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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 permeability. 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<sup>II</sup> is the only EM system which yields channels having an exceptionally high degree of immunity to conductive overburden.

Magnetite produces a form of geological noise on the inphase channels of all EM systems. Rocks containing less than 1% magnetite can yield negative inphase anomalies caused by magnetic permeability. When magnetite is widely distributed throughout a survey area, the inphase EM channels may continuously rise and fall reflecting variations in the magnetite percentage, flying height, and overburden thickness. This can lead to difficulties in recognizing