

Remote Sensing
of
Ice and Snow



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Contents

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Preface	<i>page ix</i>
1 An introduction to the optical, thermal and electrical properties of ice and snow	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Optical and thermal properties of ice and snow	1
1.3 Electrical properties of ice and snow	6
References	8
2 Sensors and platforms	10
2.1 Introduction	10
2.2 Multispectral Scanner (MSS) on the Landsat series	11
2.3 Thematic Mapper (TM) on Landsats 4 and 5	12
2.4 NOAA satellites and sensors	13
2.5 Heat Capacity Mapping Mission (HCMM)	14
2.6 Nimbus 5 and 6 Electrically Scanning Microwave Radiometer (ESMR) and Nimbus 7 Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR)	15
2.7 Passive microwave aircraft sensors	16
2.8 Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)	17
2.9 Seasat SAR and radar altimeter	19
2.10 Impulse radar	21
References	22

vi CONTENTS

3	Snow cover	24
3.1	Snow cover in the global water balance	24
3.2	Snow properties	26
3.3	Seasonal snow cover	31
3.4	Snow-cover mapping	32
3.5	Snow-cover depletion curves	47
	References	53
4	Applications of remotely derived snow data	56
4.1	Hydrological importance of snow	56
4.2	Snowmelt-runoff modelling	58
4.3	Discharge forecasts	66
4.4	Economic benefits	75
	References	80
5	Lake and river ice	82
5.1	The importance of lake and river ice	82
5.2	Freshwater ice thickness studies	84
5.3	Lake depth and ice thickness studies in northern Alaska	89
5.4	Ice in large lakes and estuaries	95
5.5	River ice break-up	99
5.6	Ice jams and aufeis	101
	References	106
6	Permafrost	109
6.1	Hydrological and geological implications of permafrost	109
6.2	Vegetation mapping in permafrost areas	112
6.3	Snow and ice break-up	115
6.4	Surface temperature and energy balance studies	116
6.5	Tundra surface disturbances	119
6.6	Subsurface probing of permafrost	122
	References	124
7	Glaciers, ice caps and ice sheets	127
7.1	Global significance of glaciers	127
7.2	Distribution and mass balance of glaciers	132
7.3	Catastrophic events: surges, jökulhlaups and rapid glacier movement	139
7.4	Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets	141
7.5	Icebergs	149
7.6	Radio echo sounding of glacier ice	150
	References	155

8	Sea ice	159
	8.1 Introduction	159
	8.2 Sea ice age	165
	8.3 Sea ice type and interannual variability	168
	8.4 Sea ice concentration	170
	8.5 Sea ice movement	176
	References	180
	Index	183

Preface



Remote sensing using aircraft and satellites has helped to open up to intensified scientific scrutiny the cold and remote regions in which snow and ice are prevalent. In this book, the utility of remote sensing for identifying, mapping and analyzing surface and subsurface properties of worldwide ice and snow features is described. Emphasis is placed on the use of remote sensing for developing an improved understanding of the physical properties of ice and snow and understanding the interrelationships of cryospheric processes with atmospheric, hydrospheric and oceanic processes. Current and potential applications of remotely sensed data are also stressed.

At present, all-weather, day and night observations of the polar regions can be obtained from sensors operating in different portions of the electromagnetic spectrum. Because the approaches for analysis of remotely sensed data are not straightforward, Chapter 1 serves to introduce the reader to some of the optical, thermal and electrical properties of ice and snow as they pertain to remote sensing. In Chapter 2 we briefly describe many of the sensors and platforms that are referred to in the rest of the book. The remaining chapters deal with remote sensing of the seasonal snow cover, lake and river ice, permafrost, glacier ice and sea ice.

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x PREFACE

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