causes an increase in thermal conductivity. The rate of increase in typical soils was as follows: average conductivities, in Btu per (square foot) (hour) (Fahrenheit degree per inch), of four sands at a density of 110 lb per cu ft were: 6.8 at 2.5 percent moisture, 8.9 at 5 percent moisture, 11.2 at 10 percent moisture. Five soils of a fine texture at a density of 100 lb per cu ft, gave average conductivities of 6.7 at 10 percent moisture, and 9.5 at 20 percent. Thus, the doubling of moisture content within the ranges cited increases the conductivity by approximately 30 or 40 percent. At higher moisture contents the percentage increase would be less.

Effect of Soil Characteristics. The thermal conductivity of the soil, at a given density and moisture content, varies in general with the texture of a soil, being relatively high for coarse-textured soils and relatively low for fine-textured soils. The mineral composition of the soils also affects the conductivity. Quartz tends to give high values, whereas minerals such as plagioclase-feldspar and pyroxene, which are constituents of basic rocks tend to give low values of thermal conductivity. These points are illustrated by the values in Table 1 which lists seventeen soils in approximate order of their magnitude of thermal conductivity from greatest to least for seven different density-moisture content conditions. Some of the values in this table have been determined by extrapolation and are consequently approximate. Blank spaces in the table indicate that the density or moisture content, or both, are such that no tests were possible for that condition or that no tests were sufficiently close to permit a reasonable extrapolation of the data. Granular soils, particularly those with high quartz contents, head the tabulation or have the greatest conduc-

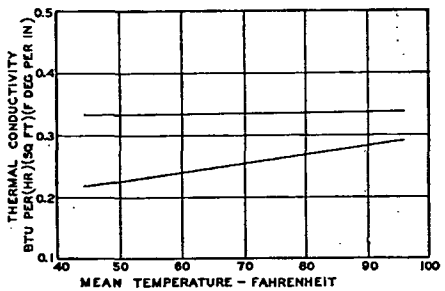

FIG. 2. TYPICAL VARIATION OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY WITH MEAN TEMPERATURE

tivity at a given condition. Sandy loam soils are midway in the table and fine grained soils such as clay and silt loam are last.

Estimating Thermal Conductivity. The four diagrams of Fig. 3 are presented to aid in the estimate of the thermal conductivity of any soil. Two of the charts are for sands or sandy soils, and two for silt and clay soils. One of the diagrams for each type of soils is for the frozen, and the other for the unfrozen condition. It is expected that these charts will give conductivity values with a precision of 25 percent. The effect of such factors as density, moisture content, freezing, or texture may be easily approximated by use of these graphs.

Specific Heat of Soils

Tests to determine specific heat were run on twelve soils. On five of the soils, tests were made at three or four mean temperatures varying from about 10 to 140 F. The specific heat values of all twelve soils varied by only a small amount (about 0.01), and averaged 0.19 at 140 F. The specific heat values of the soils decreased with a decrease in temperature. The average value at zero F would be about 0.16. Values at temperatures between zero and 140 F can be estimated by considering a straight-line relationship between the two values given.

Surface Conductance

The surface conductance of a wall is the combined heat transfer to or from the wall by radiation, convection and conduction. Each of the three

TABLE 1. THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY (k) VALUES OF SOILS IN APPROXIMATE ORDER OF DECREASING VALUES[a]

Mean Temperature—40 F

SOIL DESIGNATION	MECHANICAL ANALYSIS % BY WEIGHT				MOISTURE CONTENT—%						
	Gravel	Sand	Silt	Clay	4	4	4	10	10	20	20
	Over 2.0 mm	0.5 to 2.00 mm	0.005 to 0.05 mm	Under 0.005 mm	DRY DENSITY-LB PER CU FT						
					100	110	120	90	110	90	100
Fine Crushed Quartz	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	16.0					
Crushed Quartz	15.5	79.0	5.5		11.5	16.0	22.0				
Graded Ottawa Sand	0.0	99.9	0.1		10.0	14.0					
Fairbanks Sand	27.5	70.0	2.5		8.5±	10.5	13.5		15.0		
Lowell Sand	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	8.5	11.0			13.5		
Chena River Gravel	80.0	19.4	0.6			9.0±	13.0				
Crushed Feldspar	25.5	70.3	4.2		6.0	7.5	9.5				
Crushed Granite	16.2	77.0	6.8		5.5	7.5	10.0				
Dakota Sandy Loam	10.9	57.9	21.2	10.0		6.5	9.5		13±		
Crushed Trap Rock	27.0	63.0	10.0		5.0	6.0	7.0				
Ramsey Sandy Loam	0.4	53.6	27.5	18.5	4.5	6.5			10.0		
Northway Fine Sand	0.0	97.0	3.0	0.0	4.5	5.5			8.5		
Northway Sand	3.0	97.0	0.0	0.0	4.5	6.0			7.5±		
Healy Clay	0.0	1.9	20.1	78.0	4.0±			5.5	9.0±	8.0	10.0
Fairbanks Silt Loam	0.0	7.6	80.9	11.5				5.0	9.0±	7.5	10.0
Fairbanks Silty Clay Loam	0.0	9.2	63.8	27.0				5.0	9.0±	7.5	9.5
Northway Silt Loam	1.0	21.0	64.4	13.6				4.0±	7.0±	6.0±	7.0±

[a] k = Btu per (square foot) (hour) (Fahrenheit degree per inch).

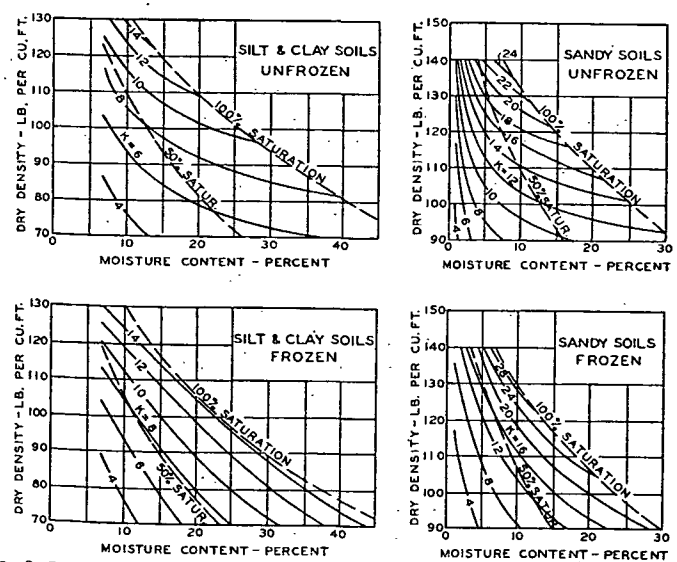

FIG. 3. DETERMINING THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF SOILS FROM DENSITY AND MOISTURE CONTENT