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Research Report 267

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CLIMATE
AND REGIONAL VARIATIONS
IN SNOW-COVER DENSITY
IN NORTH AMERICA

Michael A. Bilello

December 1969

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY
COLD REGIONS RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING LABORATORY
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PREFACE

This report was prepared by Michael A. Bilello, Research Meteorologist, of the Research Division, U. S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory. It is published under DA Task 1T061102B52A02, *Research in Military Aspects of Terrestrial Sciences - Military Aspects of Cold Regions Research*.

The data used in this report were made available through the combined efforts of personnel associated with the Air Weather Service, U.S. Air Force; the Weather Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce; and the Meteorological Branch, Canadian Department of Transport. The author wishes to thank Dr. Robert Gerdel, formerly of USA CRREL, now retired, and Mr. Frederick Sanger, USA CRREL, for their technical review of the paper. Mr. Roy Bates, USA CRREL, assisted with the computation and tabulation of the data.

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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN SNOW-COVER DENSITY IN NORTH AMERICA

by

Michael A. Bilello

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge of the regional distribution of snow-cover density would help solve numerous winter problems. For example, the density-dependent thermal conductivity of the snow cover greatly influences the rate of penetration of ground frost and the growth of ice on lakes and rivers. Trafficability of men and vehicles depends strongly upon the density of the snow cover. Dense snow may support a wheeled vehicle. Sinkage in snow of low density seriously impedes or prevents movement. Studies in hydrology and in snow removal also require knowledge of the density of the snowpack during the winter.

This study investigates the regional variations of snow-cover density in the North American Arctic, Subarctic and Temperate Zones for the nonmelting period only. This permits direct association of regional variations in density with air temperatures and wind speeds, and the development of a method by which average snow-cover densities can be estimated where the influence of melting on density may be disregarded. The purpose of this correlation is to make use of climatological data to determine snow density in areas where such measurements have not been made.

An investigation of this type requires concurrent measurements of snow-cover density and the meteorological elements. To obtain such measurements, a systematic snow observation program began during the winter season of 1952-53 at various locations in Canada, Greenland and the United States including Alaska. The observations were made at weather stations supported by the United States Air Force, United States Weather Bureau and the Meteorological Branch of the Canadian Department of Transport.

Two to eleven years of snow-cover data have been compiled for nine locations in Canada, ten in Alaska, seven on the United States mainland and one in Greenland. The Greenland station, Sondrestrom, although not on the North American continent, was included because of its proximity to the network.

The snow observations, made weekly and sometimes biweekly in accordance with standard procedures described in USA CRREL Instruction Manual No. 1 (USA SIPRE, 1954), provide density, temperature, and hardness data on the layers of snow in vertical profile. The different layers of snow are delineated by structural or textural variations identifying periods of major snow accumulation or metamorphism.

Previous studies (Wengler, 1914; Rikhter, 1945; Formozov, 1946; and Klein, 1950) show that there are important regional differences in the density of the snow cover throughout the Northern Hemisphere. In an earlier study (Bilello, 1957), it was found that the snow cover during the winter months is denser in the Canadian Archipelago than in the interior of Alaska. Additional data have since become available which permit extension of the analysis to other parts of North America.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN DENSITY

In the analysis of the new data a weighted mean of snow-cover density for each observation was used (as was done in the earlier study), thus:

	Thickness of each layer (cm)	% of total depth	Observed snow density (g/cm ³)	Weighted snow density (g/cm ³)
Layer 1 (bottom)	6	20	0.205	0.041
Layer 2	15	50	0.290	0.145
Layer 3 (top)	9	30	0.230	0.069
Total	30	100		0.255

This method of computation was used to allow for the variations in thickness and density of the different layers of snow.

The average seasonal (November - March) snow-cover density for each station (Table I) is the arithmetic mean of all the weekly mean weighted values based on a total of over 2500 observations. The number of years of record for each station is also shown. (Data are presented in Appendix A.) For some low latitude stations November and/or March was excluded because the observed average monthly air temperatures were above freezing and some melting may have occurred. Periods of above-freezing temperatures that may have occurred during the other winter months were assumed to be brief, and effective only in raising the temperature of the snow without causing melt; they were therefore disregarded. The effect of one day of freezing rain or thaw during midwinter would have little influence on the snow cover and would not be reflected in the monthly average density.

The concurrent average seasonal air temperature and wind speed for each station are also given in Table I.

Analysis indicated that the stations could be put in four categories based upon the observed densities, climatic factors and to some extent on geographical location (CRREL network, Fig. 1). These categories were grouped so as to emphasize regional, rather than point, variations in snow-cover density. Category 1 included the four stations with lowest observed densities (between 0.199 and 0.233 g/cm³). These stations are located in the interior of Alaska and western United States and have, in general, light winds. The second group comprises nine stations with average densities between 0.241 and 0.268 g/cm³, most of which are near the coast. The seven stations in Category 3 have densities between 0.279 and 0.297 g/cm³. This group does not have a geographic entity; the stations are located both inland and near coasts. Category 4 consists of seven Arctic stations where the highest densities (between 0.320 and 0.363 g/cm³) and the lowest seasonal temperatures were observed. The frequency curves in Figure 2 show the increasing densities of the four categories. Naturally, the local topography and vegetation create differences in the density from point to point within a categorically defined region. Deviations from the average value for each region can also be expected from month to month and year to year. The standard deviations from the average values (Table I) show the extent of these monthly and yearly variations.

Skewness (departure from symmetry) coefficients, based on the quartile method (Mode, 1948), were computed for each station and are shown in Table I. The quartile values were obtained by plotting the observed snow densities proportionally between 0 and 100% frequency distribution and precisely interpolating between the densities for the 25, 50 and 75% locations. All but two stations

in Categories 1 and 2 show positive skewness, i.e., the peak of the frequency curve is toward lower densities, and all but three of the stations in Categories 3 and 4 show negative skewness, i.e., the peak of the frequency curve is toward higher densities. This difference supports the separation of Category 2 from 3, but since the significance of the computed values has not been determined the results are used only as an indicator.

Table I. Summary of snow-cover densities and climate for 27 stations in North America and Greenland (1952-63).

Station	Years of record	Average seasonal snow density (g/cm ³)	Std dev	Skewness	Average seasonal temp † (°C)	Average seasonal wind speed † (m/sec)
Category 1						
Eielson AFB (Fairbanks), Alaska	6	0.199	0.053	+ .178	-20.3	1.3
Tatalina, Alaska	9	0.203	0.047	+ .010	-15.5	2.1
Hill (Ogden), Utah	8	0.219	0.083	+ .282	- 1.7	3.6
Galena, Alaska	10	0.233	0.060	- .088	-20.7	2.2
Category 2						
Utopia Creek, Alaska	9	0.241	0.069	+ .154	-19.1	2.8
Naknek, Alaska	2	0.244	0.035	+ .361	- 9.2	4.3
Saglek, Labrador	6	0.249	0.091	+ .588	-10.6	3.8
Griffiss (Rome), N.Y.	9	0.252	0.052	+ .121	- 4.3	3.1
Malmstrom (Great Falls), Montana	8	0.252	0.046	+ .178	- 2.2	5.4
Elmendorf (Anchorage), Alaska	7	0.253	0.081	+ .035	- 8.6	2.5
Ernest Harmon (Stephenville), Newf.	9	0.255	0.102	+ .100	- 4.9	5.1
Sondrestrom, Greenland	5	0.262	0.032	+ .522	-17.6	3.1
Goose Bay, Labrador	2	0.268	0.068	- .451	-10.9	4.1
Category 3						
Sparrevohn, Alaska	9	0.279	0.045	- .047	-11.5	2.7
Sault Ste Marie, Mich.*	10	0.290	0.057	+ .101	- 8.4	4.4
Frobisher, NWT	4	0.292	0.066	- .555	-22.8	4.8
Fargo, North Dakota *	2	0.294	0.050	+ .204	- 9.4	6.6
Loring (Caribou), Me.	11	0.294	0.080	- .005	- 9.2	5.3
Northeast Cape, Alaska	2	0.296	0.033	- .237	-10.2	5.9
Wurtsmith (Oscoda), Michigan	8	0.297	0.073	- .018	- 5.1	4.5
Category 4						
Cape Lisburne, Alaska	2	0.320	0.051	+ .141	-18.2	5.5
Barter Island, Alaska	3	0.325	0.059	- .654	-25.3	5.9
Eureka, NWT *	11	0.326	0.050	- .325	-35.3	2.6
Resolute, NWT *	10	0.342	0.044	- .016	-30.2	5.4
Alert, NWT *	10	0.345	0.061	- .044	-30.5	2.7
Mould Bay, NWT *	7	0.354	0.050	- .038	-32.2	4.3
Isachsen, NWT *	11	0.363	0.051	- .054	-33.2	4.4

* U.S. Weather Bureau and Canadian Department of Transport stations. All others are U.S. Air Force Air Weather Service stations.

† From U.S. Air Force, 1952-63; U.S. Weather Bureau, 1952-63.

CLIMATE AND SNOW-COVER DENSITY IN NORTH AMERICA

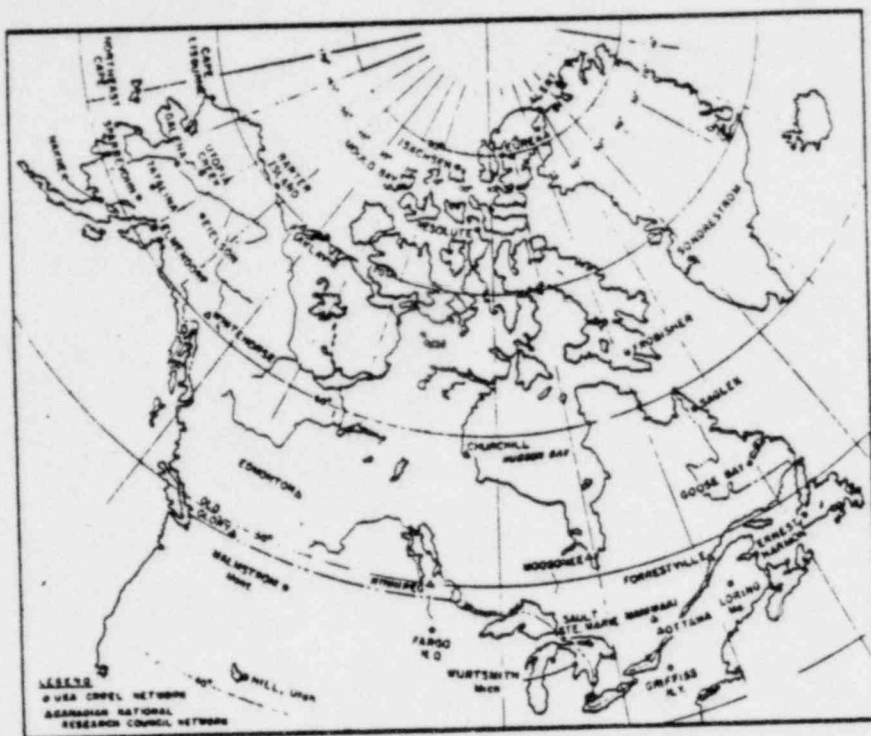


Figure 1. Locations of stations.

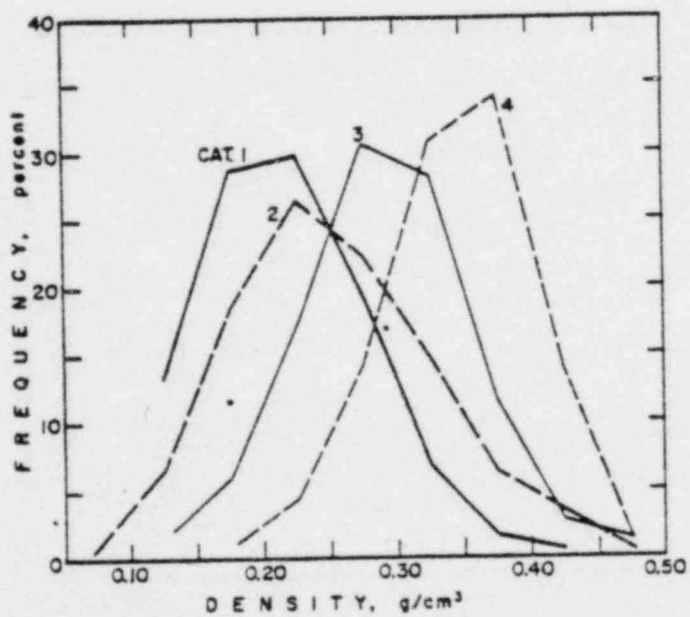


Figure 2. Frequency curves for density Categories 1-4. Curves comprise line segments connecting mid-points of class intervals 0.10-0.15 g/cm³, 0.15-0.20 g/cm³, etc.

MONTHLY INCREASE IN DENSITY

The metamorphic processes which take place within a snow cover with time have been described by a number of investigators (e.g., Bader et al., 1939; de Quervain, 1945; Kingery, 1960). It has been shown (e.g., Shepelevsky, 1938; Work, 1948; Thornthwaite, 1950; and Gold, 1958) that this aging process results in a gradual increase in the snow-cover density as the winter progresses.

This time-densification process was substantiated in this study on average monthly density values. The computed monthly values for the stations within each category were combined and the results are shown in Figure 3. The density for the stations in Categories 1, 2 and 3 (except for 2 between November and January) increases by approximately 0.01 g/cm^3 each month. The decrease in density during December for Category 2 is believed due to the fact that the stations in this group are principally located in a region of heavy snowfall and that the new snow of lighter density that accumulates between November and January dominates the snowpack. The stations in Category 4 show little change throughout the winter because their densities are initially near maximum and because they are located at latitudes where the heat derived from solar radiation between December and March is very small and has negligible effect on snow density.

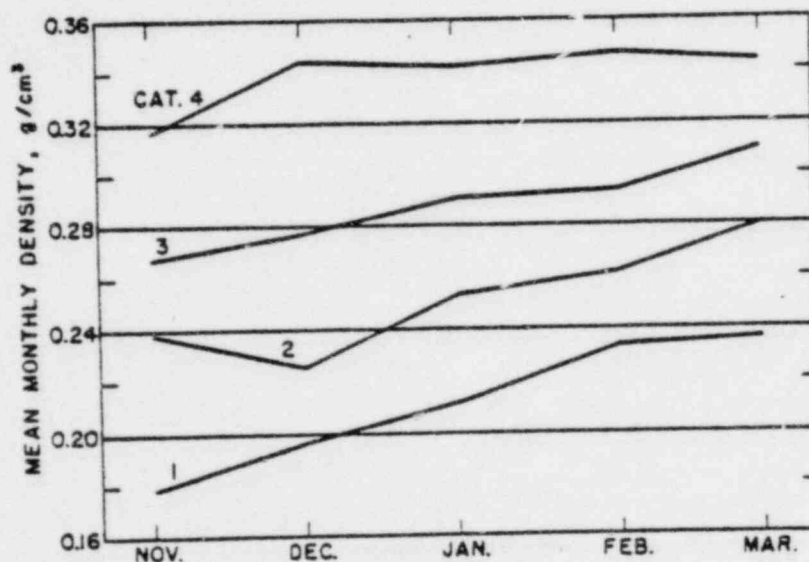


Figure 3. Increase in density from November through March for Categories 1-4.

NOMOGRAPH TO ESTIMATE AVERAGE SNOW-COVER DENSITY

One of the main objectives of this study was to develop a nomograph from which the relationship between climatic parameters and the density of winter snow cover could be determined.

There are a number of fundamental conditions which determine the structure, and physical and mechanical properties, of a snow cover (Yosida, 1955). In addition to the meteorological environment, other processes directly or indirectly attributable to weather could affect the snow cover. For example, Kondrat'eva (1945) reports that the sublimation process in the snow cover can bring about a significant redistribution of snow mass and that a temperature difference of 11 C in a snowpack caused the density in the lower layer to decrease by 0.08 g/cm^3 in 5 days. The heat flow from the soil and the soil conditions with respect to water content and depth of freezing

also may influence the metamorphic processes within the snowpack. However, these subtle effects and the resultant changes in snow density are not within the scope of this report. These processes and such factors as humidity, radiation and cloud cover must be considered if one wishes to undertake a micro-scale study of changes in snow-cover density.

Dmitrieva (1950) presents a method of calculating the mean density of the snow cover from the following data: the time of snow cover appearance; the number of days with wind speeds over 6 m/sec between the time of appearance of the snow cover and the date of calculation; the sums of positive mean diurnal air temperatures for this period; and snow cover depth or amount of precipitation for cases of heavy snowfall. Dmitrieva states that an accuracy of ± 0.03 g/cm³ was found in 91% of the calculations for regions where winter temperatures fluctuate little, and least accuracy where frequent thawing occurred. Weinberg and Gorlenko (1940) also note that the effect of wind on densification of the snow cover is important. Wind fragments the snow crystals, causes the finer grains to re-sort, and by packing increases the density.

As Williams and Gold (1958) point out, many difficulties complicate the problem of relating snow cover characteristics to climate. For example, in any one area meteorological factors vary from year to year, and the elements measured at a site may not be representative. However, they also found that wind speed and air temperature appear to be the dominant factors in the formation of the cover. Consequently, they developed a weather index using these elements to estimate average monthly densities. Although there was considerable spread in density for any particular index a correlation did exist between the variables. However, when monthly averages were calculated for sheltered stations and plotted against the weather index for the month, little correlation was found.

In Research Report 39 (Bilello, 1957) nomographs were developed for estimating average monthly densities. Since that study included only stations north of 62°N latitude reasonable results were obtained in the month-to-month analysis. A similar approach was tried for the 27 stations in this study, but the results were less favorable. Apparently, the climatic regime under consideration is too extensive for predicting densities from month to month. Therefore, multiple regression analysis was made in which seasonal snow-cover density was related to the average air temperature and wind speed (Table I) observed during the same period. The resultant equation derived through the use of a computer is:

$$\rho = 0.152 - 0.0031 T + 0.019 W$$

where

ρ = average seasonal snow-cover density (g/cm³)

T = average seasonal air temperature (°C), and

W = average seasonal wind speed (m/sec).

The correlation coefficient and the standard error of estimate are 0.84 and 0.025 g/cm³, respectively.

By coincidence, the numerical constant (0.152) appearing in the equation is almost identical to that given by Dmitrieva (1950) for the average density of fresh snow (0.15 g/cm³). This value, obtained from two independent studies, implies that when the Arctic, Subarctic and Temperate Zones are considered the average density of freshly fallen snow is higher than the generally accepted water equivalent value of 10%. Figure 4 is the nomograph developed from the above equation.

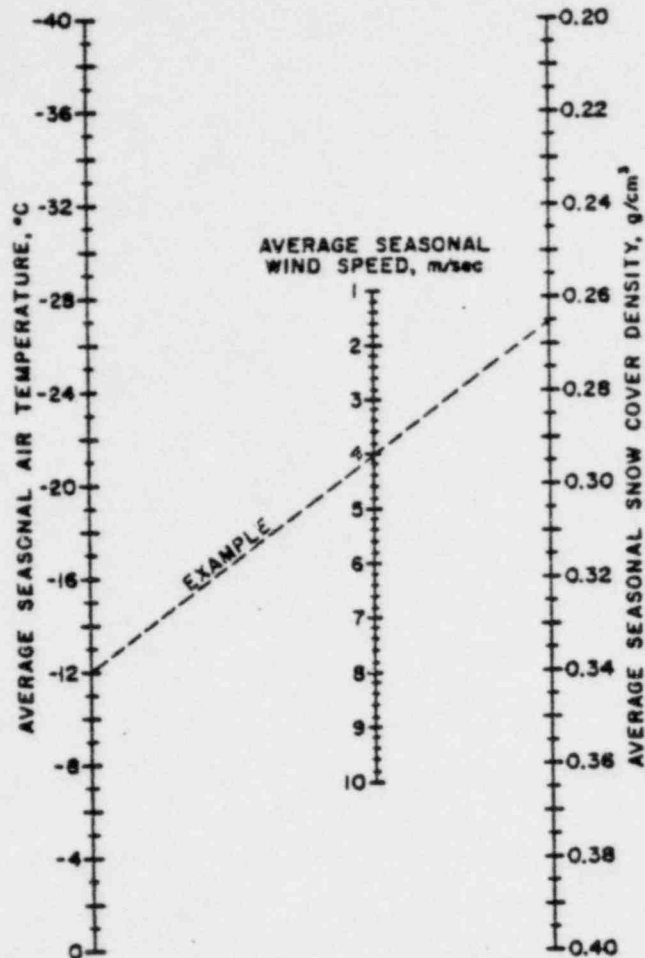


Figure 4. Nomograph for estimating average seasonal snow-cover density. The term seasonal refers to November through March inclusive, unless the average air temperature for the month is above freezing. Example: Assume the average seasonal air temperature and wind speed for a location are -12°C and 4.0 m/sec . Extend a straight line through these two points and read 0.265 g/cm^3 on the snow density scale.

TEST AND APPLICATION OF THE NOMOGRAPH

To test the nomograph, the densities for ten locations not included in the study were estimated. These stations (Table II; Canadian network, Fig. 1) were used because they cover a wide climatic range and their average observed densities were reported by Gold and Williams (1957). Their report, dated 1957, stated that the snow survey was initiated in 1946. Consequently, average air temperatures and wind speeds for the winter seasons between 1946 and 1957 (Table II) were used as the independent variables (Department of Transport, 1946-57).

Figure 5 shows the observed and estimated densities for these stations. There is good agreement between the values (correlation coefficient = 0.91) and the standard error of estimate obtained from a least squares computation was 0.016 g/cm^3 .

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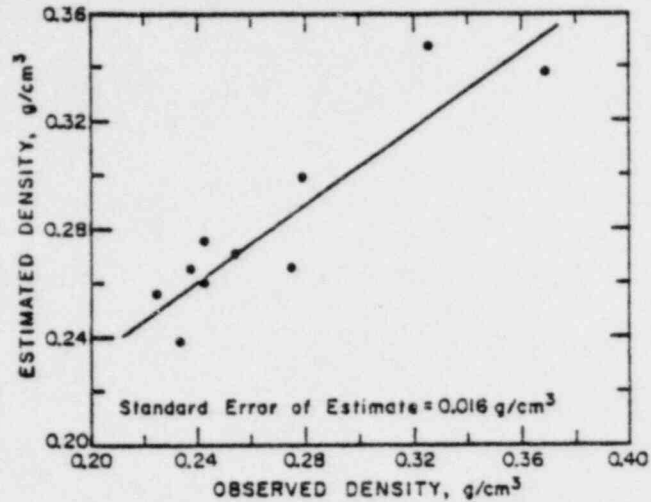


Figure 5. Estimated versus observed densities for ten test stations (from Gold and Williams, 1957).

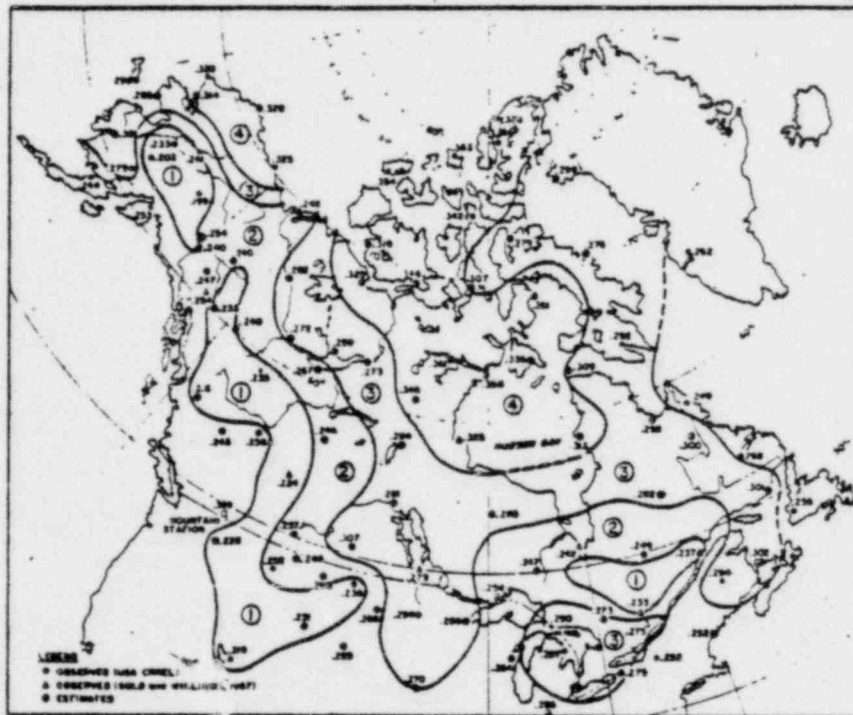


Figure 6. Average seasonal snow-cover densities. Categories 1-4 are separated at densities of 0.24; 0.27 and 0.31 g/cm^3 .

The results of density computation from this nomograph gave sufficient confidence to warrant its application to a number of stations throughout North America. The necessary climatological data for 10 years of record (between 1952 and 1965) for 61 stations (Table III) were compiled and average seasonal density values were estimated from the nomograph. These values, plus those observed in this and the Gold and Williams (1957) study, were used to draw an average seasonal snow-cover density map for North America (Fig. 6). Using the density ranges of the four categories described previously the continent was divided into zones. The zones were separated at density values of 0.24, 0.27 and 0.31 g/cm^3 .

Table II. Observed average snow density, seasonal air temperature and wind speed for stations in Gold and Williams's (1957) report used to test nomograph.

Station	Density (g/cm ³)	Temp (°C)	Wind speed (m/sec)
Edmonton, Alberta	0.224	-10.8	3.7
Maniwaki, Quebec	0.233	- 8.2	3.2*
Forestville, Quebec	0.237	- 9.4*	4.4*
Aklavik, NWT	0.242	-24.7	2.5
Moosonee, Ontario	0.242	-13.4	3.5
Whitehorse, Yukon	0.254	-13.9	4.0
Ottawa, Ontario	0.275	- 7.7	4.7
Winnipeg, Manitoba	0.279	-12.6	5.7
Churchill, Manitoba	0.325	-21.6	6.8
Old Glory, British Columbia	0.369	- 9.6	8.2

* Values obtained from nearby stations.

Table III. Stations for which average snow-cover densities were estimated from nomograph.

Aishihik, Yukon	Indian House Lake, Quebec
Arctic Bay, NWT	Kotzebue, Alaska
Baker Lake, NWT	Mayo Landing, Yukon
Barrow, Alaska	McMurray, Alberta
Bethel, Alaska	Medicine Hat, Alberta
Bismarck, North Dakota	Nitchequon, Quebec
Brochet, Manitoba	Nome, Alaska
Buffalo, New York	Norman Wells, NWT
Cache Lake, Quebec	North Bay, Ontario
Cambridge Bay, NWT	Northway Junction, Alaska
Chesterfield, NWT	Nottingham Island, NWT
Clyde, NWT	Pagwa, Ontario
Coppermine, NWT	Port Harrison, Quebec
Coral Harbour, NWT	Portland, Maine
Duluth, Minnesota	Prince George, British Columbia
Ennadai Lake, NWT	Rapid City, South Dakota
Fort Chimo, Quebec	Regina, Saskatchewan
Fort Nelson, British Columbia	Sheridan, Wyoming
Fort Reliance, NWT	Sioux City, Iowa
Fort Simpson, NWT	Smithers, British Columbia
Fort Wayne, Indiana	Snag, Yukon
Fort William, Ontario	Spence Bay, NWT
Glasgow, Montana	Spokane, Washington
Grand Prairie, Alberta	Summerside, Prince Edward Island
Green Bay, Wisconsin	Teslin, Yukon
Hall Beach, NWT	The Pas, Manitoba
Harrington Harbour, Quebec	Thule, Greenland
Havre, Montana	Trout Lake, Ontario
Hay River, NWT	Watson Lake, Yukon
Holman Island, NWT	Williston, North Dakota
	Yellowknife, NWT

Gold and Williams (1957) divided Canada into five main snowfall regions. In addition to the physical characteristics of the snow cover these regions were determined by the amount of snowfall, temperature, time of first snowfall, and the length of time the snow stays on the ground.

Except for eastern Canada, their arctic region coincides closely with Category 4 where the highest densities are recorded. Except for some eastern portions and the area around the Great Lakes, Category 3 corresponds roughly with their Northern Forest region. The region they classify as the freeze-thaw area, which includes mostly the Atlantic Provinces, southern Ontario and southern Quebec, approximately coincides with the Category 1, 2 and 3 areas used in this study. As they point out, rain, heavy snowfalls, ice lenses within the snow cover, sleet and above-freezing temperatures are common in this area during the winter. Similarly, the other two regions (1: Prairie zone, and 2: Western Mountain and Coastal zone) covered portions of Canada where areas assigned to Categories 1, 2 and 3 are used in this study.

DISCUSSION

The system developed in this study provides an estimate of the average snow density for a general area over a number of years. It does not attempt to predict the density of a snow cover from point to point nor from week to week, nor year to year. Estimated values for 61 locations and observed values for 37 other locations were used to divide North America into geographical areas which fall into one of four predefined ranges of density. Except for those areas with snow densities above 0.31 g/cm^3 it is shown that the density of the snowpack increases slightly from month to month during winter.

The snow cover and its characteristics are extremely variable in mountainous regions (Alciatore, 1916; TSomaia, 1956; and McKay, 1964). Snowpacks range from permanent snowfields at higher elevations to an occasional brief snow cover in the lower and warmer plains and valleys. Large changes in density that occur in a short distance are exemplified by the mountain station, Old Glory, British Columbia (Fig. 6). The value for this station places it in Category 4 whereas a station nearby is in Category 1, indicating that the area bridges four categories. The scale of the map and insufficient data preclude the delineation of the intermediate categories. Consequently, caution should be used when interpreting Figure 6 in mountainous areas. In some portions of such regions, where the winter air temperatures and wind speeds over a wide area are reasonably uniform, the results presented in this study are applicable. For example, the stations in Category 1 in western United States and Canada and the interior of Alaska are mostly sheltered stations in valleys or on the lee sides of mountains where light winds and low densities are consistently observed.

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APPENDIX A: OBSERVED, WEIGHTED SNOW-COVER DENSITIES (G/CM³)
FOR STATIONS IN TABLE I.

Extracted, computed and compiled by Roy E. Bates, USA CRREL.

Totalina AFB, Alaska (cont'd)														
Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska				Totalina AFB, Alaska				Hill AFB, Ogden, Utah						
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1952-1953					1953-1954					1959-1960		
.204	.260	.240	.260	.255	.190	.200	.136	.231	.181	.120	.120	.166	.173	.262
.220	.270	.270	.260	.240	.180	.139	.184	.213	.201	.158	.144	.195	.172	.272
	.250	.260	.240	.350		.136	.151	.198	.206	.179	.225	.163	.191	.251
	.240	.310	.260		.134	.151	.151	.196	.198	.157	.152	.182	.185	.271
		.300			.209				.198	.179				
		1954-1955					1955-1956							
	.165	.176	.207	.219	.197	.221	.292	.234						
	.150	.171	.163	.187	.308	.232	.347	.292						
	.152	.187	.152	.258	.124	.210	.349	.260						
	.164	.231	.181	.200	.188	.153	.248	.250						
	.146	.186	.189	.216	.297	.299								
		1957-1958					1959-1960							
.160	.181				.142	.159	.131	.167	.159					
.140	.184				.133	.148	.138	.212	.162					
.180	.152				.160	.110	.136	.150	.163					
.190	.189				.140	.172	.155	.167	.162					
.160	.201				.136	.136	.167	.152	.147					
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Totalina AFB, Alaska														
		1953-1954					1954-1955					1951-1952		
.130	.215	.213	.173	.204	.211	.150	.179	.250	.228	.120	.127			
.140	.135	.146	.185	.179	.218	.177	.193	.258	.236	.120	.120			
.140	.248	.218	.187	.168	.218	.190	.161	.239	.241	.130				
.200				.211		.218	.246	.238	.257	.140				
		1955-1956					1956-1957					1952-1953		
.216	.150	.200	.245	.236	.211	.191	.250	.249	.171			1954-1955		
.125	.236	.213	.242	.245	.218	.221	.225	.251	.293			.150		
.202	.196	.225	.243	.241	.232	.251	.221	.161	.229			.260		
	.236	.249	.241	.240	.204	.180	.131	.237	.176			.200		
	.209	.205	.241	.230	.201	.332	.140	.142	.289			.225		
	.239			.305	.165	.179						.186		
		1957-1958					1958-1959					1951-1956		
.132	.203	.219	.214	.249	.105	.150	.120	.230	.232			1951-1956		
.204	.193	.252	.269	.247	.115	.121	.109	.200	.229			.170		
.165	.163	.250	.264	.255	.105	.122	.111	.231	.234			.170		
.140	.167	.200	.279	.242	.128	.125	.104	.235	.210			.180		
.137	.201			.260	.131	.192	.192	.235				1962-1963		
.130	.200				.137	.192	.196					.140		
.202					.136							.200		

Saglek, Labrador, Canada (cont'd)

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1957-1958					1958-1959				
.410	.155	.176	.189	.200	.150	.307	.193	.160	
.377	.152	.169	.186	.199	.154	.250	.191	.158	
.178	.158	.172	.197	.202	.219	.344	.190	.159	
.164	.171	.172	.202	.202	.237	.342	.197	.164	
	.162			.204			.197		

Griffiss AFB, Rome, N. Y.

Dec	Feb	Jan	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb			
1954	1956	1957		1957-1958					
.199	.267	.211	.260	.160	.240	.315			
.200	.190	.224	.169	.120	.235	.211			
.280	.235				.333	.224			
					.225	.241			
					.247	.228			
					.325	.319			
					.290				
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1959-1960					1960-1961				
	.220	.335	.268		.208	.170	.197	.280	
	.236	.215	.300		.250	.235	.360	.353	
	.241	.270			.190	.290			
	.251	.231			.280	.286			
	.217					.290			
1961-1962					1962-1963				
.231	.353	.260	.260		.294	.260	.248	.265	
.140	.180	.240	.285		.320	.289	.267	.302	
		.226			.264	.298	.260	.170	
		.211			.344				
		.332							

Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Montana

Jan	Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb
1954	1955		1955-1956		1957	
.185	.227	.248	.275	.201	.270	.187
.243	.239	.182	.341	.355	.287	.245
.248		.250	.258	.283	.254	.282
.298		.270		.290	.260	
		.290				

Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Montana (cont'd)

Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb	Feb	Mar	Jan
1958		1958-1959			1960		1962
.244		.151	.265	.350	.212	.226	.230
.265	.266	.181	.225	.364		.249	.246
.230		.155	.280	.249			
.240	.240		.280	.236			

Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1952-1953					1953-1954				
	.112	.186	.195		.209	.175	.285	.297	
	.142	.221	.332		.154	.148	.273	.247	
	.147	.271	.244		.145	.192			
		.259	.317		.172	.241			
					.174	.154			
					.198				
1957-1958					1958-1959				
.200	.259	.343			.208	.277	.228	.389	.357
.290	.320	.457			.184	.281	.360	.404	.335
	.320	.317			.206	.196	.360	.380	.321
		.392				.186	.348	.284	.324
						.191	.405	.366	.348
							.405	.360	
1959-1960					1960-1961				
.128	.156	.323	.267	.252	.240	.150		.360	
.267	.217	.302	.276	.283	.200	.250		.120	
.194	.343	.276	.278	.205	.252				
.256	.173	.292	.270	.400					
	.236	.241	.272						
			.292						
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar					
1961-1962									
.220	.194	.175	.154	.135					
.120	.097	.230	.188	.311					
.200	.145		.246	.400					
.224	.159		.180						

APPENDIX A

Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, Canada

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1953-1954					1954-1955		
.180	.232	.385	.125			.320	.227	.220	
.355	.222	.440	.158			.140	.323	.180	
.388	.212		.159			.231		.330	
.215	.158		.210						
	.157		.226						
			.313						
			.282						
			.268						
		1955-1956					1956-1957		
.080		.130			.180	.180	.170		
.200		.208			.150	.302	.180		
.130					.220	.200			
.090					.289	.420			
.164									
		1957-1958					1959-1960		
.160		.150			.200	.250			
.180		.225			.230	.410			
					.159	.450			
					.200				
		1960-1961					1961-1962		
.160	.144	.376	.417		.119	.199	.388		
.097	.159	.344	.402		.120	.312	.267		
	.151	.335	.371			.188	.255		
	.353	.453	.419			.239	.257		
			.426						

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1962-1963		
	.235	.240	.270	.414
	.417	.200	.320	.405
			.400	.420
				.388

Sondrestrom AFB, Greenland

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1954-1955					1956-1957		
.300	.350			.250		.260			.278
.350	.360					.230			.335

Sondrestrom AFB, Greenland (cont'd)

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1957-1958					1959-1960		
		.342			.250	.290	.251	.250	.218
		.309			.270	.240	.222	.246	.261
					.217	.250	.235		.252
						.251			.286
		1960-1961					1961-1962		
.233	.240	.251	.250	.258	.252	.202	.203	.263	
.300	.250	.240	.266	.258	.286	.206	.239	.265	
	.213	.300	.250		.306		.223		
		.300	.240						

Goose Bay AFB, Labrador, Canada

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1953-1954					1954-1955		
.225	.190	.190	.279	.342	.121	.169	.284	.243	.197
.200	.246	.282	.248	.466	.110	.181	.296	.236	.298
.192	.268	.303	.298	.300		.210	.221	.340	.279
.300	.315	.299	.310	.400		.280		.238	.309
.232	.243	.349	.290	.292		.177		.190	
	.281		.294	.317				.282	
			.384	.293					
				.333					
				.322					
				.203					
				.242					

Sporrevohn AFB, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1953-1954					1954-1955		
.310	.273	.302	.281	.319		.278	.279	.290	.297
.276	.270	.362	.299	.316		.254	.261	.257	.300
.219		.305	.347			.272	.286	.248	
		1955-1956					1956-1957		
	.210		.220		.274	.268	.244	.256	.286
	.300		.167		.290	.347	.297	.286	.269
					.320	.305			.270
		1957-1958					1958-1959		
.230	.299		.316	.278	.210		.281	.280	.303
.280	.334		.305	.240	.380		.300	.312	.325
			.236						

Loring AFB, Caribou, Maine (cont'd)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Feb	Jan	Feb	Mar
1960-1961			1961-1962			1962-1963		
.263		.282	.300	.330	.370	.230	.291	.294
.243		.314	.350	.330	.450	.207	.304	.329
		.317			.483	.314	.319	.355
		.340				.276		

Northeast Cape AFS, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1961-1962					1962-1963				
.258	.292	.293	.281	.298	.300	.308	.318	.264	.260
.254	.266	.303	.318	.307	.270	.283	.334	.294	.314
									.290
									.411

Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda, Michigan

Feb	Mar	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb	Mar			
1954		1954-1955		1958		1959			
.256	.250	.440	.216	.300	.275	.320			
.217	.216	.312	.288	.260	.252	.415			
.240	.333		.260		.357	.340			
			.252		.313				
					.262				
					.261				
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1959-1960					1960-1961				
.233	.340	.398	.341		.270		.253	.210	
.280	.422	.410	.383		.275		.140	.240	
.410	.372	.381	.316				.174	.351	
.200	.334	.333	.316				.355		
.300									
.212									
1961-1962				1962-1963					
	.174	.290	.304		.200	.280	.300		
	.228	.380	.351		.150	.300	.350		
	.263	.253	.390		.320	.300	.450		
	.212	.209	.400			.240	.450		
	.300	.293							

Cape Lisburne AFS, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1961-1962					1962-1963				
.271	.366	.422	.354	.400	.254	.290	.290	.347	.220
.310	.358	.353	.311	.364	.320	.280	.240	.344	.267
		.342		.400		.290			.298

Burter Island, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1952-1953					1953-1954				
.177	.242	.244	.255	.244	.384	.365	.421	.335	.332
.236	.192	.311	.286	.304	.373	.398	.400	.334	.325
.232	.232	.254	.241	.240	.378	.399	.361	.355	.297
.238	.296		.300	.312	.382	.408	.261		.254
				.294			.288		
							.344		

Burter Island, Alaska

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1954-1955					1955-1956				
			.348	.360	.354	.355	.368		
			.361	.361	.353	.346	.382		
			.361	.361	.356	.364	.382		
			.359	.354	.356	.369	.416		
					.355				

Eureka, NWT, Canada

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1951-1952					1953-1954				
		.378	.431	.345	.372	.342	.345	.381	
		.399	.422	.373	.369	.363	.362	.396	
			.394		.361	.347	.356	.388	
			.345		.350	.366	.350		
					.345				
1954-1955					1955-1956				
.351	.371	.356	.336	.383	.259	.360	.330	.336	.346
.369	.383	.355	.321	.364	.355	.363	.350	.351	.352
	.322	.364	.361	.372	.339	.333	.311	.367	
	.367	.336		.367	.349	.360	.323	.362	
	.361			.357	.370			.361	
1956-1957					1957-1958				
.334	.321	.311	.315	.334	.302	.239	.273	.360	.424
.273	.304	.327	.319	.331	.292	.248	.339	.361	.438
.300	.308	.315	.291	.322	.254	.258	.382	.371	.430
	.336	.274	.261	.362	.262	.261	.342	.416	.389
		.270			.254				.382
1958-1959					1959-1960				
.255	.254	.257	.255	.277	.186	.260	.301		.314
.243	.257	.247	.272	.277	.204	.268	.238		.320
.252				.270					
.258				.264					
				.259					

<u>Eureka, NWT, Canada (cont'd)</u>									
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1960-1961					1961-1962		
.286	.338	.332	.336	.293	.275	.322	.322	.330	.363
.282	.298	.295	.293	.353	.222		.365	.370	.360
			.332				.337		
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
				1962-1963					
			.242	.224	.344	.297	.303		
			.232	.369	.350	.284	.362		
<u>Resolute, NWT, Canada</u>									
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1952-1953					1953-1954		
.275		.336	.349	.365	.308	.292	.284	.321	.310
.283		.374	.358	.330	.251	.310	.297	.352	.360
					.327	.276	.306	.350	.371
						.272	.306	.352	.374
							1955-1956		
.301	.321	.332	.304	.329	.308	.371	.370	.336	.346
.305	.315	.326	.314	.325	.343	.355	.335	.301	.333
.322	.346	.322	.308	.334	.317	.356	.360	.350	.371
.318	.335	.324	.325	.334	.335	.397	.355	.368	.368
.306			.335				.353		
							1957-1958		
.380	.382	.393	.362	.394	.260	.350	.290	.330	.270
.397	.419	.371	.397	.347	.310	.310	.240	.341	.250
.387	.396	.324	.394	.376	.300	.340	.320	.310	.290
.268	.420	.426	.397	.415	.320	.310	.350	.341	.300
	.421		.389		.250	.330	.310		.295
							1960-1961		
.300	.448	.365	.395	.366		.340		.309	.323
.418	.368	.408	.363	.368		.311		.252	.355
.437	.405					.396			
.337									
							1962-1963		
.254	.364	.361		.381		.372	.374	.380	
.247	.460	.357		.433		.374	.387	.374	
		.356		.361		.361			

<u>Alert, NWT, Canada</u>									
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1953-1954					1954-1955		
.203		.146	.209		.209	.371	.204	.372	.359
.166		.172	.184		.335	.296	.273	.352	.295
					.313	.343	.331	.368	.359
					.321	.335	.380	.372	.327
						.283			.406
							1956-1957		
.388	.370	.374	.383	.386	.360	.402	.404	.440	.415
.407	.412	.359	.394	.324	.418	.430	.387	.430	.419
.401	.381	.414	.386	.351	.278	.305	.436	.463	.402
.384	.376	.407	.372	.339	.405	.330		.461	.327
	.380			.334		.382		.440	
							1958-1959		
.300	.384	.387	.322	.329	.357	.329	.323	.341	.384
.288	.266	.260	.322	.337	.399	.367	.292	.347	.331
.283	.332	.360	.331	.332	.256		.424		.338
.361	.406	.368		.328	.423				.362
	.316								.281
							1960-1961		
.248	.272	.360	.266	.242	.300	.329	.313	.344	.323
.203	.327	.360	.288	.316	.400	.312	.312	.327	.367
.310			.367	.331					
.370				.328					
							1962-1963		
.371			.383	.405	.264	.329	.363	.383	.367
.489			.439	.357	.271		.340	.346	.317
.452			.275		.359				
<u>Hould Bay, NWT, Canada</u>									
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
		1953-1954					1954-1955		
.297	.297	.300	.305	.290	.428	.407	.414	.391	.415
.316	.323	.304	.314	.349	.420	.415	.403	.402	.401
	.292	.287	.291	.309	.429	.409	.364	.364	.410
			.291		.433	.421	.392	.404	.354
			.336				.399		
							1957-1958		
.341	.404	.382	.317	.313	.385	.375	.415	.320	.373
.380	.359	.318	.378	.338	.407	.387	.401	.358	.318
.413	.369	.375	.369	.345	.390	.395	.447	.383	.267
.459	.431	.353	.329	.358		.388	.362	.366	.327
	.353	.314				.399			

Mould Bay, NWT, Canada (cont'd)

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1958-1959					1960-1961				
.247	.301	.260	.327	.349	.390	.290	.422	.349	.359
.271	.304	.317	.261	.350	.256	.382	.306	.352	.331
.285				.309					
.294				.255					
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
			1961-1962						
			.303		.403	.403	.360		
			.313		.328	.375	.348		
					.401	.378			

Isachsen, NWT, Canada

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1952-1953					1953-1954				
.309	.339	.314	.355		.392	.401	.420	.401	.401
.305	.311	.333	.358		.387	.409	.435	.431	.424
	.308	.359	.350		.422	.439	.426	.420	.424
		.358	.328		.409	.443	.418	.438	.430
					.375		.377		
1954-1955					1955-1956				
.310	.375	.351	.335	.420	.309	.428	.408	.372	
.400	.361	.333	.427	.333	.297	.403	.413	.393	
.340	.336	.400	.327	.438	.406	.450	.458	.425	
.340	.318	.420		.330	.406		.403		
.352				.323					
1956-1957					1957-1958				
			.322	.324	.348	.329	.383	.378	.310
			.324	.308	.313	.336	.309	.394	.366
					.357	.311	.371	.347	.377
					.346	.400	.399	.401	.382
					.374				.368
1958-1959					1959-1960				
.247		.292			.248		.267		.304
.212		.276			.252		.332		.342
.264					.334				.418
					.373				
1960-1961					1961-1962				
.280	.306	.283		.344	.320	.315	.325	.413	.393
.256	.303	.319		.346	.319	.350	.399		.473
			Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar		
			1962-1963						
			.342	.371	.355	.412	.403		
				.378	.366	.412	.378		
							.376		

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13. ABSTRACT Analysis of snow-cover observations made during November - March at 27 stations in Alaska, Canada and the northern United States for a 2 to 11 year period showed that the average snow density can be classified in four general categories: Category 1 (density 0.20 to 0.23 g/cm ³), inland stations reporting light winds; Category 2 (0.24 to 0.27 g/cm ³), stations reporting moderate winds; Category 3 (0.28 to 0.30 g/cm ³), inland and coastal locations with stronger winds; Category 4 (0.32 to 0.36 g/cm ³), cold and windy stations of the Arctic. Skewness coefficients computed for each station showed bias toward lower densities for cat. 1 and 2, and bias toward higher densities for cat. 3 and 4. A nomograph in which the average winter air temperature and wind speed are the independent variables makes it possible to estimate the average snow- cover density for any location in the Arctic, subarctic and North Temperate Zones. A comparison between observed and estimated densities for ten other test stations yielded a correlation coefficient of 0.91 with a standard error of estimate of 0.016 g/cm ³ . An average snow density map of North America was drawn and the continent was divided into areas based on the four categories.			
14. KEY WORDS Climatology Snow cover Snow density			

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