Format of SOLOII X messages: Argo Version Manual/Decoder V1.4
latest update: 03 September 2014
[For ROM SBE602 14Dec2012]

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.
dd	=	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.
<data>	=	binary data characters. The length of <data> = nn -5. The contents of the <data> section is described below.
$	=	a dollar sign delimitor at start of the checksum
cc	=	the 8 bit byte-wise checksum from **X** to the byte preceding the **$**. 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

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.
<sensor_data>	=	binary data characters. The length of <sensor_data> = jj-4 bytes, and its contents are described below for each sensor.
;	=	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	40	series of time,depth during SOLO II downward profile
Rise Rate	50	series of time,depth from drift depth to surface
Pump Series	60	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 1st 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
Argo Data	f0	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:

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=0x10)
Temperature data (ID=0x20)
Salinity data (ID=0x30)

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:

IDjj<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.

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	**Contents**
0	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:

```
1   0000 01 01  01 01  02 01  ...
^   ^    ^  ^   ^  ^   ^  ^
|   |    |  |   |  |   |  |
|   |    |  |   |  |   |  +   P=0007
|   |    |  |   |  |   +   P=0006
|   |    |  |   |  +   P=0004
|   |    |  |   +   P=0003
|   |    |  +   P=0002
|   |    +  P=0001
|   +   P=0000
```

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

High Resolution Pressure data (ID=0x90)
High Resolution Temperature data (ID=0xa0)
High Resolution Salinity data (ID=0xb0)

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=0x10, 0x20, 0x30). 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=0x40)

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:

IDjj<start_time><time(1),depth(1)> . . . <time(m),depth(m)>**;**

ID	=	one-byte sensor ID code = 0x40.
jj	=	Number of bytes in the message. The count includes **ID,** jj, the data, and the trailing **;.** The count is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.
start_time	=	SOLO time at start of fall (seconds since 1Jan2000) in 4 bytes (MSB first).
time(i)	=	seconds since start_time in 2 bytes, i=1, ..., m
depth(i)	=	depth (LSB=0.04 db) at time(i) in 2 bytes, i=1, ..., m. dBar = .04 * depth(i) -10 depth(i) = 0xffff if the pressure reading is invalid

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 (**FallN**) 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.

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=0x50)

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.

Pump data (ID=0x60)

. The data message looks like:

IDjj< depth(1),time(1),voltage(1),current(1),vac0(1),vac1(1)> . . .
< depth(m),time(m),voltage(m),current(m),vac0(m),vac1(m)**;**

ID	=	one-byte sensor ID code = 0x60.
jj	=	Number of bytes in the message. The count includes **ID,** jj, the data, and the trailing **;.** The count is in 2 binary bytes with MSB first and LSB second.
depth(i)	=	depth (LSB=0.04 db) at time(i) in 2 bytes, i=1, ..., m. dBar = .04 * depth(i) -10 depth(i) = 0xffff if the pressure reading is invalid
time(i)	=	seconds the pump ran in 2 bytes (signed)
voltagei)	=	average pump battery counts while pumping in 2 bytes (0.01V)
current(i)	=	average pump current at bottom in 2 bytes, LSB=1ma
vac0(i)	=	vacuum counts after pump starts in 1 byte
vac1(i)	=	vacuum counts before pump stops in 1 byte

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

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.

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase: 0xe0 = 1st diagnostic dive at the start of a mission 0xe2 = end of a normal dive cycle 0xe3 = following mission abort 0xe5 = BITtest
1-2	Number of bytes in the message, depends on mission phase as described below
3 -> ??	Depends on mission phase as described below

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

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xe0
1-2	Number of bytes = 76= 0x4c
3	Engineering message version =4
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 (not set)
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

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xe2
1-2	Number of bytes = 98 = 0x62
3	Engineering message version = 4
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 inHg
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
47-48	diagT[1] = Last (shallowest) Temperature scan on ascent
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)
59-60	DP->P[1] = press counts at end of FALL (LSB=.04dBar) NOTE: P[1] will not be valid if the float fall exceeds profile depth
61-62	DP->P[2] = press counts at beginning of DRIFT (LSB=.04dBar)
63-64	DP->P[3] = press counts at end of DRIFT (LSB=.04dBar)
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
69-70	DP->TAVG[0]=average temperature over first half of DRIFT
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
81-82	DP->fall rate = avg mm/sec while sinking
83-84	DP-> SeekT =seconds pumped in 1st settle to drift
85-86	DP-> SeekP = change of depth (signed 0.1 dbar in 1st settle)
87-88	exception flags (can be added) 0x0001 Valve failed to open 0x0002 Valve failed to close 0x0004 Questionable pressure 0x0008 Antenna was toggled 0x0010 Antenna switch failure. (no satellites even after toggling) 0x0020 GPS communication error (cannot talk to GPS unit) 0x0080 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)
93-94	PP->SeekSc; tenths of seconds pumped to target depth
95-96	Number of Packets sent in previous cycle
97	**;** terminator

ID=0xe3, Engineering message following mission abort

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xe3
1-2	Number of bytes = 30 = 0x1e
3	Engineering message version = 4
4	#packets sent in current surface session
5-6	#tries to connect in last 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 last surface session
11-12	Seconds taken in sending last SBD message
13-14	current CPU battery voltage counts 0.01V
15-16	current pump battery counts 0.01V
17-18	DP->Air[1] = pcase vacuum at beginning of abort 0.01inHg
19-20	DP->Air[0] = pcase vacuum at end of last xmit (previous cycle) 0.01 inHg
23-24	DP->ISRID = i.d. of last interrupt
25-26	AbrtCd = code for what caused abort_miss 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 7 = pressure sensor failure
27-28	Empty
29	**;** terminator

ID=0xe5, Engineering message following BITest

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xe5
1-2	Number of bytes = 58 = 0x3a
3	Engineering message version =3
4	#packets sent in this surface session
5-6	SBE P Offset(*800)
7-8	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	Oil vacuum before filling bladder 0.01inHG
18	Oil vacuum after filling bladder 0.01 inHG
19-20	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	Number of tries needed to open valve
24	Number of tries to close valve
25-26	i.d. of last interrupt
27-56	string returned from SBE pt command
57	**;** terminator

Mission EEPROM dump (ID=0xd0)

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xd0, 0xd1, 0xd2
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|...|**UBZmax**= 300| **UBn**= 300|;

The EEPROM dump message is sent only in response to a command "**P**" from the ground station. It is sent over 3 SBD messages (0xd0=328 bytes, 0xd1=328 bytes, 0xd2=136 bytes).

Argo Data ID=0xf0 Relayed in normal cycles

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xf0
1-2	Number of bytes = 25 = 0x19
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 in minutes
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	**;** terminator

Test Data (ID=0xf1)

Byte	Contents
0	ID/Mission phase = 0xf1
1-2	Number of bytes = variable
3	modulo
4-n	test data