Simple relations for the close-off depth and age in dry-snow densification

Salamatin A., Lipenkov V.

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

A physical model for the snow/firn densification process (Salamatin and others, 2006) and Martinerie and others' (1992, 1994) correlation for the firn density at the pore closure are employed to perform a scale analysis and computational experiments in order to deduce simplified relations for the close-off depth and ice age in quasi-stationary ice formation conditions. The critical snow density at which ice-grain rearrangement stops is used to take into account variability of snow structures subjected to densification. The results obtained are validated on a representative set of ice-core data from 22 sites which covers wide ranges of present-day temperatures and ice accumulation rates. A simple analytical approximation for the density-depth profile is proposed.