

Contents

Acknowledgments	v
Abstract	vii
1 Subsurface Ice on Mars	1
1.1 The Ice Table	2
1.1.1 Observational data	3
1.1.2 Equilibrium models	3
1.2 Regolith Breathing	5
1.2.1 The diffusion coefficient	5
1.2.2 Previous investigations	6
1.3 Barriers to Diffusion	8
1.4 Growth of Subsurface Ice	10
1.5 Subsurface Ice Evolution	11
1.6 Implications for Future Investigations	13
1.6.1 Global climate models	13
1.6.2 Phoenix Scout lander	14
1.7 This Work	15
2 Diffusion Theory	16
2.1 Chapter Summary	16
2.2 Vapor Transport	17
2.3 Diffusion Coefficient	18
2.4 Mean Free Path and Knudsen Diffusion	20
2.5 Tortuosity	23
2.6 Effects Other than Concentration Diffusion	24
2.6.1 Advection	24
2.6.2 Thermodiffusion	26
2.6.3 Barodiffusion	27

2.7	Diffusive Ice Growth	28
3	Ice Loss Experiments	29
3.1	Chapter Summary	29
3.2	Experimental	29
3.2.1	Chamber setup	30
3.2.2	Experimental method	32
3.2.3	Measured quantities	33
3.3	Materials	35
3.3.1	Glass beads	37
3.3.2	Crushed JSC Mars-1 dust	38
3.3.3	1–3 micron dust	38
3.4	Analysis	39
3.4.1	Determining the diffusion coefficient	39
3.4.2	Correcting the diffusion coefficient	40
3.4.3	Diffusion regime	41
3.5	Results	41
3.5.1	50–80 μm glass beads at 260 K	41
3.5.1.1	<i>Errors and scatter</i>	42
3.5.1.2	<i>Variable pressure experiments</i>	44
3.5.1.3	<i>Porosity and tortuosity</i>	44
3.5.1.4	<i>Water contents</i>	47
3.5.1.5	<i>Other effects</i>	47
3.5.2	50–80 μm glass beads at 253 K	48
3.5.3	Glass frits	48
3.5.4	JSC Mars-1	49
3.5.5	1–3 micron dust	50
3.5.6	Summary	51
3.6	Discussion	54
3.6.1	Adsorption	55
3.6.2	Temperature oscillations	56
3.6.3	Ice table evolution	57
3.6.4	Diffusion in Mars surface processes	61
3.6.5	Mars regolith properties	62
3.6.6	Obtaining low diffusivity on Mars	63
3.6.7	Conclusions	65

4	Diffusion Barriers	68
4.1	Chapter Summary	68
4.2	Materials	69
4.2.1	Mixtures	69
4.2.2	Salt crusts	70
4.3	Analysis	73
4.3.1	Corrected diffusion coefficients	73
4.3.2	Pore structure	74
4.4	Results	76
4.4.1	50–80 μm glass beads at 250 K	76
4.4.2	Epsomite salt crusts	77
4.4.3	Mixtures	78
4.4.4	Dusts	80
4.4.5	Sample tortuosity	81
4.4.6	Summary	83
4.5	Discussion	84
4.5.1	Experimental errors	84
4.5.2	Advection	85
4.5.3	Salts and salt crusts on Mars	85
4.5.4	Diffusion in Mars dusts	88
4.5.5	Sand and dust mixtures	89
4.5.6	Implications	91
5	Ice Filling Experiments	94
5.1	Chapter Summary	94
5.2	Parameter Choices	94
5.3	Experimental	96
5.3.1	Environmental control	96
5.3.2	Sensors	98
5.3.3	Sample preparation and method	99
5.3.4	Data analysis	100
5.4	Results	101
5.4.1	Diffusive ice morphology	101
5.4.2	Ice table morphology	102
5.4.3	Ice table depth	106
5.4.4	Ice profile	106

5.4.5	Constriction	107
5.5	Numerical Model and Experiments	110
5.5.1	Description of ice-filling model	110
5.5.2	Comparison to models and uncertainties	110
5.5.3	Time-varying diffusion coefficients	114
5.5.4	Long-duration behavior	116
5.6	Discussion	116
5.6.1	Theoretical uncertainties in vapor transport	116
5.6.2	Constriction physics	118
5.6.3	Initial ice deposition	120
5.6.4	Ice growth physics and phenomenology	120
5.6.5	Voluminous pore ice on Mars	122
5.6.6	Phoenix Mars lander	123
5.7	Summary	124
6	Modeling of Subsurface Ice Growth	126
6.1	Chapter Summary	126
6.2	Influences on Cryosphere Ice Evolution	127
6.2.1	Atmospheric independence	127
6.2.2	Icy soil thermal conductivity	127
6.2.3	Evolving pore geometries	129
6.2.3.1	<i>Constriction</i>	129
6.2.3.2	<i>Choking</i>	130
6.2.4	Combined effects	131
6.3	Numerical Model	132
6.3.1	Model assumptions	135
6.3.2	Model parameters: Phoenix landing site	136
6.4	Results	138
6.4.1	Constriction effect on ice growth	139
6.4.2	Porosity	142
6.4.3	Ice-free layer	143
6.4.4	Deep ice	143
6.5	Discussion	146
	Notation	153

A Diffusion Experiment Data	156
50–80 μm Glass Beads @ 260 K	157
50–80 μm Glass Beads @ 250 K	160
Epsomite Salt Crusts @ 250 K	161
Mixtures of Glass Beads with JSC Mars-1 @ 250 K	162
Mixtures of Glass Beads and 1–3 μm dust @ 250 K	163
Pure Dusts: JSC Mars-1 and 1–3 μm Dust @ 250 K	164
Bibliography	165