

Base from U.S. Geological Survey, 1956

Aeromagnetic map (western half) flown and compiled by Aero Serv. for the U.S. Geological Survey in 1972. Aeromagnetic map (eastern half) flown and compiled by Geometrics for the U.S. Geological Survey in 1973. Contour interval 10 gammas. Screened index contours 100 gammas.

SCALE 1:250,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 200 FEET  
BASED ON MEAN SEA LEVEL

2000 MAGNETIC OSCILLATIONS AT SOUTH EDGE OF SHEET AREAS FROM 1000 TO 3000 EAST

**AEROMAGNETIC MAP AND INTERPRETATION, CHANDALAR QUADRANGLE, ALASKA**

**AEROMAGNETIC DATA**

The aeromagnetic map of the Chandalar quadrangle was flown in two halves which were released as U.S. Geological Survey maps in 1973 (western half) and 1974 (eastern half). The data were collected along north-south traverse lines. The map area is 1.8 miles wide and 1.8 miles long. In the western half, a Doppler navigation system was used; in the eastern half, a magnetic navigation system was used. Detailed topographic mapping was available to control the navigation; these undetected position errors may be present in the aeromagnetic map. Regional magnetic data were corrected to the International Geomagnetic Reference Field, updated to the lines of survey, with data removed from both maps. In addition, constant magnetic anomalies were removed from the eastern half, yielding a residual map with negative gamma values in the low; in the western half, however, a constant was not removed, so most anomaly values are above 50,000 gammas.

**Topographic effects**

The aircraft flew a nominal 300 m above the terrain. The radar altimetry data (where available) in the eastern half of the quadrangle show that the plane fell 70-150 m below the nominal elevation over many ridges and fell 20-100 m above the nominal elevation in many valleys. A comparison of the aeromagnetic map with a topographic map, and an examination of selected magnetic and altimetry profiles shows, however, that no major false anomalies have been created by topography. In some places the topographic effect has made the crests of ridges a little sharper over ridges and closed lows a little deeper over valleys. Several obvious cases have been noted by symbols on the interpretive map.

**The correlation between valleys and aeromagnetic lows** in R. 3 W., T. 29-31 N. (L1) and R. 2-3 E., T. 29-30 N. (L2) on the interpretive map, was tested by 2-dimensional magnetic modeling (Osby and Pasquale, 1973; Goff, 1977) (Figs. 1 and 2, Sheet 1). Figure 1 shows poor to moderate correlation between the altimetry and aeromagnetic profiles. In figure 2, line 14, the crosses show the magnetic field computed on the assumption that the aircraft flew at constant altitude; the radar altimeter measured the changing elevation of the top of an approximately 2 m thick magnetic layer of susceptibility  $2.5 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs. (The thickness and susceptibility of the body were determined independently in a discussion of magnetic profiles with the observed profile, and the central low in the observed profile has far greater depth and width than the topographic model would predict. This low, indicating a zone of low susceptibility, is discussed below.)

In figure 2, the correlation between the altimetry and aeromagnetic profiles is better, indicating a greater topographic effect. The crosses calculated for line 11 show that much of the aeromagnetic low can be explained by topography. In line 10, however, the full amplitude of the low is not reflected in the calculated crosses, and must be explained by a zone of low susceptibility discussed later. In figures 1 and 2, the magnetic data are arbitrary, chosen by trial and error in an attempt to explain the magnetic lows as much as possible by topography.

An interesting false high, labeled H8, occurs over the Dietrich River in R. 10 W., T. 29-30 N. Over magnetic terrain, false magnetic highs due to topography generally occur over ridges where the aircraft flies close to the magnetic rock. Along the Dietrich River valley, the Dietrich River, however, the pilot would have had little difficulty flying over the river. The false high H8 is a magnetic anomaly about 20-30 gamma above the Dietrich River as well as lower magnetic. Modeling shows that magnetic profiles along the Dietrich River, a shorter-wavelength anomaly than is observed. Finally, calculations showed that the vertical gradient of the Earth's main dipole field, decreasing downward, is about 27 gamma per 1,000 ft. A magnetic profile of the Chandalar quadrangle, where the terrain is virtually nonmagnetic, thus gradient contrast gradients in the magnetic rock. Hence, high H8 is caused by the aircraft flying 600-1,000 ft lower in the Dietrich River valley than over the ridges to either side.

**ROCK SUSCEPTIBILITIES**

The aeromagnetic anomalies and patterns on the aeromagnetic map are caused by varying percentages of magnetic minerals, principally magnetite, in the underlying rocks. A first-order comparison of the aeromagnetic map (Osby and Pasquale, 1974) and aeromagnetic maps suggests that the faultless sedimentary rocks are very weakly magnetic ( $0.1 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs). Granite intrusives range from weakly nonmagnetic ( $0.1 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs) to highly magnetic ( $10 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs). Metabasites show a wide range of susceptibility in that can probably be attributed to mafic composition and contact metamorphism. Gabbro and diorite retain protomagnetic magnetite and are highly magnetic ( $10 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs).

Magnetic measurements on a limited suite of samples are in accord with inferences drawn from the aeromagnetic map. Osby and Pasquale (1974) reported the following range of susceptibility, in igneous and metamorphic rocks from the Chandalar quadrangle: 5 samples of basalt and andesite,  $1.1$  to  $21.1 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs; 1 sample of igneous granite rock,  $7.1$  to  $91.5 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs; 2 samples of igneous rocks,  $2.5$  to  $2.8 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs; 2 samples of gneiss,  $3.8$  and  $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs; 2 samples of slate,  $0.1 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs; 2 samples of metamorphic rocks,  $4.1$  to  $10 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs.

In addition, a susceptibility bridge, with a field-type used intended to measure the susceptibility of outcrop in situ, was used to roughly estimate the susceptibility of 61 specimens, mainly schist, collected in the vicinity of aeromagnetic highs. The bridge was calibrated by measurements made on cores of magnetite, 2.5 cm in diameter and 2.5 m long. Rough corrections were made for the loss of the high-susceptibility rim. The mean susceptibility of the 61 specimens was  $1.4 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs, with a mean of  $1.1 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs. The 3 most magnetic samples, with a range of 120 to 397  $\times 10^{-3}$  cgs, had a mean of  $242 \times 10^{-3}$  cgs.

**METHOD OF INTERPRETATION**

A preliminary aeromagnetic interpretation map was made without referring to the mapped geology. Major aeromagnetic highs and low areas of low magnetic relief were identified on a topographic map of the aeromagnetic map. Most low areas either coincide with broad areas of low magnetic relief bounded by high or occur in narrow valleys. In either case, the lows are normal polarization lows caused by the dipole nature of magnetic sources. There is no clear evidence on the map that the lows are caused by reverse remanent magnetization, although the north-south trending eastern portion of low L4 may be such a case.

Initially, boundaries between magnetic and nonmagnetic rock units were assumed to be vertical. They were drawn along the steepest main magnetic gradient bounding the highs. Subsequent analysis of magnetic profiles and magnetic modeling suggested that the boundaries are dipping. For a dipping boundary, the inferred surface intersection of the boundary from the displacement of the magnetic gradient. Inferred dips are shown by dip and strike symbols on the interpretive map.

The preliminary magnetic interpretation map was compared with the mapped geology and the inferred sources were correlated with mapped rock types. Inferred boundaries of magnetic units, especially the schist and the quartz-muscovite schist, rarely coincide with mapped boundaries. This lack of coincidence is due partly to surficial cover and partly to variation of magnetic content within the rock units which is not reflected in the geologic mapping. Without geologic control on the surface intersection of magnetic boundaries, inferences about the dips of the boundaries are ambiguous. This ambiguity about dip could be rectified if surface magnetometer profiles were used to locate the surface intersection of the magnetic boundaries. The surface magnetic profiles would also help to identify the rock type responsible for the anomalies.

**MAGNETIC ROCK UNITS**

Interpretation of the aeromagnetic map leads to a lumping together of certain rock units. For example, a large area defined by magnetic highs is labeled calcareous schist and calcite (CM) on the interpretive map even though it contains other rock types, because magnetic portions of the calcareous schist and calcite are interpreted to be the source of the high. Other rock units used as labels for magnetic highs are quartz-muscovite schist (QMS), mafic igneous granite (IG), granite and gneiss (G), and highly magnetic granite (H). Nonmagnetic granite is labeled G<sub>0</sub>.

Calcareous schist, marble and talcite, including calc-silicate hornfels (C).

This unit gives rise to a broad belt of magnetic highs (labeled H1) running from southwest to northeast across the northern half of the map. The unit forms an anticlinal arch about 100 kilometers long which runs from T. 31 N., R. 10 W., east-northeast to T. 35 N., R. 1 W. A zone of low magnetic relief (see text) is roughly marked by an area of low aeromagnetic relief. The northern flank of the anticline is a thick section of the calcareous schist in exposure; it has a better developed aeromagnetic high than the south flank, where exposures of calcareous schist are patchy. The aeromagnetic high is best developed in the northeast over Four Creeks (T. 29 N., R. 2 E.), where the calcareous schist are covered by alluvium. It appears that the granite-capped anticline noses eastward, and from Four Creeks east a thick pro-wedge of CM rocks occurs at depth, marked by the nose of the aeromagnetic high.

A saddle near T. 35 N., R. 2 E. separates the high labeled H1 from a sublow high to the east labeled CM2. A possible source for the high in the CM2 area is an eastward-shallowing of the CM anticline. Three straight faults in T. 33 and 34 N., R. 6 W., and T. 33 N., R. 5 W., outside in part with aeromagnetic highs. The faults are interpreted as normal (F1) lie in a zone of polydeformed geological anomalies and the other two (F2 and F3) lie in a zone of upper Proterozoic igneous rocks. The faults are mineralized, and if they juxtapose a magnetic rock unit (nonmagnetic rock unit, surface or detailed aeromagnetic mapping may be a useful prospecting tool.

The specific rock type containing the magnetite in the CM unit is unknown. The exposures of calcareous schist that are more than 8 m west of the granite core of the anticline are lower greenish grades and are unmineralized by magnetite. The bulk of the magnetite in the calcareous schist adjacent to the granite core includes many areas of low pressure, high temperature hornfels, and is accompanied by magnetic high relief. It is inferred that the magnetite occurs as a hornfels-grade metamorphic mineral.

The north-dipping magnetic contact zone of the CM unit causes a normal magnetic polarization low (labeled L1) over the nonmagnetic Silurian to upper Devonian Shakti Limestone. Along this Limestone belt there occurs a zone of geological anomalies and deposits of copper, lead, and zinc. Marsh and Wilton (1973) report the presence of magnetite in talcite (calc-silicate hornfels) in the Shakti Limestone (T. 33 N., R. 5 W.) and also west of H1 (T. 33 N., R. 6 W.). The magnetite bodies are few in number and small in size. They do not cause any magnetic highs on the aeromagnetic map. Detailed aeromagnetic surveying of surface magnetometer surveying might aid in delineating magnetite bodies and associated porphyry copper deposits.

A subdued pattern of isolated highs and lows (labeled CM1) lies in T. 30 N., R. 8 W., in line with H1, suggesting that the surface exposures of Shakti Limestone are underlain by a buried magnetic unit, probably CM. In this area the talcite occurs close to the granite. More to the northeast, in line 15, the talcite lies farther from the granite. Low L3 occurs at a constant distance north of the inferred contact with the CM, marking northward-dipping beds of limestone and talcite. Supposing that the inferred contact and talcite formed as a sheet several kilometers from the granite core of the anticline and outward from the magnetic horizon zone of the CM, we may then infer that, in the area labeled CM1, a downfaulted or otherwise lowered, northward-dipping block of the inferred talcite-schist belt gives rise to quartz deposits and geochemical anomalies closer to the CM high.

**Quartz-muscovite schist (QMS)**

Rocks in the QMS unit give rise to the major band of high (labeled H2) that runs from east to west south of the center of the map. A limb of this band of high (labeled H2') runs northeasterly from T. 30 N., R. 4 W.

The profiles (P1 and P2, fig. 3) were modeled in an attempt to determine the attitude of the south boundary of the QMS unit. The magnetic gradient along this boundary is steeper in the west (P1) than in the east (P2), suggesting a transition from a north-dipping to a vertical contact in the west to a south-dipping contact in the east. Modeling shows this qualitative interpretation to be reasonable. The cause of the surface intersection of the contact is covered by sediments, so no relation can be determined in detail. For example, profile P1 is satisfied by both a vertical contact and a contact dipping to the east and strike symbols in figure 3 show the intersection of the projected boundary for each model. The first solution found for profile P2 was a vertical contact, but it is not unique.

Magnetic highs do not occur over all parts of the QMS unit. The low labeled L1' that lies within and adjacent to the northeast part of the QMS unit lies partly over the nonmagnetic Upper Devonian Hart Fork Shale, but mainly over quartz schist and mafic greenstone. The weakly magnetic rocks of high H2 and H2' and low L1' also include some quartz schist. As most of the QMS unit lies in an area mapped as lower Proterozoic facies, the magnetic bodies do not seem to be the factor determining its magnetic properties. Many of the highs over the QMS unit occur close to the contact zone of greenstone and gneiss within the quartz schist, but careful fieldwork with a ground magnetometer would be needed to determine whether greenstone is the source of the anomalies. Evidently there is great lateral variation in the quartz schist which has not been reflected in the geologic mapping.

The magnetic properties of the QMS unit bear further investigation for the possible association of magnetic anomalies with economic mineral deposits. Just east of the center of the map an area of magnetic high coincides with the Chandalar gold mining district, which contains steeply dipping quartz veins with magnetite, pyrite, apatite, and traces of sillite, garnet, chalcopyrite, and siderite. The contact zone between the QMS unit and the nonmagnetic rocks at the same scale as the aeromagnetic map. Mapped structures are greenstone units. The Chandalar 83 quadrangle trend northeasterly, whereas several faults in the southern part of the QMS quadrangle trend southeasterly. Both southeasterly and northeasterly trends are visible in the magnetic anomaly pattern in this area. The contorted anomaly pattern probably results from the intersection of northeast and southeast-trending structures. One southeasterly fault (F4) is also shown on the aeromagnetic interpretation map in the north part of the QMS unit. The fault lies along the northeast boundary of a magnetic high. It coincides with the mineralized shear zone in the H2 limb of the QMS unit. The fault is a normal fault, and other line 11 may be discoverable in detailed magnetic prospecting and could provide a locus for gold mineralization.

A deep magnetic low (labeled L1) occurs at the junction of Big Creek and Bay Creek just south of the gold mining area. Within the QMS unit and adjacent to highs over the QMS unit. Although the deepest part of the low occurs over a deeply incised valley, suggesting a topographic effect, lobes of the low occur over ridges to the southeast, southwest, northeast, and east of the center of the map. Magnetic modeling of the low (see discussion of fig. 1, topographic effects) showed that it is caused, at least in part, by the zone of low susceptibility. Low L1 is worth investigating as it may indicate an altered fault or joint system which has low magnetic susceptibility and which has also eroded preferentially to form a valley. This prediction of an alteration zone is corroborated by the geochemistry, which shows anomalies along the zone in antimony, zinc, boron, bismuth, and cobalt.

Minor anomalies in the high on the QMS unit occur where the unit has been deeply eroded by the Chandalar River, Flat Creek, and Funchion Creek. These are not "topographic lows", but are low caused by the replacement of magnetic rock by alluvium.

**Granitic rocks, amphibole and contaminated granite (G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>)**

In the northern part of the map area, the granitic rocks (G<sub>1</sub> and G<sub>2</sub>) are non-magnetic and accompanied by magnetic lows. In the southern part however, granitic rocks cause magnetic highs. In the southeastern corner a granitic pluton (G<sub>2</sub>) causes the highest anomalies (500 to 800 gamma) anomaly on the map.

The highest magnetic anomaly occurs near the border of the pluton and a relative low labeled L2 occurs in the center. My favored explanation for the highs on the border of the pluton is zonation of the pluton, possibly caused by assimilation of mafic country rock. Alternatively, low L2 may be due to an altered, weakly magnetic core in an otherwise magnetic pluton. Figure 5 shows a magnetic model which reproduces the observed magnetic anomaly along profile P6 over the pluton. The north border of the pluton dips east to 10 to 15 degrees, and the core of the pluton is less magnetic than its borders. The south border of the pluton, which occurs south of the Chandalar quadrangle, is less magnetic than the north border. It is represented in the model by a thinning of the main pluton and the addition of a second magnetic body to the south.

Further east, and separated from the highly magnetic pluton by a zone of biotite-garnet schist, is a large (96 km long within the map area) granitic pluton (G<sub>1</sub>) containing zones of magnetite or contact-metamorphosed calc-silicate schist. Several magnetic highs occur within the granitic rock in proximity to mapped magnetite. Presumably a contaminated zone within the granitic rock adjacent to the magnetite is responsible for the magnetic highs. The relationship is not perfect, however, for several magnetite bodies are not accompanied by magnetic highs in the adjacent granite. The attitude of the north border of the pluton is difficult to determine due to interfering anomalies from the volcanic rock described below.

**Mafic extrusive and intrusive rocks (MI) and probable gabbro (MG)**

The mafic volcanic rocks are accompanied by magnetic highs ranging in amplitude between 50 and 800 gamma. Exposure of the mafic rocks roughly parallels the outer boundary of the large Mesozoic pluton (G<sub>1</sub>) near the south border of the map. A possible inference is that the mafic rocks were emplaced over the intruding pluton and erosion has left an upturned belt of volcanic around the border of the pluton.

Isolated magnetic highs, probably caused by banded volcanics in R. 5 and 6 W., T. 27 and 28 N., are shown in profiles P3 and P4 in figure 5, while higher magnetic anomalies in R. 3 and 4 W., T. 28 N. and 29 N. (profile P5) probably mark gabbro on ultramafic bodies. The asymmetry of the profiles could indicate south-dipping diorite-like magnetic sources, but I conclude instead that the asymmetry is caused by a strike transition from magnetic granite to the south and non-magnetic sedimentary rocks to the north. Superimposed upon the strike transition anomaly is a more symmetrical high caused by vertical or steep north-dipping beds of mafic rocks.

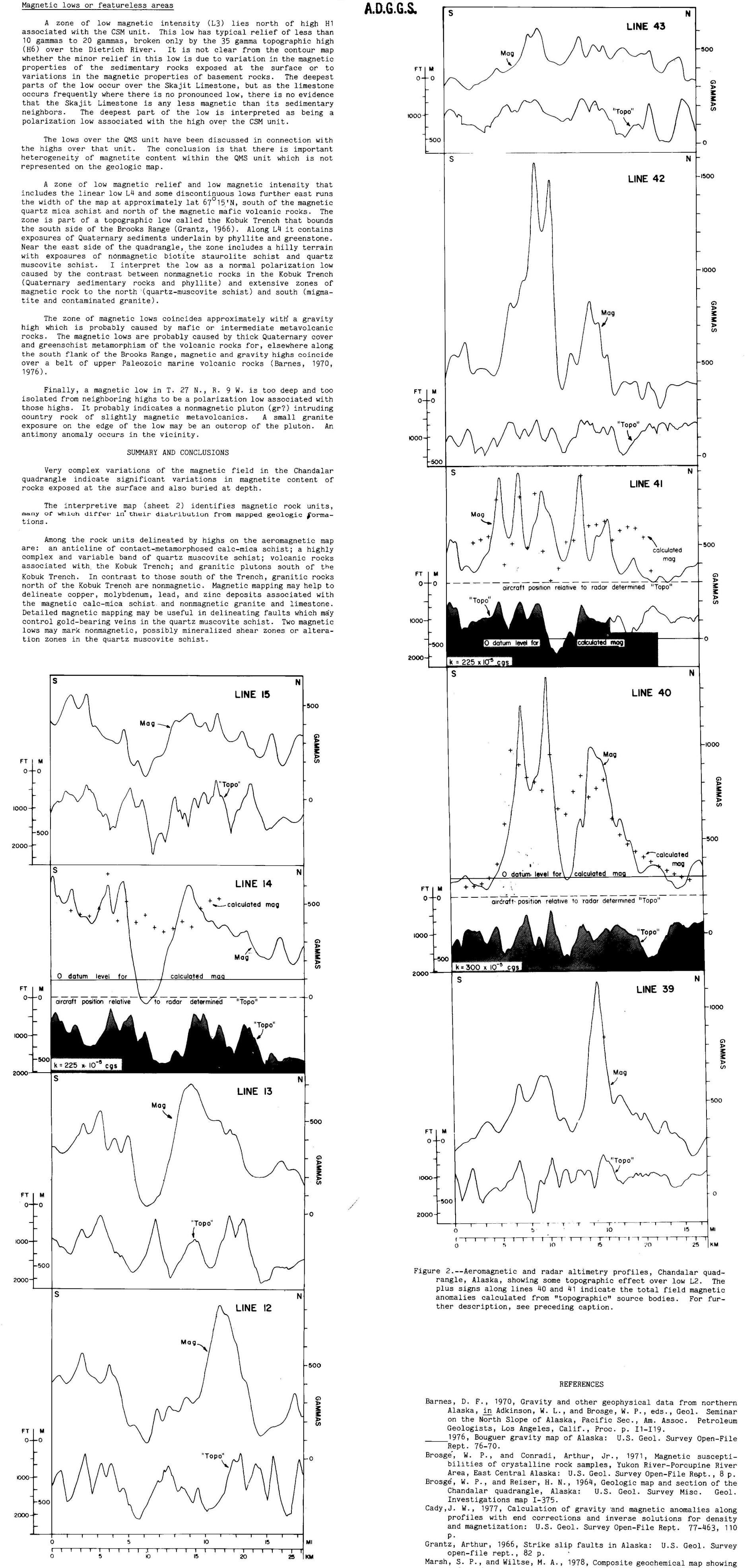


Figure 2--Aeromagnetic and radar altimetry profiles, Chandalar quadrangle, Alaska, showing some topographic effects over low L1. The plus sign along lines 10 and 11 indicate the total field magnetic anomaly calculated from "topographic source bodies." For further description, see preceding caption.