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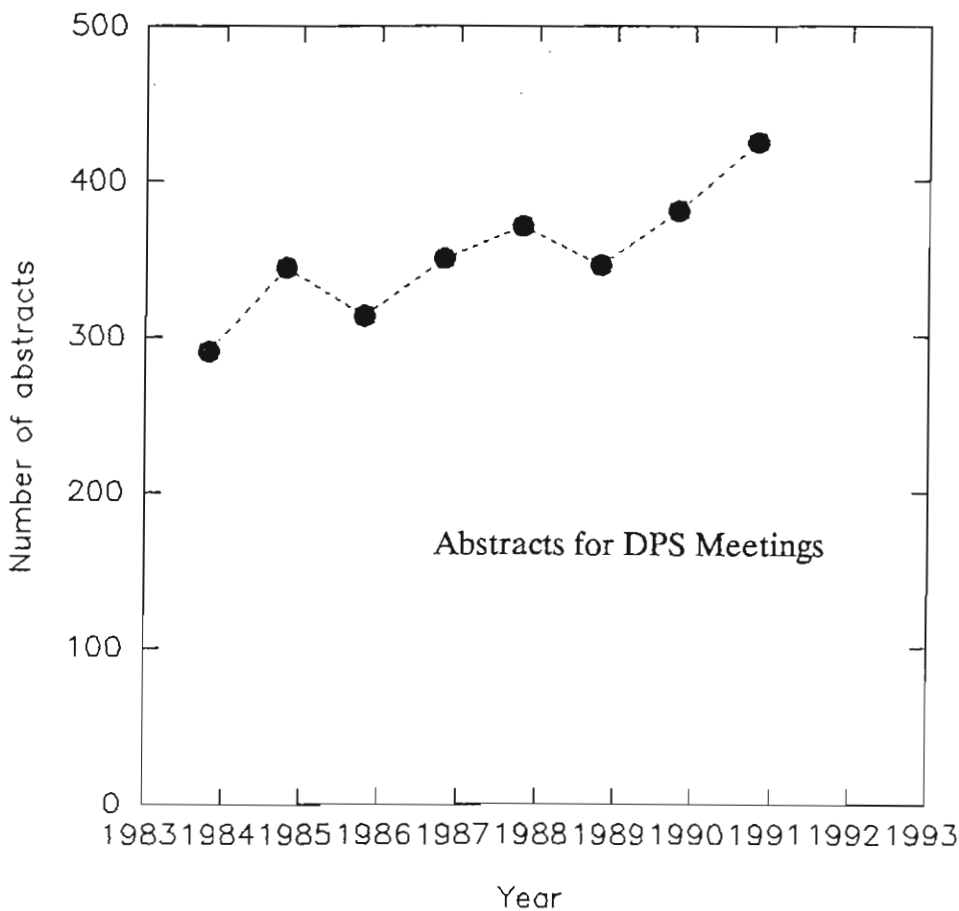
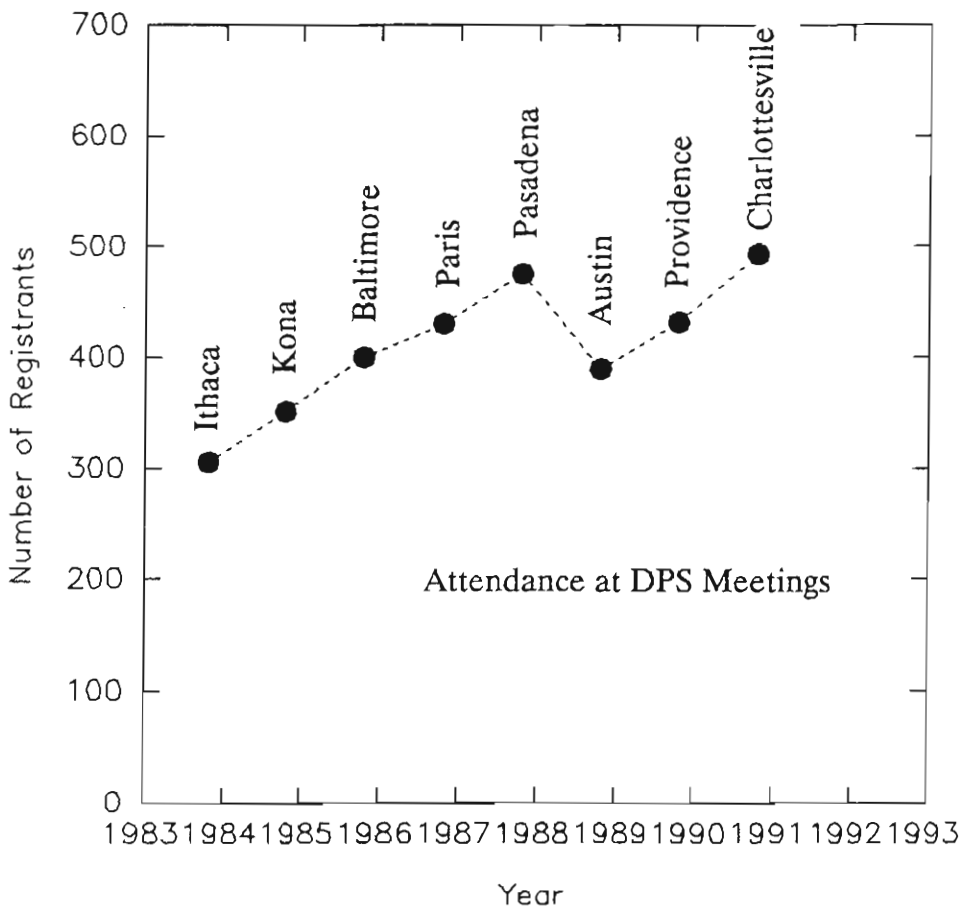
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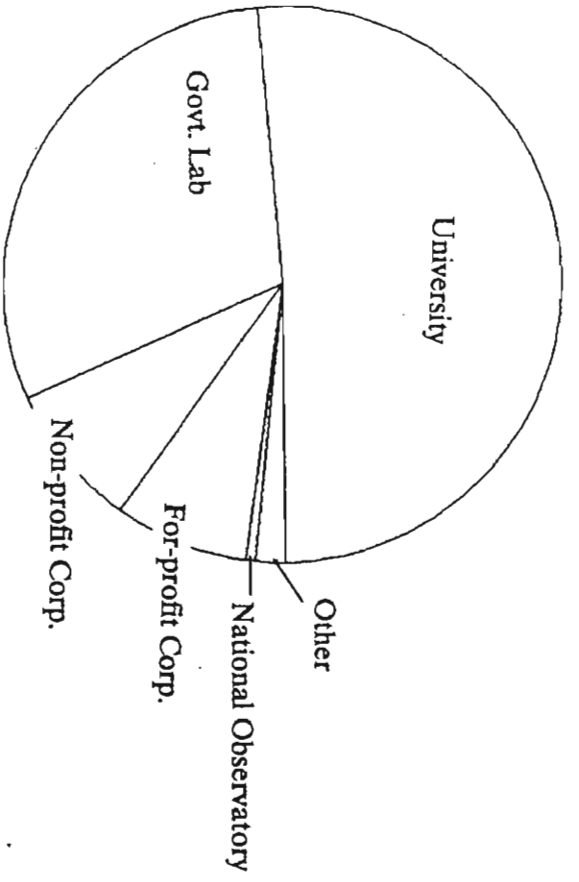
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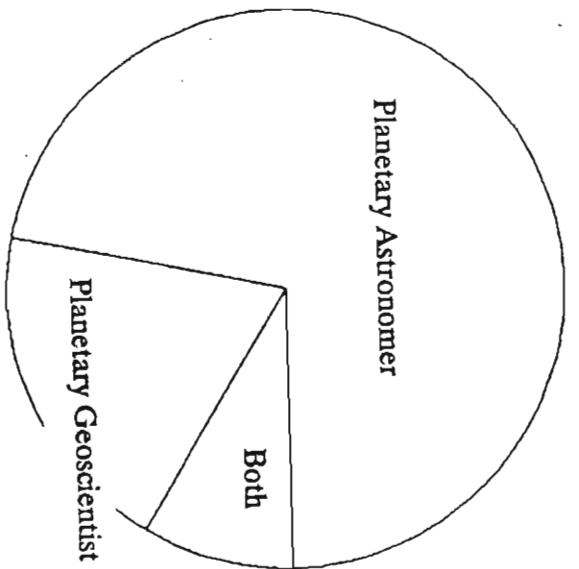
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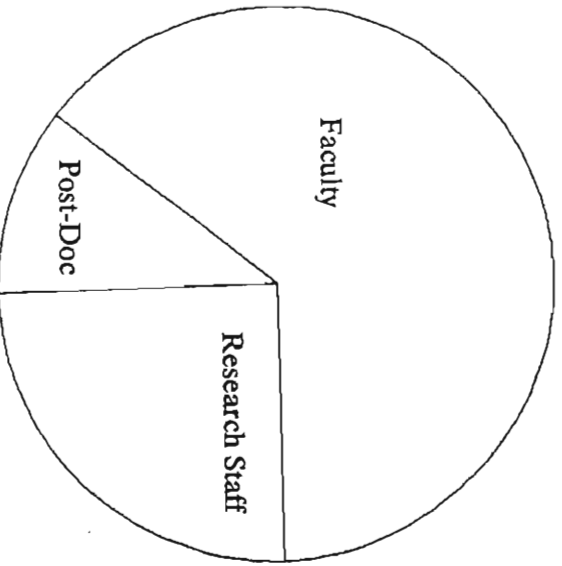
DPS Membership
Type of Employer



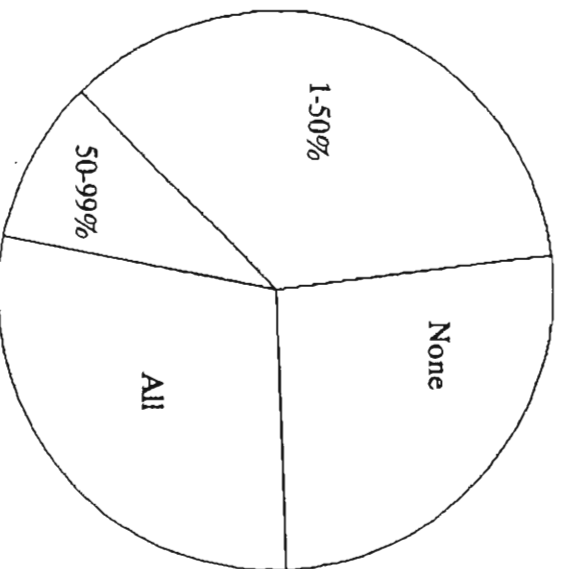
DPS Membership
Categories of Expertise



DPS Membership
University Employees



DPS Membership
Fraction of Salary from Grants



Survey in Fall 1989

DPS EMPLOYMENT SURVEY RESULTS

A. Cochran

The survey was included in mailing #3 for the annual DPS meeting. Copies of the survey were also made available at the meeting. About 140 people mailed back the survey while 55 turned theirs in at the meeting. The survey's wording was discouraging to students so many of them did not bother with it (we were trying to probe employment so we really did not require student input). Not all questions were answered by all respondents so different numbers of people are tallied for the questions. Some respondents have categorized their job 2 ways so have answered more than one part of the survey. Percentages, where given, refer to numbers who responded to a question.

Total number of respondents = 195
Male = 165 (85%) Female = 29 (15%)
(note DPS membership is around 8% female)

19 respondents were students. A few actually are also employed as other than RAs or TAs so answered the employment questions.

Note: <= means "less than or equal"

AGE:

| range | number | percent |
|-------|--------|---------|
| <= 30 | 22 | 13.0 |
| 31-40 | 65 | 38.6 |
| 41-50 | 52 | 30.9 |
| 51-60 | 19 | 11.3 |
| 61-70 | 8 | 4.8 |
| >70 | 2 | 1.2 |
| total | 168 | |

% OF SALARY FROM GRANTS:

| range | number | percent |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 0% | 44 | 26.3 |
| 1-25% | 39 | 23.4 |
| 26-49% | 12 | 7.2 |
| 50% | 8 | 4.8 |
| 51-69% | 2 | 1.2 |
| 70-79% | 4 | 2.4 |
| 80-89% | 5 | 3.0 |
| 90-99% | 5 | 3.0 |
| 100% | 48 | 28.7 |
| total | 167 | |

35.4%

26.3 23.4 9.6 28.7

% OF TIME ON PLANETARY RESEARCH:

| range | number | percent |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 0% | 2 | 1.2 |
| 1-25% | 24 | 14.4 |
| 26-50% | 41 | 24.6 |
| 51-75% | 21 | 12.6 |
| 76-99% | 14 | 8.4 |
| 100% | 65 | 38.9 |
| total | 167 | |

100%

FULL TIME EMPLOYEES = 170 (97%) PART TIME EMPLOYEES = 5 (3%)

TYPE OF EMPLOYER:

| Type | number | percent |
|------------------|--------|---------|
| University | 92 | 51.4 |
| Govt. Lab. | 54 | 30.2 |
| non-profit corp. | 15 | 8.4 |
| for profit corp. | 14 | 7.8 |
| National Obs. | 1 | 0.6 |
| Other | 3 | 1.7 |
| Total | 179 | |

At this point, the survey branched, asking for more information in the different employment categories.

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES: (92)

Faculty (all ranks) = 59 (64%)
 tenured = 42
 tenure track = 11
 non-tenure track = 6
 Post-Doc = 10 (11%)
 Research Staff (all) = 23 (25%)
 tenured = 0
 non-tenured, perm = 15
 non-permanent = 8

Guar Stable Soft

42 11 6

0 0

If research staff, can you be PI on grants? Yes=18, No=4

GOVERNMENT LABS: (54)

JPL = 29 (54%)
 Other NASA labs = 18 (33%)
 Other labs = 7 (13%)

Permanent position? 46
 Civil service? 19
 NRC? 5

46 5 51

59.5% 18.2% 13.3% 14%

note: all civil service positions are also classified as permanent.

ALL OTHER FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT: (33)

Permanent position = 23 (70%)
 non-permanent = 6 (26%)

We then asked the respondents to categorize themselves scientifically. The choices given were "Planetary Astronomer", "Planetary Geoscientist" or "Other" and we asked them to specify if they chose other. 181 people categorized themselves with 116 choosing one of the specified categories or both. The remaining 65 people specified something else.

Planetary Astronomer = 87 (48%)
 Planetary Geoscientist = 23 (13%)
 Both = 6 (3%)

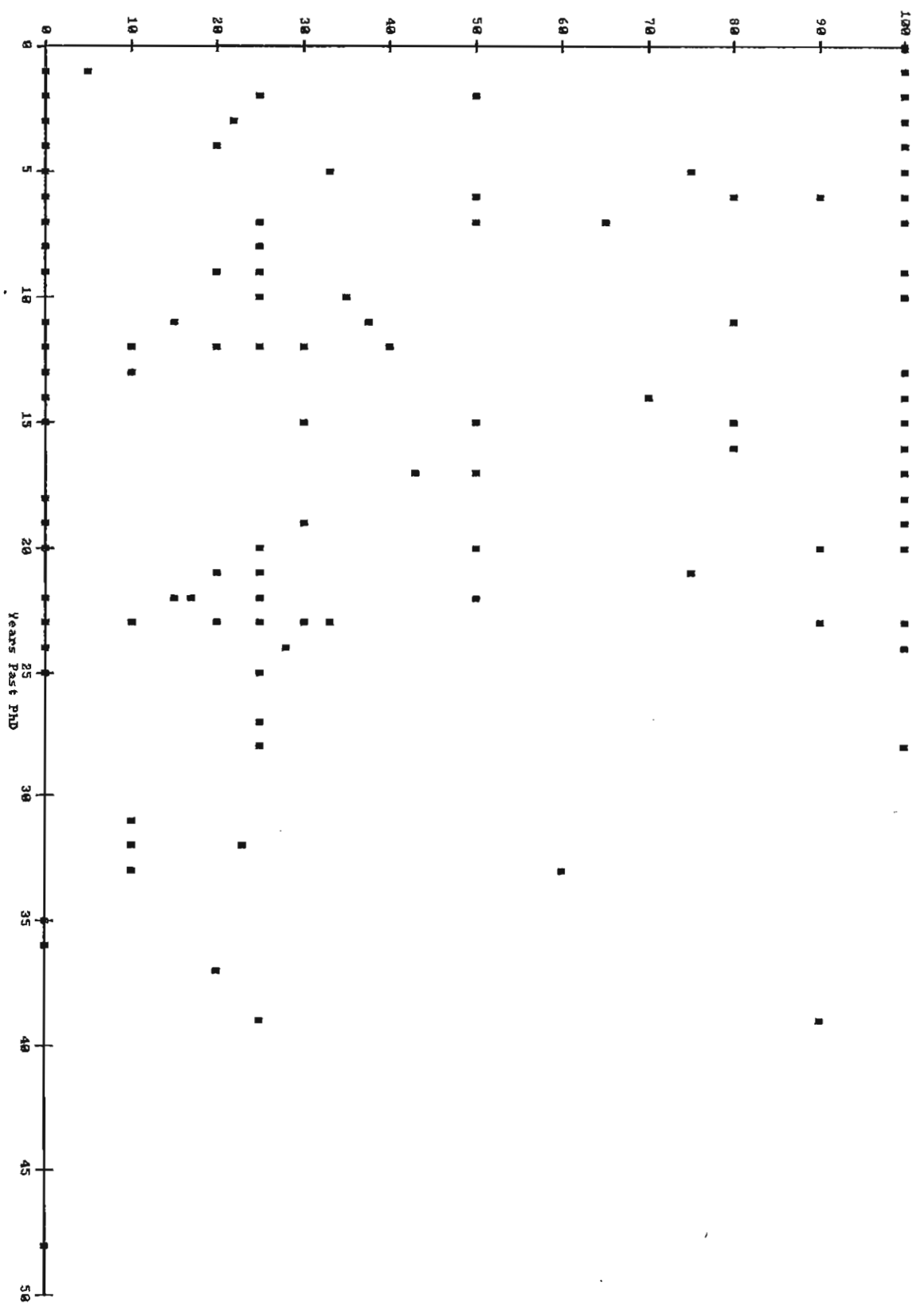
Combining the people who chose other with the 2 listed categories, 100 people (55%) chose some description with "astronomer". 26 people (14%) chose some description with "geo". 7 people (4%) chose "Planetary scientist".

Among other choices, 8 people chose something with "atmos" in the description; 4 chose "Planetary physicist"; 5 chose some description starting with "Physics". Other categories mentioned were: dynamacist, cosmochemist, astrometrlist, aeronomer, magnetospheric physicist, optical scientist, instrumentalist, science writer, and lackey.

Conclusions:

- There are more faculty positions than most of us perceive and people do seem to be receiving tenure.
- When one combines tenured faculty with civil service positions (the only two fully guaranteed types of positions), 61 of the respondents (34%) have good job security. However, almost as many people have to raise at least 80% of their salary from grants.
- In the comment section, many people pointed out that their JPL or university research positions were technically permanent, but that only meant as long as they brought in grants.
- Also in the comments, there was disgruntlement by the people who were on soft money but could not be PIs on grants. They felt that they had no control over their lives.
- There is no correlation between number of years past a PhD and percent salary from grants, i.e. someone is just as likely to be on soft money well past their PhD as newly appointed and, likewise, new people are getting more secure positions as often as more senior people. Notably, the Apollo period scientists are not hogging all the secure positions.
- A good many of the JPL scientists who are not raising 100% of their salaries from grants said it was because they were doing mission work or other lab business. Some seemed more enthused about that than others.
- Although some members of the DPS are preaching secession from the AAS on the grounds that we are not truly astronomers, that does not seem to be supported by the survey. More surprisingly, we don't seem to be that strongly geologists, although many people who classify themselves as planetary astronomers study solid surfaces.

% of salary from grants
% Salary from Grants



Years past Ph.D.