

of flight³. Because gradient maps are usually more sensitive than total field maps, the EM map therefore is to be preferred in resistive areas. However, in conductive areas, the absolute character of the resistivity map usually causes it to be more useful than the EM map.

Reduction of geologic noise

Geologic noise refers to unwanted geophysical responses. For purposes of airborne EM surveying, geologic noise refers to EM responses caused by conductive overburden and magnetic polarization. It was mentioned above that the EM difference channels (i.e., channel 33 for inphase and 34 for quadrature) tend to eliminate the response of conductive overburden. This marked a unique development in airborne EM technology, as DIGHEM^{II} is the only EM system which yields channels having an exceptionally high degree of immunity to conductive overburden.

³The gradient analogy is only valid with regard to the identification of anomalous locations. The calculation of conductance is based on EM amplitudes relative to a local base level, rather than to an absolute zero level as for the resistivity calculation.