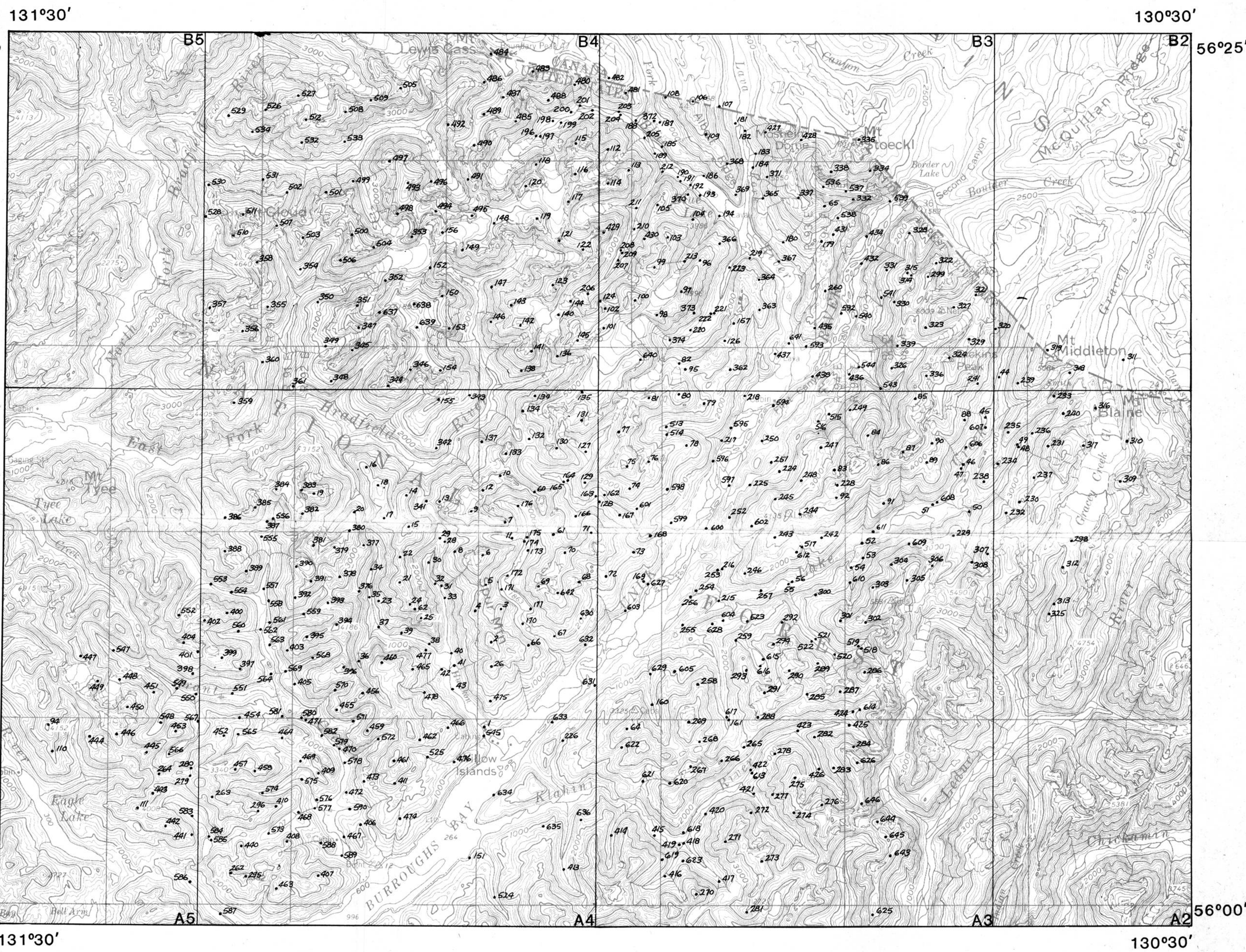


## GAMMA-RAY READINGS

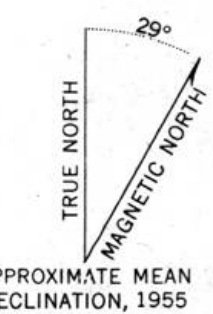
OPEN-FILE REPORT

81-84C

SHEET 1 OF 2



## LOCATIONS OF GAMMA-RAY READING SITES



Discussion

Factors Affecting Gamma-Ray Readings

Introduction

A survey of total gamma radiation intensities at ground sites throughout the Alaskan coastal plain was made during the summer of 1976 and during June and July of 1978. This sheet contains a list of the data collected and a map of the coastal plain showing the locations of the stations. The accompanying sheet contains maps showing the distribution of relatively high gamma-ray intensity sites.

The study is underlain by a variety of calc-alkaline granitic plutons, and medium- and high-grade schists and gneisses characteristic of the Alaskan Tectonic Belt. The coastal plain is composed of glacial deposits to 200 m elevation and steep-walled canyons carved by roving rivers. The silt-clay sediments are composed of coralline and recent alluvium, and rapid stream erosion, many rock outcrops and much stream-sediment is little affected by chemical weathering. High levels of precipitation fall year-round.

Procedure

Gamma-ray intensities were measured with a portable scintillometer. Geometric factors were determined by measurements made with a 30m (60 cubic cm) NaI crystal detector and measured the total count for gamma radiation from a level of 100 cm above the scintillometer placed in the center of the front floor area of a Hughes 500C helicopter, where it was determined that the helicopter creates a smooth site. At this height, the area of main influence on the reading lies within a circle of radius about 1 to 10 m (see Lovberg, 1973, and Hansen, 1975). The detector location was about 50 cm forward of the helicopter's tail fin.

Readings of gamma radiation intensity were made at most helicopter landing sites during the course of geologic mapping and stream-sediment sampling of the area. After landing at a site, the station number, instrument scale range, radiation reading, and site type (see below) were recorded, usually by the helicopter pilot (Bossett). The first reading for each day was made at the station nearest the helicopter site. The first area of dense, tall grass in the center of the Lu Lachon River valley (site number 3). Repeated readings at this site provided a crude check for long-term instrumental variation.

Data

Data for 620 sites, plus 22 readings made at the base station, are contained in the data table. A sequence number, from 1 to 646, indicates the order in which readings were made. The data, including base station readings, are listed in the table in the order in which they were recorded. For other time-dependent variation. Four sequence numbers (159, 333, 433, and 542) have no data and are omitted from the table. Two readings (sequence numbers 58 and 59) were made while recording stations first visited during the survey. Data for these sites are included in the table but they lie outside the area of the maps in this report and are not plotted.

The 7-character station numbers correspond to those used to identify collection locations for geochemically analyzed samples (Koch and others, 1980a, b, c; Koch, O'Leary, and Fritoli, 1980). For base station readings, the station number is replaced in the table by a date composed of numbers indicating the year, month, and day on which that reading was made. Latitude and longitude coordinates are given as degrees, minutes, and seconds. Quadrangle designations refer to the 1:63,360 scale quadrangles.

Gamma radiation intensity readings are listed exactly as recorded in the field. All measurements were made with the scintillometer range selector set at 0.1c. The meter was not checked or calibrated with a radiation source of known intensity but multiplication of the readings by 100 will give an approximate value of counts per second. No attempt was made to compensate for instrumental drift because it is estimated from repeated base station readings, appears insignificant. The data were not corrected for diurnal variations, weather fluctuations, or atmospheric or cosmic radiation as their effects probably have little influence on most readings (see section on sources of variation in sheet 2).

Histograms of the readings (see sheet 2) have a markedly uneven, saw-tooth character, with adjacent bars commonly being significantly different in height. This pattern resulted from the fact that the values were read and recorded. The scintillometer readout scale is marked only with even numbered divisions (100, 200, etc.). In the field, people tended to record the value of the nearest marked scale division more often than they recorded the number associated with an unmarked value. The difference between values rounded to the nearest marked scale division, and those not rounded, is insignificant compared to the total range of values and the effects of other sources of variation.

Location No.

Locations of sites where scintillometer readings were made are indicated by dots on the location map on this sheet. The dots are labeled with the sequence number for that reading. The base station location is labelled number 1. The outline of each 1:63,360 scale quadrangle is indicated, along with its quadrangle designation (A3, B4, etc.).

Congic rays probably exerted little influence on measurements made in this study because the detector was close to the ground while measurements were being made. Other atmospheric sources of gamma rays (mainly radon gas) were probably compensated by the strong increase in the gamma-ray count rate region, and flushed from the air by frequent rain. During the 26 days between the first and last days on which gamma-ray measurements were made, 57 days had no appreciable rain during the day, with a maximum of 3 such days in a row. Even on 51 (didn't rain during the day, there was often rain at night. Rock and gravel areas were usually wet and vegetated areas (soil areas actually consist largely of decaying vegetation) never dried out.

Site Type

At the time each reading was made, the site was classified as rock, gravel, vegetated, or snow and ice to indicate the dominant type of ground surface close to the detector. Sites vary in the type and amount of cover material and the amount of gamma-ray absorption occurring in that cover material. Essentially all gamma radiation is absorbed by a layer of rock about 30 cm thick, of soil about 40 to 60 cm thick, or about 100 cm of water. This means that readings at rock outcrop sites are influenced by rock only to a depth of about 30 cm. Radiation from unconsolidated sediment may reflect the bedrock under that site if the sediment cover is thin or the sediment was locally derived. Most gravel sites are stream beds where the sediment depth exceeds 60 cm and thus the sediment constitutes the only significant contributing factor influencing the readings. The majority of these streams, in which landings were made are short and straight, and derived from an area extending no more than 1 to 2 km upstream. Vegetated sites have cover usually consisting of dense moss, lichen, and heather mats, or are thick, swampy muskops composed mainly of living and decaying plant material. These areas often are nearly water-saturated and, depending on thickness, may effectively absorb gamma radiation from underlying sediment or rock. Snow absorbs gamma rays more effectively as its water content (density) increases. This snow cover is reported to act as a radon gas trap in some areas, increasing gamma-ray intensity. This effect was not noted in the study area. Gamma-ray readings for snow-covered areas are conspicuously lower than those from other site types.

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Gamma-Ray Readings

Sequence	Station	Latitude	Longitude	Quads	Reading	Site	Type
1	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.18		
2	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.05	Snow or Ice	
3	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.05	Snow or Ice	
4	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.05	Snow or Ice	
5	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.12	Snow or Ice	
6	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.18	Snow or Ice	
7	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
8	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
9	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.20	Snow or Ice	
10	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
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12	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
13	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
14	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
15	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.13	Snow or Ice	
16	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
17	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
18	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
19	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
20	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.03	Snow or Ice	
21	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
22	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 45	A4	0.06	Snow or Ice	
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157	79-62-10	56 06 37	131 05 20	A4	0.13	Vegetation	
158	79-62-10	5					

This report is preliminary and has not been reviewed for conformity with Geological Survey editorial standards and stratigraphic nomenclature.

TOTAL GAMMA-RAY INTENSITIES AT GROUND STATIONS IN THE BRADEFIELD CANAL QUADRANGLE, SOUTHEASTERN ALABAMA

by

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