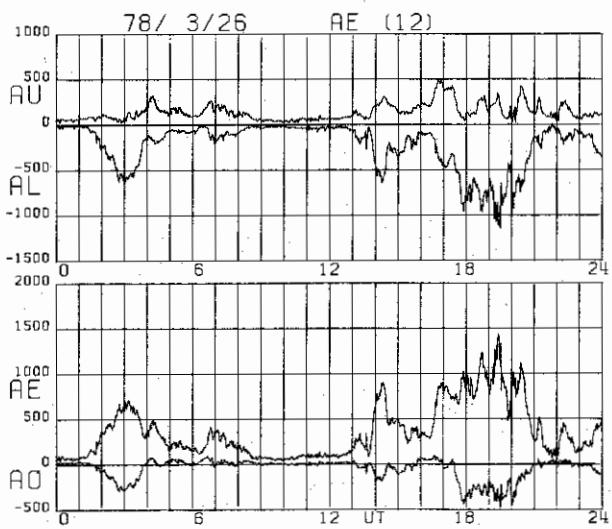


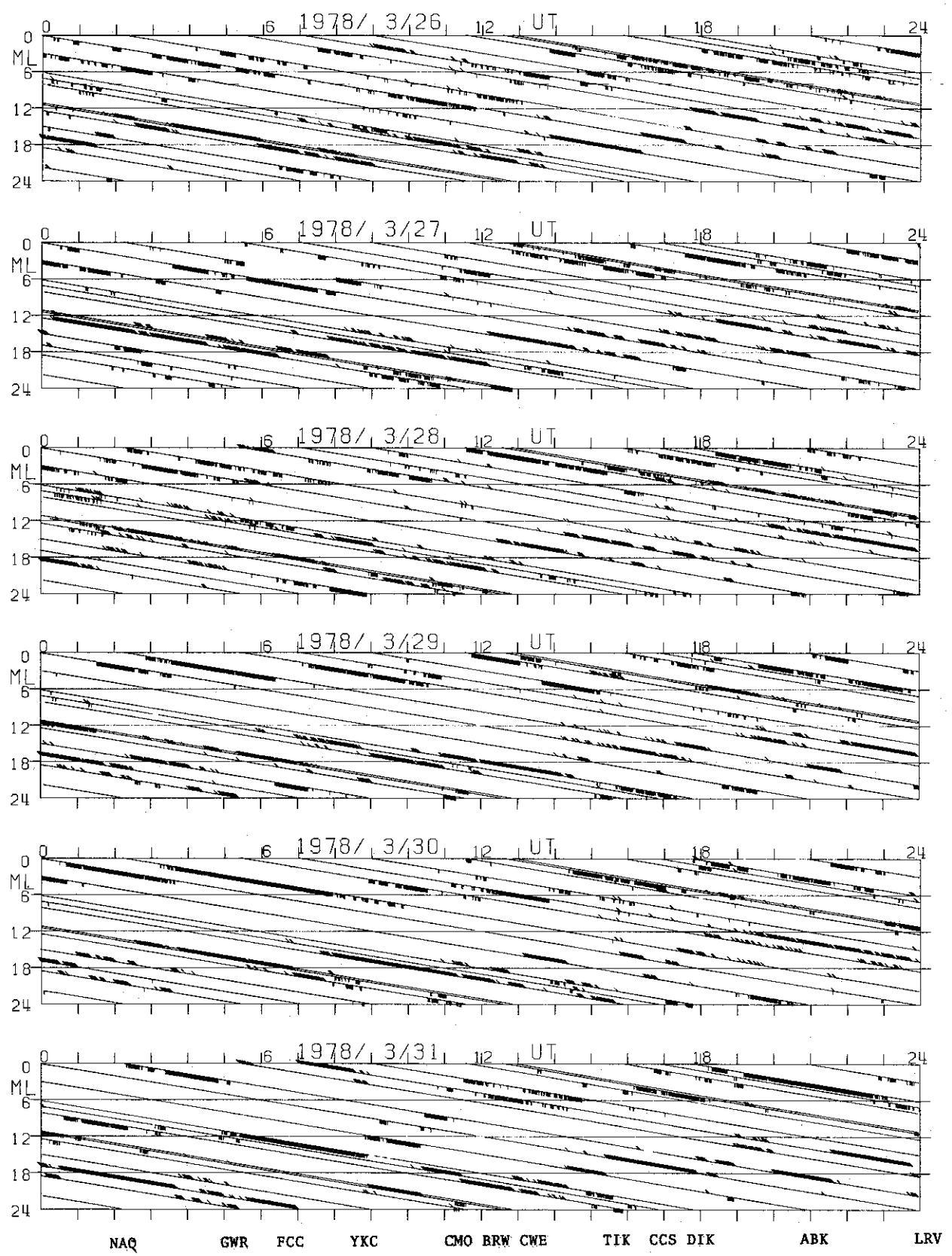


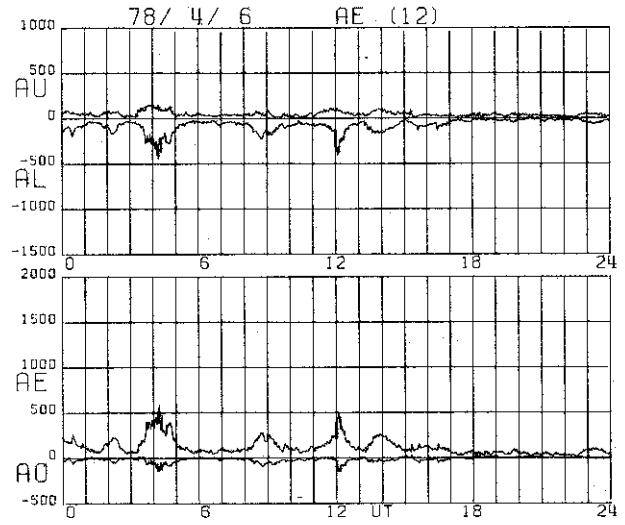
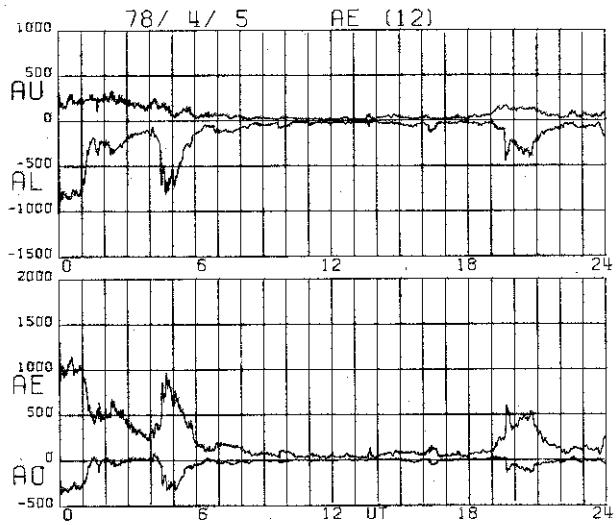
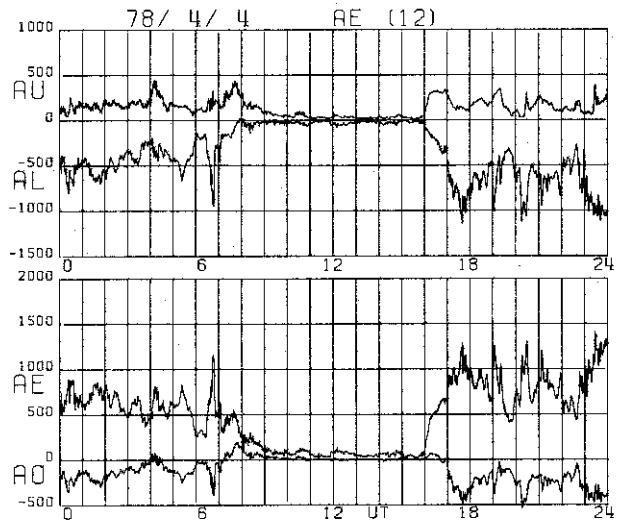
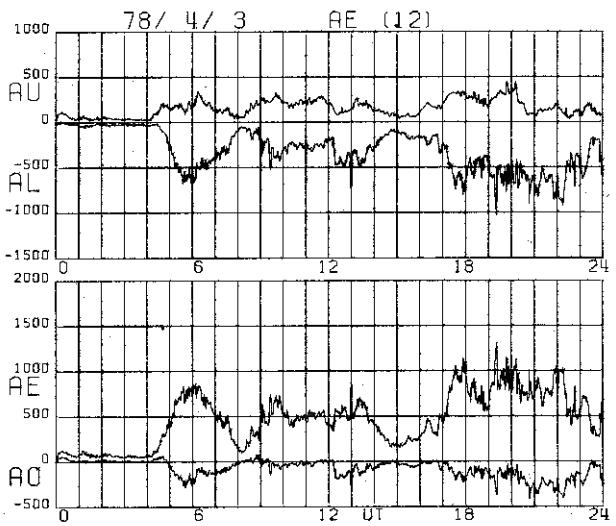
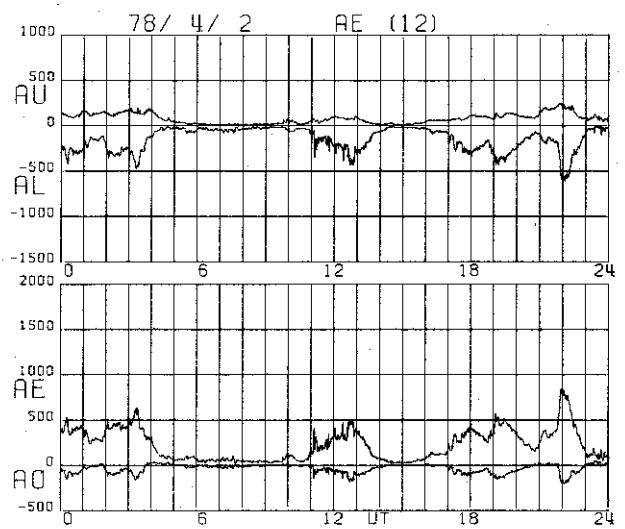
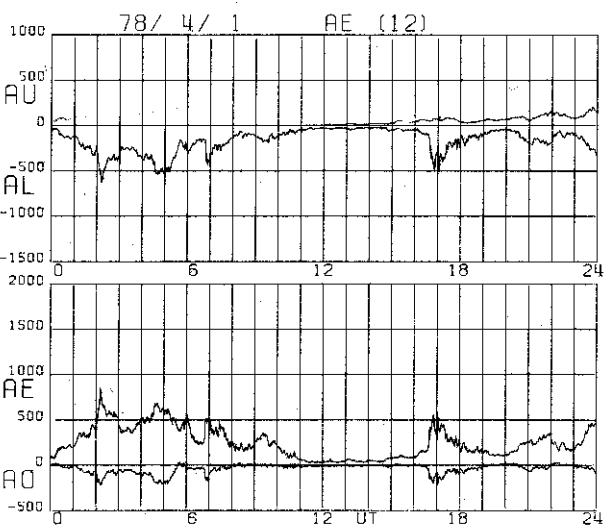


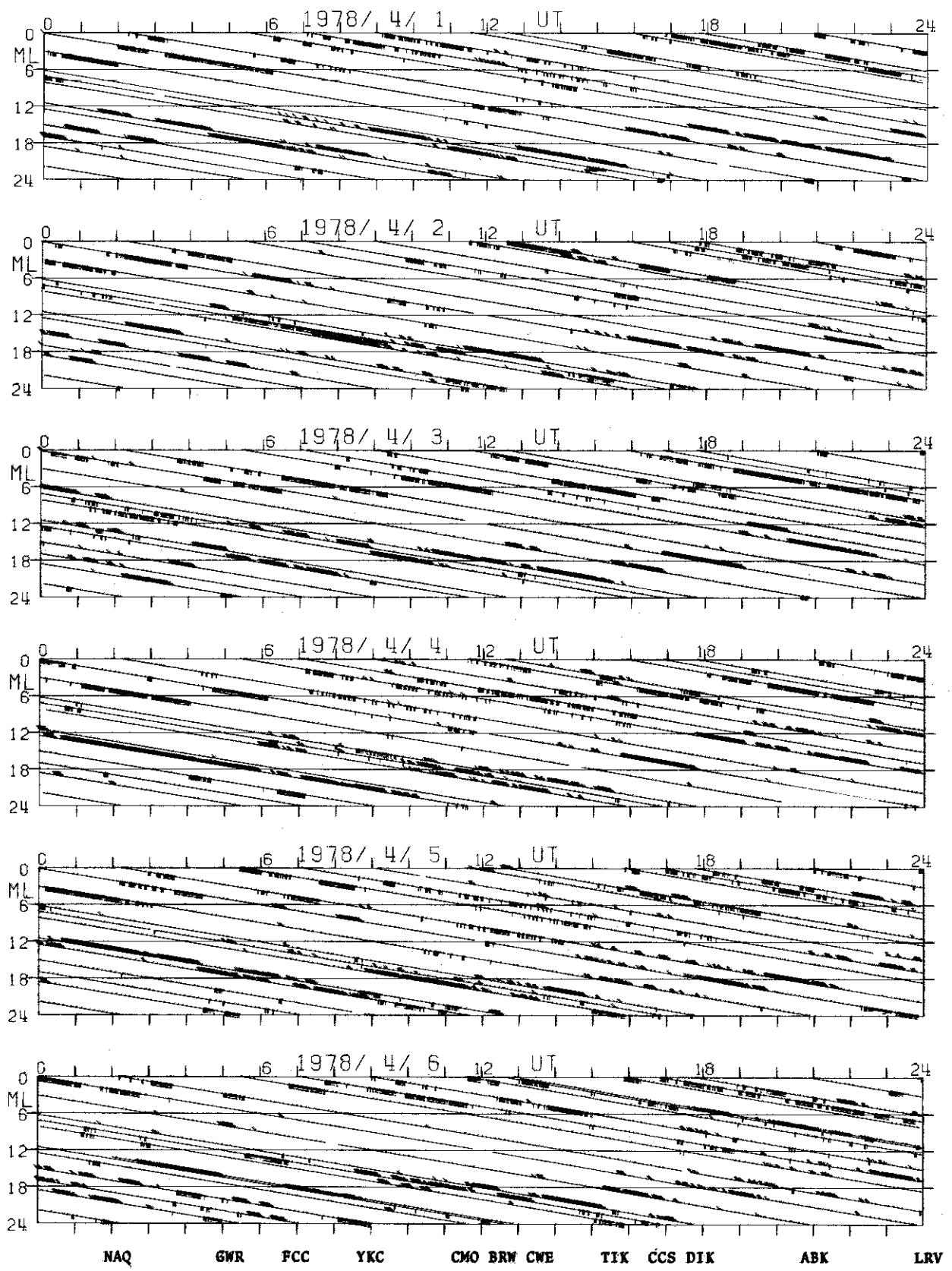


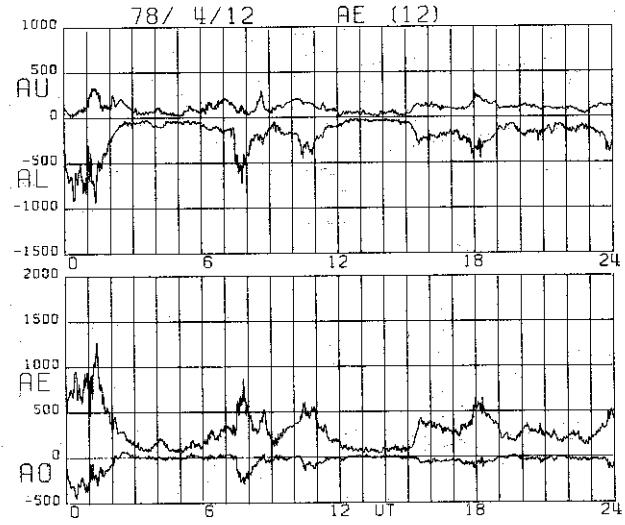
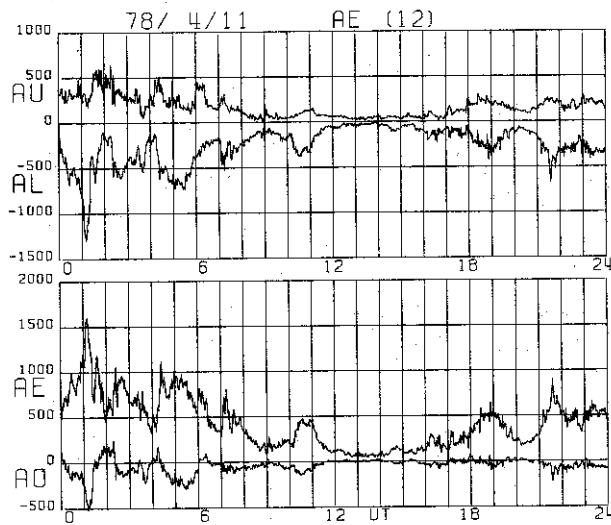
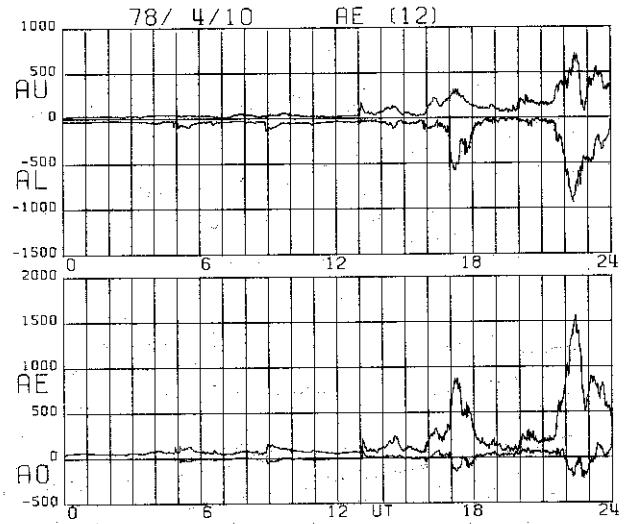
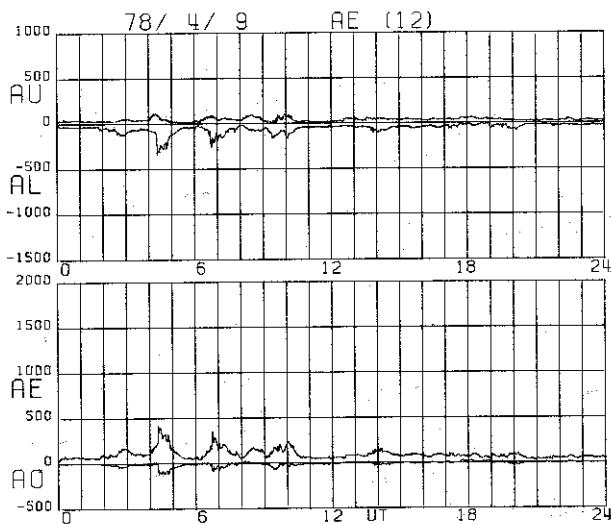
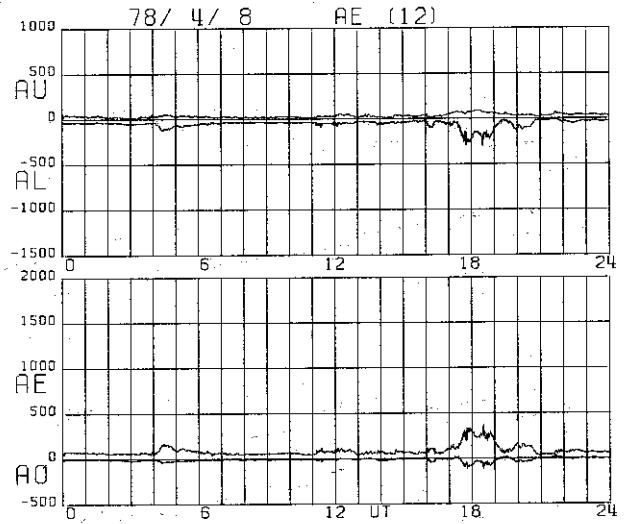
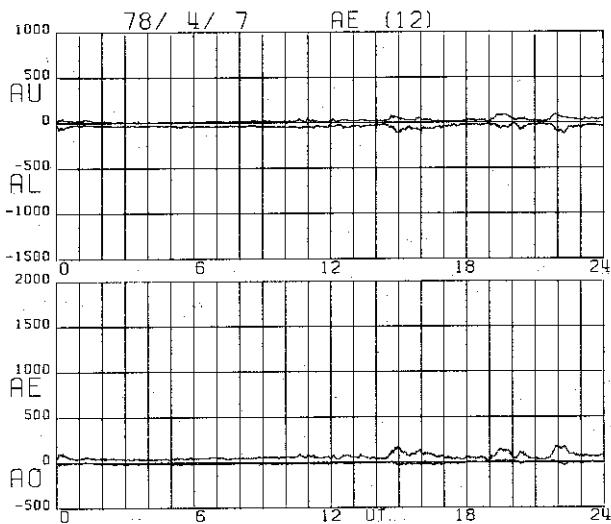


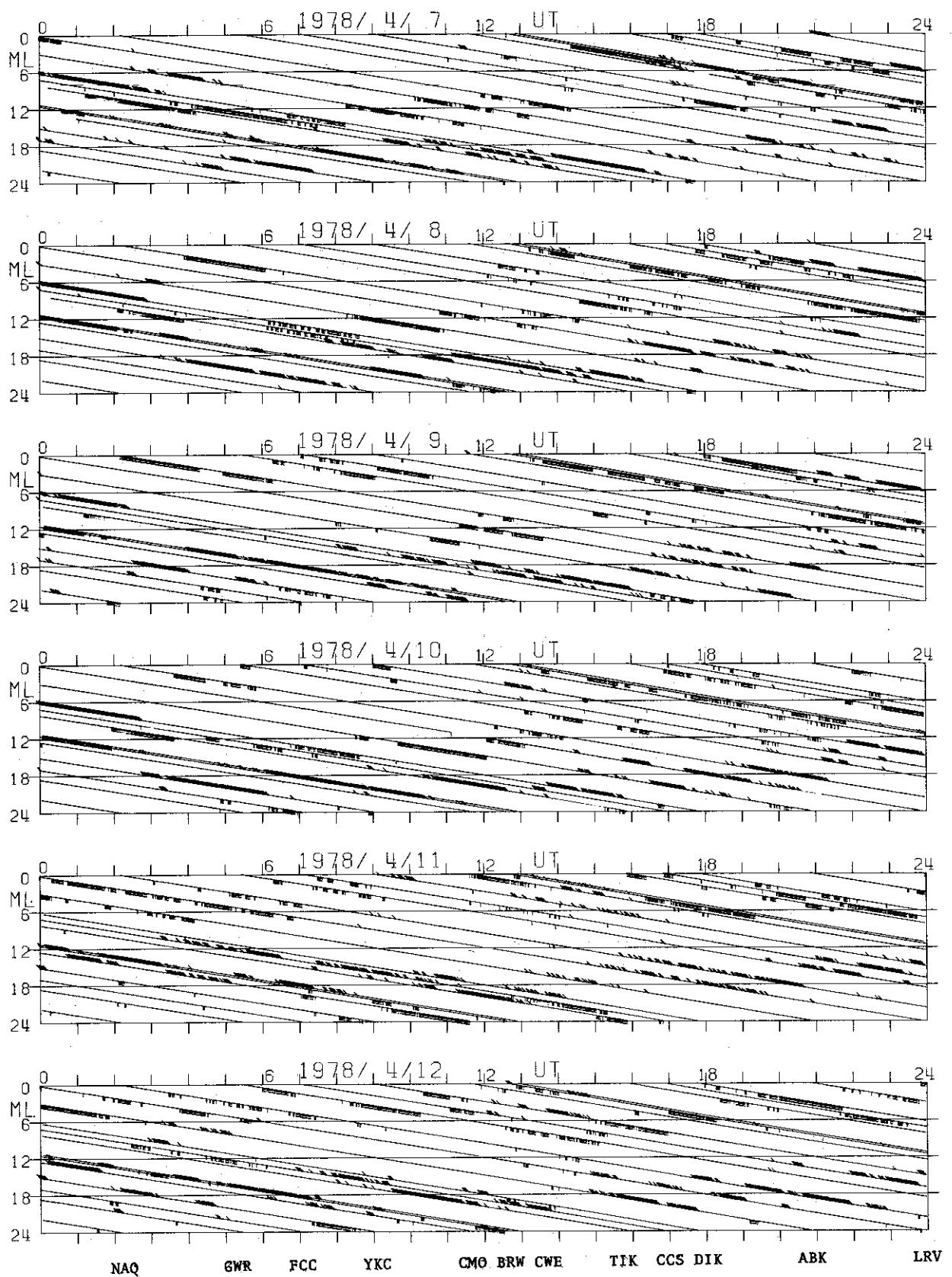


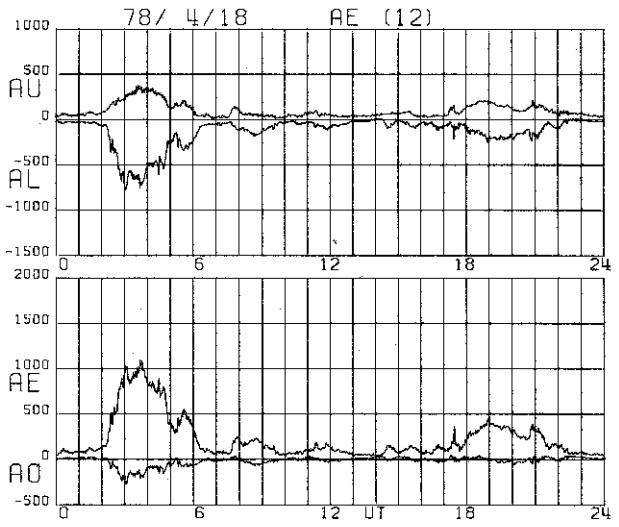
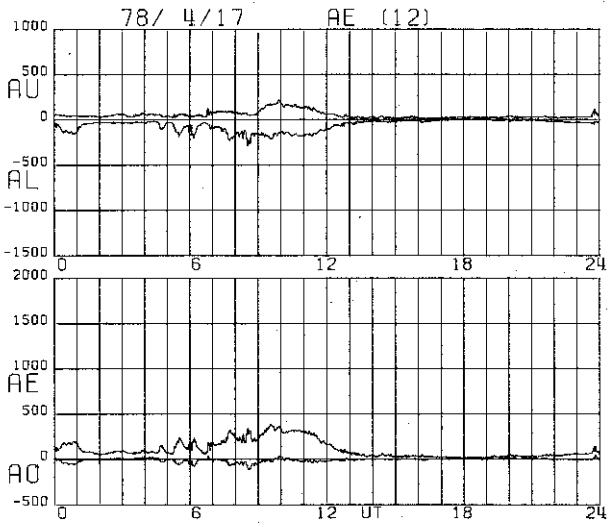
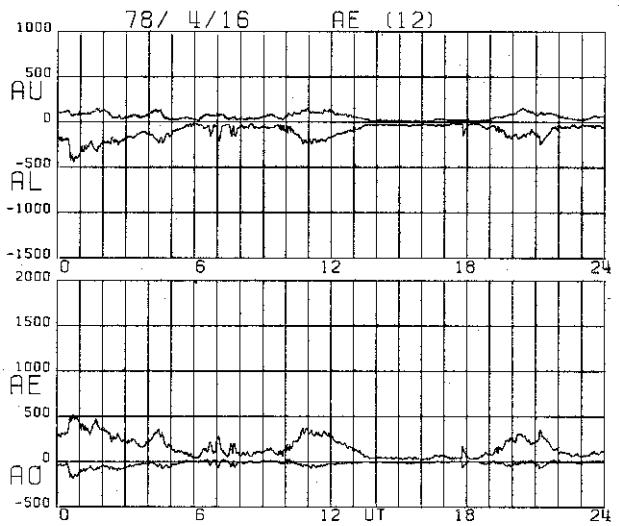
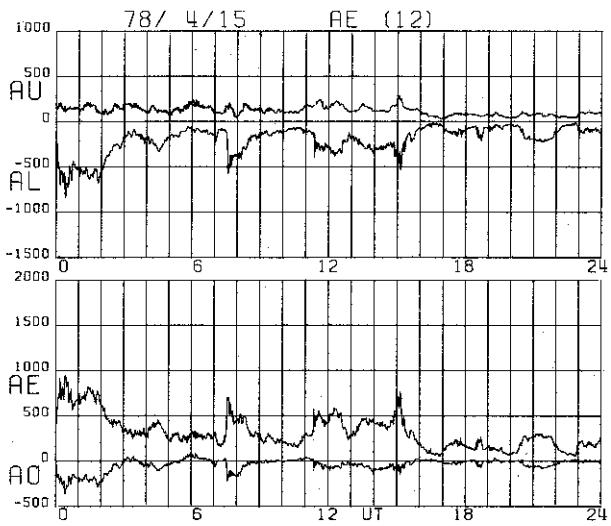
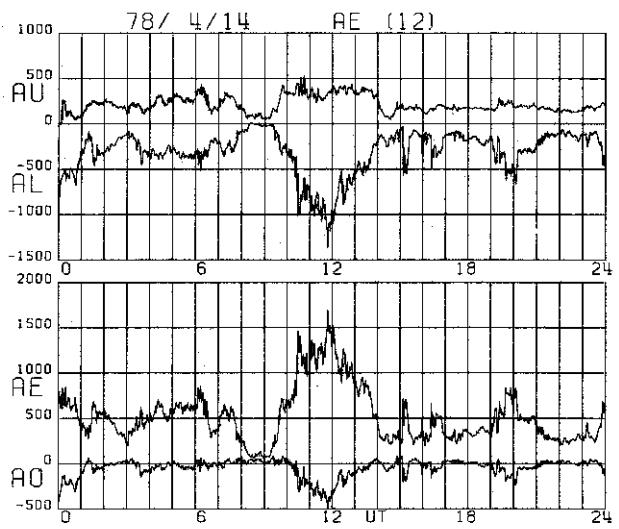
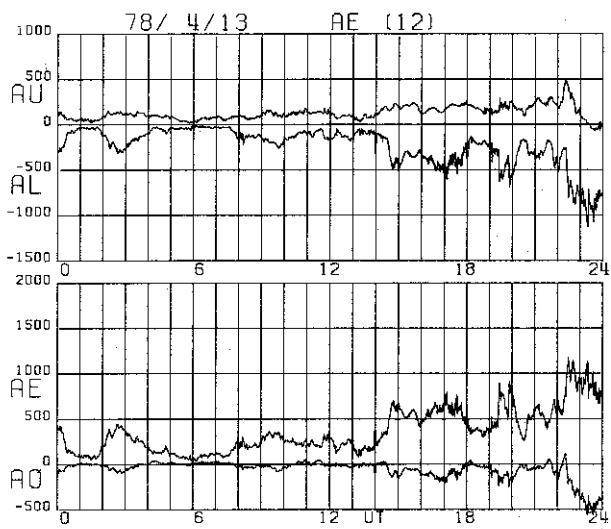


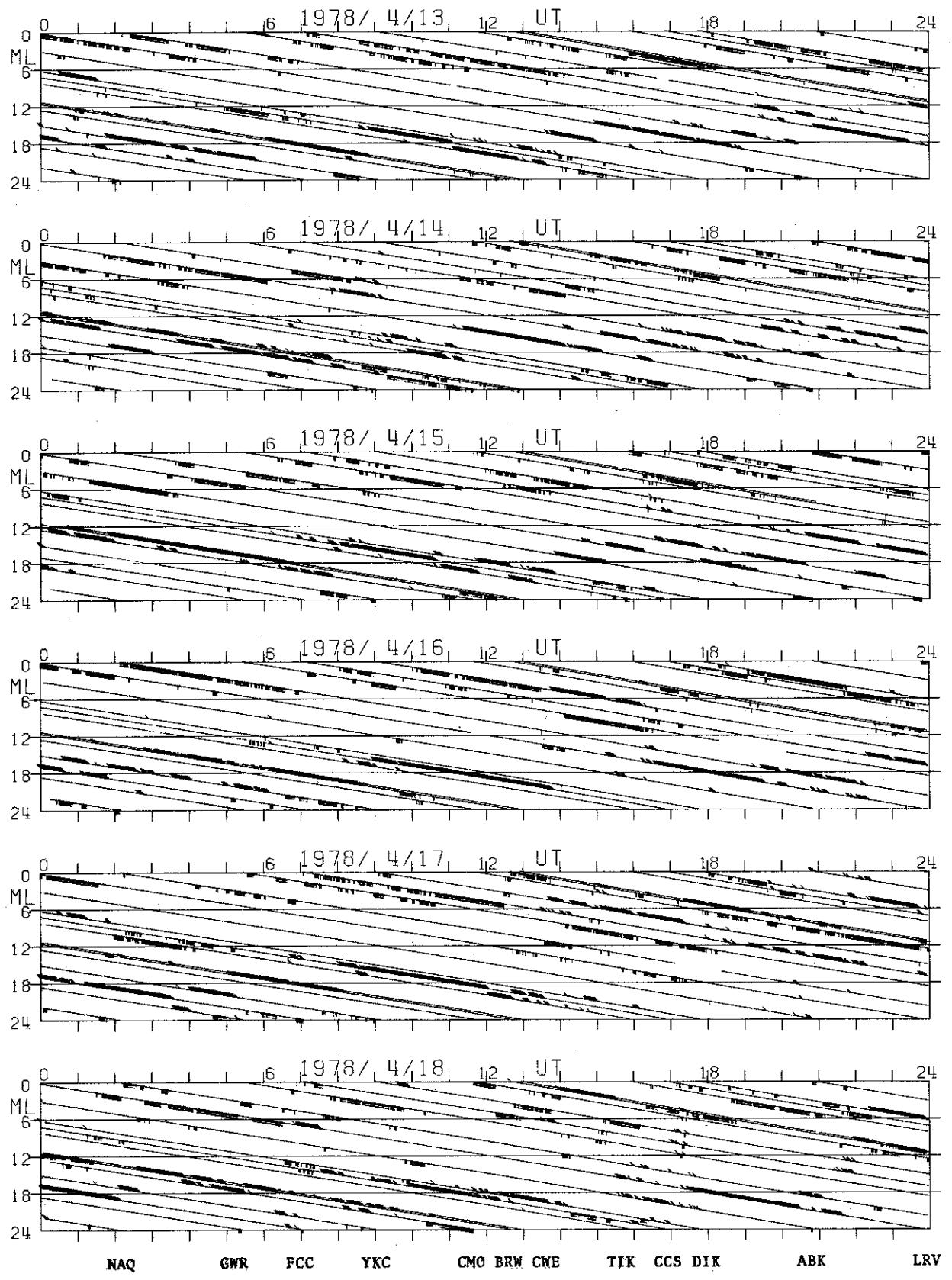


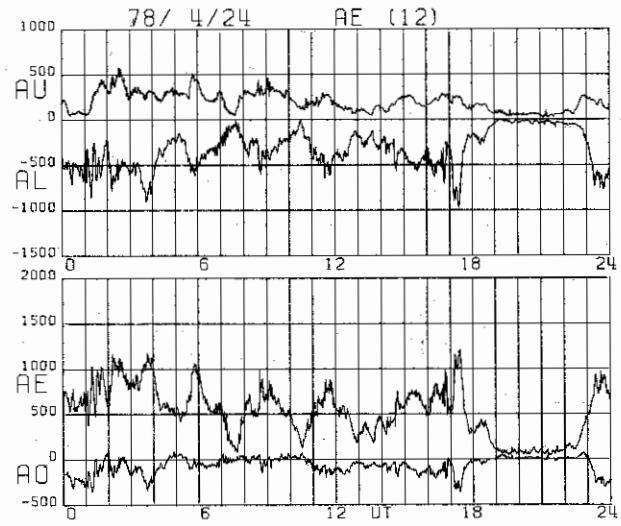
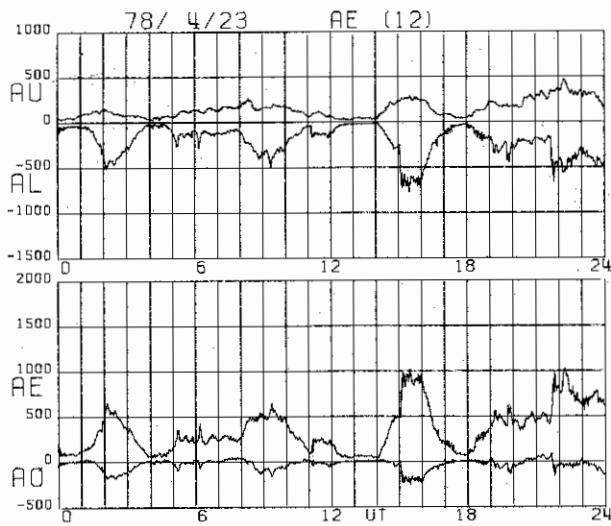
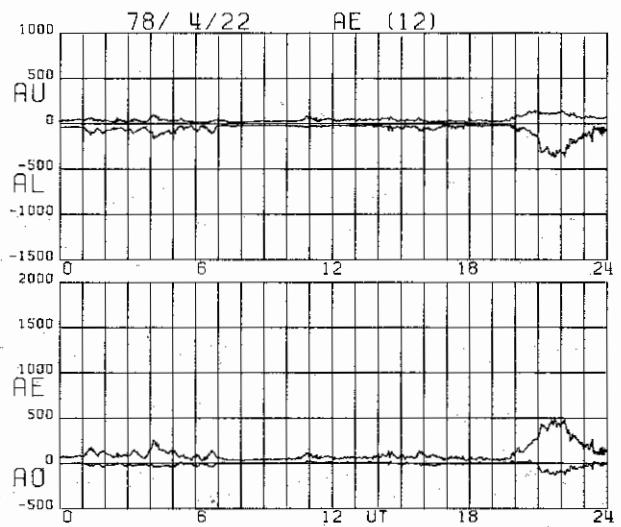
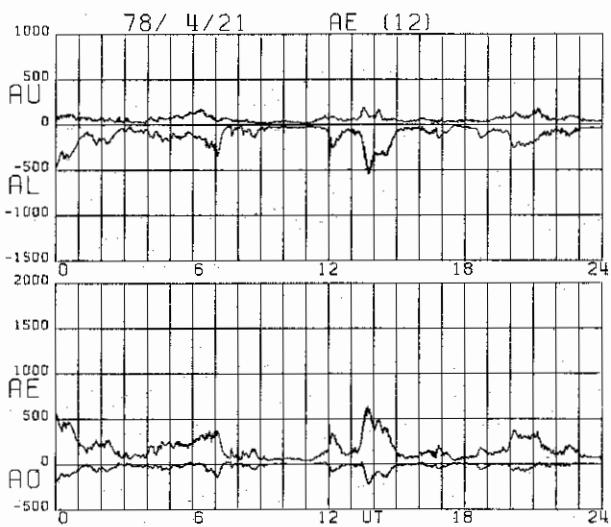
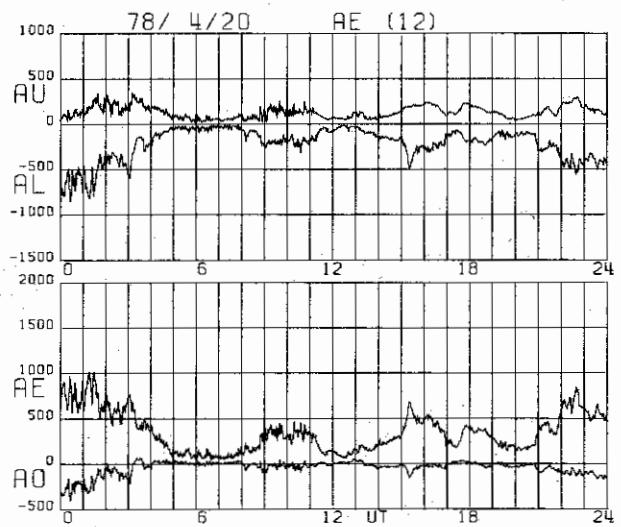
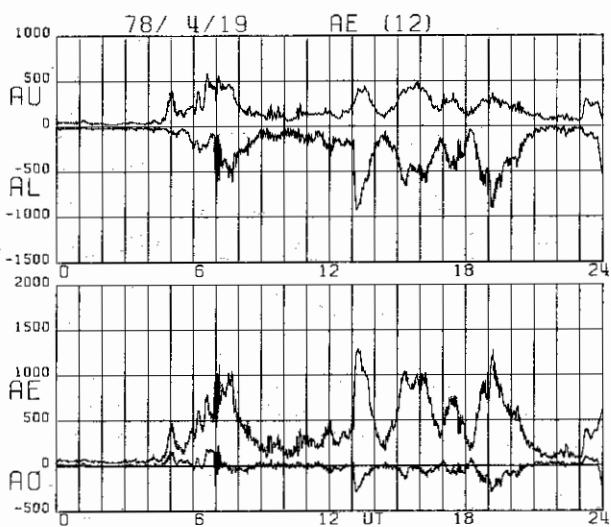


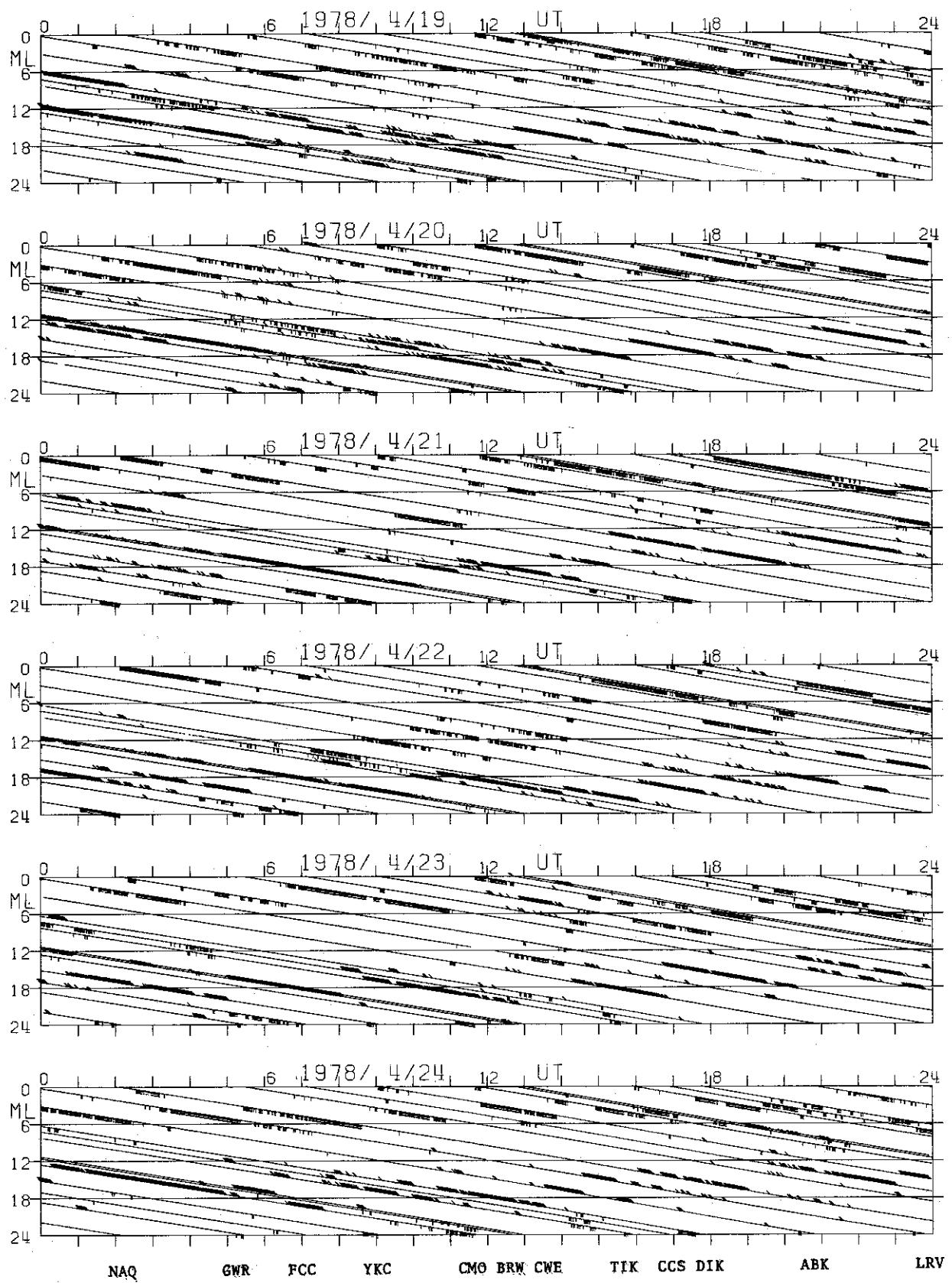


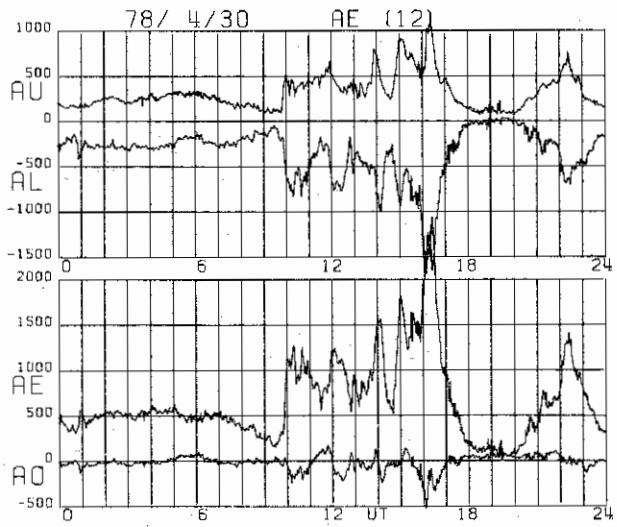
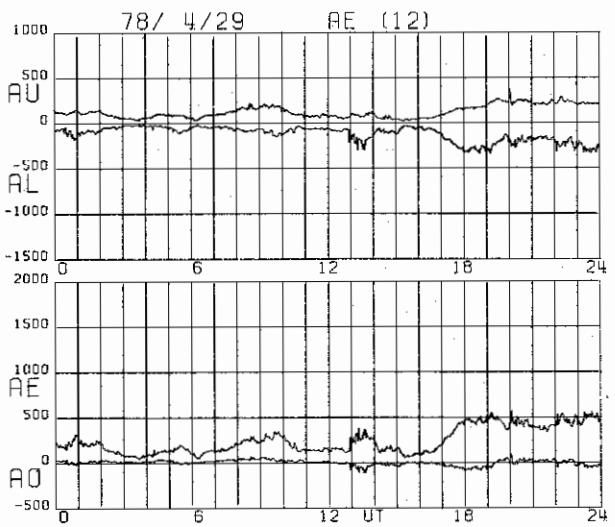
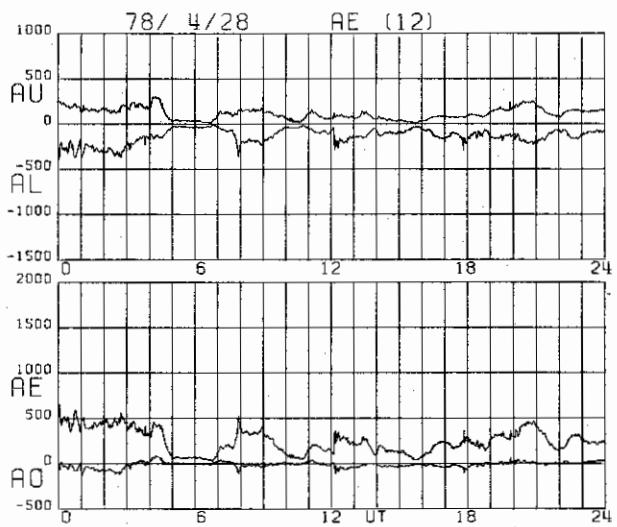
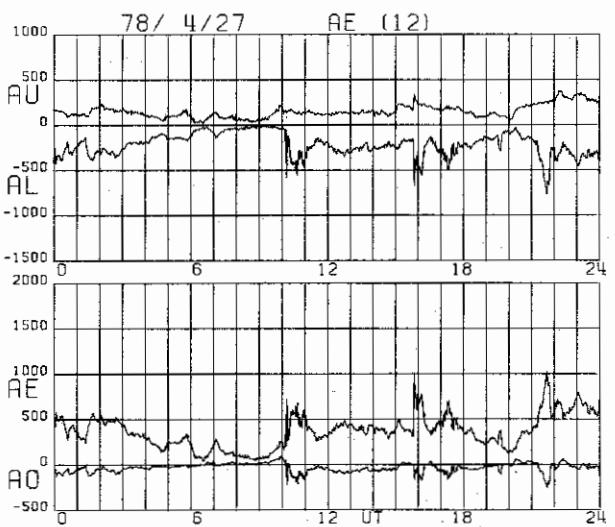
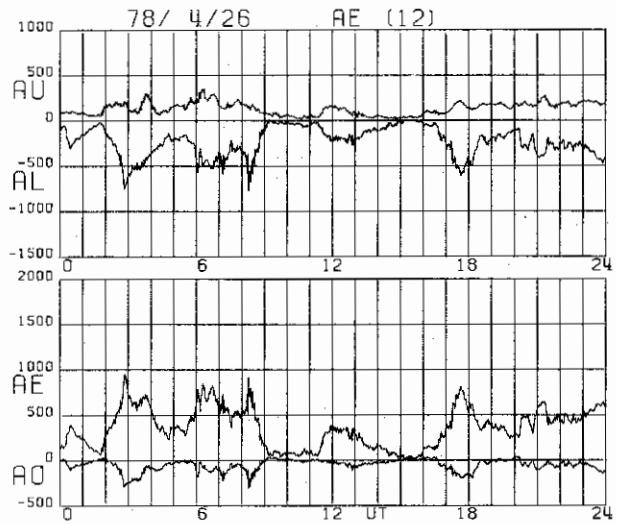
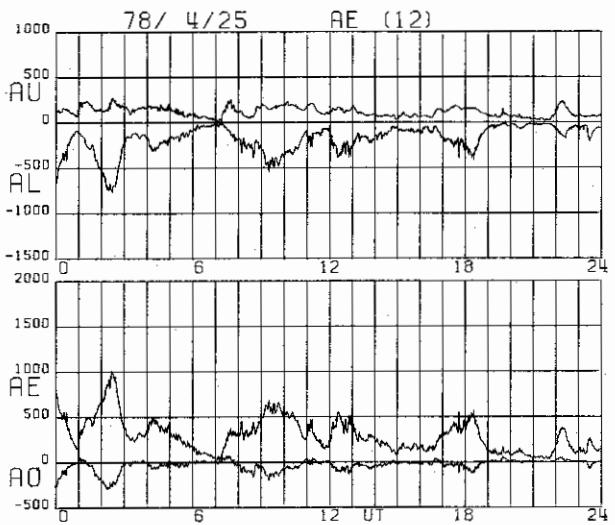


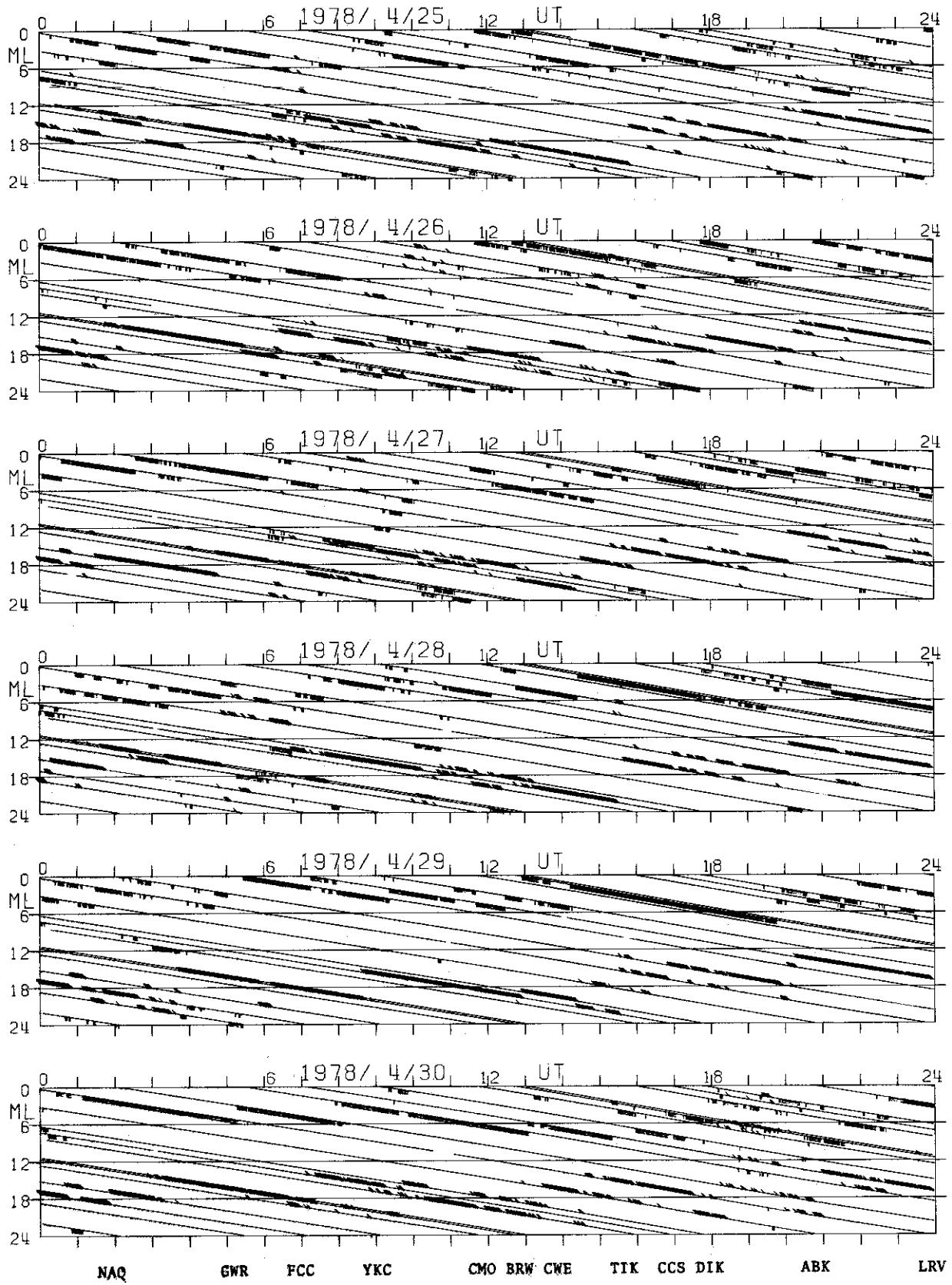


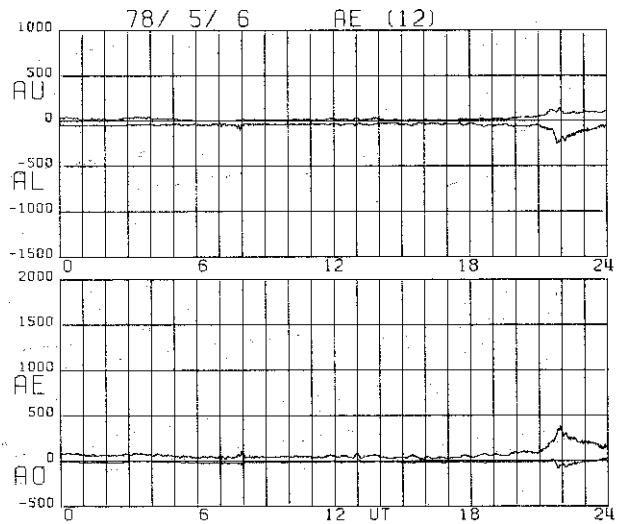
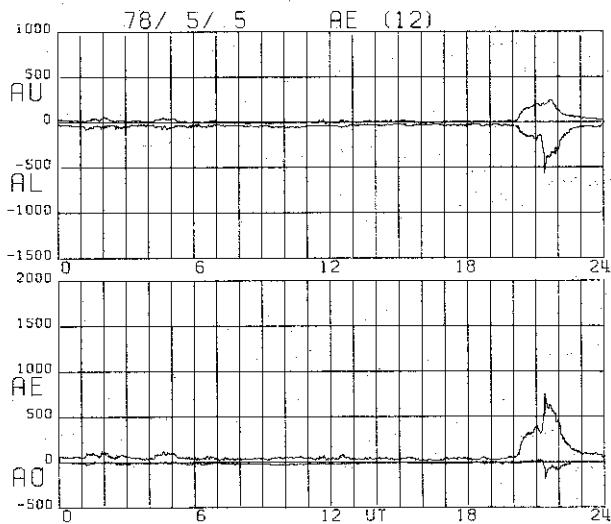
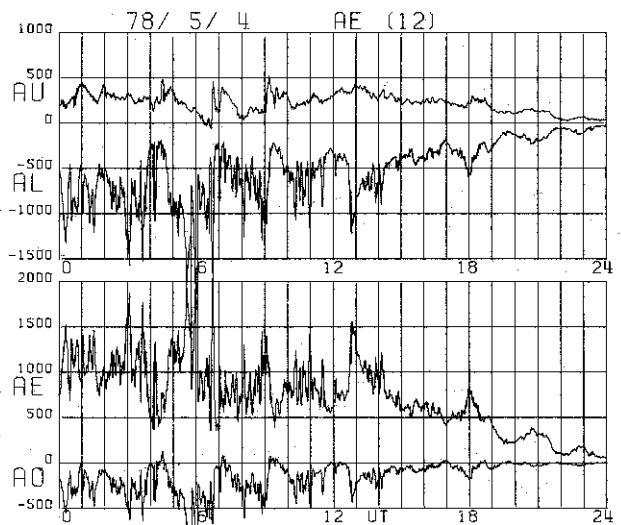
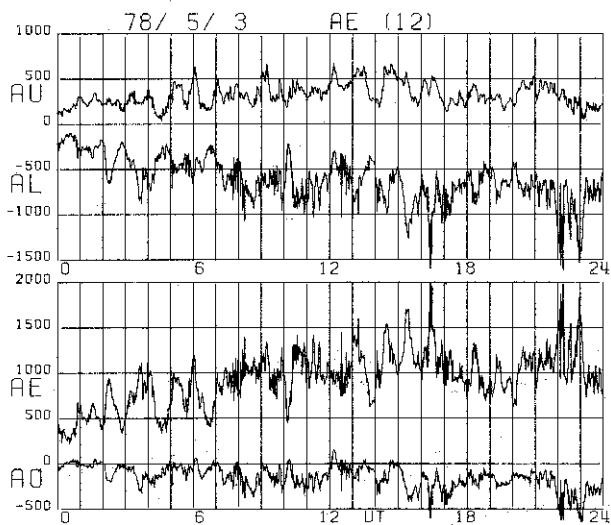
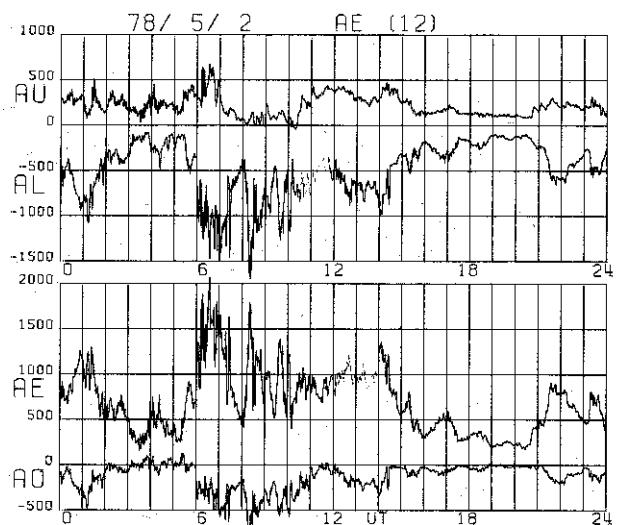
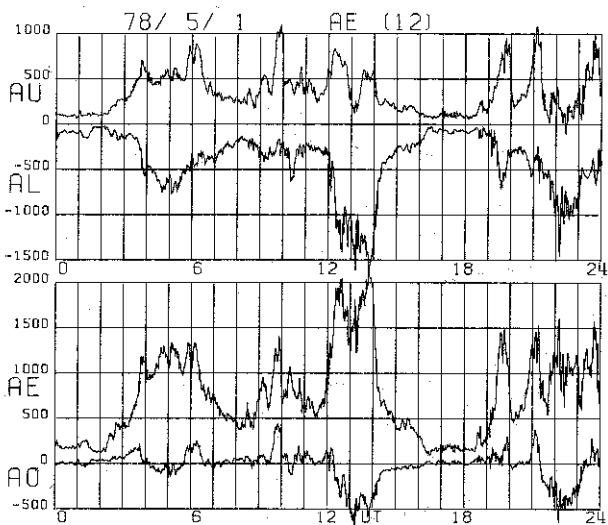


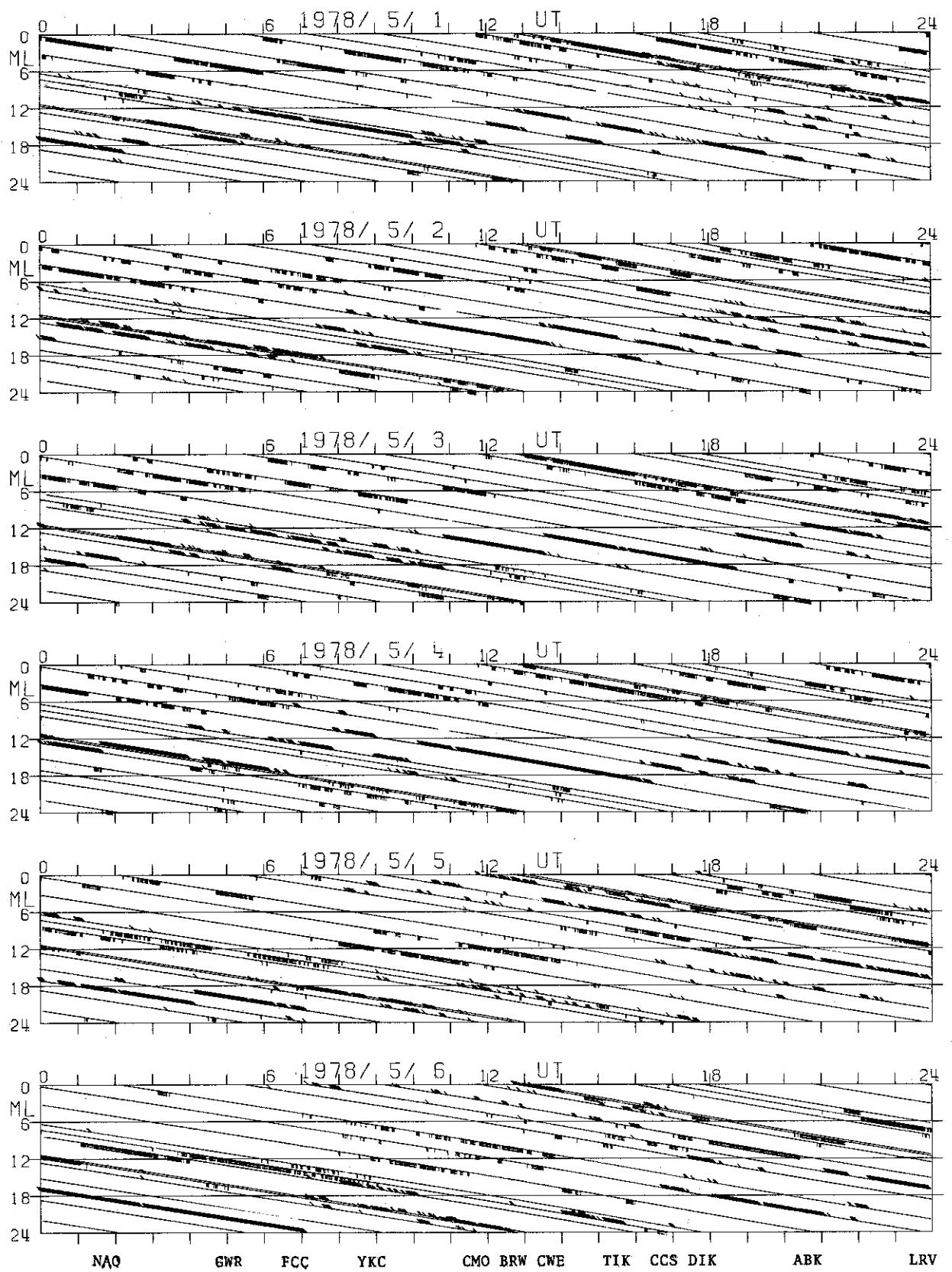


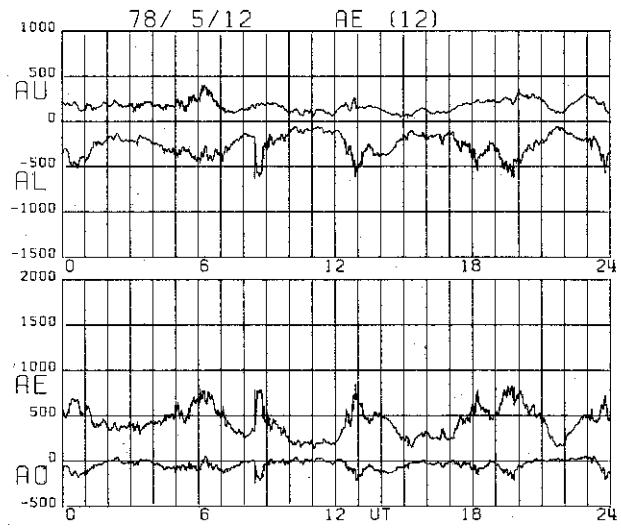
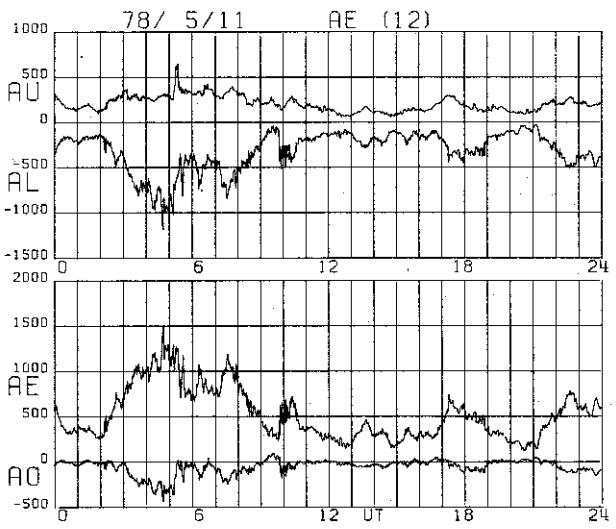
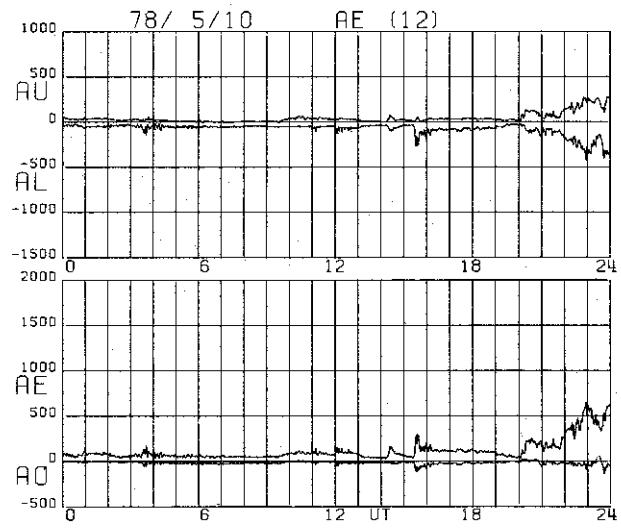
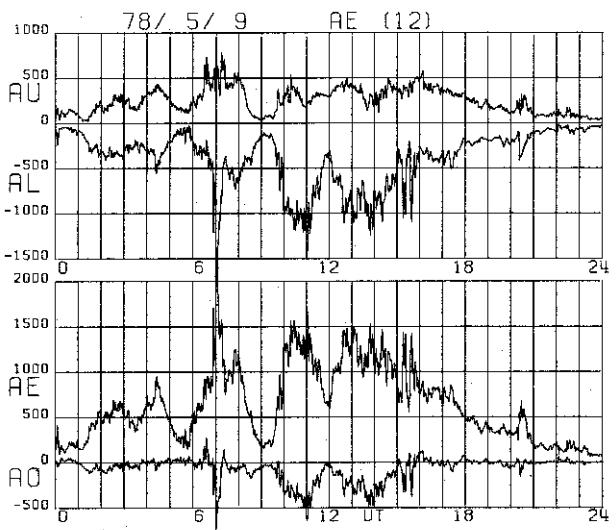
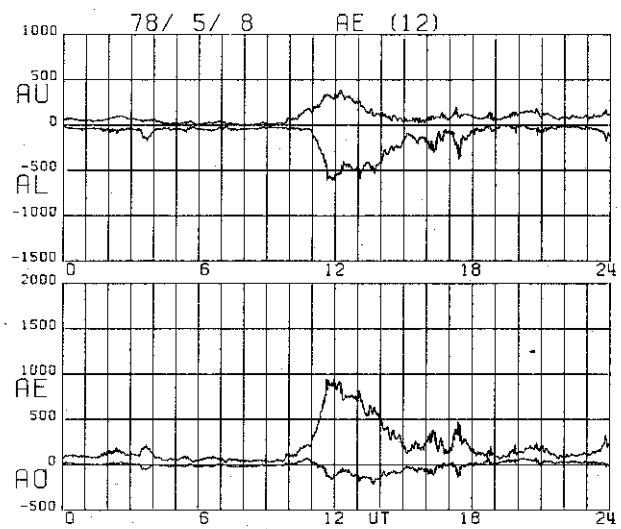
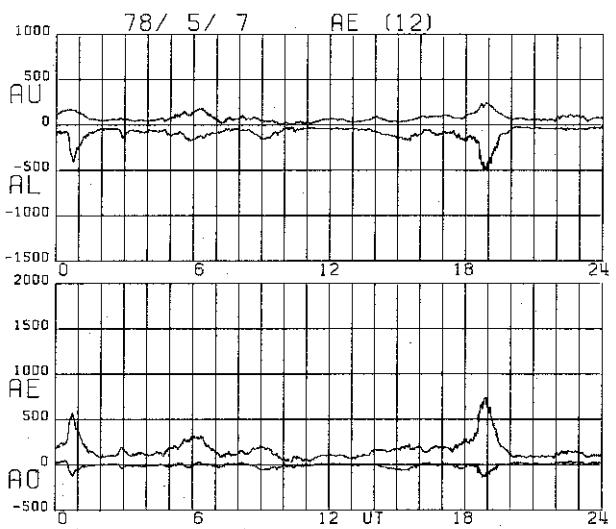


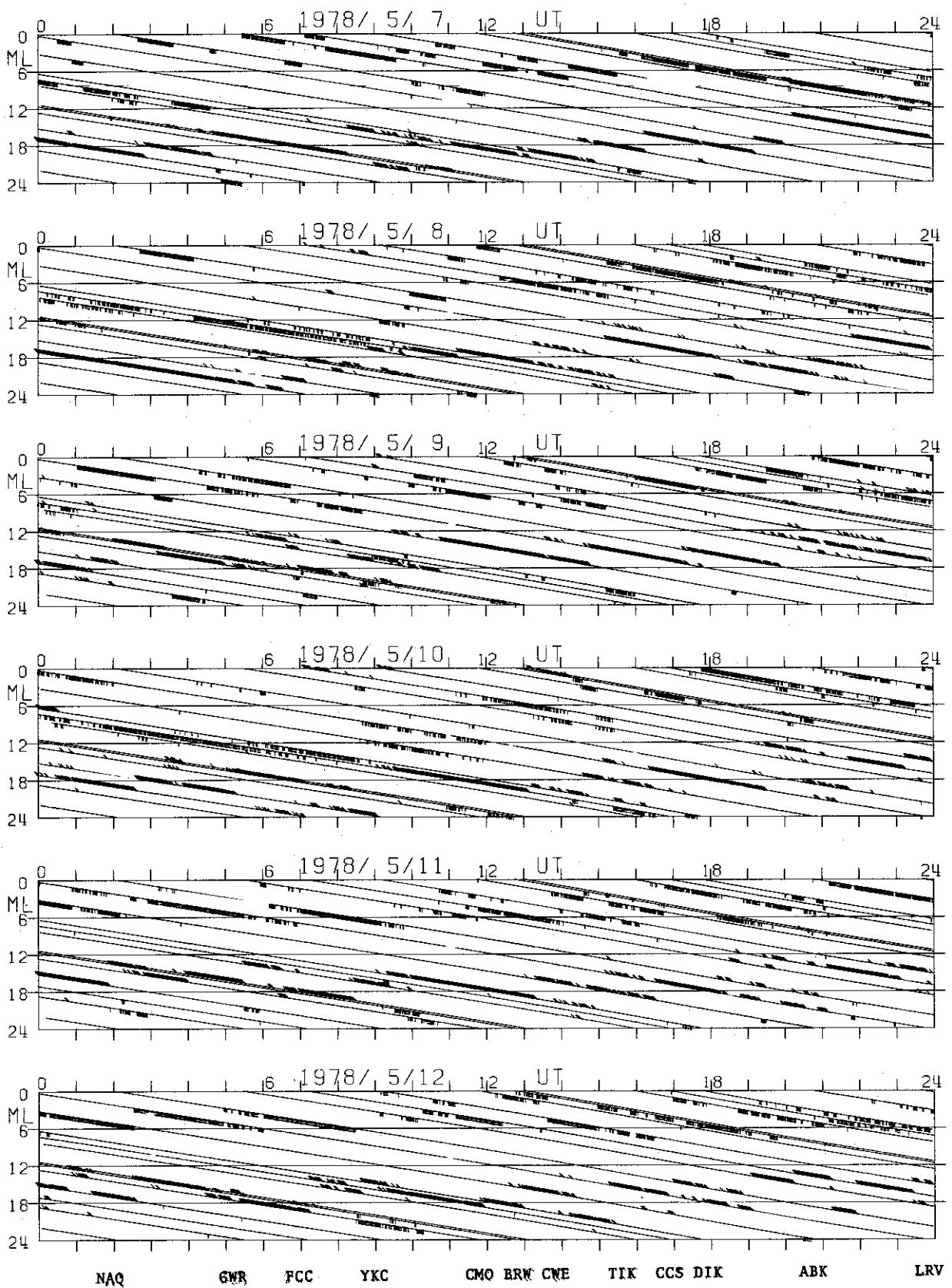


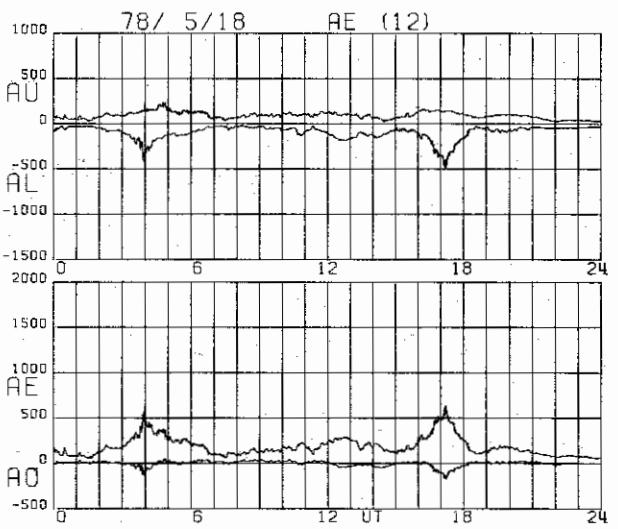
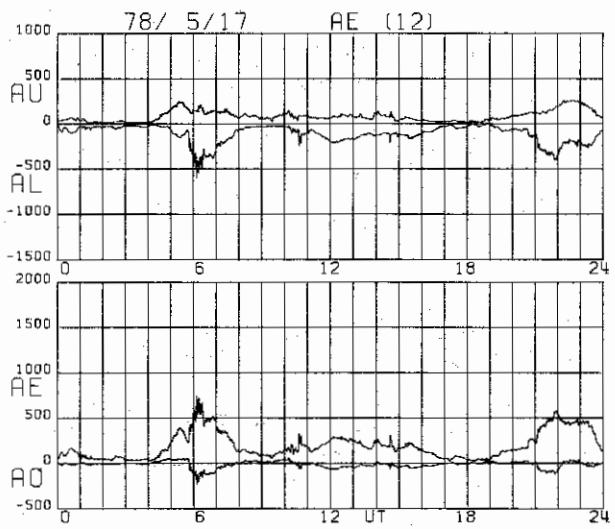
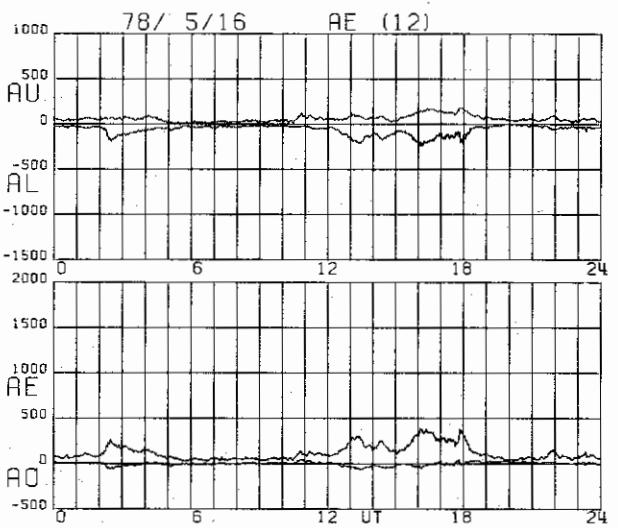
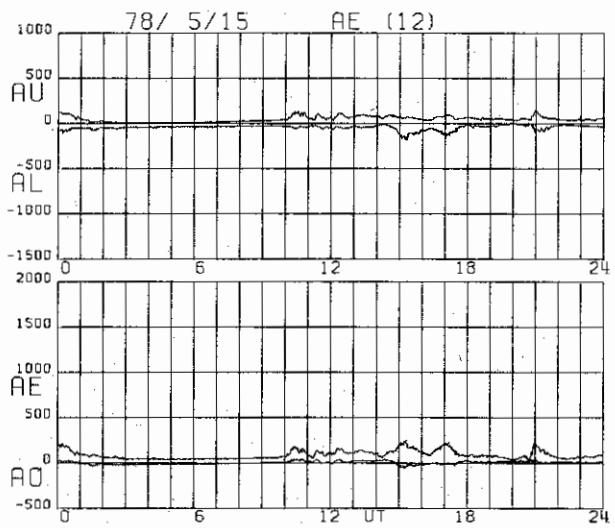
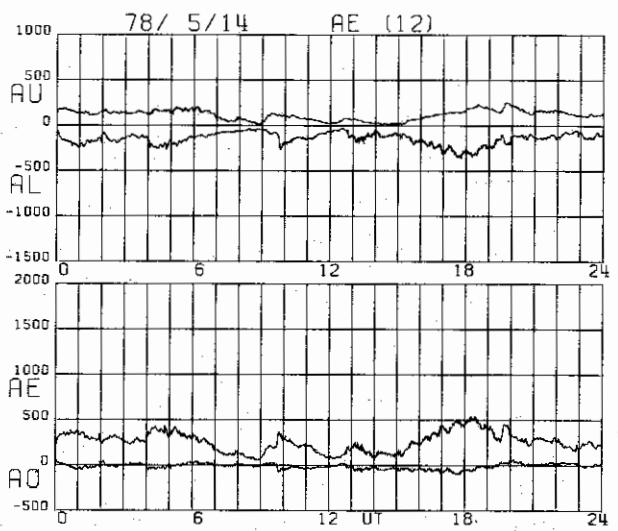
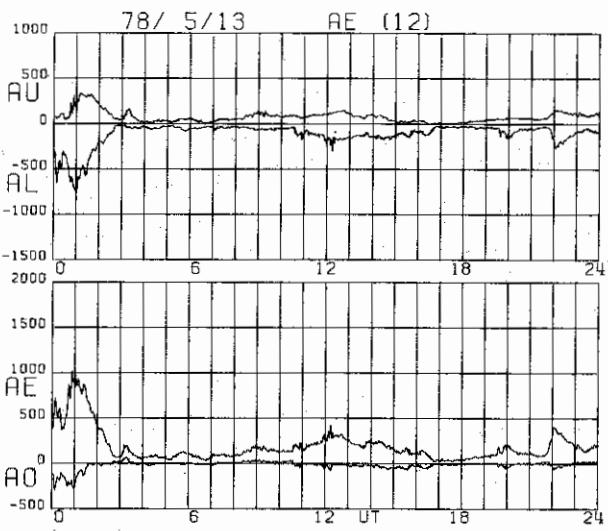


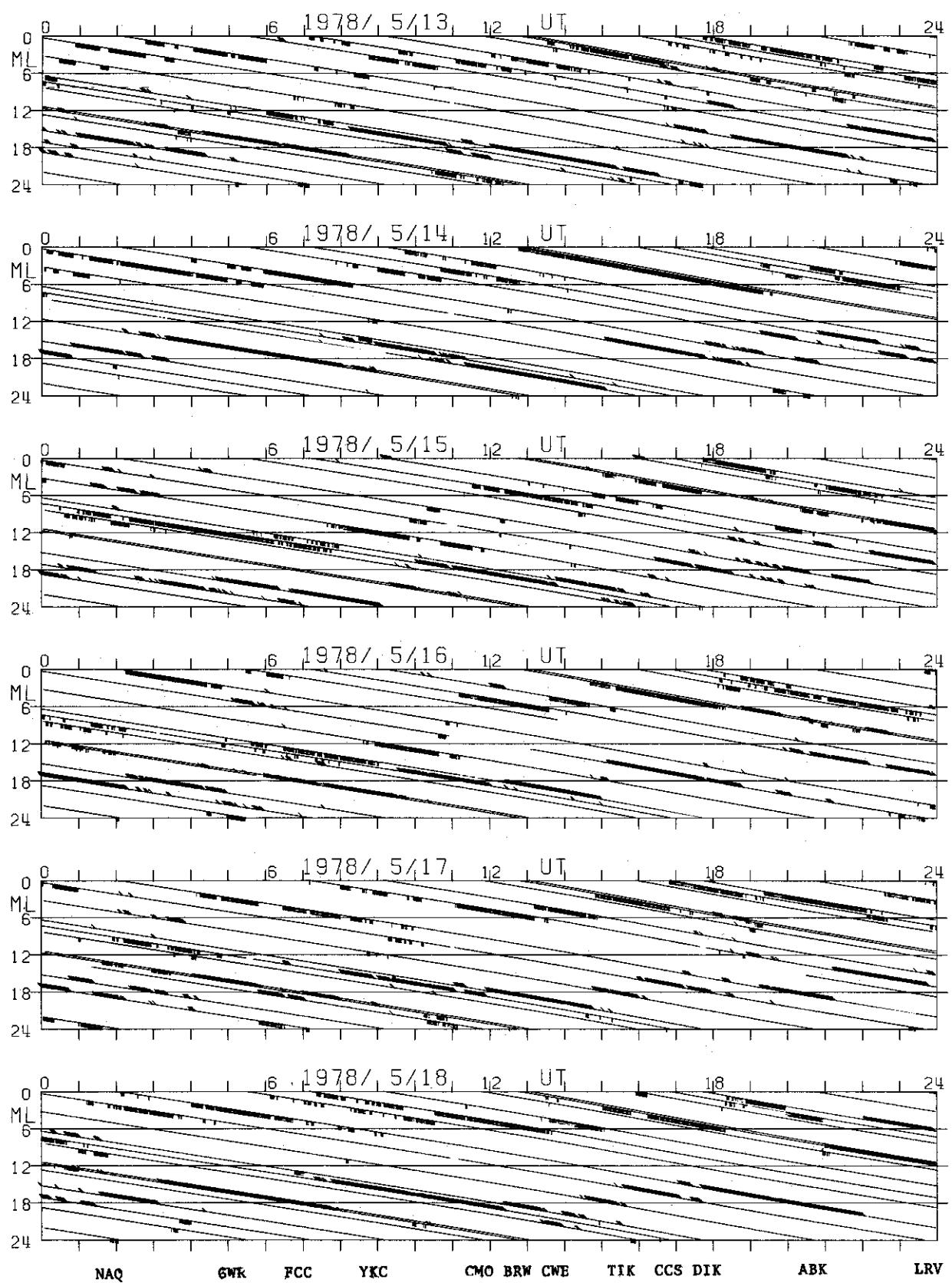


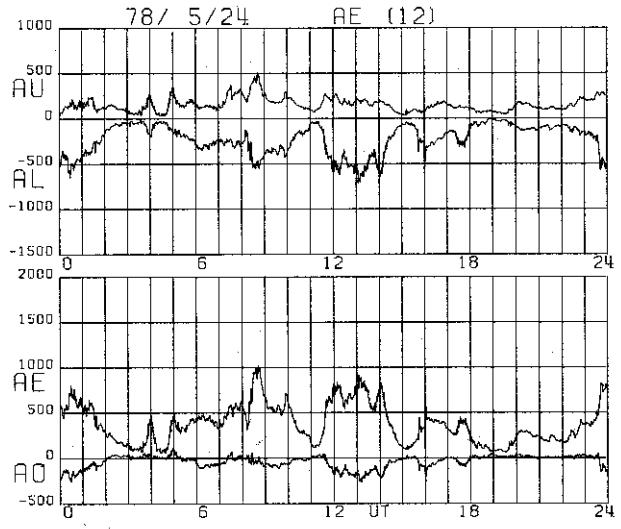
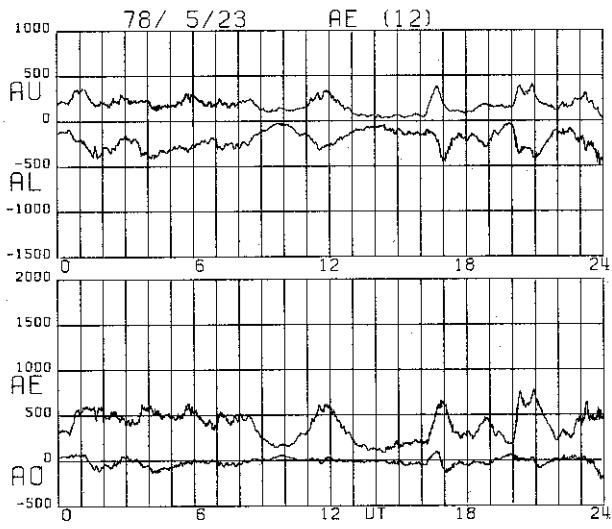
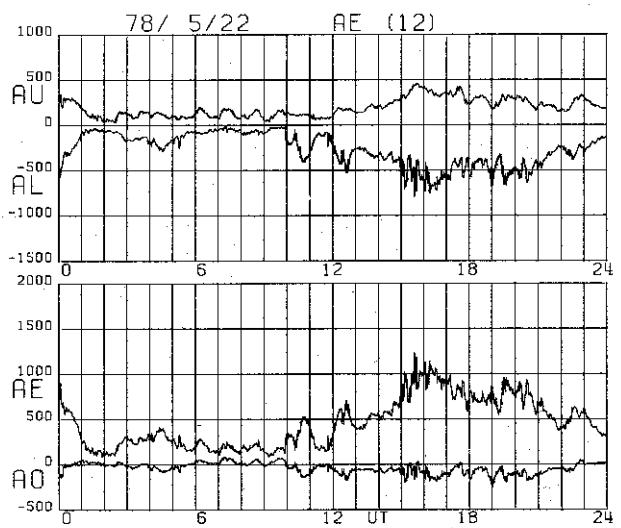
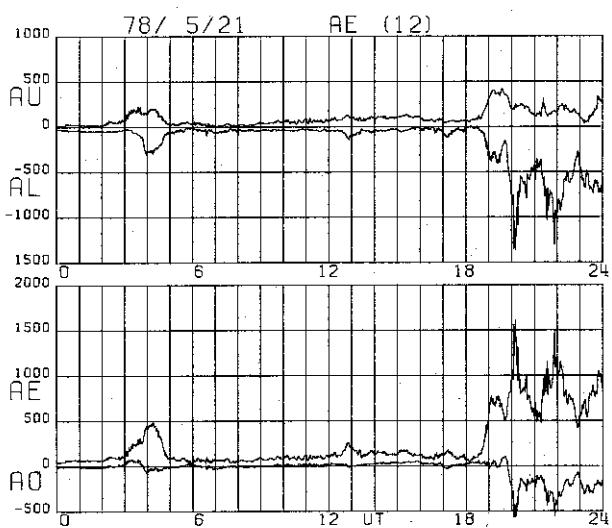
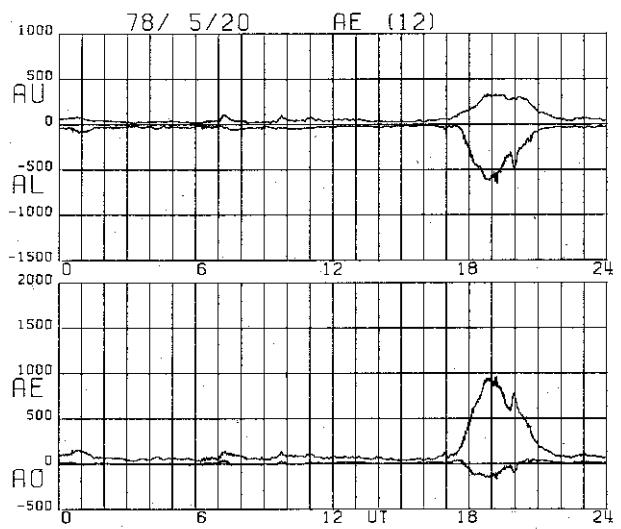
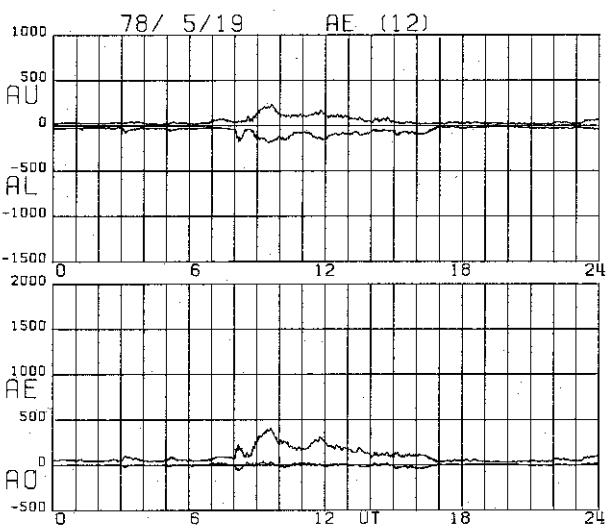


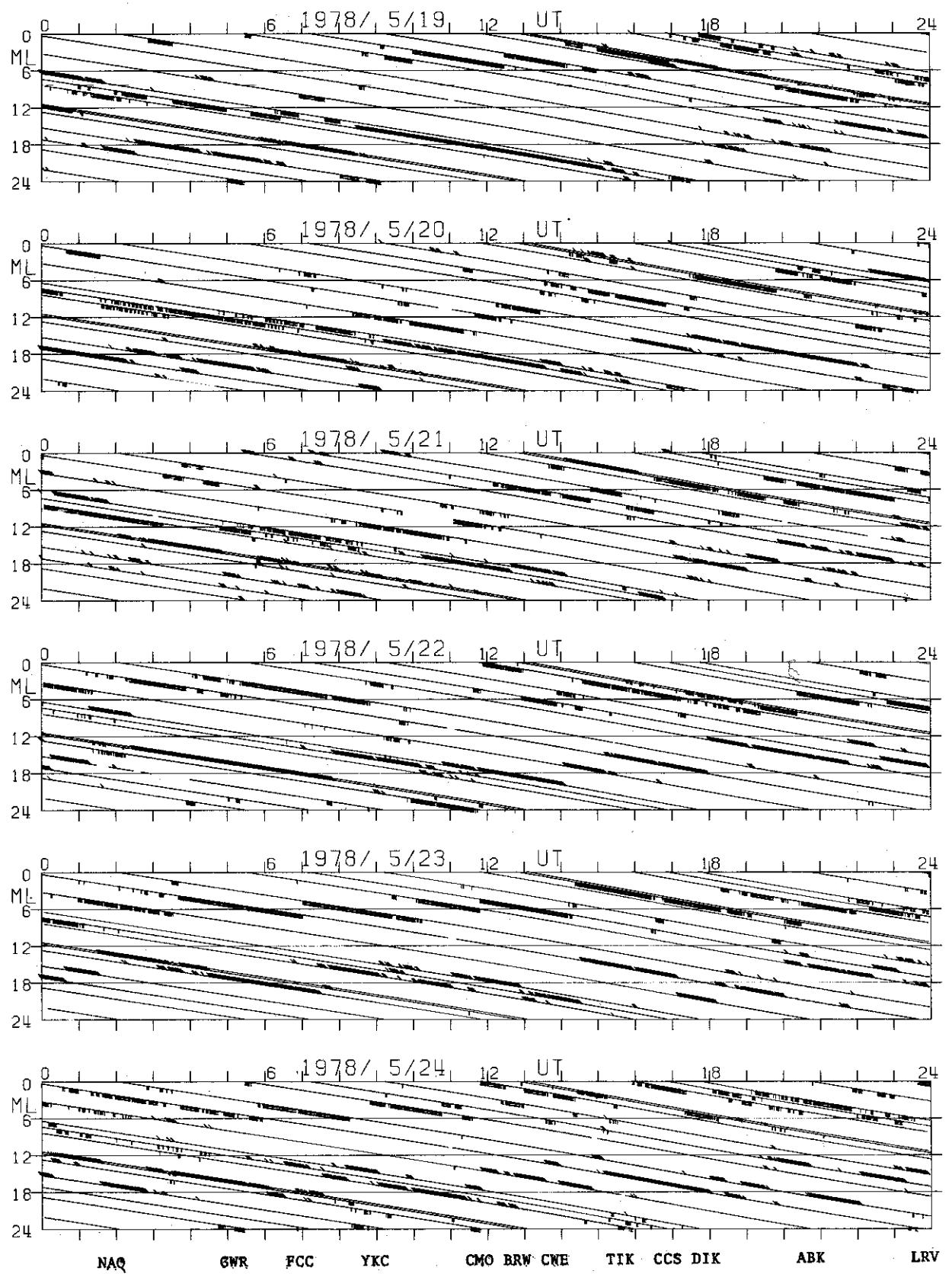


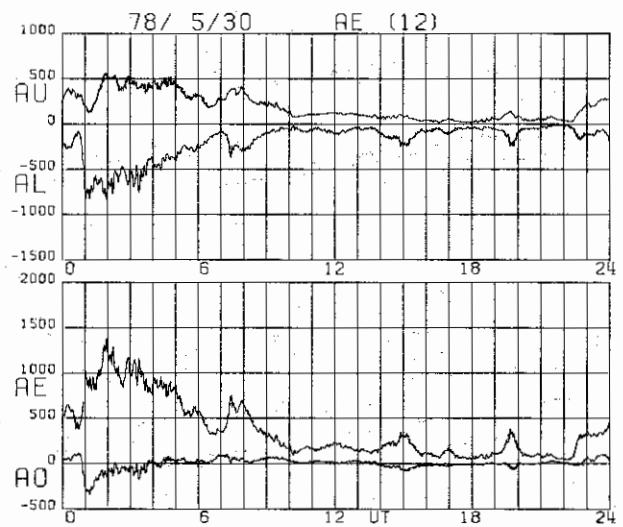
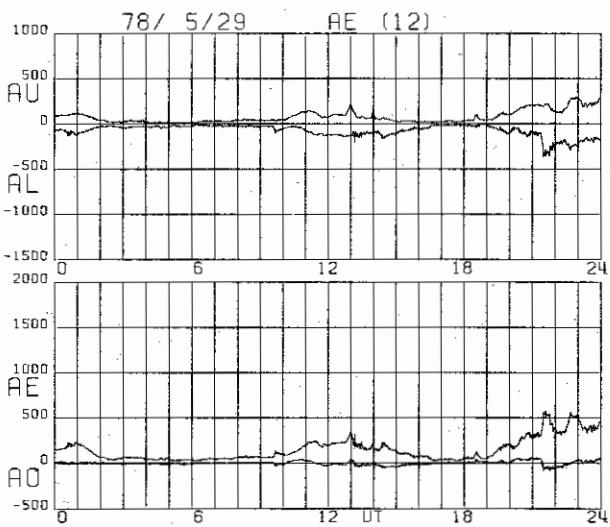
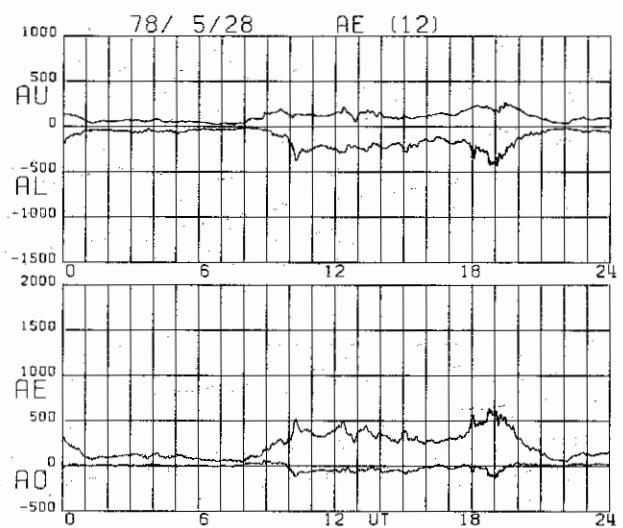
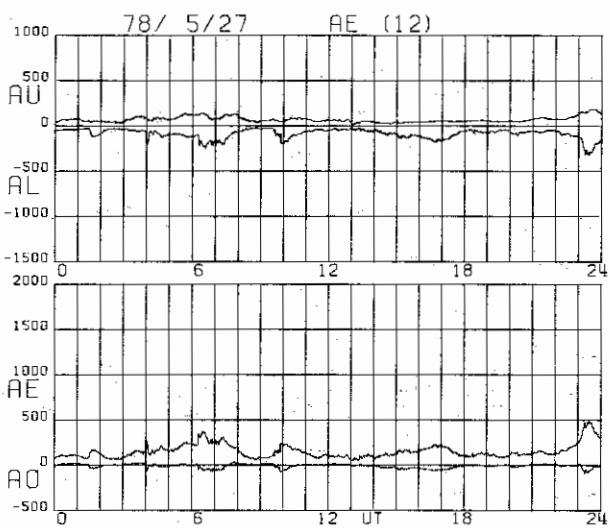
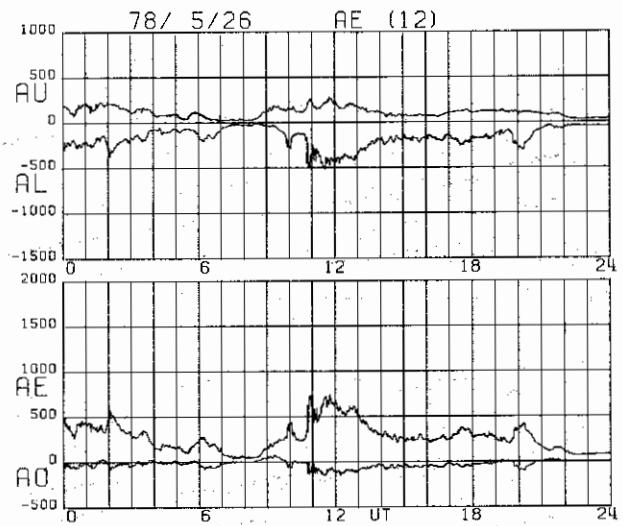
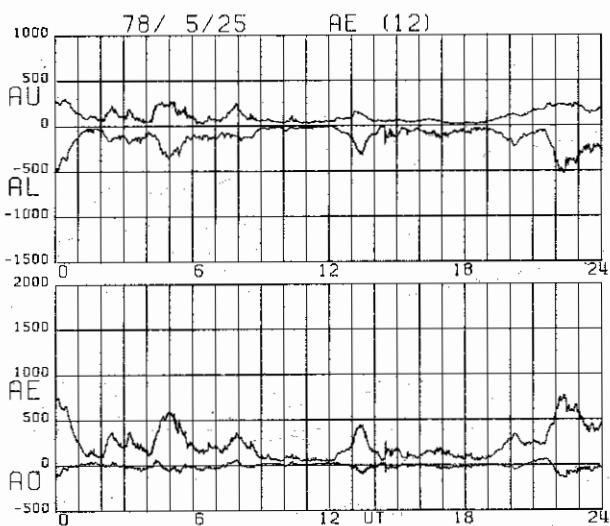


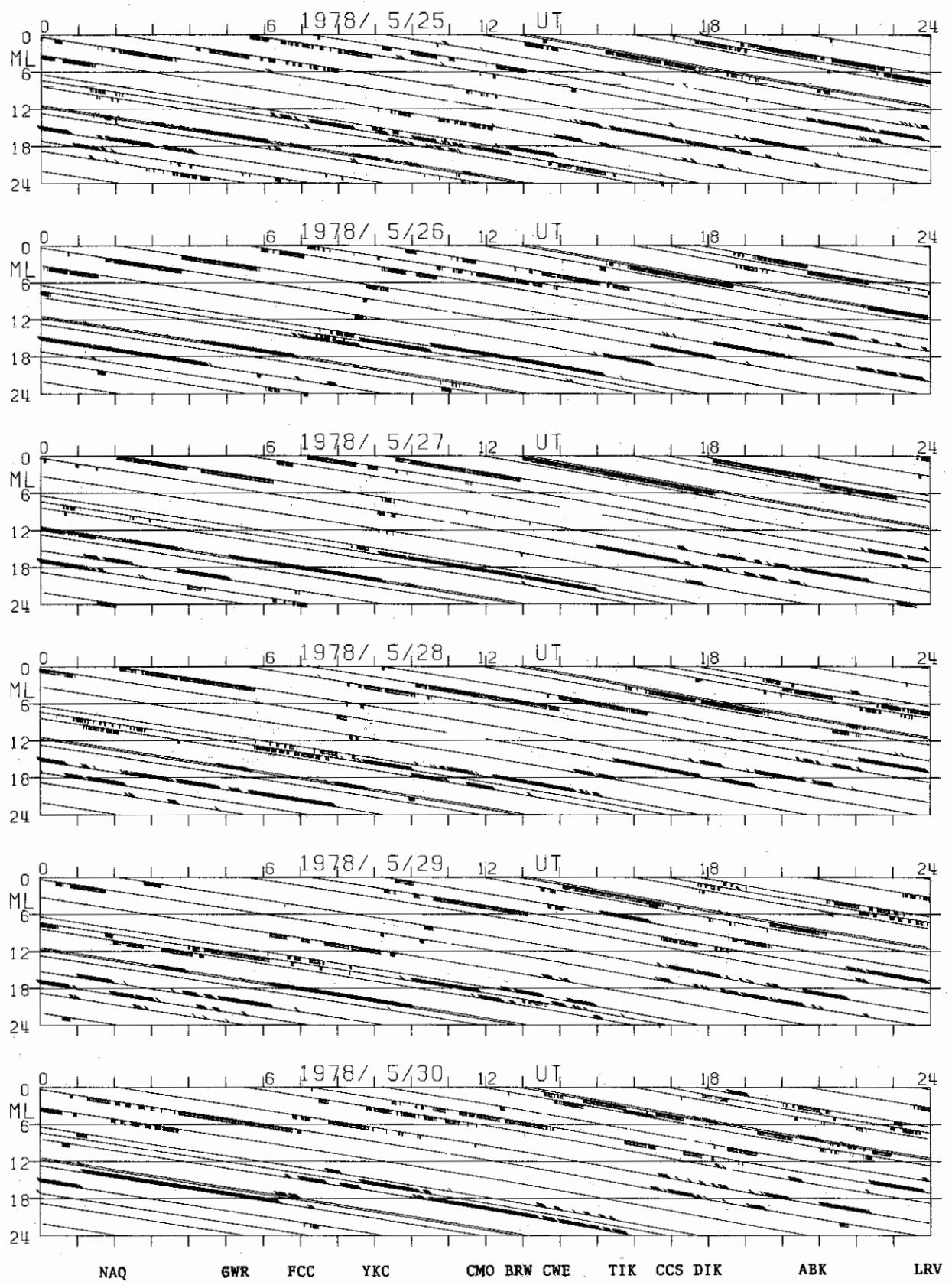


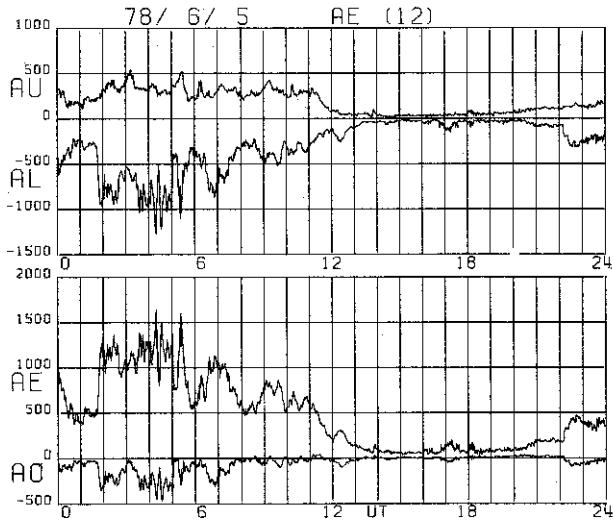
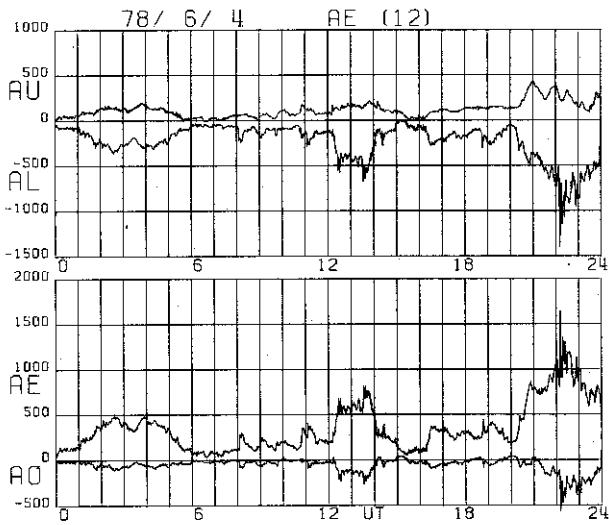
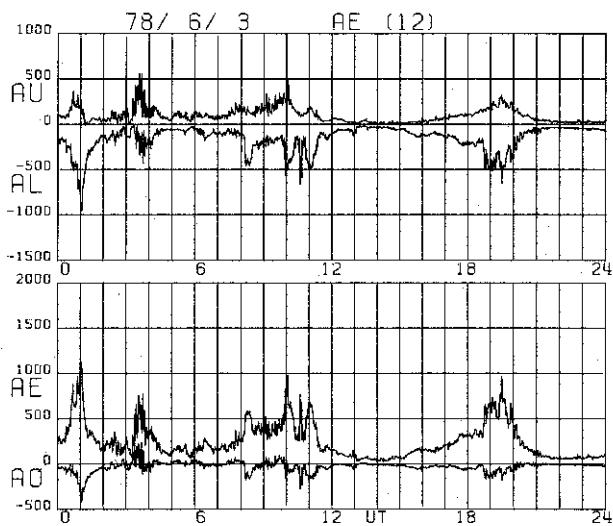
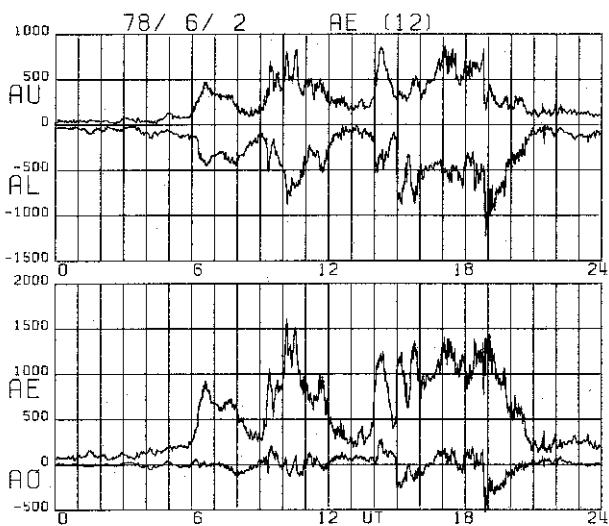
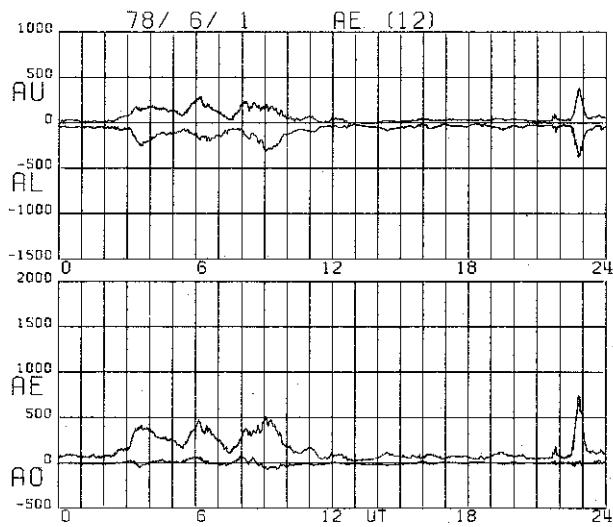
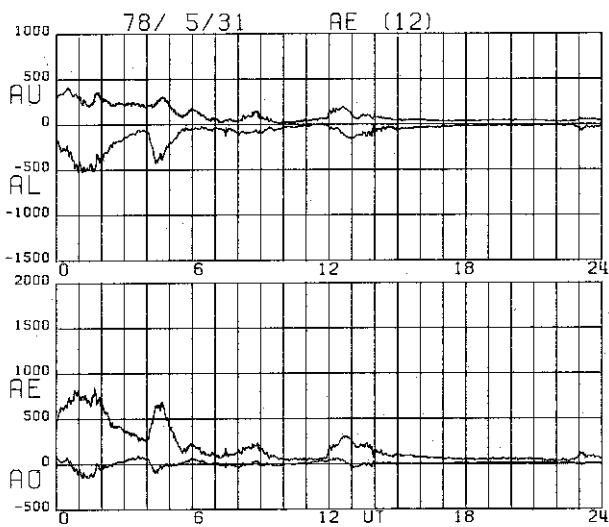


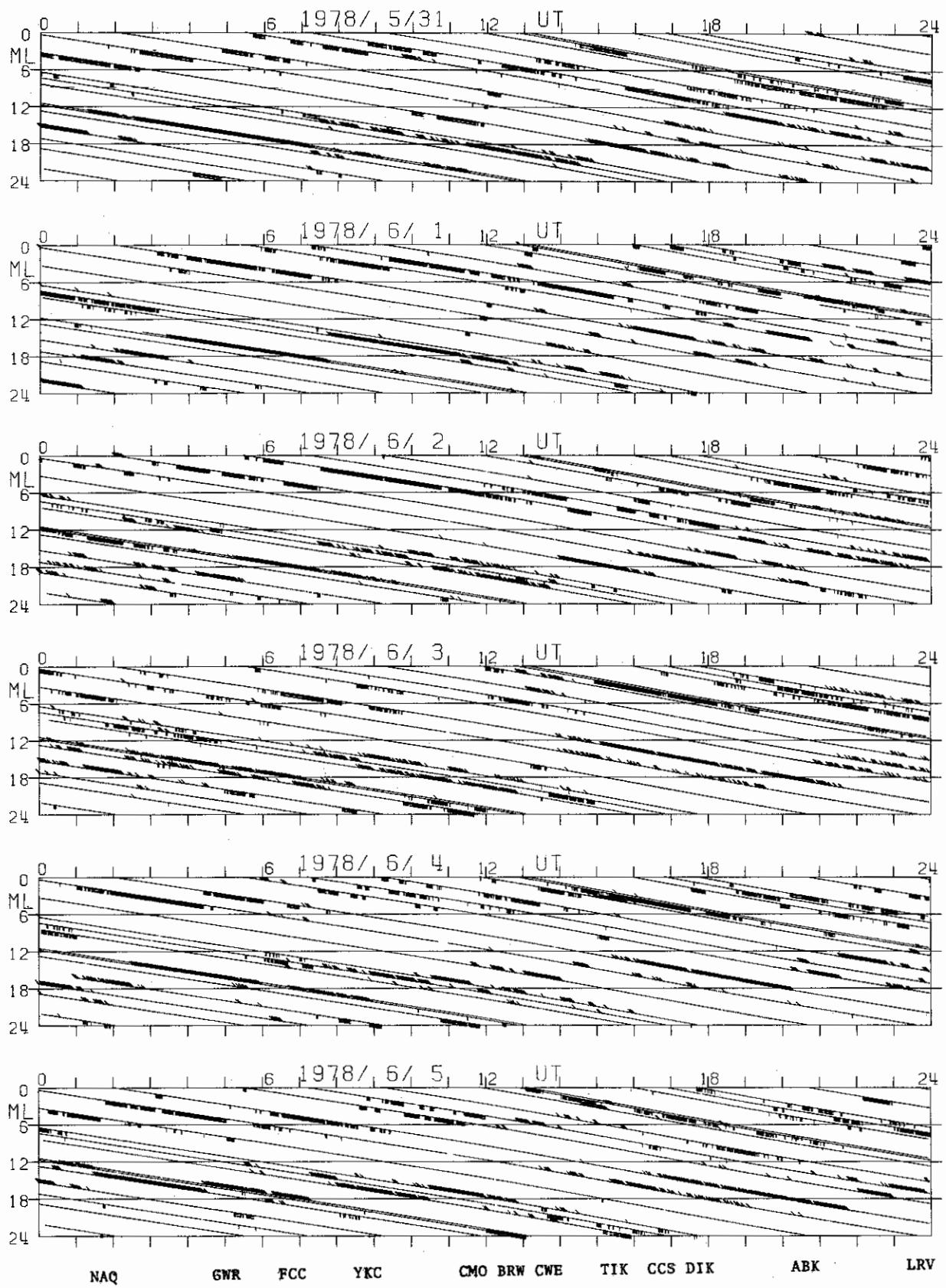


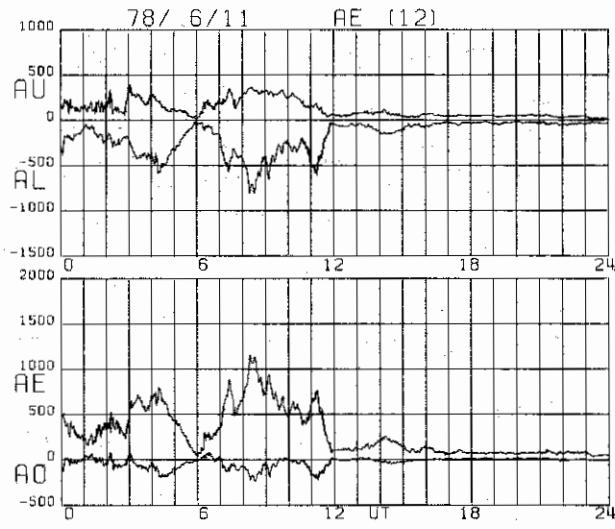
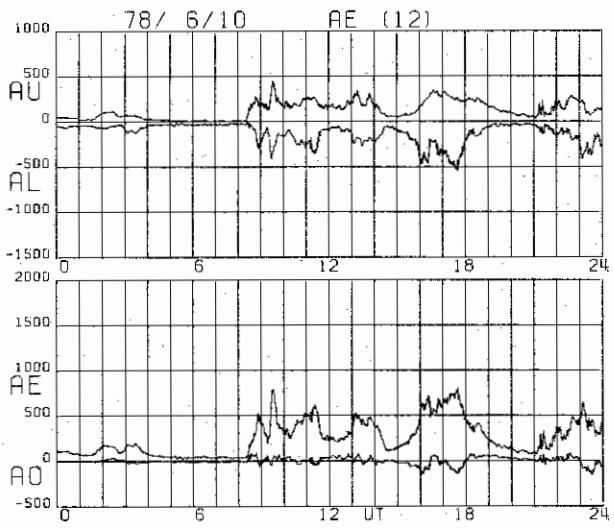
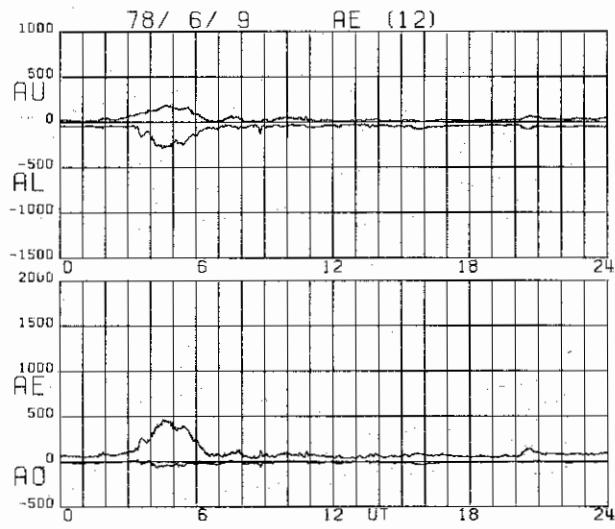
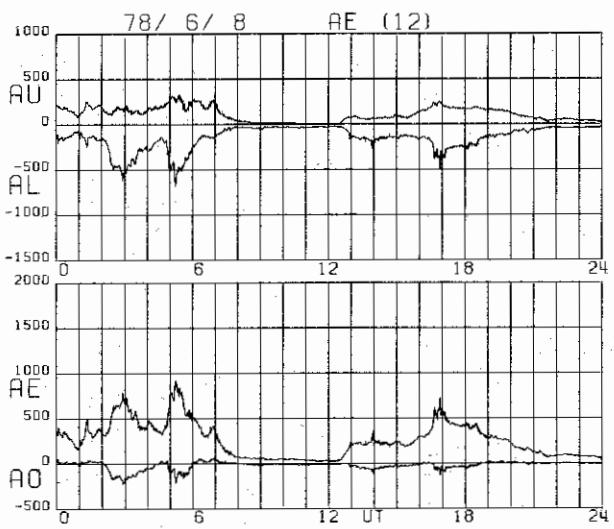
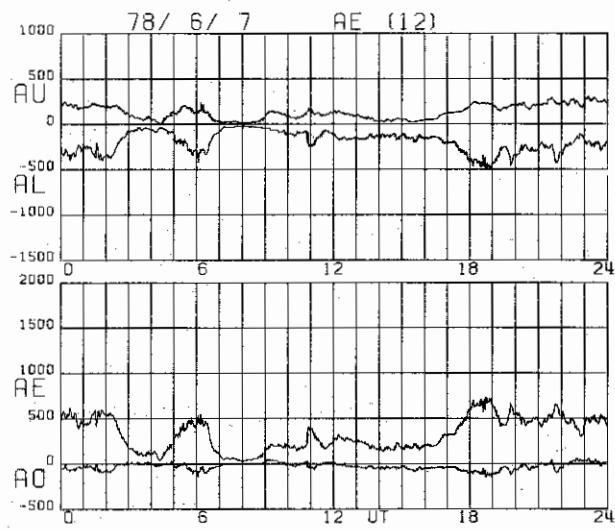
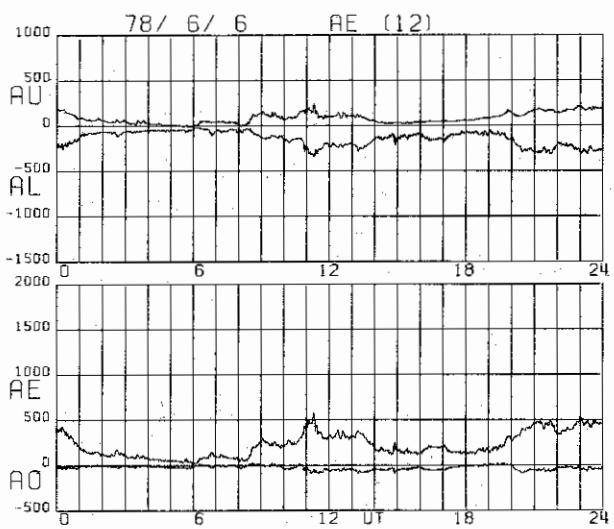


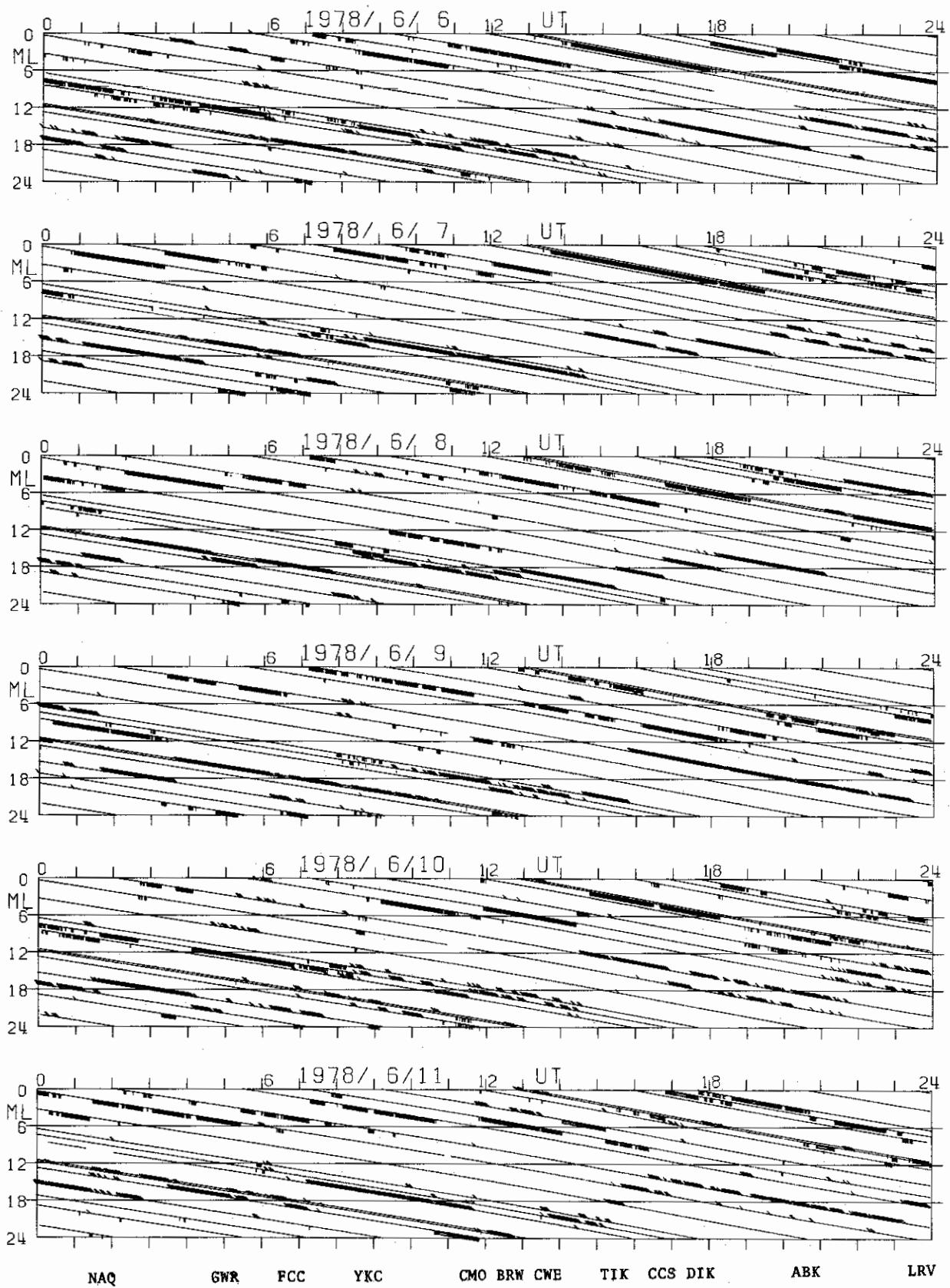


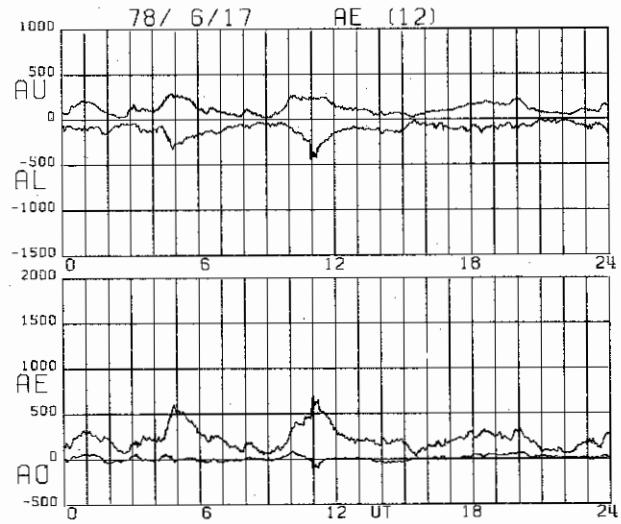
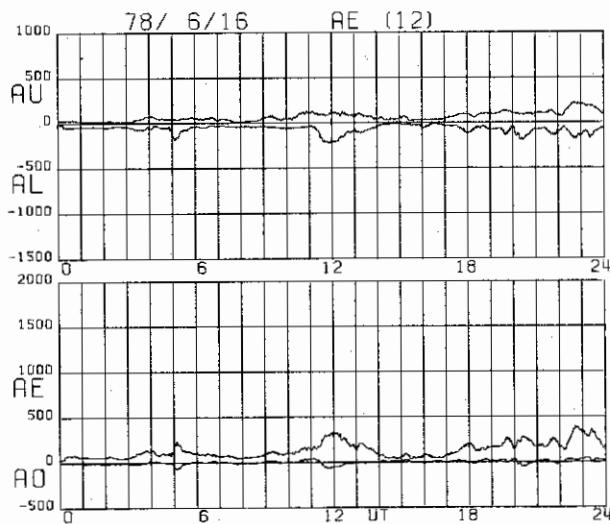
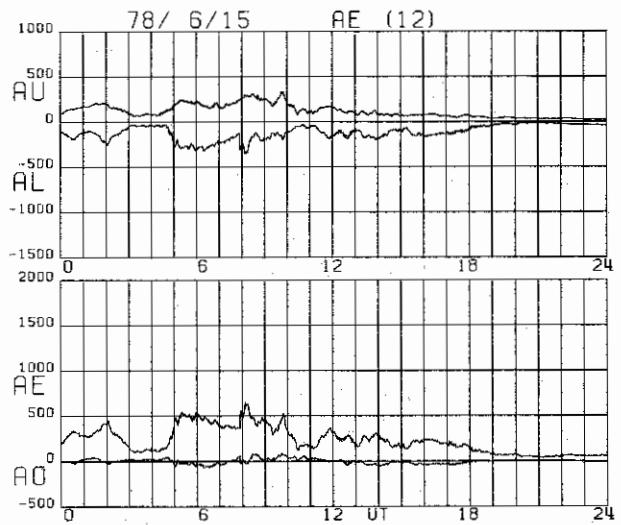
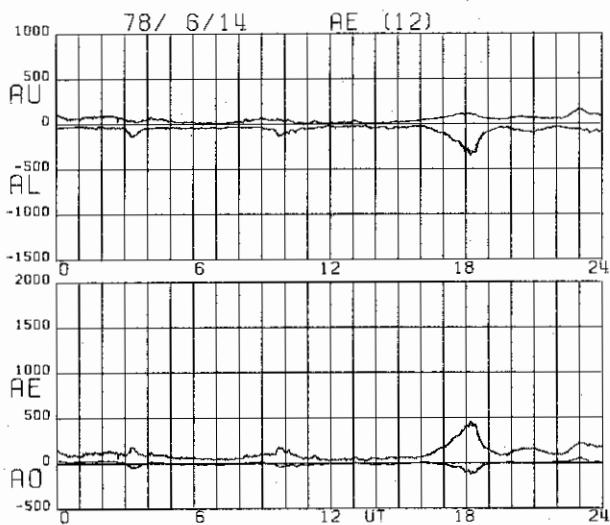
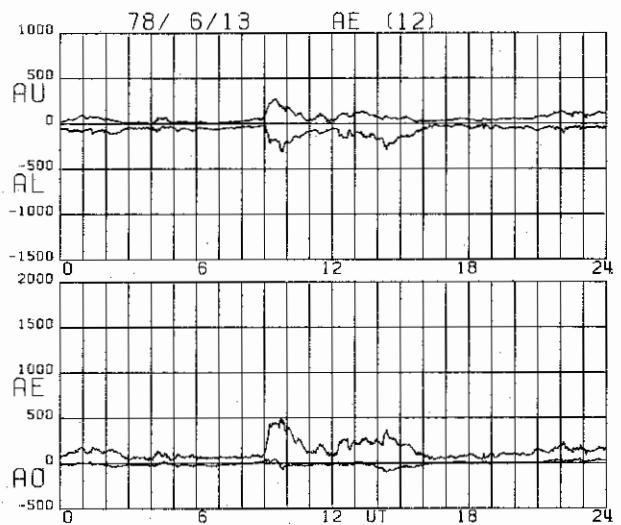
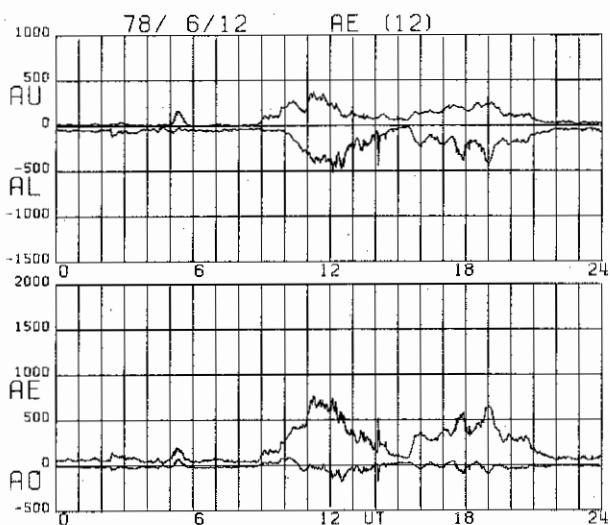


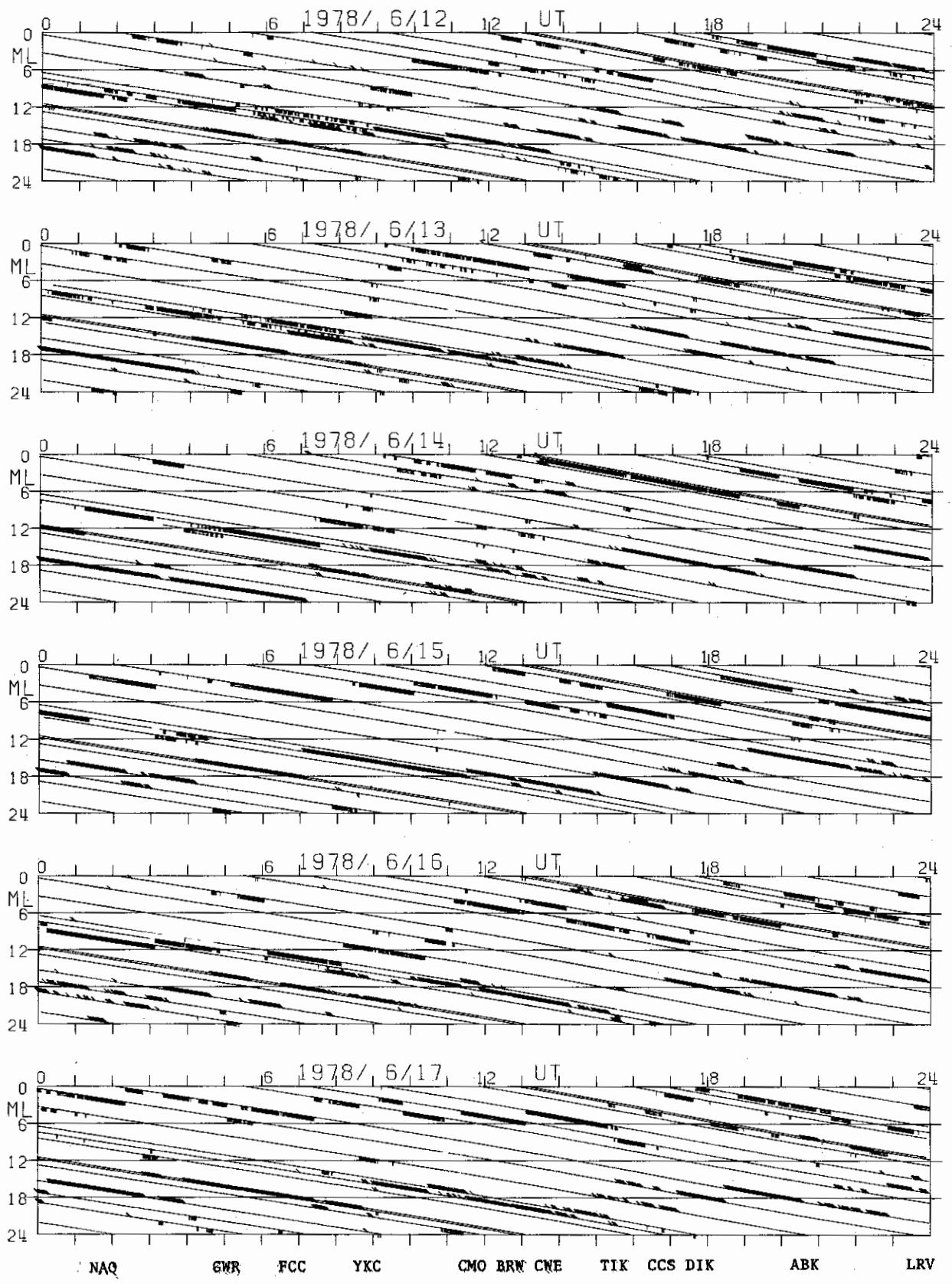


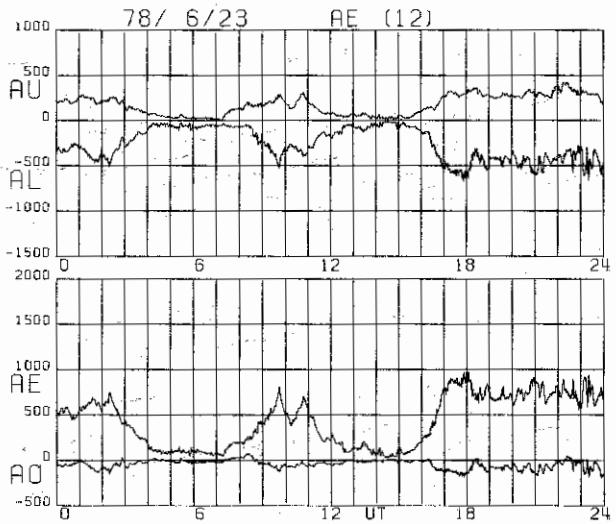
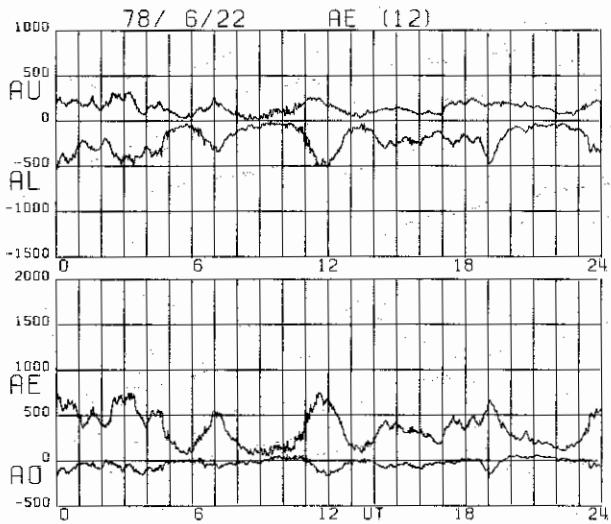
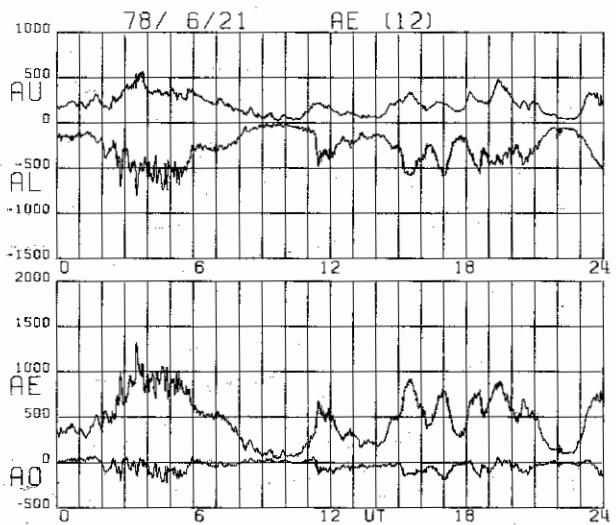
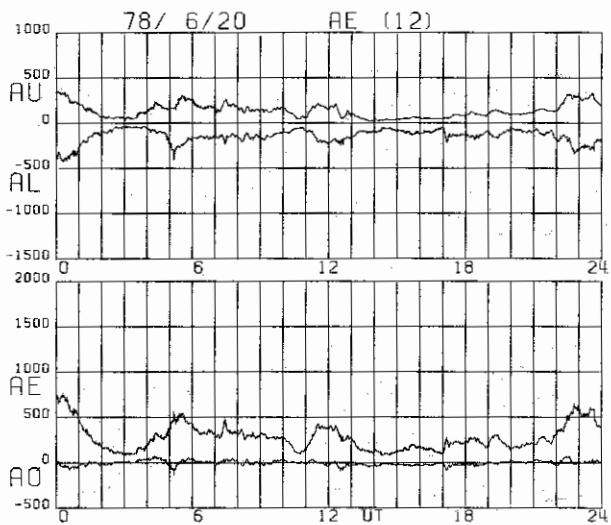
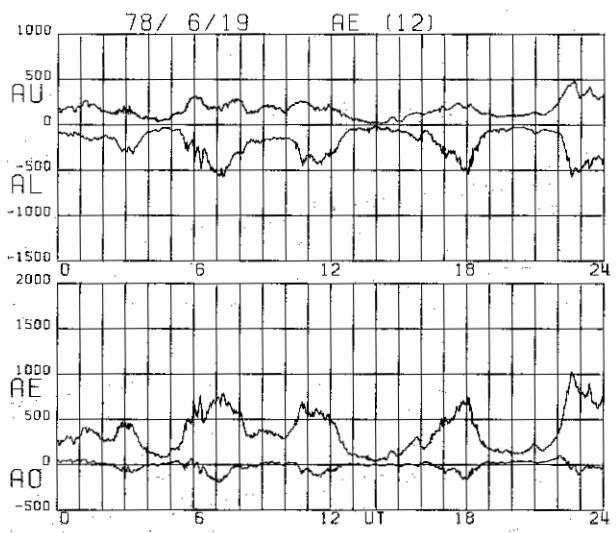
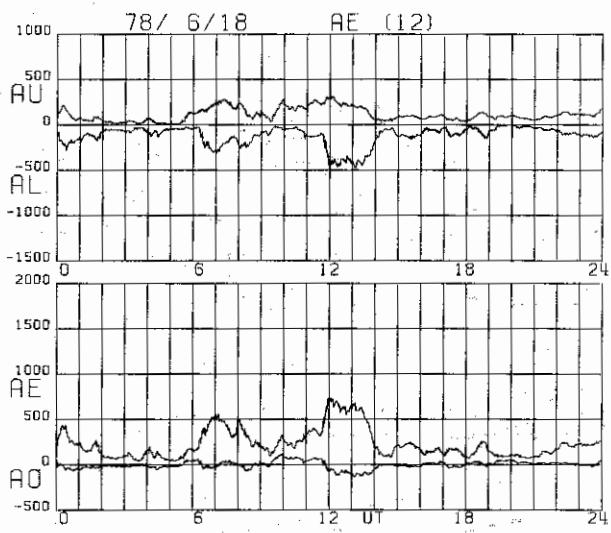


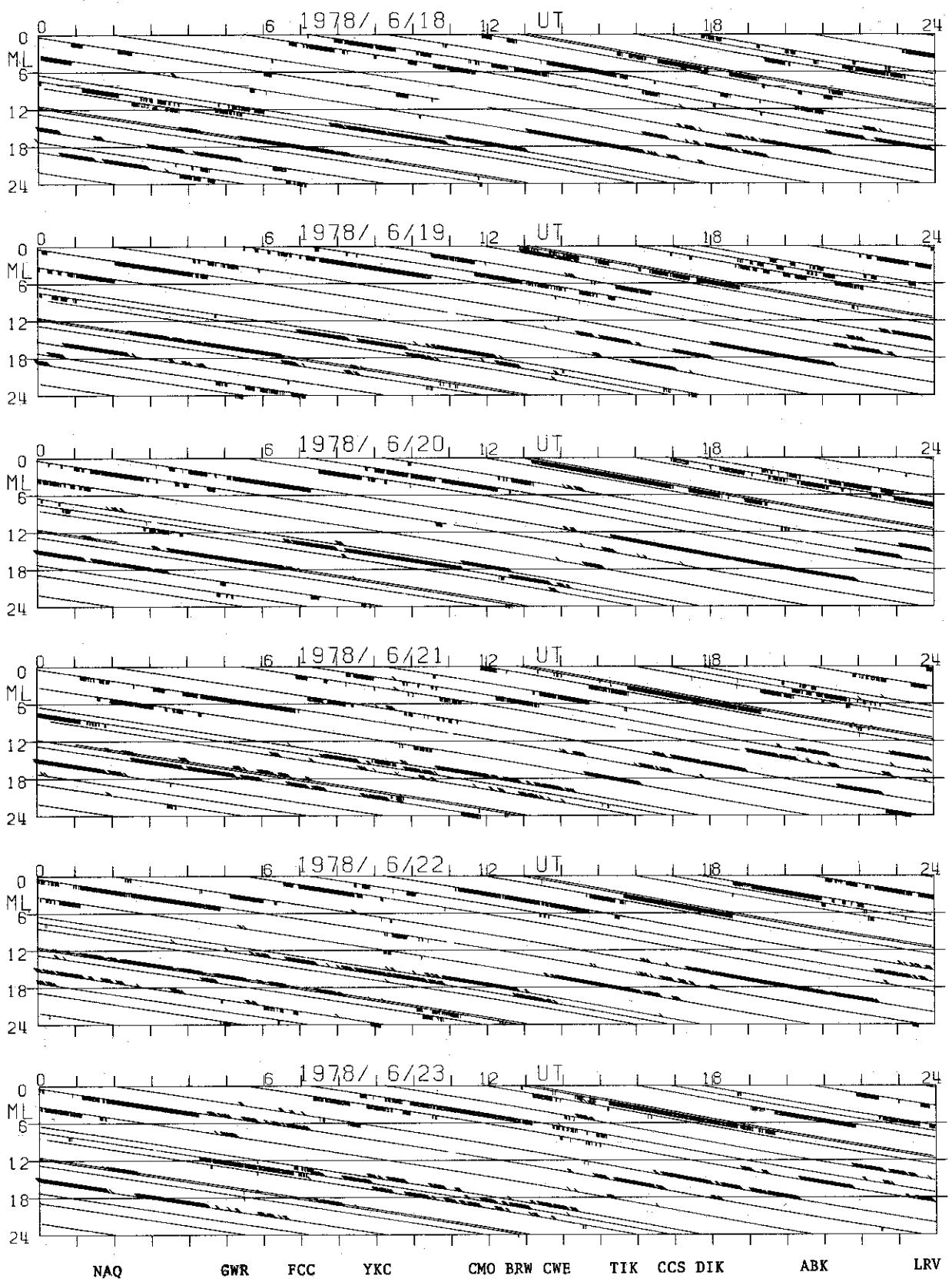


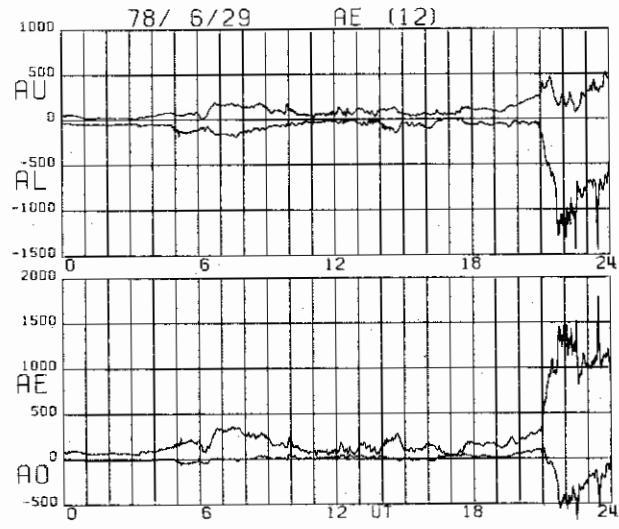
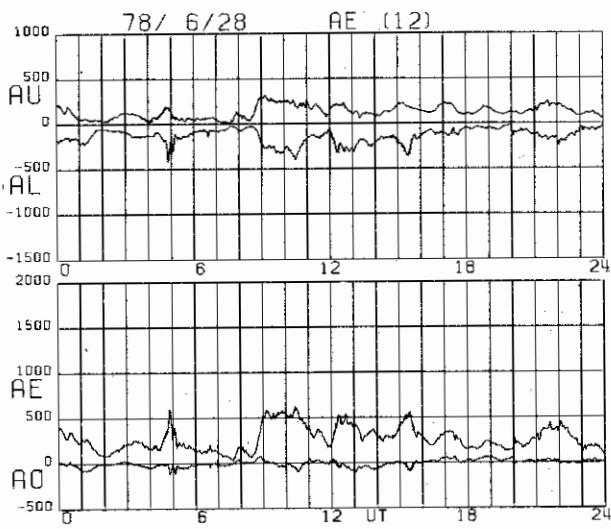
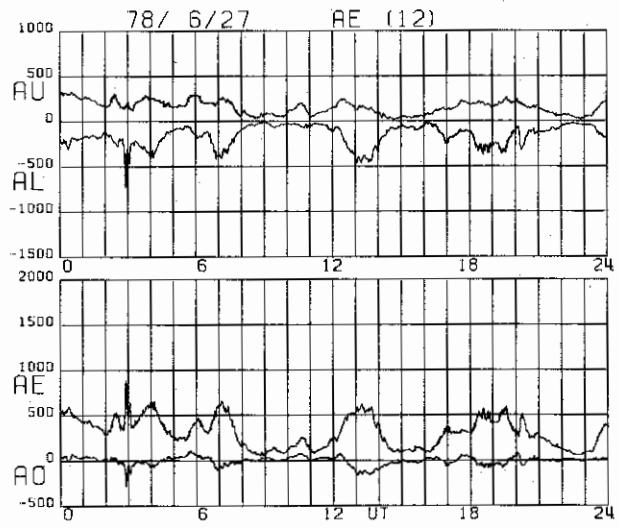
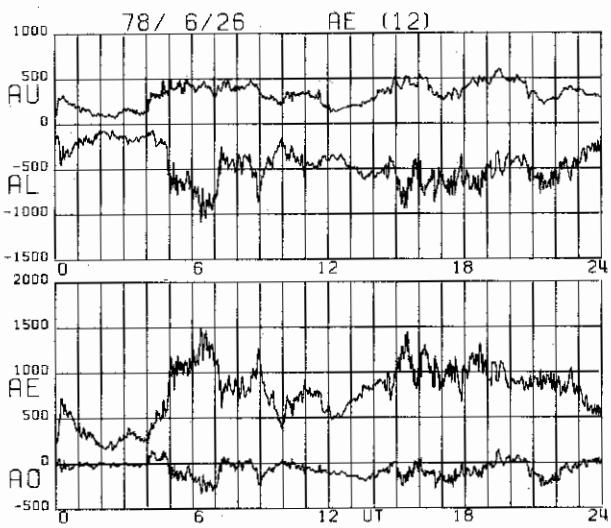
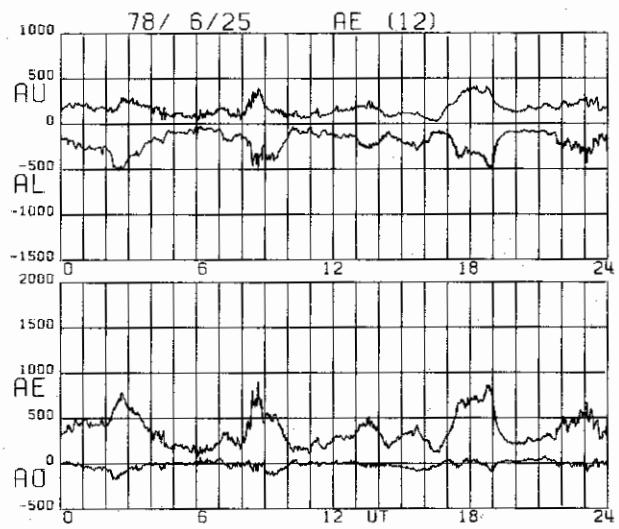
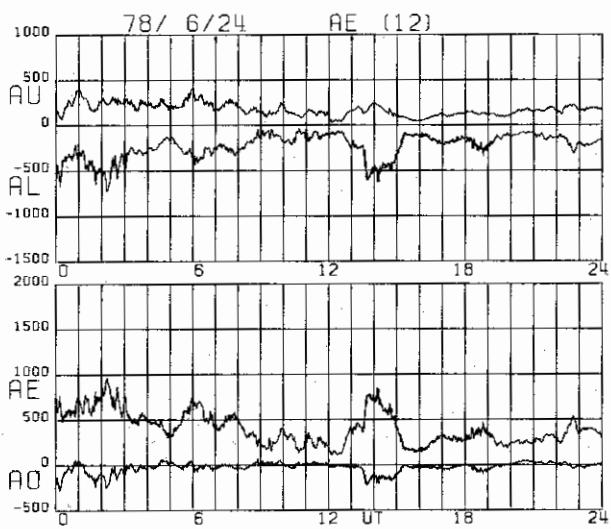


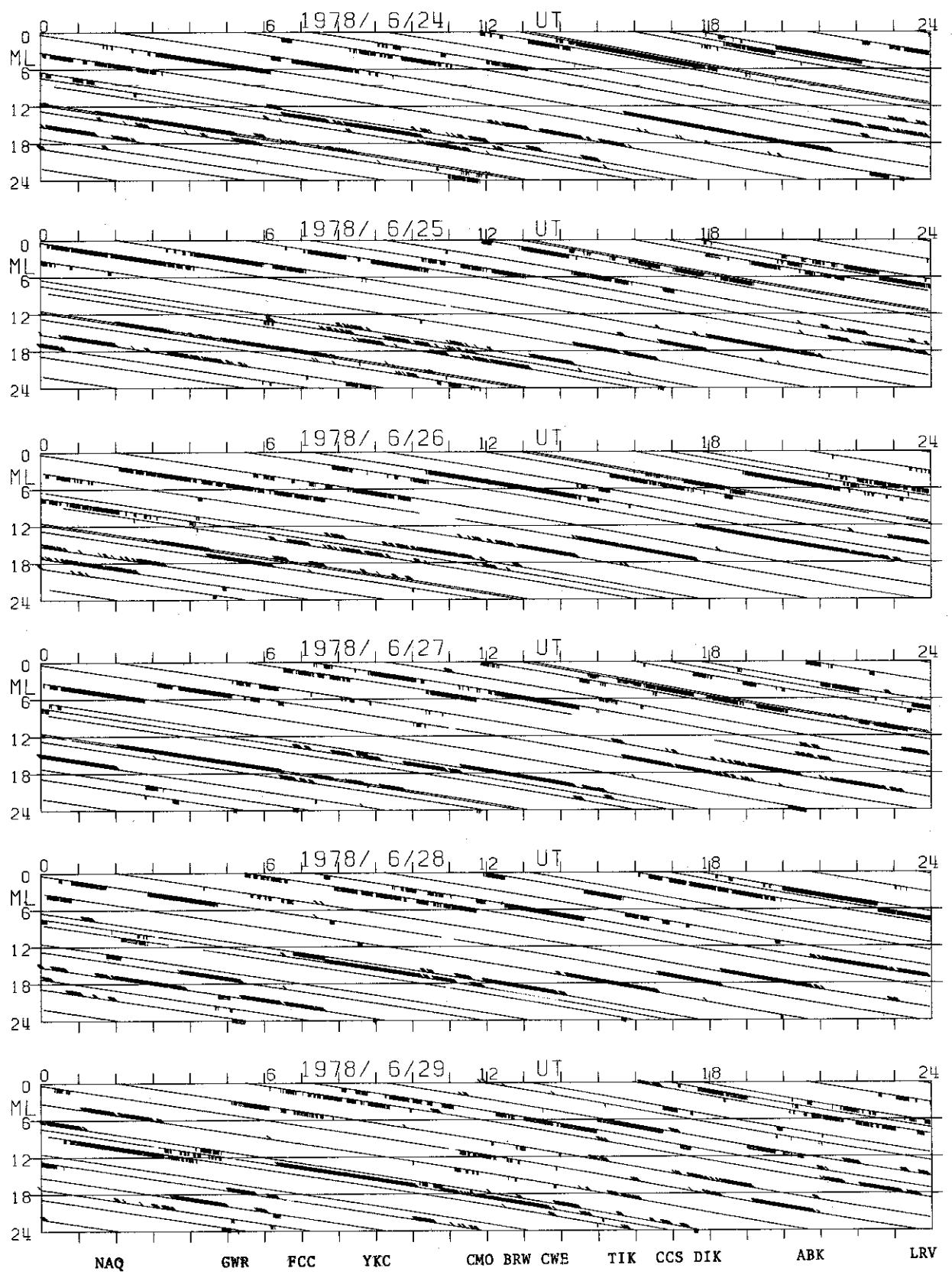


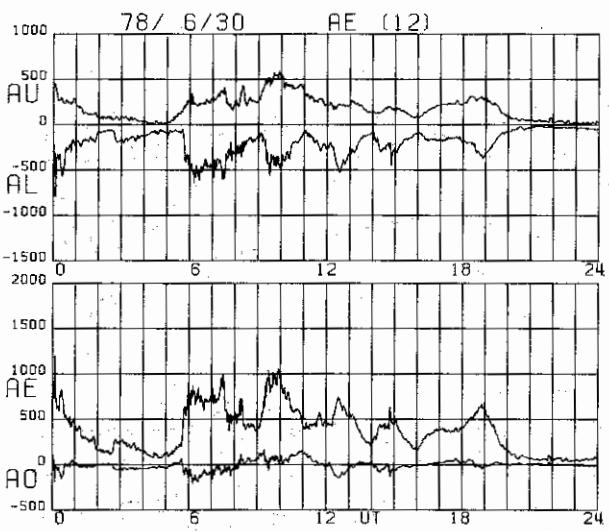


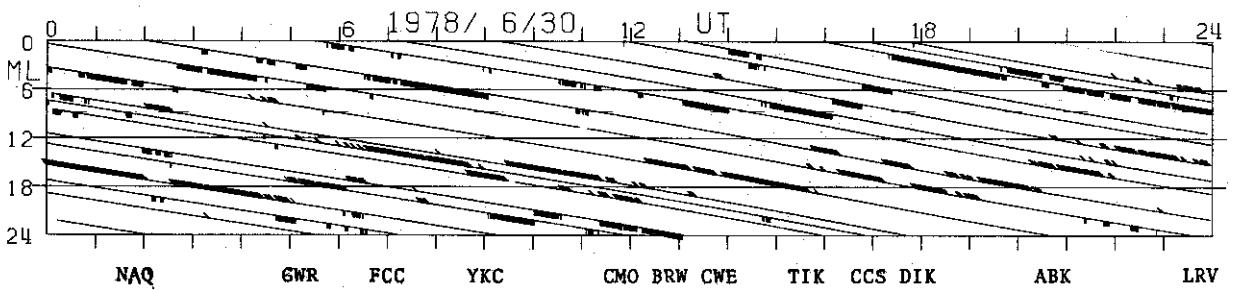


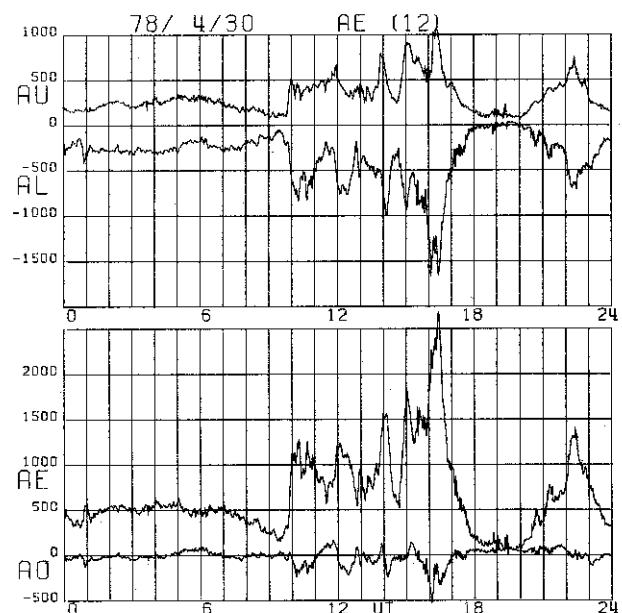
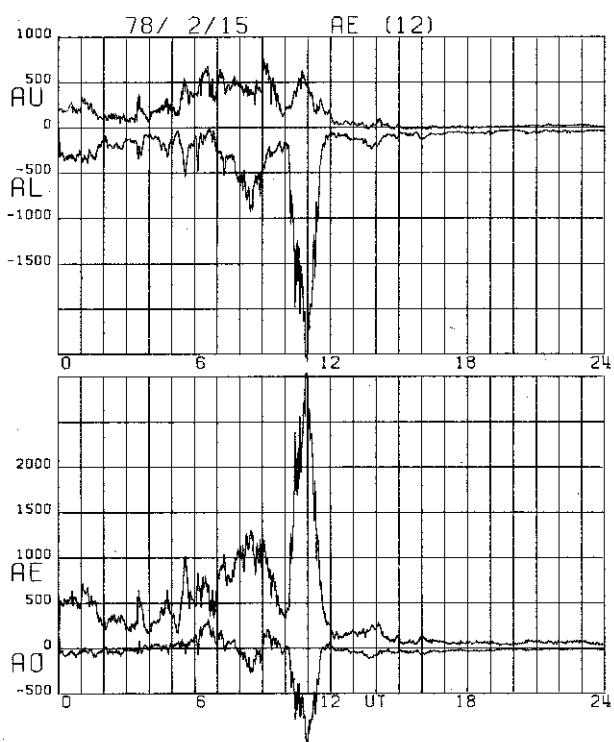
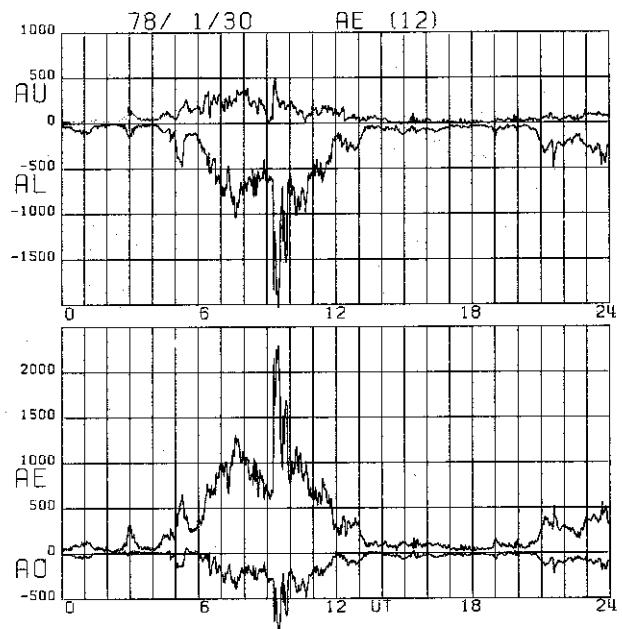
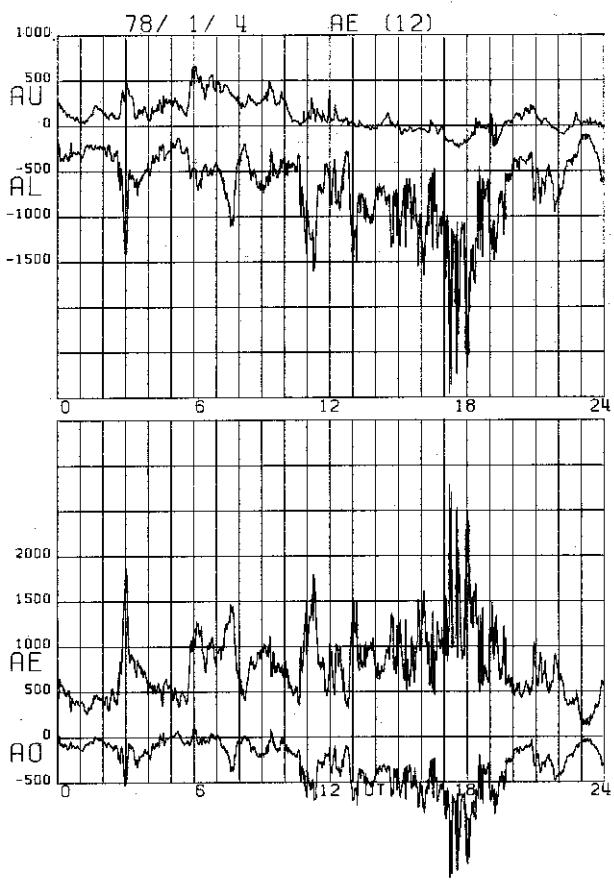












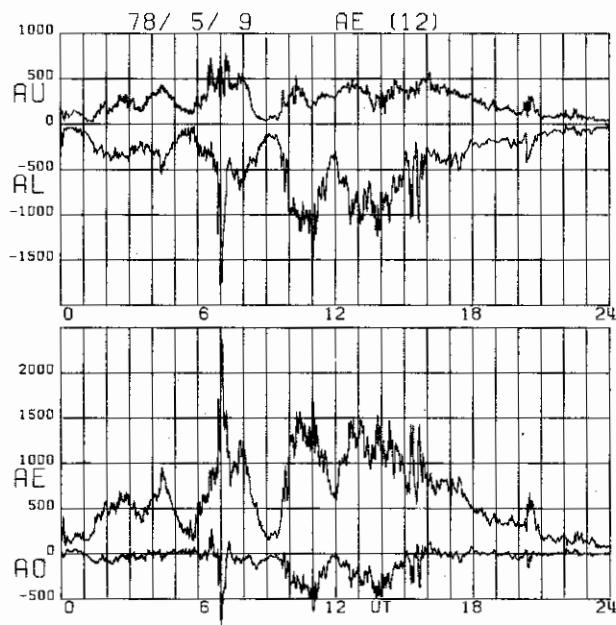
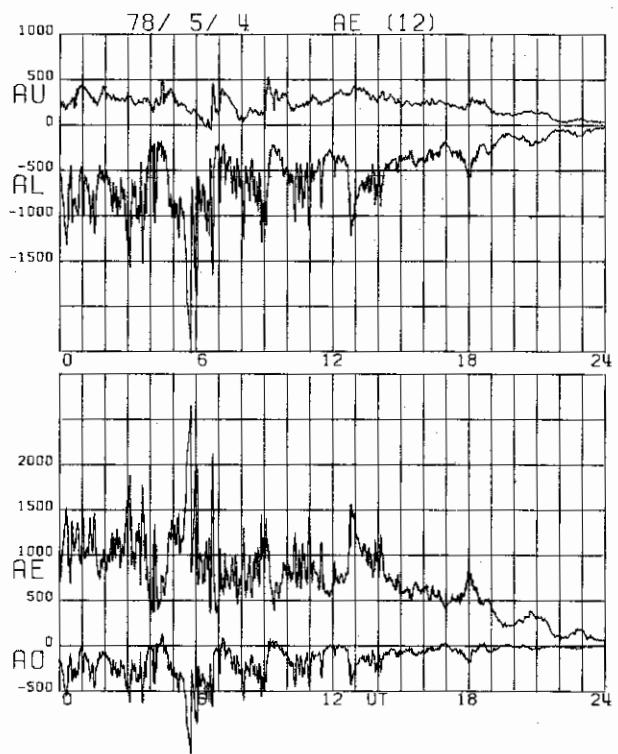
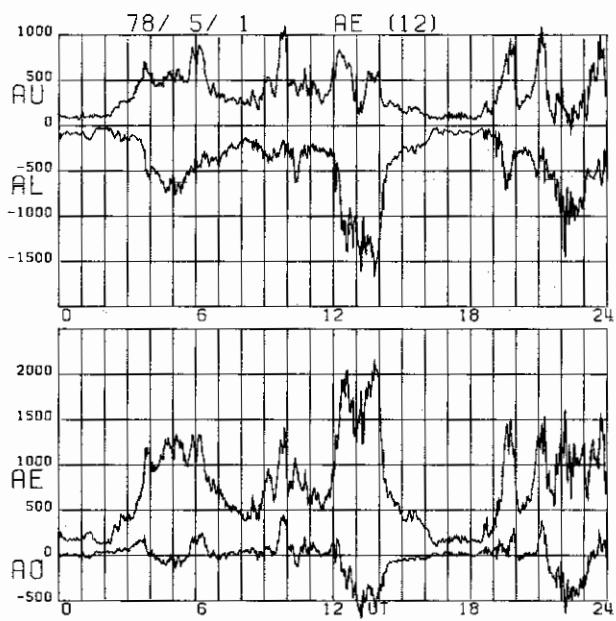
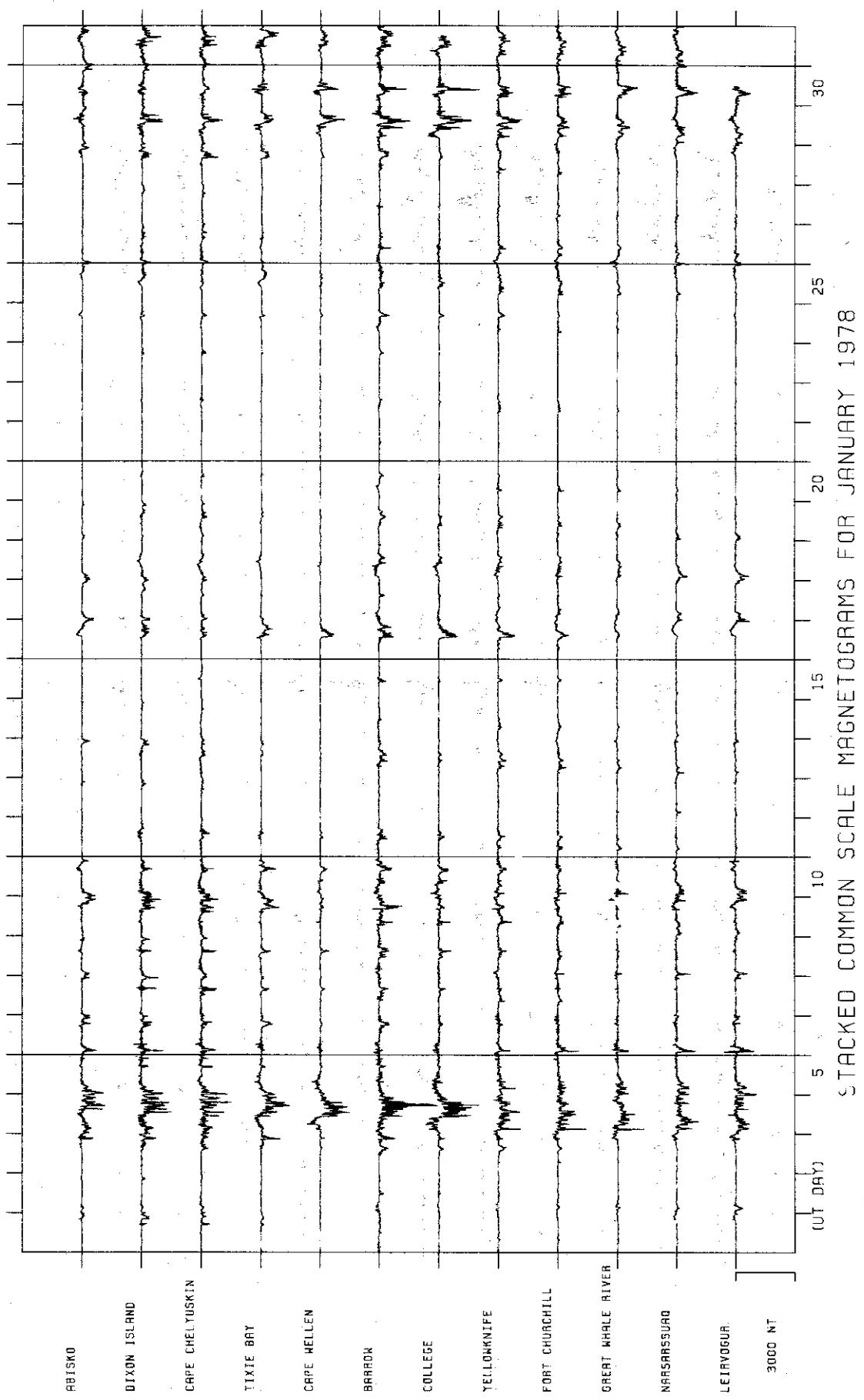
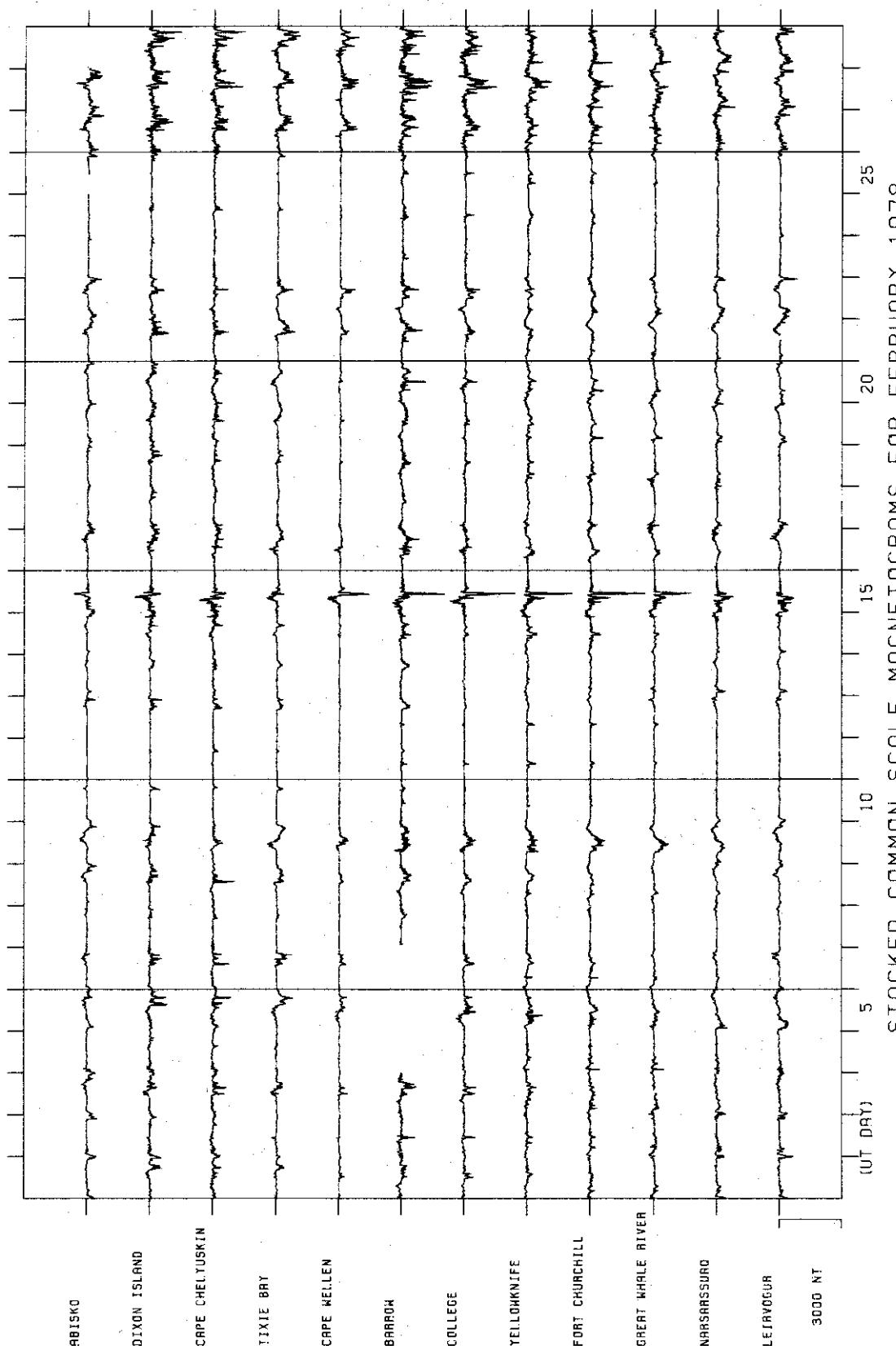
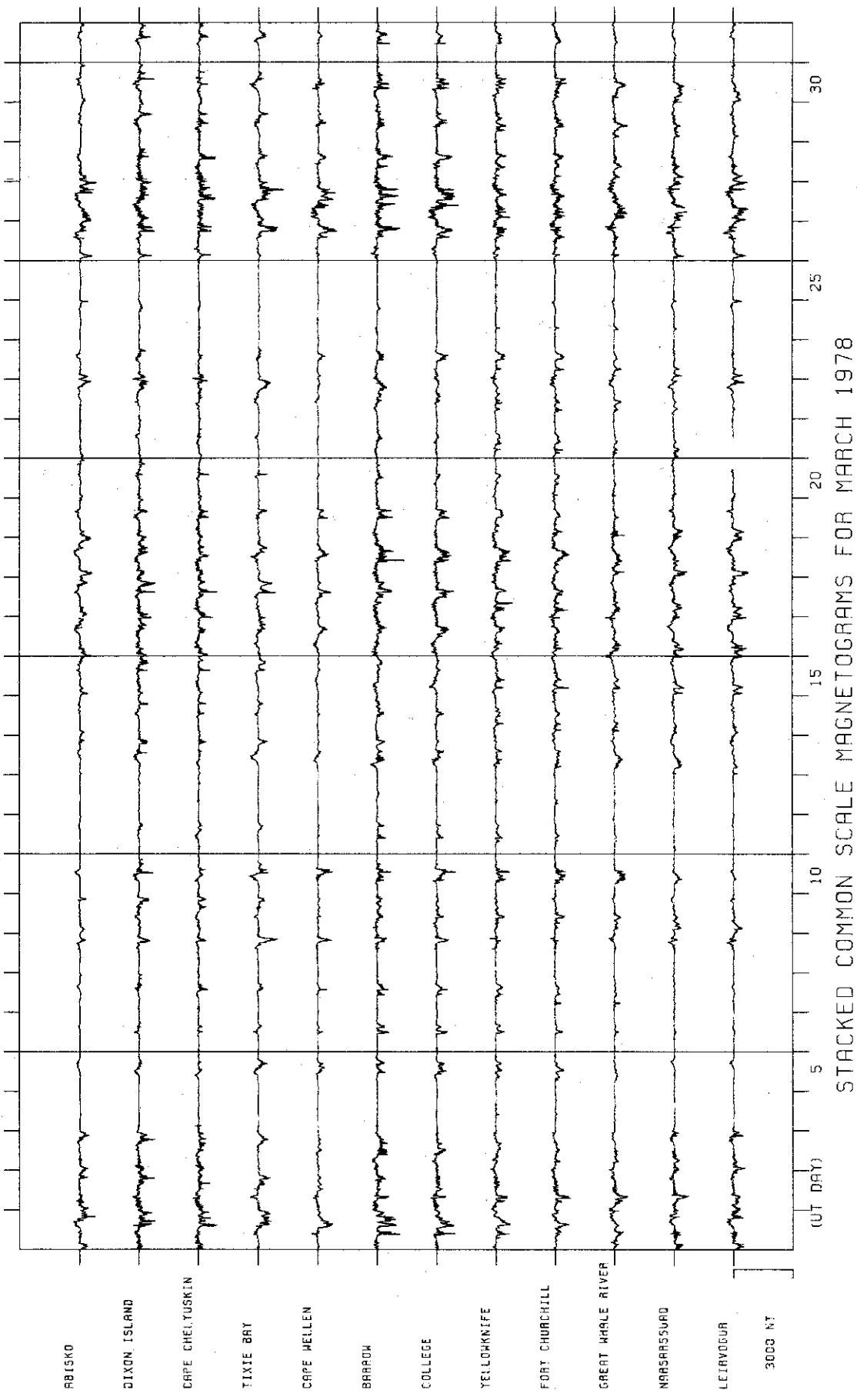


FIGURE 6

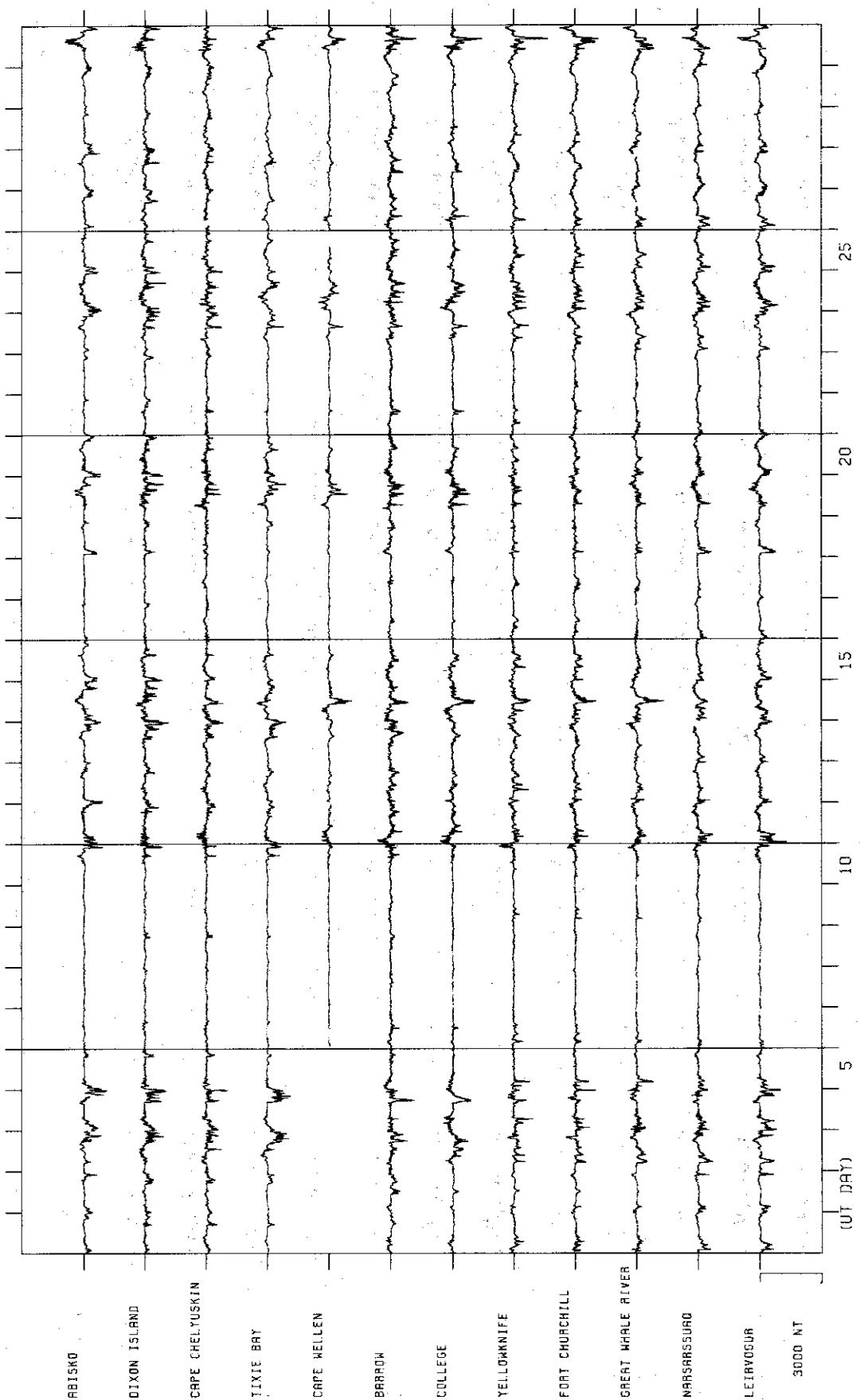
The H traces of magnetograms from AE(12) stations
in every month from January to June 1978.

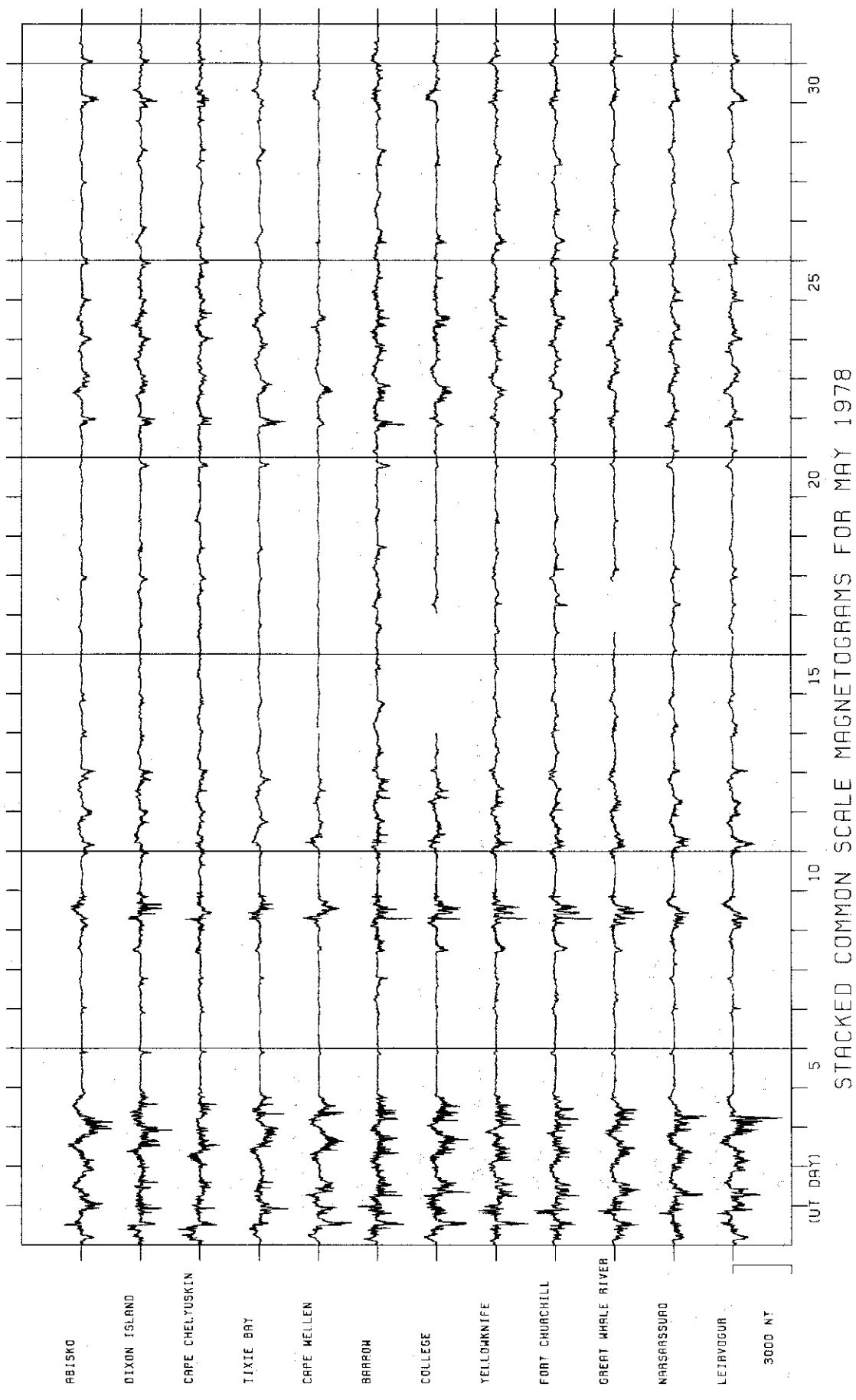




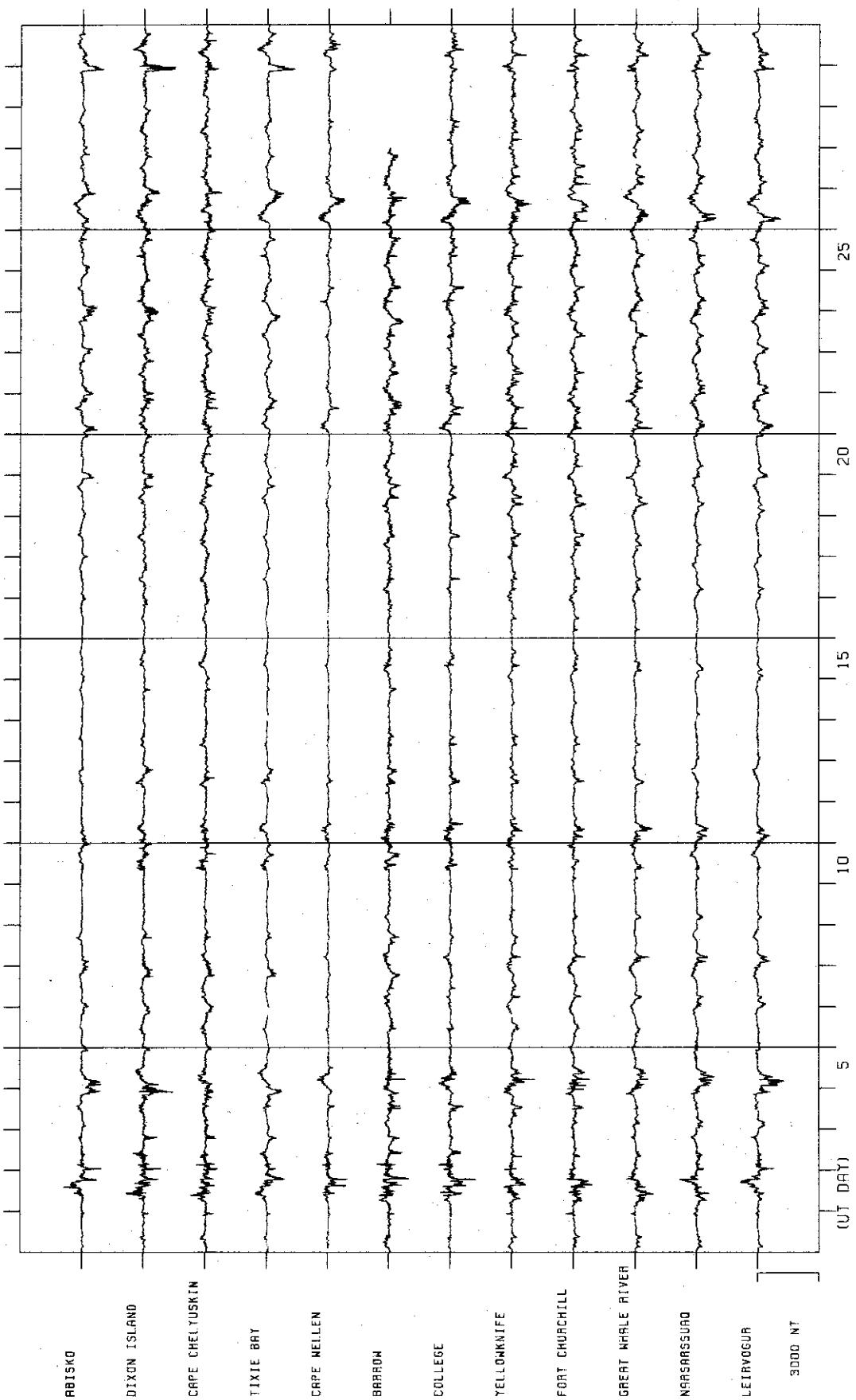


STACKED COMMON SCALE MAGNETOGRAMS FOR MARCH 1978





STACKED COMMON SCALE MAGNETOGRAMS FOR MAY 1978



STACKED COMMON SCALE MAGNETOGRAMS FOR JUNE 1978

