ICESat-2 L4 Monthly Gridded Sea Ice Thickness, Version 1

USER GUIDE

How to Cite These Data

As a condition of using these data, you must include a citation:

Petty, A. A., N. T. Kurtz, R. Kwok, T. Markus, and T. A. Neumann. 2021. *ICESat-2 L4 Monthly Gridded Sea Ice Thickness, Version 1*. [Indicate subset used]. Boulder, Colorado USA. NASA National Snow and Ice Data Center Distributed Active Archive Center. https://doi.org/10.5067/CV6JEXEE31HF. [Date Accessed].

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE DATA, CONTACT NSIDC@NSIDC.ORG

FOR CURRENT INFORMATION, VISIT https://nsidc.org/data/IS2SITMOGR4

National Snow and Ice Data Center

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1 DATA DESCRIPTION

1.1 Parameters

This data set reports monthly, gridded, winter Arctic sea ice thickness. This is a gridded product based on the *ICESat-2 L4 Along-Track Sea Ice Thickness, Version 1* (not yet published). Details on the along-track data can be found in Petty et al. (2020).

1.2 File Information

1.2.1 Format

Data are provided as NetCDF-4 (V4.4.1) formatted files.

NetCDF comprises a set of machine-independent data formats and software libraries that can be used to create, share, and access scientific data sets. NetCDF is developed and maintained by Unidata, a University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR)'s Community Program. For more information about NetCDF, visit the Unidata Network Common Data Form (NetCDF) website.

1.2.2 File Contents

All parameters and corresponding details of this data set are listed in Table 1:

Table 1. Parameter details

Name	Long Name	Description	Unit
freeboard	sea ice freeboard	Mean sea ice freeboard from ATL10	m
ice_density	bulk sea ice density	Bulk sea ice density	kg/m^3
ice_thickness	sea ice thickness	Mean sea ice thickness	m
ice_thickness_unc	sea ice thickness uncertainty	Mean sea ice thickness uncertainty	m
ice_type	sea ice type classification	Mean ice type from Ocean and Sea Ice Satellite Application Facility (OSI SAF).	ice type flag: 0 = first-year ice 1 = multi-year ice
latitude	latitude	N/A	degree N
longitude	longitude	N/A	degree E

Name	Long Name	Description	Unit
mean_day_of_month	day of month	Mean day of the month represented by a given grid cell based on the date of the input along-track data included in the grid cell.	day of month
num_segments	number of segments	Number of valid freeboard/thickness segments in the given monthly grid cell.	number
projection	NSIDC Sea Ice Polar Stereographic North	Projection used for this data set. See section 1.3.3 for more details.	N/A
snow_density	snow density	Mean snow density from NESOSIM.	kg m^{-3}
snow_depth	snow depth	Mean snow depth using redistributed (piecewise) NESOSIM data.	m
xgrid	projection grid in x direction	N/A	m
ygrid	projection grid in y direction	N/A	m

1.2.3 Naming Convention

Data files utilize the following naming convention:

IS2SITMOGR4-[HH]_[yyyymm]_[vvv]_[SITv].nc

The following table describes the file naming convention variables:

Table 2. File Naming Convention Variables and Descriptions

Variable	Description
IS2SITMOGR4	ATLAS/ICESat-2 L4 Monthly Gridded Sea Ice Thickness data
[HH]	Hemisphere code. Northern Hemisphere = 01, Southern Hemisphere = 02
[yyyymm]	4-digit year and 2-digit month of data acquisition
[vvv]	3-digit version number of the corresponding ATL10 input files
[SITv]	3-digit version number of this sea ice thickness data product

Example:

- IS2SITMOGR4-01_202002_004_001.nc

Each data file has a corresponding XML file that contains additional science metadata. XML metadata files have the same name as their corresponding .nc file, but with .xml appended.

1.2.4 Browse File

A .png browse file is provided for each granule containing map representations of the following parameters: freeboard, snow_depth, ice_thickness, ice_thickness_unc, snow_density, ice_type, mean_day_of_month and num_binned_days. Figure 1 shows an example browse file.

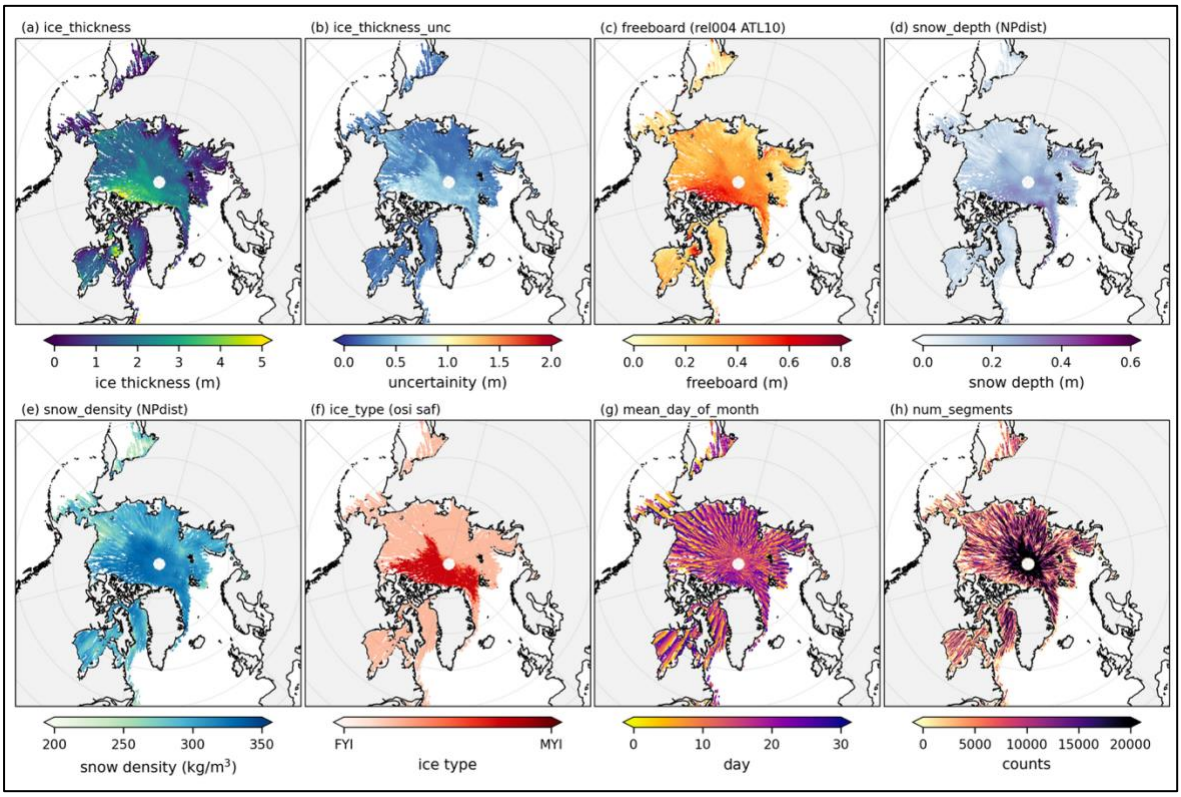

Figure 1. Example browse file for IS2SITMOGR4_01_202003_004_001.nc

1.3 Spatial Information

1.3.1 Coverage

Data span the Arctic Ocean and its peripheral seas south of 88° N (northern limit of ICESat-2 data collection).

1.3.2 Resolution

25 km x 25 km

1.3.3 Geolocation

The following table provides information for geolocating this data set

Table 3. Geolocation Details

Geographic coordinate system	Unspecified datum based upon the Hughes 1980 ellipsoid
Projected coordinate system	NSIDC Sea Ice Polar Stereographic North
Longitude of true origin	-45°
Latitude of true origin	0°
Scale factor at longitude of true origin	1
Datum	Not_specified_based_on_Hughes_1980_ellipsoid
Ellipsoid/spheroid	Hughes 1980
Units	meter
False easting	0
False northing	0
EPSG code	3411
PROJ4 string	+proj=stere +lat_0=90 +lat_ts=70 +lon_0=-45 +k=1 +x_0=0 +y_0=0 +a=6378273 +b=6356889.449 +units=m +no_defs
Reference	http://epsg.io/3411

1.4 Temporal Information

1.4.1 Coverage

November 2018 – April 2019, September 2019 – April 2020, September 2020 – April 2021

1.4.2 Resolution

Monthly

2 DATA ACQUISITION AND PROCESSING

This data set is derived from *ICESat-2 L4 Along-Track Sea Ice Thickness, Version 1* (not yet published) and binned to a 25 km x 25 km polar stereographic north grid. For details on data acquisition, processing, quality, errors, limitation, and instrumentation see Petty et al. (2020).

3 VERSION HISTORY

Version 1 (May 2021).

Note: Version 1 of this data set was derived from *ICESat-2 L4 Along-Track Sea Ice Thickness, Version 1* which itself was derived from Version 4 of ATL10.

4 RELATED DATA SETS

- ICESat-2 L4 Along-Track Sea Ice Thickness (not yet published)
- ATLAS/ICESat-2 L3A Sea Ice Height (ATL07)
- ATLAS/ICESat-2 L3A Sea Ice Freeboard (ATL10)

5 RELATED WEBSITES

- Polar Stereographic Data | NSIDC Polar Stereographic Grid Definitions

6 CONTACTS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Alek Petty
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771
Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center
University of Maryland
College Park, MD, 20740

Nathan Kurtz
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771

Ron Kwok
Applied Physics Laboratory,
Seattle, WA, 98105

Thorsten Markus
NASA HQ
Washington DC, 20546

Tom Neumann
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771

7 REFERENCES

Petty, A. A., Kurtz, N. T., Kwok, R., Markus, T., and Neumann, T. A. 2020. Winter Arctic sea ice thickness from ICESat-2 freeboards, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, 125, e2019JC015764. doi: 10.1029/2019JC015764.

8 DOCUMENT INFORMATION

8.1 Publication Date

11 May 2021

8.2 Date Last Updated

31 August 2021