L01a Maps of the Zodiacal Light Made with IRTS/NIRS

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One of the goals of the Near Infrared Spectrometer on the Infrared Telescope in Space is the detection and characterization of extra-galactic diffuse radiation. Maps of infrared sky can be used to constrain models of cosmology, galaxy evolution and structure formation. As COBE/DIRBE has shown (Reach et al. COBE preprint 95-08), this is made difficult by the presence of a bright and time varying foreground, the Zodiacal Light. We have $\sim$ 15 days of data reaching high ecliptic latitude. We present preliminary maps of the near-infrared sky within 10° of the ecliptic equator. These represent the first step in the sky-map making process. Our simple-binning map making procedure retains $\sim$ 70% of the data. The maps were constructed from five days of flight so that the Sun is not smeared on the sky. Characterization of the spectrum and extrapolation to high ecliptic latitude will enable us to subtract the Zodiacal Light component from the near-infrared sky and extract the extra-galactic light.