SECULAR TRENDS IN HIGH NORTHERN LATITUDE TEMPERATURE RECONSTRUCTIONS BASED ON TREE RINGS

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Abstract. Boreal tree-ring records from high latitude North America, Scandinavia and Russia provide baseline data reflecting long-term trends in Arctic annual temperature. Reconstructions from 1682-1968 indicate the latter part and termination of the Little Ice Age and that the northern regions are now warmer by comparison. The resulting high-resolution, extended temperature time series allows examination of underlying causes of climatic change not possible using only the instrumental record. The recent recorded data for the Arctic show recovery from the cooling in the 1950's-1960's. The overall evaluation confirms that the high northern latitudes are now in an anomalously warm state relative to the past three centuries.

Introduction

Global climatic change can be identified by documenting sets of extremes that indicate a shift outside the bounds of natural variation or by establishing trends that are unusual and related to changing causative factors. Previous studies have established the importance of high northern latitudes in the global temperature regime (Kelly *et al.,* 1982; Jones and Kelly, 1983; Lachenbruch and Marshall, 1986; Walsh and Chapman, 1990). In these regions few meteorological records extend back for even the past 100 years, and these cannot represent the full range of climate variability.

Longer records based on tree-ring data can determine past centuries of temperature trends for this area and their relationship to Northern Hemisphere climate as a whole. Parsimonious standardization to preserve as much climatic information as possible in the tree-ring data yields time series with annual and also longer-term climatic response. The secular trends in resultant data sets and reconstructions of temperature are crucial for recognizing and quantifying possible global change.

Studies have demonstrated the ability of tree growth at northern sites to reflect fluctuations in temperature (e.g. Jacoby *et al.,* 1985; Payette *et al.,* 1985; Briffa *et al.,* 1988 and 1992; Graybill and Shiyatov, 1992). Recent 300-year reconstructions of Arctic and Northern Hemisphere annual temperature departures were based solely on eleven temperature-sensitive ring-width chronologies from the North American boreal treeline (Jacoby and DArrigo, 1989). Partly because of the limited geographic representation, these reconstructions need to be confirmed by new analyses. In this paper we present a revised and improved version of the Jacoby and DArrigo (1989) Arctic temperature reconstruction which has ex-

panded geographical coverage. Previously, the tree-ring sites extended over more than 90 ° of longitude across northern North America. Herein this coverage has been improved to include one newly developed site from eastern Canada as well as tree-ring-width data from northern Scandinavia (K. Briffa, pers. comm.) and Russia (Shiyatov, 1986; Graybill and Shiyatov, 1992) which have recently become available (Table I-II, Figure 1). Temperature fluctuations from these regions are important to larger-scale climatic trends (Kelly *et al.,* **1982; Jones and Kelly, 1983), and inclusion of the tree-ring data from these additional sites improves the previous reconstruction of Arctic temperatures, as discussed below.**

Although early observers realized that tree-ring widths from high-latitude trees correlate with summer surface air temperatures (e.g. Giddings, 1943; Hustich, 1956), more recent studies have indicated that this is really an oversimplification (Garfinkel and Brubaker, 1980; Jacoby and Cook, 1981; Jacoby and Ulan, 1982;

TABLE **I: Site information of northern tree-ring chronologies used to reconstruct Arctic temperatures. As shown in Figure** 1. PIGL = *Picea glauca,* LRL = *Larix laricina,* THO = *Thuja occidentalis,* PISY = *Pinus sylvestris,* SRS = **Siberian spruce,** LRS = **Siberian larch.** NWT = **Northwest Territories,** MB = Manitoba, QB = Quebec, LB = Labrador, NWY = Norway, SWD = Sweden, FNL = **Finland,** RUS = **Russia**

Site	Location	Lat. (N)	Long.	Elev. (M)	Spp.	Years
North American Chronologies		(W)				
1.412 2. Arrig. 3. Sheenjek TTHH 4. 5. Mack Mt. 6. Copperm. 7. Hornby 8. Churchill 9. Cape 10. Ft. Chimo	Alaska Alaska Alaska Yukon NWT NWT NWT MB OВ OB	67 56 67 27 68 38 65 00 65 00 67 14 64 02 58 43 56 10 58 22	162 18 154 03 143 43 138 20 127 50 115 55 103 52 094 04 076 33 068 23	126 732 808 914 1370 215 160 80 90 46	PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL PIGL LRL	1515-1977 1586-1975 1580-1979 1459-1975 1626-1983 1428-1977 1491-1983 1650-1988 1663-1982 1650-1974
11. Gaspe 12. S. W. Pond	OВ LB	48 35 56 31	065 55 061 55	305 150	THO PIGL	1404-1982 1602-1988
Scandinavian Chronologies		(E)				
13. Lofoten 14. Pyhatunturi 15. Sompio 16. Morgammaras 17. Suojanpera	NWY FNL FNL FNL FNL	68 29 67 00 68 45 68 45 6919	016 02 027 15 027 15 026 30 028 08	200 260 325 300 140	PISY PISY PISY PISY PISY	1485-1978 1655-1983 1560-1983 1536-1983 1532-1983
Russian Chronologies		(E)				
18. Urals 6-8 19. Urals 9-10 20. Polar Urals	RUS RUS RUS	64 42 64 42 $6645-$ 65 15	059 57 059 57 $06515-$ 066 05	298 289 $150-$ 300	LRS SRS LRS	1673-1970 1681-1969 $961 - 1969$

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TABLE II: List of tree-ring chronologies included in temperature reconstruction. Shown are the loadings of the first, second and fourth eigenvectors for each chronology, and the simple correlations ('r') of the chronologies with Arctic (Zone 1) annual temperature departures for 1880-1969

Fig. 1. Site locations of the boreal tree-ring width chronologies. The numbers are as in Table I-II.

Jacoby and DArrigo, 1989). One reason that the tree-growth summer temperature relationship can be considered simplistic is that the trees used in northern tree-ring studies are primarily evergreen conifers, for which photosynthesis can take place

over a much longer season than the relatively short summer period of actual cambial-cell division. In temperate and subarctic regions, photosynthesis continues down to temperatures near freezing, and these photosynthates are stored and used in the summer radial growth season (Kramer and Kozlowski, *1979,* pp. 196-199). The combined influences of fall and spring photosynthesis and milder winters can impart a temperature response beyond the summer season of cambial cell division and radial growth (e.g. Fritts, 1976; Kramer and Kozlowski, 1979; Garfinkel and Brubaker, 1980; Jacoby and Cook, 1981; Jacoby and Ulan, 1982; and from correlations between certain tree-ring chronologies and monthly temperatures for the cooler seasons). Thus tree physiology considerations as well as regression and other analyses indicate that ring-width variations at selected sites are responses to, and thus recorders of, thermal information beyond the summer season of radial growth (Jacoby and D'Arrigo, 1991).

Almost all of these sites are near the northern and/or elevational tree line. As shown by Bryson (1966) the position of the northern tree line lies close to the juncture of air masses converging from the polar regions and from more temperate regions to the south. The northern limits of tree growth and the growth rates of individual trees are strongly influenced by thermal effects of the varying air masses sweeping across the northern boreal forests and the forest-tundra ecotone. The temperatures at a site will thus correspond to regional variations as changing air masses pass through the site locations. Thus variations in regional and corresponding site temperatures strongly influence tree growth.

In sampling the sites used herein we and other dendroclimatologists sought out sites where the trees are growing near the limits of survival due to thermal conditions, yet where there is little evidence of disturbance by other factors. In attempting to relate the growth variations of these thermally-stressed trees to temperature, we realize that the mean temperature from a weather station is inadequate to represent a tree's full thermal environment (Tranquillini, 1979, pp. 6-7). Individual tree sites may be warmer or cooler relative to surrounding terrain depending on topography, exposure and other physiographic factors. Another caveat is that individual instrumental climatic stations in far northern regions can be remote from the selected sites of interest. Also, many are in valley locations with frequent inversions whereas the tree sampling sites are usually on slopes or hills. Regionalized temperatures remove local station noise and bias, thus often giving a better representation of temperature variations.

Similar trends have been observed in chronologies from widely-separated regions (Figure 2). This similarity of trends strongly indicates that although microsite factors are the direct cause of the growth variations, the sites and trees are responding to regional variations. These results lend further support to the feasibility of climate-tree growth linkages over large distances.

Fig. 2. Plots of six of the twenty chronologies used to reconstruct Arctic temperatures. These chronologies represent western $(A \& B)$, central (C) and eastern Canada (D) as well as Scandinavia (E) and Russia (F).

Data and Methodology

Two improvements in the North American boreal ring-width data set are a modified chronology for Churchill, Manitoba and a new time series from Labrador (Table I-II, Figure 1). The Churchill chronology was improved by incorporating data from Scott *et al.* (1988) which contain more low-frequency climatic information than the previously-used chronology. The somewhat sparse coverage in easternmost Canada is supplemented by the new Labrador chronology. Of the resulting 12 series from North America, ten are of white spruce *(Picea glauca* [Moench] Voss), one is eastern larch *(Larix laricina* [DuRoi] K. Koch) from Fort Chimo, Quebec and the other is northern white cedar from the Gaspe, Quebec *(Thuja occidentalis* L.).

Five boreal tree-ring width chronologies from Scandinavia have been added to the North American data set (Table I-II, Figures 1 and 2). They are largely a subset

of a ring-width and density data compilation used to reconstruct late summer temperatures for Fennoscandinavia back to 1700 (Briffa *et al.,* 1988) and even earlier (Briffa *et al.,* 1990 and 1992). All are scots pine *(Pinus sylvestris* L.). Similar to the individual time series developed for northern North America (Jacoby and DArrigo, 1989), we standardized the raw ring-width data from Scandinavia using only negative-exponential or straight-line curve fits to develop ring-width indices for each core for each year. The negative-exponential curve is biologically justified when there is an age trend in ring widths (Fritts, 1976). This standardization approach differs from that used by Briffa *et al.* (1988) for their reconstruction of Fennoscandinavian late summer temperatures (based in part on the same samples), in which a 60-year low-pass Gaussian filter was used to preserve variance at primarily high and medium frequencies. A more recent version of the Briffa *et al.* (1988) reconstruction (Briffa *et al.* 1992; Briffa and Schweingruber, 1992) used smoothing splines (Cook and Peters, 1981) in order to retain more low-frequency information. The chronologies selected for use in the present study all demonstrated high percentages of explained variance in the first eigenvector in principal components analysis of the individual ring-width indices (Cook, 1985), indicating a common, broad-frequency (presumably climatic) signal within the trees at each site.

The Russian data consist of three time series from the northern Ural Mountains (Table I-II, Figures 1 and 2). Two of the series are ring-width chronologies published by Shiyatov (1986), located near $64^{\circ}42'$ N, $59^{\circ}57'$ E. One is siberian larch *(Larix sibirica)* and one is siberian spruce *(Picea obovata).* The third series is a reconstruction of gridded (65° N-70° E) summer (June-July) temperature based on siberian larch tree-ring data from extreme northern Russia near the Kara Sea, extending from $66^{\circ}45' - 65^{\circ}15'$ N and $65^{\circ}15' - 66^{\circ}05'$ E (Graybill and Shiyatov, 1992). The Kara Sea region is believed to be particularly sensitive to large-scale climate variation (Kelly *et al.,* 1982). In these three cases we did not have the raw ring-width data and thus used the available chronologies or reconstructed values. The three tree-ring time series were standardized using the corridor method (Shiyatov *et al.,* 1989), which preserves a broad range of frequencies. The third series, a reconstructed summer-temperature series, is merely the chronology rescaled by a single coefficient and a constant term (Graybill and Shiyatov, 1992). Therefore it is equivalent to the chronology itself. As discussed in Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989), the deciduous larch (represented here by two from Russia and one of the North American chronologies) may not integrate annual temperature conditions as well as the evergreen species. However Graybill and Shiyatov (1992) do show some positive correlations with non-growing season temperatures, although they note that they do not have an explanation for this. The entire northern data set comprises a network of 20 chronologies with a common period of nearly 300 years, from 1681-1969 (Table I-II, Figure 1).

The instrumental temperature data set used here is that of Hansen and Lebedeff (1987 and 1988), which consists of 80 equal-area temperature boxes for the globe. See Hansen and Lebedeff (1987) for a full description of the derivation of their

global data set. This temperature data set was also employed in Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989). The chronologies selected for this study all showed positive correlations in a preliminary screening with the Arctic (Zone $1, 64-90^{\circ}$ N) annual temperature departures for the common period from 1880-1969 (Table II). For comparison the temperature data of the Climatic Research Unit (CRU), University of East Anglia, were also used to reconstruct Arctic temperatures (e.g. Jones, 1988). The results were very similar and are not shown here.

The method used to reconstruct temperature is multiple linear regression analysis (Fritts *et al.,* 1990) in which a set of predictor variable(s) based on the tree-ring data is used to estimate, in a regression equation, the predictand variable(s), in this case the annual temperature departures of Hansen and Lebedeff (1987) for the Arctic.

Prior to regression analysis, PCA was performed on the 20-chronology data set in order to reduce the number of predictors into a smaller number of orthogonal or uncorrelated time series (Fritts *et al.,* 1990). The PCA was based on the interval from 1880-1969, the period of overlap with the temperature data. The first 4 eigenvectors, explaining 70.5% of the overall variance within the tree-ring data, had eigenvalues more than one and were retained for further evaluation.

Leads and lags of tree growth in their relation to climate are appropriately used in dendroclimatic reconstructions (see Fritts (1976) and Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989) for more detailed discussions of this subject). The four sets of eigenvector scores for the previous $(t-1)$, current (t) and following $(t+1)$ years of growth were tested as candidate predictors of the Arctic instrumental temperature departures. The first, second and fourth components and associated lagged variables showed significant correlations with the temperature data over the interval from 1880-1968 (at the 0.05 level, using a one-tailed t -test) and were retained as potential predictors in the regression analyses. Shown in Table II are the 1st (44.3% of the overall variance), 2nd (12.1%) and 4th (6.7%) sets of eigenvector loadings for the 20 chronologies. All the chronologies show positive loadings in eigenvector one, indicating a common signal among the boreal tree-ring data from northern North America and northern Europe. The second and fourth eigenvectors show contrasting patterns between the chronologies from these two regions. This is typical of the PCA process (e.g. Kutzbach and Guetter, 1980).

Results and Discussion

Several combinations of the eigenvector scores and lagged variables were compared to the Arctic temperature data in regression modeling. The best results were obtained using the first and second sets of principal component scores at lags t and $t + 1$, and the fourth eigenvector at lag t for a total of five predictors. In Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989), the predictors were the 1st component at lags t and $t + 1$ and the second at lag t. The Arctic temperature reconstruction based on the 20 chronologies is shown in Figure 3A. The ar^2 (variance explained, adjusted for degrees of freedom) for the full reconstruction is 66% (Table IliA). For the early calibration

Fig. 3. (A) Arctic annual temperature reconstructions for 20 chronologies using several eigenvectors. (B) As in (A) but using eigenvector one only.

period (1880–1940) the ar^2 is 0.63, the RE is 0.77 and the Spearman coefficient is 0.61. For the later period of calibration (1941-1968) the values are 0.35, the 0.73 and 0.77, respectively. Any RE value above 0 indicates predictive skill in the estimated values (Gordon and Leduc, 1981). Both Spearman coefficients are significant above the 0.001 level. The results from Table IIIA are improved over the previous Arctic model of Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989) (Table IIIC), except that the ar^2 for the early and late calibration periods are slightly lower. Figure 3B and Table IIIB show an alternative version of the reconstruction in which only the first eigenvector at lags t and $t + 1$ was used. This was done in order to determine if the trends obtained from the first eigenvector alone, which represents the dominant mode of tree growth among the chronologies, differed from that of the full reconstruction. A comparison of Figures 3A and B shows that the trends are very similar. However, the statistics are much improved in the model using several eigenvectors

TABLE III: Calibration-verification statistics for Arctic temperature reconstruction models. Based on annual temperature data of Hansen and Lebedeff (1987). \overrightarrow{A}) = Model based on North American (12 chronologies), Scandinavian (5 chronologies) and Russian (3 chronologies) data; (B) = Model as in (A) but using eigenvector 1 only; (C) = Model from Jacoby and D'Arrigo, 1989. Predictor variables for (A) are: 1st and 2nd eigenvectors, lags t and $t + 1$; 4th eigenvector, lag t. Predictor variables for (B) are: 1st eigenvector at lags t and $t + 1$. Predictor variables for (C) are: 1st eigenvector, lags t and $t + 1$; 2nd eigenvector, lag t^* *** = significant above 0.001 level, n.s. = not significant

Calibr.	Verif.	\mathbf{r}	r^2	ar^2	RE	S
(A) Arctic Model EV's $1, 2, 4$						
1880–1969		0.82	0.68	0.66		
1880-1940	1941-1968	0.81	0.66	0.63	0.77	$0.61***$
1941-1968	1880–1940	0.68	0.47	0.35	0.73	$0.77***$
(B) Arctic Model EV 1						
1880-1969		0.74	0.54	0.53		
1880-1940	1941-1968	0.77	0.59	0.57	0.18	0.15 n.s.
1941-1968	1880-1940	0.37	0.14	0.07	0.66	$0.67***$
	(C) Jacoby and D'Arrigo, 1989					
1880-1973		0.78	0.61	0.60		
1880-1940	1941-1973	0.81	0.66	0.64	0.28	$0.54***$
1941-1973	1880-1940	0.68	0.46	0.41	0.39	$0.67***$

as predictors. We note here that Monte Carlo tests were performed as an additional evaluation of the validity of the reconstructions published in Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989). Actual and estimated temperatures for the full calibration period for models A and B are shown in Figure 4.

The major low-frequency trends of the reconstructed Arctic annual temperature departures (Figure 3) are very similar to those obtained by Jacoby and DArrigo (1989). In both sets of models, there is a cooling in the late 1600's to early 1700's, a relative warming in the 1700's, an abrupt decline in temperature in the early 1800's and a gradual warming trend since the middle to late 1800's. These major trends resemble some of the individual North American chronologies (Figure 2) which have more common agreement with each other than the Scandinavian and Russian chronologies have with each other. The Scandinavian and Russian chronologies introduce other variations into the reconstruction, as described below.

A very brief warming in the middle 1820's to 1830's becomes more pronounced with the inclusion of the Scandinavian data. This warming episode was also noted by Briffa *et al.* (1988) in their reconstruction of late summer Fennoscandinavian temperatures, based partly on the same Scandinavian chronologies used here. This warming is also present in the annual box temperatures for northern Europe compiled by Hansen and Lebedeff (1987), and in individual records compiled by Jones and Bradley (1992). Although Scandinavian chronologies have a strong summer

Fig. 4. Actual (solid line) and estimated (dashed line) annual Arctic (Zone 1) annual temperatures. (A) = Model using several eigenvectors; (B) = Model with eigenvector one only.

climatic signal as shown in several studies (e.g. Briffa *et al.,* 1988), we have also found strong correlations with non-growing season temperatures using long instrumental temperature records (e.g. for Oslo, Norway).

Another difference between the North American and Scandinavian records is a gradual increase in growth since the mid-late 1800's in the North American data as compared to a more abrupt, steplike growth, increase around 1920 in the Scandinavian data. Although the 1920's warming influenced the entire Arctic, the warming in the eastern Arctic preceded that in northwestern Greenland and in the west (Kelly *et al.,* 1982).

The Graybill and Shiyatov (1992) reconstruction shows above average conditions in the 1700's, cooler temperatures in the 1800's (particularly 1800-1820) and warmer temperatures over the past century. These authors note that their calibration-verification statistics are weaker in the more recent, warmer interval, which

is also the case (at least in terms of explained variance) for the results which we have found (Table III). For the early calibration period in our record (1880-1940) the mean of the temperature data is -0.438 , increasing to 0.230 for the later period (1941-68). In a comparison of the first eigenvector scores with the temperature data divided into subsets above and below the mean, a correlation of 0.571 was found with warmer than average temperatures, increasing to 0.597 with those below average.

The correlations between the Scandinavian/Russian chronologies and the temperature data, their loadings in the first principal component (Table II), and some improvement in the calibration-verification statistics (Table III) all indicate that the new reconstruction is significantly improved as a result of the added coverage. Examination of the regression coefficients in terms of the original predictors or chronologies (Table IV) indicates that the added chronologies are significantly weighted in the regression, lending further proof to an improvement as well as confirmation of the Jacoby and D'Arrigo (1989) version.

A frequently raised question is whether recent increases in tree growth are due to $CO₂$ fertilization. We constantly check for this possibility by examining the residual variance in the tree-ring data after the regressions. In the data from these high-latitude, temperature-stressed trees, the variations of the residuals after modeling with temperature do not have any trend that suggests a $CO₂$ fertilization effect through 1968, or in the earlier study (Jacoby and DArrigo, 1989) through 1973. These findings obviously do not preclude a $CO₂$ effect in other trees from other locations.

We are in the process of updating our sample collections and processing them through the late 1980's and 1990's. Eleven of the twenty chronologies used here to reconstruct Arctic temperatures extend through at least 1982. The first principal component scores of these eleven time series indicate that the trees began to recover from the mid-century's cooling of high northern latitudes by the early 1980's (Figure 5). Of these eleven chronologies, three which extend through at least 1988 (Arrigetch, Gaspe and Saltwater Pond) continue to reflect some warmth over the past decade. In addition to warming trends detected in surface air temperatures from high northern latitudes (Hansen and Lebedeff, 1987), borehole temperature studies support surface warming over the past century across northern North America, including warmings of 2-4 °C at the permafrost surface in northern Alaska (Lachenbruch and Marshall, 1986), and of 1-2 °C for ground surface temperatures in central-eastern Canada (Jessop *et al.,* 1991).

Conclusions

An improved reconstruction of temperature variability for the Arctic has been presented, based on a tree-ring data set with significantly improved geographical coverage as compared to a previous study (Jacoby and D'Arrigo, 1989). It is encouraging that, with the inclusion of 8 chronologies from the climatically-sensitive TABLE IV: Regression (beta) coefficients in terms of original screened predictors. Results are based on regression model output developed for eigenvector one only, which is the dominant mode of variation in the final reconstruction. The original chronologies were lagged for years t and $t + 1$. Two chronologies, Cape and Fort Chimo, did not exceed the 95% confidence limit and were not entered into this temperature regression model for eigenvector one. Starred beta values exceed two standard errors from zero. As can be seen, the Scandinavian and Russian chronologies do in fact contribute significantly, and thus improve upon, the original models based on only North American tree data

Fig. 5. First eigenvector of eleven chronologies used in Arctic reconstruction which extend through at least 1982 (shown here since 1850). These include: Arrigetch, Mack. Mt., Hornby, Churchill, Cape, Gaspe, S. W. Pond, Suojanpera, Morgammaras, Sompio and Pyhatunturi. The PCA period is 1880- 1982.

areas of northern Scandinavia and Russia, the resulting trends are similar to those obtained using only the North American chronologies. We further note that there are striking similarities between our reconstructed trends and those reconstructed, inferred or developed for some other locales [e.g. for British Columbia (Luckman, 1989) and China (Zhang De-er, 1980)].

The warming of the Arctic and Northern Hemisphere since about 1965 is considered to be more spatially pervasive hemispherically than the earlier 20th century warming but with large spatial variations within latitude bands (Hansen and Lebedeft, 1987; Jones, 1988). The greatest recent warming has occurred in Alaska and the marginal ice zone from the Greenland Sea through north central Asia, with some cooling in Scandinavia and northeastern Canada. The overall secular trend of Arctic temperatures, considering both the reconstructions and zonally-averaged recorded temperature data, is a warmer period relative to the past three centuries. This trend may be partly ascribed to recovery from the Little Ice Age but also to a recent increase above that level. In future reconstruction efforts, there will be continued improvements in spatial coverage and the period of record will be updated through the late 1980's to early 1990's.

Acknowledgements

We thank K. Hunkins and D. Kent and anonymous reviewers for reviewing the manuscript and E. R. Cook for advice and technical assistance. We also thank J. Hansen and S. Lebedeff for use of their temperature data, and K. Briffa, H. Fritts, D. Graybill, S. Shiyatov and R Scott for providing tree-ring data. This research was supported by Grants ATM89-15353, ATM87-16630, ATM85-15290 and ATM83-13789 of the Climate Dynamics Program of the National Science Foundation. The Saltwater Pond chronology was developed under Grant DPP-88- 00749, Division of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation. Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory Contribution No. 5084.

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(Received 3 January, 1992; in revised form 1 June, 1993)