



Satellite Remote Sensing of Polar Regions: Applications, Limitations, and Data Availability

Robert Massom

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This book outlines the evolution of satellite-borne remote sensing of polar regions, reviews satellites currently in operation, and looks at definite, probable and future developments. It concentrates on sensors that detect and measure not only polar snow and ice but also high latitude meteorological, biological and oceanic variables. Coverage is also given to the role of satellites in the relay of data from remote un-manned surface experiment, including automatic weather stations and buoys, and the measurement of mid-latitude glaciers and seasonal snow cover. Part 1 consists of a review of the physical basis and general principles of satellite-borne remote sensing as it relates to snow and ice, along with the history and development of its application in polar regions. It describes the satellite sensor parameters, the frequencies and wavelengths of the electromagnetic radiation that they measure (and/or transmit), and how the radiation interacts with the properties of the medium being studied to yield information of interest. Part 2 is structured as a reference manual, devoted to the detailed description and evaluation of individual satellites and sensors from 1960 to 2000. Another primary aim is to aid potential data users by describing primary data sources, archiving extent, availability and format of data (both raw and with specific data products extracted) for each individual sensor.

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