Format of SOLOII X messages: Argo Version Manual/Decoder V1.6 latest update: 20 Mar 2014 [For ROM SBE602]

An X message is used to transfer data from ISU to GS or from GS to ISU. The data is assumed to be binary and each byte can have any value from 0x00 to 0xff. The format of the message is the same regardless of direction of transmission:

Xnnmmddp<data>\$cc>

- X = the character X
- nn = number of data characters in the message following after nn. The count does not include **X** ,nn, or anything from **\$** to the end **>**. The count is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.
- mm = serial number of SOLOII. The SN is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.
- the dive number in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.
 Dive number begins at -1 for the start-up, increments to 0 for the test dive, increments +1 for all normal' (0xE2) dives.
- p = one-byte packet ID index, range 0 to 255. Used to identify multiple X messages within a dive cycle. The data for each dive cycle starts with p=0.
- - \$ = a dollar sign delimitor at start of the checksum
 - cc = the 8 bit byte-wise checksum from \mathbf{X} to the byte preceding the $\mathbf{\$}$. The 8 bit sum is coded as 2 4bit nibbles. The binary value of a nibble is converted to a visible character by adding 0x30. Thus a value of 0x0 -> 0x30 = character '0', 0x1 -> 0x31 = '1', 0xe -> 0x3e = '>', and 0xf -> 0x3f = '?'.
 - > = a > delimitor at end of checksum which also serves as a prompt to GS that the ISU is done transmitting and that the GS may now transmit to ISU.

The remainder of this document describes the format of the <data> portion of the message sent from SOLOII to the ground station (**GS**). The format of commands from **GS** sent to SOLOII will be described in another document.

Highlights in document

Fields that are moved relative to the previous float version are highlighted in cyan New fields relative to the previous version are highlighted in yellow

NOTE on firmware later than V1.5: An ice detection algorithm was introduced with this firmware. However, for the float to be able to use the algorithm, the Seabird CTD must be a SBE41CP-V3.0C. SBE41CP-V3.0A, does not contain the necessary commands. Thus not all floats may have operational ice detection due to hardware.

The <data> section contains information from multiple sensors. Data from successive sensors are separated by a semicolon (';' = 0x 3b); the final sensor is terminated by a ';' (immediately preceding the \$ delimitor).

IDjj<sensor_data>;

ID = one-byte sensor ID code.

jj = Number of bytes for this sensor. The count includes **ID**, jj, and the trailing ;. The count is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.

; = delimitor at the end of each sensor's data.

The **ID** byte is divided into two 4-bit nibbles. The MS nibble identifies the sensor and the second nibble specifies the message number for that sensor. For example, the ID for first Pressure message is 0x10, the second is 0x11, the third 0x12, etc. For a 1000 sample profile, there will be 6 messages for each of the pressure, salinity and temperature sensors.

Sensor	ID byte(hex)	
GPS	00	fix at end of first diagnostic dive at start of mission
GPS	01	fix at before leaving surface
GPS	02	fix at end of normal profiling acsent
GPS	03	fix following mission abort
GPS	05	fix during BITest
Pressure	1x	depths of CTD readings (scaled 1st difference)
Temperature	2x	depth series of temperature (scaled 1st difference)
Salinity	3x	depth series of salinity (scaled 1st difference)
Fall Rate	<mark>4x</mark>	series of time,depth during SOLO II downward profile
Rise Rate	<mark>5x</mark>	series of time,depth from drift depth to surface
Pump Series	<mark>6x</mark>	pressure,time, voltage,current,vacuum for each pump
High Resolution Pressure	9x	High Resolution Pressure (scaled 1st difference)
High Resolution Temperature	ax	High Resolution Temperature (scaled 1 st difference)
High Resolution Salinity	bx	High Resolution Salinity (scaled 1st difference)
Mission EEPROM	dx	ASCII dump of mission parameters in EEPROM
Engineering	e0	diagnostic data in first diagnostic dive
Engineering	e2	engineering data in normal profiling dive
Engineering	e3	engineering data following mission abort
Engineering	e5	engineering data BIT test pass
Engineering	e6	engineering data BIT test failure
Argo Data	fO	Mission parameter list
Test pattern	f1	ID reserved, format not yet defined

GPS data (ID=0x00, 0x01, 0x02, 0x03, 0x05)

The LS nibble of the ID indicates in what phase of the mission the fix was taken. The remainder of the data is the same for all mission phases. The length of GPS data is in bytes 1 and 2. GPS fix data starts in byte 3:

	Contents
Byte	Contents
0	Mission phase:
	0 = 1st diagnostic dive at the start of a mission
	1 = beginning of normal dive cycle (just before leaving surface)
	2 = end of a normal dive cycle
	3 = following mission abort
	5 = during BITest
1-2	Number of bytes in the message, $24 = 0x18$ with the format as described here
3	0 if fix is invalid, +2 if longitude is East, -2 if longitude is West
4-7	Signed latitude degrees * 1e7
8-11	Signed longitude degrees * 1e7 range (+180 to -180 degrees)
12-13	GPS week
	(traditional GPS week =0 to 1023 in LS 10 bits; rollover fix in MS 6 bits)
14	GPS day of week, 0=Sunday, 6=Saturday
15	UTC hour
16	UTC minutes
17	Time to get fix = (seconds to get fix)/10, range 0 to $255 = 0$ to 2550 seconds
18	Number of satellites used in fix
19	Minimum signal level
20	Average signal level
21	Maximum signal level
22	10*Horiz. dilution of precision
23	; terminator (0x3B)

Pressure data (ID=0x1n)
Temperature data (ID=0x2n)
Salinity data (ID=0x3n)

Profile data from the pressure, temperature, and salinity sensors are all processed in the same way and the message format differs only in the ID code. The SeaBird CTD takes a profile as the SOLOII ascends and stores the values internally. When SOLOII reaches the surface, it takes the data from the CTD and block averages it in depth into **PRO_BINS** (= 1000) bins.

The size of depth bins can vary with depth. The averaging scheme is determined by 5 parameters: **BLOK**, **PB1**, **PB2**, **AV1**, and **AV2**. The smallest bin size is **BLOK** decibars. Bins 0 thru **PB1**-1 have a vertical extent of **BLOK** decibars. Bins **PB1** thru **PB2**-1 are **AV1*BLOK** decibars tall while bins **PB2** thru **PRO_BINS**-1 are **AV2*BLOK** decibars. In the special case that **PB1** >= **PRO_BINS**, then all of the bins are **BLOK** decibars in extent, and the values of **PB2**, **AV1**, and **AV2** are ignored.

The data series from all channels are processed in the same way and are synchronous with each other. Each depth series is broken into sub-blocks of 25 samples, and a first-differencing method is applied to each sub-block to reduce the number of bytes required to transmit the data. Because the data series will generally be longer than the 189 bytes available in a 9601 SBD message, it is divided into multiple messages. Each message has an integral number of sub-blocks in it. The final sub-block of the time series may have fewer than 25 samples in it. The data message looks like:

IDij<sub-block 0><sub-block 1> . . . <sub-block m>;

ID = one-byte sensor ID code and index. The low order hex digit is the message index for this sensor. For example, the pressure messages would have ID's:10.11.12...

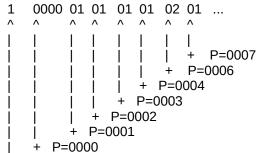
jj = Number of bytes for this message. The count includes **ID**, jj, the data, and the trailing;. The count is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.

<sub-block i> = first-differenced data from the ith sub=block where i=1,..,m =number of sub-blocks. If i<m, the sub-block will have 25 values in it and will have a total length of 22 bytes. The mth sub-block will have between 1 and 25 values and a length between 3 and 27 bytes.</p>

Suppose a sub-block has the n values v[0], v[1],...v[n-1]. Then this sub-block will be transmitted as:

Sub-block Byte 0	Contents one-byte scaling factor S, range = 1 to 255. S is chosen so that the scaled first-differences fit in one byte, i.e. diff <= 127.
1	MS byte of v[0]
2	LS byte of v[0]
3	LS byte of { v[1] - v[0] }/S
4	LS byte of { v[2] - v[1] }/S
n+1	LS byte of { v[n-1] - v[n] }/S

The pressure series will have gaps in it if there is no valid CTD data in a block. In that case, all of the profile series will be missing the same gap. If a block average contains no valid data, that block is ignored and is not transmitted. For example, suppose the pressure bin size is 1 db and that bin 0 has P=0. Suppose there is no valid data in bin 5. Then the sub-block will contain:



Note that the 6th bin, for which P=5, will be omitted from the pressure, temperature, and salinity messages.

Each sub-block requires n+2 bytes so the longest sub-block uses 27 bytes. If each sensor has 1000 blocks then it will require 50 sub-blocks, each with 27 bytes. 8 sub-blocks will fit into each message (189/22) so 7 messages are needed per sensor. The total bytes then is 50*22 +7*16 which equals 1212. Thus a CTD profile with 1000 blocks can be sent in 3*1212 = 3636 bytes.

After the sub blocks have been reassembled into a sequence of observations, the counts are converted to scientific units by:

```
dBar = pressure counts *.04 -10.
degC = temperature counts *.001 -5.
psu = salinity counts *.001 -1.000
```

The values of Gain/Offset are now sent back within the Argo Metafile message (0xf0) for data decoding purposes allowing a way to determine what Gain/offset is used in a given cycle. The GAIN/OFFSET of Temperature/Salinity/Pressure can be modified via 2-way communication. Modifying these parameters will effect all variables returned.

High Resolution Pressure data (ID=0x9n) High Resolution Temperature data (ID=0xan) High Resolution Salinity data (ID=0xbn)

The float can be set to return a high resolution P,T,S profile spanning a subsection of the primary binned profile. Data is packed and decoded similarly to the binned profile (ID=0x1n, 0x2n, 0x3n). The High Resolution profile can return every scan of the CTD (1 Hz) or every other scan (1/2 Hz). The data is limited to 1024 values. [Note: When the High Resolution data is requested, the averaging of the primary binned profile must be done by the float (not within the CTD). Typical SOLO II averging uses every other CTD scan. However if the High Resolution profile includes every scan, the bin averages will also use every scan. Thus the averaging of the primary binned profile may differ between the subsection with High Resolution data and all other spans.

Fall Rate data (ID=0x4n)

As it falls from the surface to its drift depth, SOLOII periodically interrogates the SeaBird for a depth reading. This time series is sent back in this data message.

The data message looks like:

Each depth observation takes 4 bytes. The first time is taken when the valve is opened to leave the surface. The next two times are when the float passes 50m and 100m. After 100 m, pressures are logged every 30 minutes. Typically we allow for 500 (**Falin**) minutes for the SOLOII to fall 1000 meters so there will be about 16 more measurements. The last record is at the 500 minute mark.

Fall Rate data can be found over multiple messages.

NOTE: time(i) returned within the fall rate data is aliased past 18 hours. In a well-behaved cycle this is not an issue. However if the float does not hold pressure during the drift phase, a pressure time pair is recorded during each of the floats drift buoyancy adjustments. These drift phase times will be aliased.

Rise Rate data (ID=0x5n)

The rise rate message is identical in structure to the fall rate message. The rise rate time series begins when the SOLO II opens its valve to descent from the drift depth to the profile depth. It logs a pressure/time record 10 times during its descent to the profile depth (interval = **PwaitN**/10). At the bottom of dive, whether determined by timing out (exceeding **PwaitN**) or by reaching the target depth (**ZproN**), another pressure/time record is logged. At this point, the float pumps for **PmpBtm** seconds. A pressure/time record is logged every 30 minutes while the float is ascending. Last Rise Rate record is AFTER surface pump (change from previous when it was before).

Rise Rate data can be found over multiple messages.

Pump data (ID=0x6n)

The data message looks like:

Pump time series can be found over multiple messages. If so, the first record in message n+1 will follow time of the last record in message n.

Engineering data (ID=0xe0, 0xe2, 0xe3, 0xe5, 0xe6)

The engineering data is used to diagnose SOLOII anomalies. A different format is used in each of the 3 distinct phases of a SOLOII mission. The LS nibble of the ID indicates the phase of the mission.

ID=0xe0, Engineering message in 1st diagnostic dive at start of mission

```
Contents
Byte
0
       ID/Mission phase = 0xe0
       Number of bytes = 76 = 0x4c
1-2
       Engineering message version =5
3
4
       #packets in current session
5-10
       0 (dummy filler)
11-12 EP -> sattime
13-14 DP->Vcpu = CPU battery voltage counts 0.01V
15-16 DP->Vpmp = Pump battery counts at surface(0.01V)
17-18 DP->Vple = Pump battery counts at end of last pump(0.01V)
19-20 BTvac = pcase vacuum at beginning of BIT in 0.01 inHg
21-22 DP->Air[1] = vac before filling bladder at surface 0.01 inHg
23-24 DP->Air[2] = vac after filling bladder at surface 0.01 inHg
25-26 DP->ISRID = i.d. of last interrupt
27-28 DP->HPavgI = average pump current at bottom, LSB=1ma
29-30 DP->HPmaxI = maximum pump current at bottom, LSB=1ma
31-32 Total seconds pumped to surface
33-34 Seconds pumped at Surface
35-36 DP->P[5] = surf press counts @ end of ASCEND (LSB=.04dBar)
37-38 SPRX = Surf press before resetoffset (pertains to prev dive)
```

```
39-40 SPRXL = press after resetoffset (pertains to prev dive)
41-42 diagP[0] = Press when "in water" sensed
43-44 diagT[0] = Temp when "in water" sensed
45-46 diagS[0] = Salinity when "in water" sensed
47-48 SBnscan = # scans recorded by SBE
               // -1 (0xffff) indicates unable to get scan count from SBE
               // -2 (0xfffe) indicates SBE never started so SBE didn't reset
                          scan count before returning an old value
49-50 Compacted SBntry, SBstrt, SBstop status (see misspec.h):
               ((DP->SBntry&0xf)<<4) | ((DP->SBstrt&0x3)<<2) | (DP->SBstop&0x3)
51-52 diagP[1] = Shallowest press in profile
53-54 diagT[1] = Shallowest Temp in profile
55-56 diagS[1] = Shallowest Salinity in profile
57-58 BTvac = BIT vacuum in 0.01 inHg
59-60 BTPcur = BIT motor current OUT, LSB=1mA
61-62 BTPsec = BIT Pump seconds
   63 BTPvac[0] = BIT Pump vacuum at beginning of test, before pumping
   64 BTPvac[1] = BIT Pump vacuum after pumping
65-66 BTVple = BIT pump batt 0.01V
67-68 BTVcpu= BIT CPU batt 0.01V
69-70 exception flags
   71 vent data: MSB=#0.1 seconds vent motor ran
   72 LSB LLD status before/after vent ran
73-74 AbrtCd = code for what caused abort miss
   75; terminator
ID=0xe2, Engineering message in normal dive cycle
               Contents
    Byte
        0
               ID/Mission phase = 0xe2
      1-2
               Number of bytes = 100 = 0x64
        3
               Engineering message version = 5
        4
               #packets sent in current surface session
      5-6
               #tries to connect in previous surface session
      7-8
               parse X reply
               low order byte number of messages: upper byte bit field of errors
     9-10
               ATSBD return status in previous surface session
    11-12
               EP->sattime Seconds taken in previous surface session to send all SBD messages
    13-14
               DP->Vcpu = CPU battery voltage counts 0.01V
    15-16
               DP->Vpmp = Pump battery counts at surface(0.01V)
    17-18
               DP->Vple = Pump battery counts at end of last pump(0.01V)
    19-20
               DP->Air[0] = pcase vac during sinking @50db with oil all inside pcase ,0.01 inHg
    21-22
               DP->Air[1] = pcase vac before filling oil bladder at surface 0.01 inHq
    23-24
               DP->Air[2] = pcase vac after filling bladder at surface 0.01 inHg
    25-26
               DP->ISRID = i.d. of last interrupt
    27-28
               DP->HPavgI = average pump current at bottom, LSB=1ma
   29-30
               DP->HPmaxI = maximum pump current at bottom, LSB=1ma
    31-32
               Total seconds pumped to surface
    33-34
               Seconds pumped at Surface
    35-36
               SPRX = Surf press before resetoffset (pertains to prev dive)
    37-38
               SPRXL = press after resetoffset (pertains to prev dive)
    39-40
                diagP[0] = Pressure before pumping for ascent
    41-42
               diagT[0] = Temp before pumping for ascent
    43-44
                diagS[0] = Salinity before pumping for ascent
    45-46
               diagP[1] = Last (shallowest) Pressure scan on ascent
               diagT[1] = Last (shallowest) Temperature scan on ascent
    47-48
    49-50
                diagS[1] = Last (shallowest) Salinity scan on ascent
    51-52
                SBnbad = # bad bins from SBE
```

```
53-54
            SBnscan = # scans recorded by SBE
                   // -1 (0xffff) indicates unable to get scan count from SBE
                   // -2 (0xfffe) indicates SBE never started so SBE didn't reset
                               scan count before returning an old value
55-56
            Compacted SBntry, SBstrt, SBstop status (see misspec.h):
                   ((DP->SBntry&0xf)<<4) | ((DP->SBstrt&0x3)<<2) | (DP->SBstop&0x3)
                                                                                          )
57-58
            DP->P[0] = press counts before begin of FALL (LSB=.04dBar)
            DP->P[1] = press counts at end of FALL (LSB=.04dBar)
59-60
61-62
            DP->P[2] = press counts at beginning of DRIFT (LSB=.04dBar)
            DP->P[3] = press counts at end of DRIFT (LSB=.04dBar)
63-64
65-66
            DP->P[5] = surf press counts @ end of ASCEND (LSB=.04dBar)
67-68
            DP->PAVG[0]=average pressure over first half of DRIFT
            DP->TAVG[0]=average temperature over first half of DRIFT
69-70
71-72
            DP->SAVG[0]=average salinity over first half of DRIFT
73-74
            DP->PAVG[1]=average pressure over second half of DRIFT
75-76
            DP->TAVG[1]=average temperature over second half of DRIFT
77-78
            DP->SAVG[1]=average salinity over second half of DRIFT
79-80
            DP->fall time = seconds from open air valve to end of settle
            DP->fall rate = avg mm/sec while sinking
81-82
            DP-> SeekT = seconds pumped in 1st settle to drift
83-84
85-86
            DP-> SeekP = change of depth (signed 0.1 dbar in 1<sup>st</sup> settle)
87-88
            exception flags (can be added)
                           Valve failed to open
            0x0001
            0x0002
                           Valve failed to close
            0x0004
                           Ouestionable pressure
            8000x0
                           Antenna was toggled
                           Antenna switch failure. (no satellites even after toggling)
            0x0010
            0x0020
                           GPS communication error (cannot talk to GPS unit)
            0800x0
                           Float took too long to leave the surface. (toggled valve)
            0x1000
                           Valve failure during Sink phase of mission
            0x2000
                           Valve failure during Ascend phase of mission
   89
            vent data: # 0.1 seconds vent motor ran
   90
            vent data; LLD status before and after vent ran
91-92
            SBE P offset(*800)
            PP->SeekSc; tenths of seconds pumped to target depth
93-94
95-96
            Number of Packets sent in previous cycle
            Compacted Binning Mode (upper nibble), Subcycle number (lower nibble)
   97
                   BM=2 controller binning, all other values CTD binning
   98
            Ice-dectect status [ICE CHECK OFF=0; ICE NOT FOUND=1;ICE MIXLAYER=2,
                                   ICE BREAKUP=3];
   99
            ; terminator
```

	Engineering message following mission abort
Byte	
0	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1-2	
3	
4	
5-6	
7-8	' ' '
0.40	low order byte number of messages: upper byte bit field of errors
9-10	
11-12	
13-14	, ,
15-16	
17-18	
19-20	
23-24	·
25-26	=
	0 = no error
	1 = current time is later than RTCabort
	2 = unable to WakeOST
	3 = unable to send Dive number to SOLO II (LOdiveNo)
	4 = Iridium ground station commanded to go to abort
	5 = FnlDiv was completed. Mission is done
	6 = Diagnostic dive failed to get GPS fix, pressure
	never>dBarGo, or unable to send message to Iridium
07.00	7 = pressure sensor failure
27-28	1 /
29	; terminator
	Engineering message following BITest
Byte	
0	
1-2	
3	
4	
5-6	
7-8	, ,
9-10	no load pump battery voltage 0. 01 V
11-12	
13-14	
15-16	
17	J
18	
19-20	
21-22	
23	·
24	
25-26	
27-56	· ·
57	; terminator

ID=0xe6, Engineering message following FailedBITest Byte Contents 0 ID/Mission phase = 0xe6c 1-2 Number of bytes = 60 = 0x3cEngineering message version =5 3 #packets sent in this surface session 4 5-6 BITest status register 7-8 SBE P Offset(*800) CPU battery voltage 0.01 V 9-10 no load pump battery voltage 0. 01 V 11-12 pump battery voltage counts at end of last pump (0.01V) 13-14 DP->HPavgl = average pump current at bottom, LSB=1ma 15-16 seconds pumped out during test 17-18 19 Oil vacuum before filling bladder 0.01inHG 20 Oil vacuum after filling bladder 0.01 inHG DP-> Air[0] = Pcase Vacuum at beginning of BIT. (Oil Bladder Empty) 0.01 inHg 21-22 DP - Air[1] = Pcase Vacuum at end of BIT with air bladder inflated. 0.01 inHg 23-24 25 Number of tries needed to open valve 26 Number of tries to close valve i.d. of last interrupt 27-28 string returned from SBE pt command 29-58 ; terminator 59

Mission EEPROM dump (ID=0xd0)

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xd0,0xd1,0xd2,0xd3
1-2	len=Number of bytes (variable, see below)
3- (len-2)	ASCII listing of mission parameters
	Each EEPROM parameter has a 6 character name and 5 char value:
	NAMExx=vvvvv
	The = & signs are present in the listing of each parameter. (15 bytes/parameter)
	Successive parameters follow without gaps.
len-1	; terminator at the end of the dump

An example showing only the initial 3 and final 2 elements follows:

```
PchSec= -1|MaxHrs= 1440|dBarGo= -1|...| XP2= 0| XPdly= 0|;
```

The EEPROM dump message is sent only in response to a command "**P**" from the ground station. It is sent over 4 SBD messages (0xd0=328 bytes, 0xd1=328 bytes, 0xd2=328 bytes, 0xd3=7 bytes).

Argo Data ID=0xf0 Relayed in normal cycles Byte Contents

0	ID/Mission phase = 0xf0
1-2	Number of bytes = $37 = 0x25$
3	Data Version (Minor version in high order nibble, major version in low order)
4-5	Target profile depth
6-7	Target parking depth
8-9	Maximum rise time in minutes
10-11	Target (maximum) fall to parking depth time in minutes
12-13	Maximum fall-from-parking-to-profile-depth time in second
14-15	Target drift time (units=5 minutes; To convert to minutes multiply packed value by 5)
16	Float version (0 SOLOII)
17	Target ascent rate while profiling
18-19	Number of seeks
20-21	Surface Time
22-23	Seek Interval in minutes
24-25	Pressure scaling gain; db=counts/gain-offset
26-27	Pressure scaling offset
28-29	Temperature scaling gain; degreesC=counts/gain-offset
30-31	Temperature scaling offset
32-33	Salinity scaling gain; PSU=counts/gain-offset
34-35	Salinity scaling offset
36	; terminator

The values of Gain/Offset are now sent back within the Argo Metafile message (0xf0) for data decoding purposes allowing a way to determine what Gain/offset is used in a given cycle. The GAIN/OFFSET of Temperature/Salinity/Pressure can be modified via 2-way communcation. Modifying these parameters will effect all variables returned.

Test Data (ID=0xf1) Rvte Contents

Contents
ID/Mission phase = 0xf1
Number of bytes = variable
modulo
test data