


It's All About Snow

A photograph of a snow pit with various research tools. A black equipment case sits on the left, containing a magnifying glass, a digital display, and other small items. A long measuring tape is stretched vertically on the right wall of the pit. An orange shovel is stuck into the snow at the bottom right. Several small circular gauges are attached to the snow wall. A blue strap and a pencil are also visible on the left side of the pit.

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A photograph of a snow-covered roof with a brick chimney, set against a clear blue sky. The snow is piled up on the roof, and the chimney is partially covered. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Snow 101
Consistency
Manipulation
Measurements
Snow Around the World
Ice

Snow as Precipitation

Dendrite

Graupel

Column

Spatial

Rhime
Coated

Plate

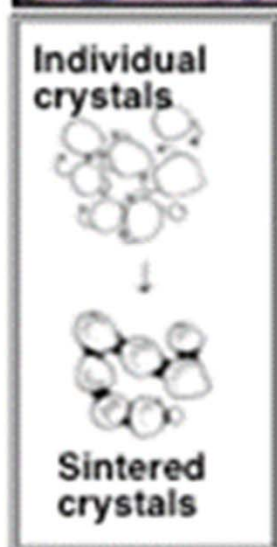
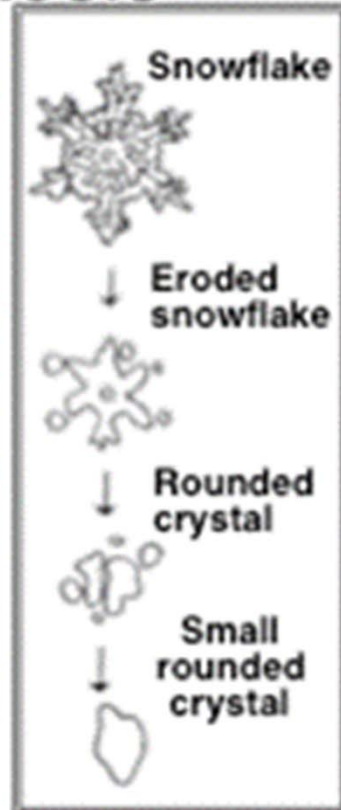
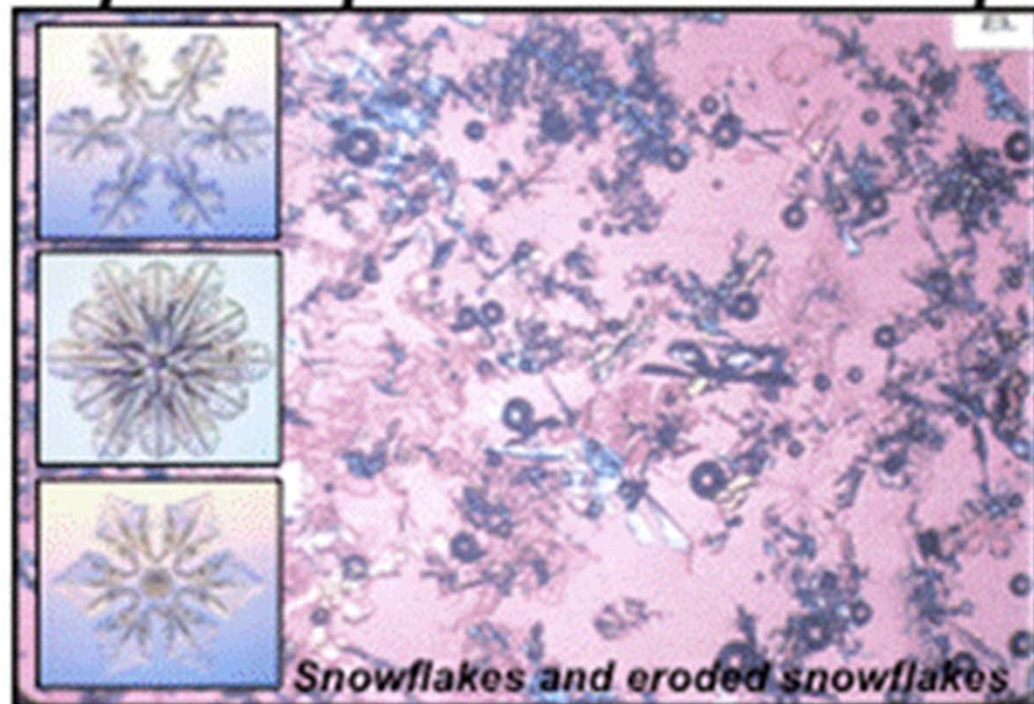
Needle

Metamamorphism

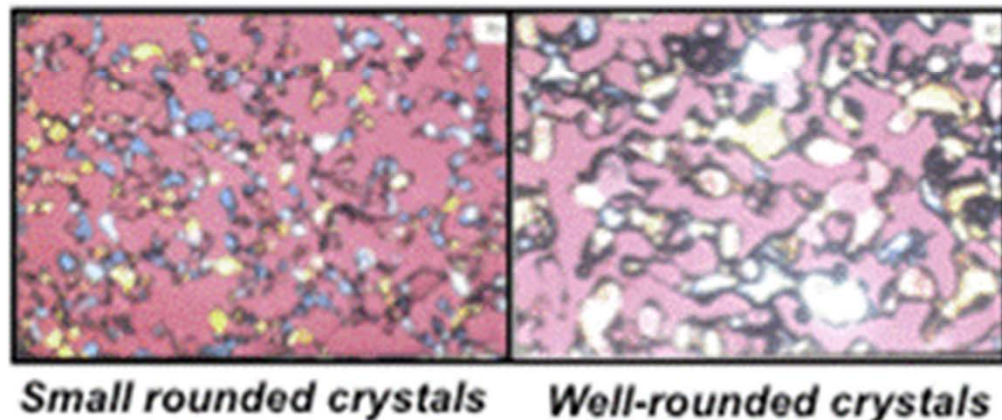
Equi-Temperature



Equi-temperature Metamorphism

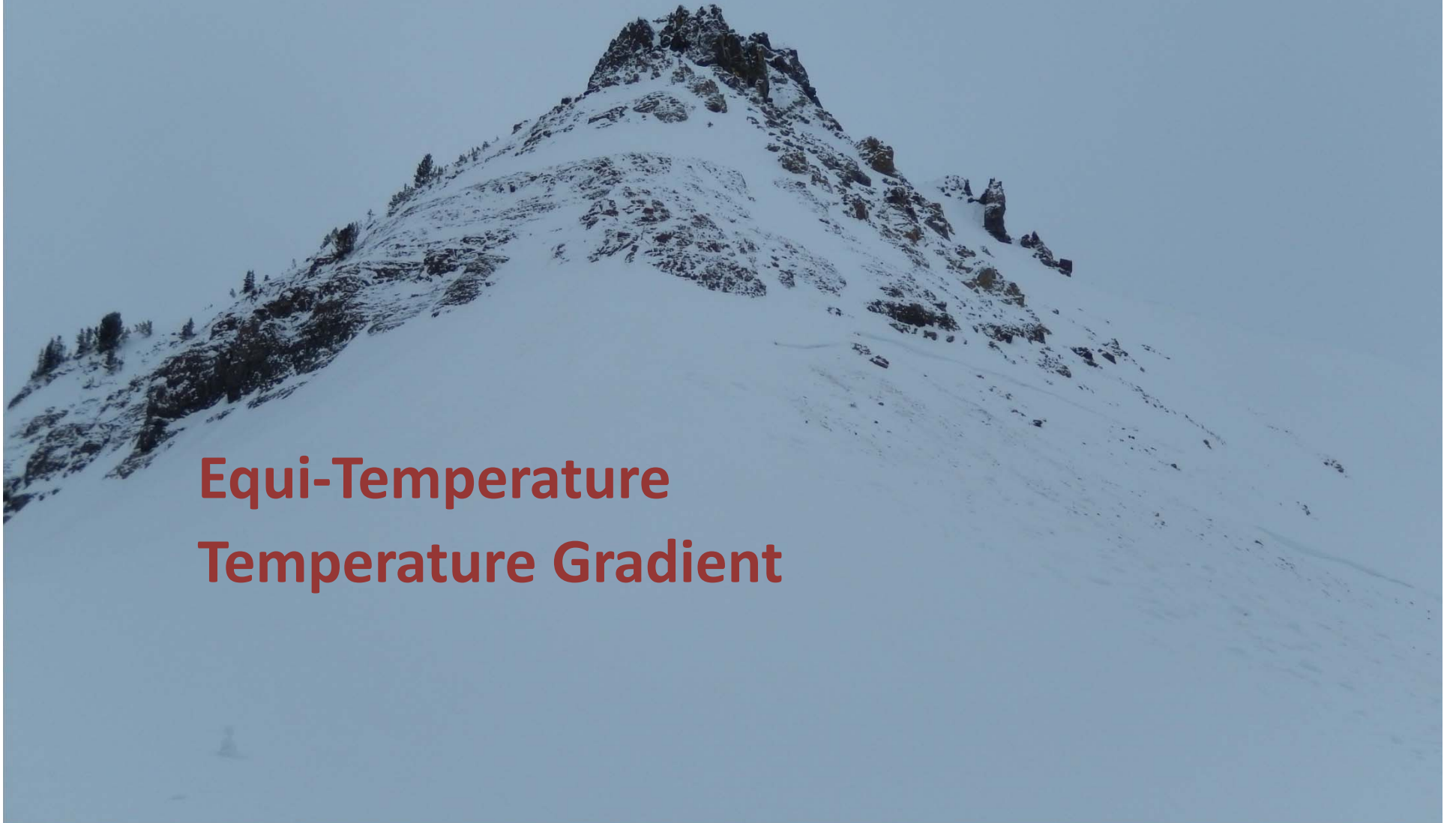


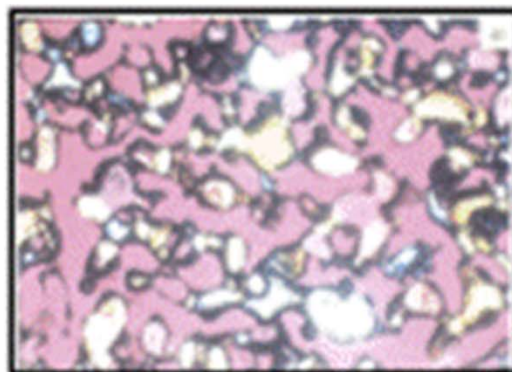
(Destructive Metamorphism)



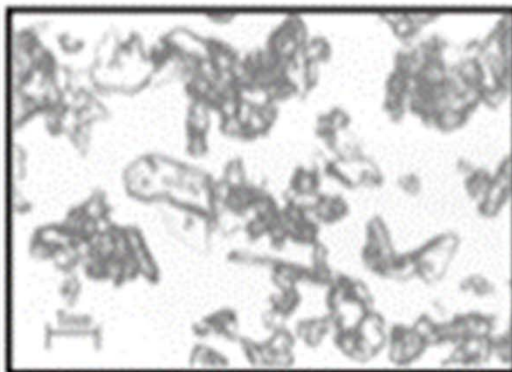
Metamamorphism

Equi-Temperature
Temperature Gradient

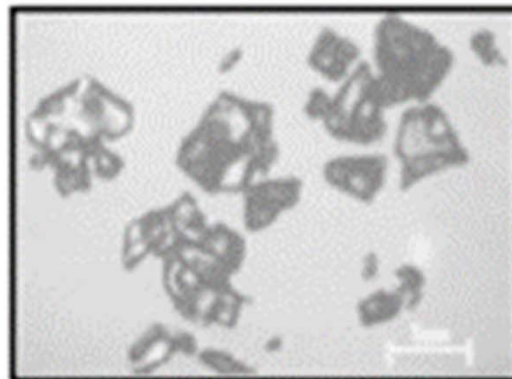




Well-rounded crystals



Rounded crystals with developing facets



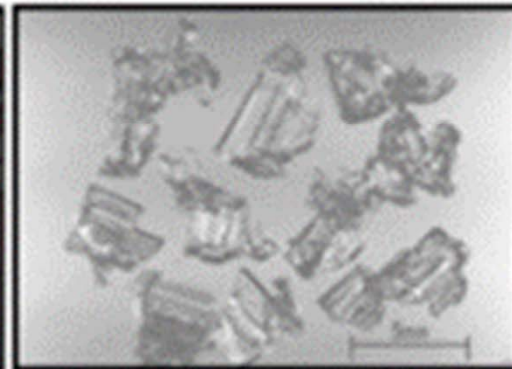
Solid faceted crystals



Depth hoar



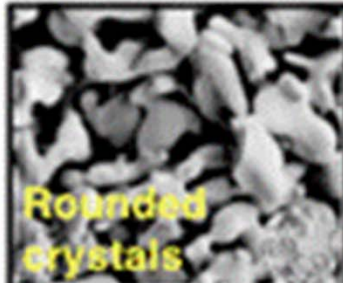
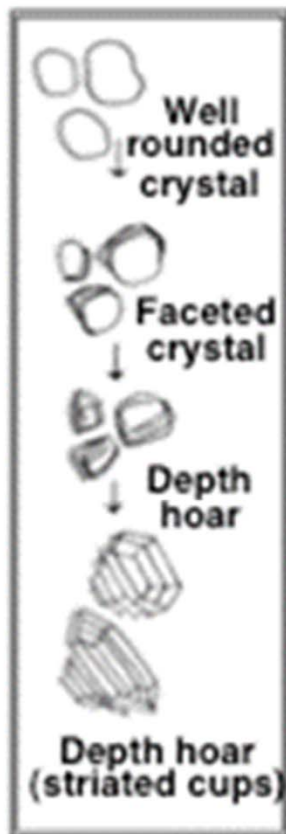
Large depth hoar



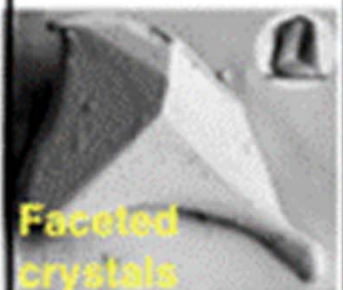
Cup-shaped, striated crystals (depth hoar)

Temperature Gradient Metamorphism

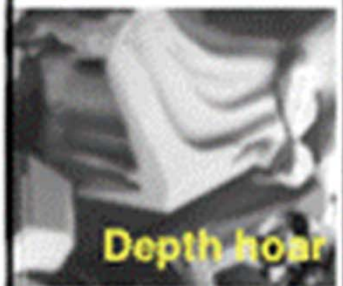
(Constructive
Metamorphism)



Rounded crystals



Faceted crystals



Depth hoar



Depth hoar

Metamamorphism



Equi-Temperature
Temperature Gradient
Melt Freeze
Pressure

Test Course Consistency is #1!

Want to build courses that are homogeneous across a certain area, as well as from day to day, if possible.

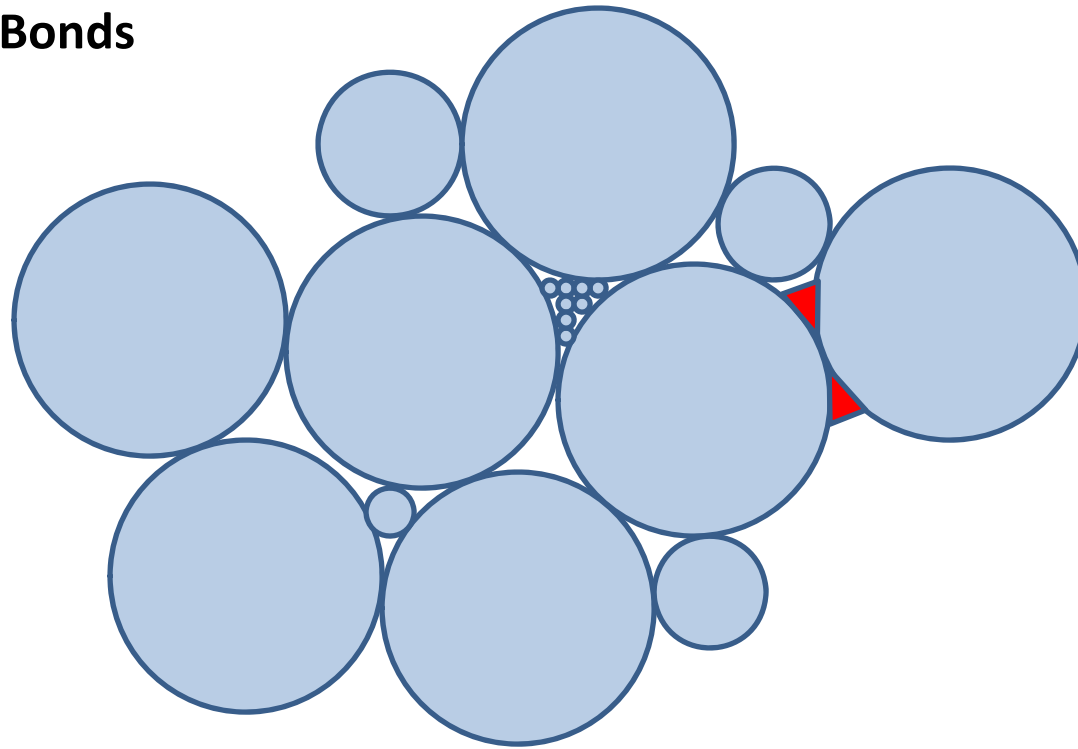




Keep the Snow Clean

Bonding

Road Mix with Bonds



Increase Density

Increase Surface Energy

Increase Temperature (to a point)

Inject Water

Particulate (Dirt, Dust, Exhaust = Albedo and Lack of Bond)

Compaction

(Increase Density)

Tracks

Plate

Jump up and Down!

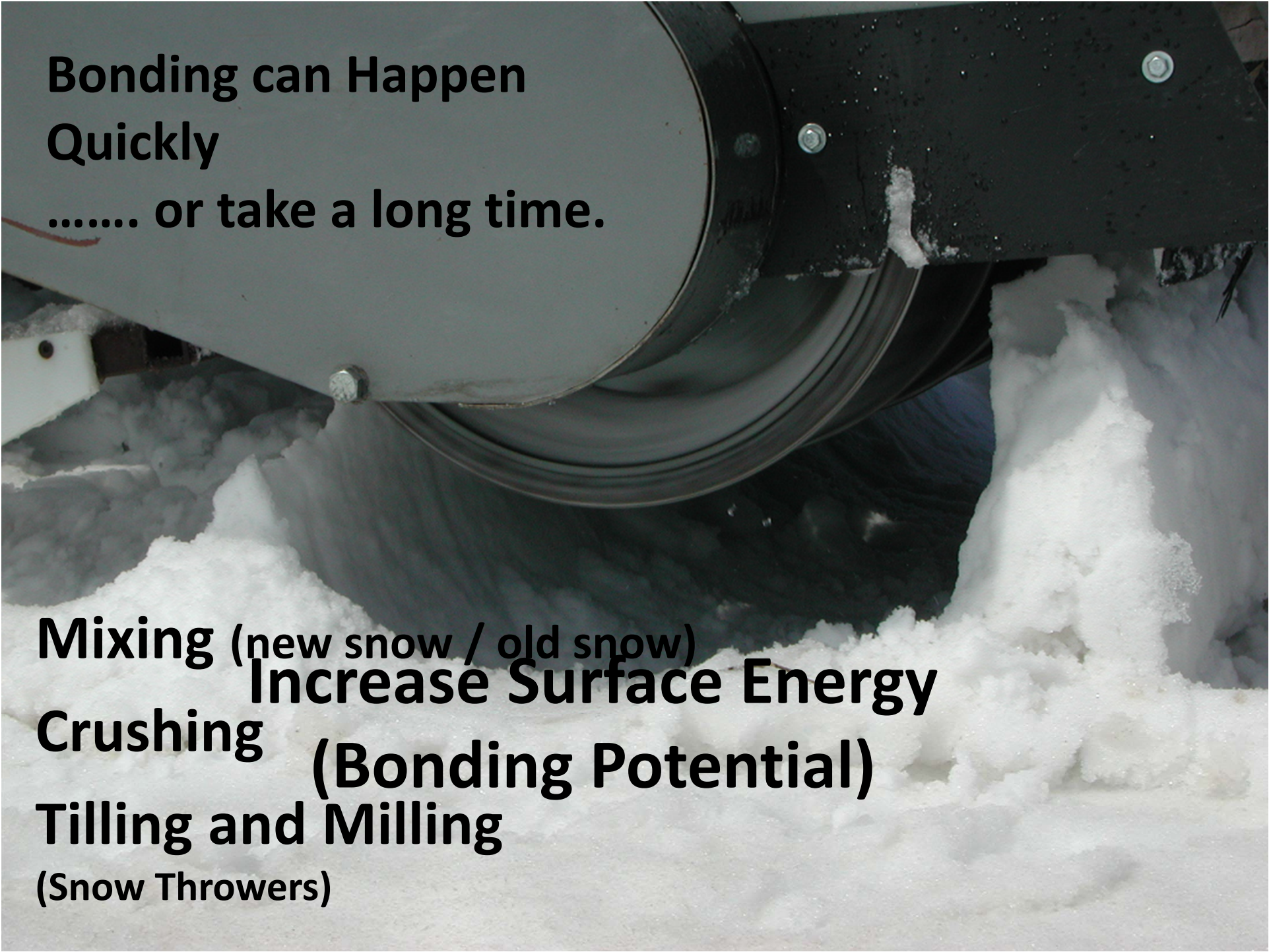
Roller

Shallow Snow

Wheels (Roller or Vehicle)

Vibration





**Bonding can Happen
Quickly
..... or take a long time.**

**Mixing (new snow / old snow)
Increase Surface Energy
Crushing (Bonding Potential)
Tilling and Milling
(Snow Throwers)**





Basic Properties

Depth

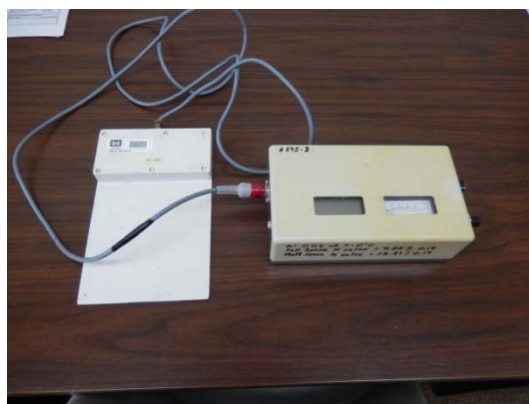
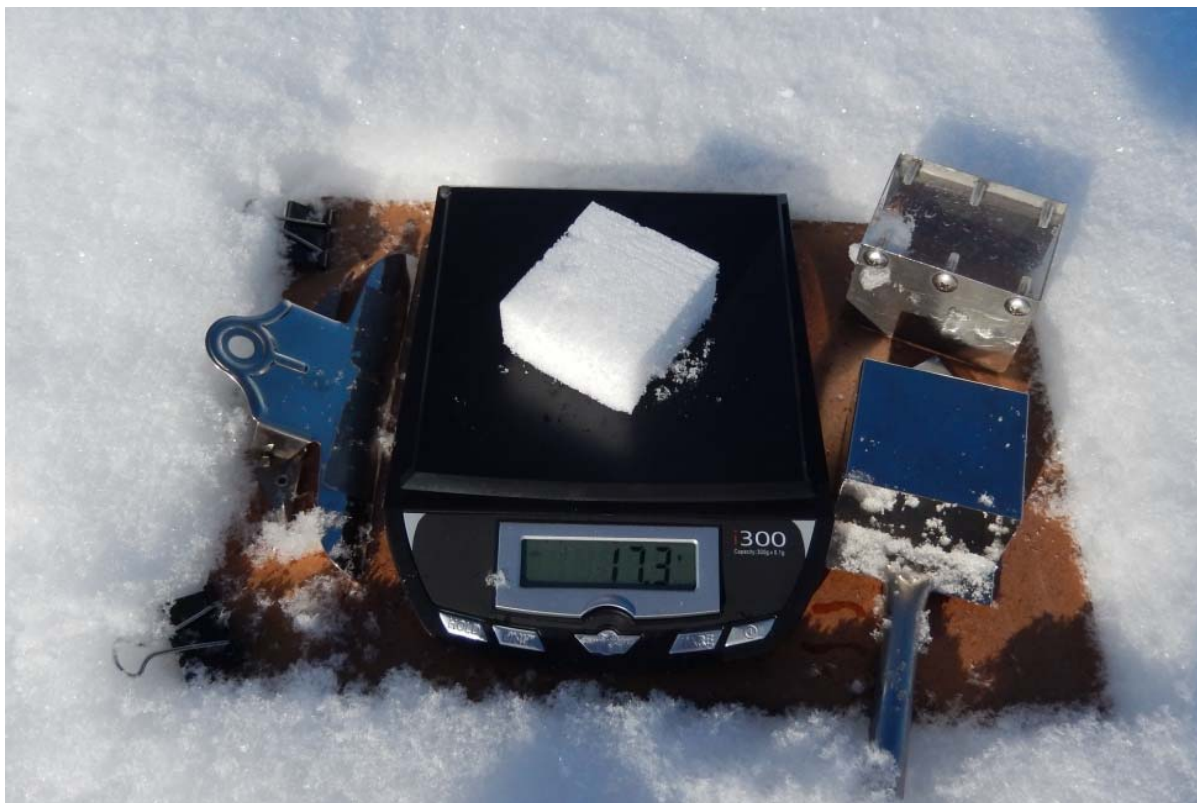
Layering / Lenses

Temperature

Density

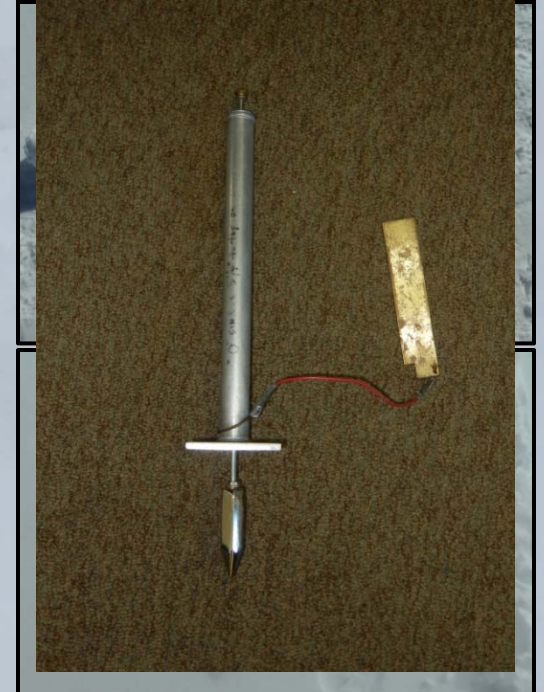
Free Water Content (dry to slush)

Crystal Structure



Strength Measurements

Shear and Compression



Snow Around the World



Cape Evans, Antarctica





Lab vs the “Real World”



Ice Testing

Friction

Roughness

Strength



Weather Effects

Cloud Cover

Air Temperature

Wind

Humidity

Solar

Snow Temperature

Ground Temperature

Dew Point



Snow and Ice Melting



Energy to raise the temperature of ice 1° F is 0.51 BTU/lb.



Let's say we want to make 100 gallons of cold water in the field. First we would want to raise the temperature of the snow to just below 32° F. If the density of the snow is 0.25 we would need about 54 ft³ of snow (about 850 lb).

If the snow is 0° F, it would take about 14,000 BTU to accomplish the 32° change in temp.

Once the snow is brought to near the melting point, it takes a larger input of energy to move from solid to liquid (latent heat of fusion). This amount of energy is about 144 BTU/lb or about 122,400 BTU for the above example. This makes a total of about 136,400 BTU to make 100 gallons of water. At an efficiency of 0.9, this becomes about 150,000 BTU. This equates to 1.3 gallons of jet fuel or 1.8 gallons of propane.

**Yup, I'm a snow
Geek, and.....**





**I still say – Jump Up and Down!!
Questions????**