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715

Climatic Charts of the Surface Refractivity for Germany

by

B. R. Bean and A. M. Ozanich



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS**  
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# NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS REPORT

NBS PROJECT

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# Climatic Charts of the Surface Refractivity for Germany

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## SUMMARY

In recent years there has been an increased utilization of meteorological information for the prediction of radio field strengths at frequencies of 50 Mc. and above. Various studies have used radiosonde measurements to describe the effect of elevated superrefractive layers<sup>1/</sup>, the gross gradient in the first kilometer of the earth's atmosphere<sup>2, 3/</sup>, and, more recently, it has been shown that the long term mean value of the radio transmission loss may be represented as a linear function of the surface value of the radio refractivity as derived from surface weather observations<sup>4, 5, 6, 7/</sup>. The refractivity,  $N$ , is given by<sup>8/</sup>:

$$N = (n - 1) 10^6 = \frac{77.6}{T} \left[ P_s + \frac{4810 e_s RH}{T} \right]$$

where  $P_s$  is the station pressure in millibars,  $RH$  is the percent of the saturation vapor pressure,  $e_s$ , in millibars at the absolute temperature,  $T$ , in degrees Kelvin, and  $n$  is the refractive index.

The data used in the present study were obtained from the Kopenhagen Schluessel deck of the punched card library of the National Weather Records Center, U. S. Weather Bureau. The location of the weather stations used in this study are shown on Fig. 1, and are specified in more detail in Table I. The choice of stations was made so as to give detailed geographic coverage for the arbitrarily chosen two year period

Table I

## German Weather Stations

Call Letters	Code Number	Station Name	Elev. in feet	Latitude	Longitude
GSS	00791	Grosser Falkenstein	4291	49°-05'N	013°-17'E
TRR	40049	Trier Petrisberg	265	49°-45'N	006°-40'E
TVM	40130	Travemuende	1	53°-58'N	010°-52'E
QKB	40170	Quakenbrueck	23	52°-40'N	007°-56'E
PLB	40210	Perleberg Wittenberge	31	53°-04'N	011°-49'E
ATK	40240	Altkarbe	35	52°-51'N	15°-40'E
KBN	40247	Konigsberg/Neumark	50	52°-53'N	14°-25'E
GFD	40284	Greifswald	4	54°-06'N	13°-26'E
LAC	40379	Lachen-Speyerdorf	120	49°-20'N	008°-12'E
FSB	40400	Flensburg	42	54°-46'N	009°-22'E
BKM	40401	Borkun	12	53°-36'N	006°-42'E
HAM	40403	Hamburg	18	53°-38'N	10°-00'E
AAC	40407	Aachen	205	50°-47'N	006°-06'E
FFM	40412	Frankfurt am Main	111	50°-03'N	008°-36'E
FTB	40419	Fichtelberg	1213	50°-26'N	12°-57'E
GBS	40420	Gruenberg Silesia	148	51°-55'N	15°-30'E
WSS	40423	Wasserkuppe	926	50°-30'N	009°-56'E
FWS	40427	Feldberg, Schwartz Wald	1493	47°-52'N	008°-01'E
BLN	40440	Berlin	56	52°-29'N	13°-26'E
HEL	40465	Helgoland	50	54°-11'N	007°-53'E
CLH	40558	Crailsheim	422	49°-08'N	10°-03'E
HLN	40622	Halle Nietleben	79	51°-29'N	11°-56'E
GTT	40631	Gottingen	154	51°-33'N	009°-54'E
NHB	40636	Nordhausen Bleicherode	180	51°-29'N	10°-47'E
GOT	40645	Gotha	300	50°-58'N	10°-45'E
SHD	40653	Steinheid	840	50°-28'N	11°-05'E
RBO	40733	Regensberg Obertraubling	330	48°-59'N	21°-12'E
MMM	40775	Memmingen	630	47°-59'N	10°-14'E
BAD	40781	Bad Aibling	486	47°-53'N	11°-59'E
GLZ	40936	Goerlitz	237	51°-09'N	14°-57'E
PRG	52010	Prag Kbely	928	50°-07'N	14°-32'E
PIZ	52666	Pilsen	1168	49°-44'N	13°-21'E
POZ	55552	Poznan	325	52°-25'N	16°-50'E



1940-1941. The refractivity was calculated for each observation and then averaged for each time of observation and each month of the two year period; this average is designated  $\bar{N}_0$ . For example, mean values were obtained for the hour of 0800 during the month of June. The refractivity was then presented in terms of a reduced-to-sea level value,  $N_0$ :

$$\bar{N}_0 = \bar{N}_s \exp \{ 0.032218 h_s \}$$

where  $N_s$  is the value of the refractivity at the station and  $h_s$  is the elevation of the station in thousands of feet above sea level. The advantages of removing the altitude dependence of  $N_s$  by the use of  $N_0$  are discussed in a recent study of the world wide variation of  $N$ <sup>9/</sup>.

Normally the refractivity is calculated by inserting the station pressure, temperature and humidity into the expression for  $N_s$ . The Copenhagen Schluessel observations, however, are in terms of station temperature and humidity but reduced-to-sea level pressure,  $P_0$ , rather than station pressure,  $P_s$ . The station pressure was obtained by utilizing a pressure-height dependence derived from the U.S. Standard Atmosphere:

$$P_s = P_0 \exp \{ -0.037405 h_s \}$$

where  $h$  is in thousands of feet. This now yields the expression for  $N_0$ :

$$N_0 = \left\{ \frac{77.6 P_0 \exp(-0.037405 h_s)}{T} + \frac{3.733 \times 10^5 e_s RH}{T^2} \right\} \exp \{ 0.032218 h_s \}$$

This latter expression was then used to obtain the reduced-to-sea level value of  $N_0$  from the basic meteorological data.

The average annual and diurnal cycles of  $N_0$  for eight of the German weather stations were selected to display the range of climatic conditions for the country and are given on Figs. 2 through 9. A consideration of

the annual and diurnal cycles of all eight of the sample stations reveals a somewhat uniform annual range of 17 to 24 N units of the monthly mean values while the average diurnal cycles, even for the summer months, are but a few N units. These rather small annual and diurnal ranges indicate that the climate of all of Germany, refractivity wise, tends to reflect the maritime influence of the North Atlantic. This tendency towards a maritime climate is further illustrated by Table II where it is seen that the German annual and diurnal cycles are most comparable with the west coast U.S. stations of Tatoosh Island and Oakland. This one might expect since the absence of coastal mountain ranges in Western Europe permits the inland flow of maritime air to a greater extent than over the west coast of North America. It is interesting to note that the east coast U.S. stations have significantly greater seasonal and diurnal ranges than the German stations, which would lead one to expect smaller seasonal variations of transmission loss in Germany than in the United States. An informal examination of radio transmission loss data recorded in Germany and kindly lent to the authors by Dr. J. Grosskopf of the Fernmeldetechnisches Zentralamt der Deutschen Bundespost indicates that the annual cycle of VHF transmission loss is indeed smaller than is generally observed in the United States. Values of the maximum annual range of monthly means are given on Fig. 10. The maximum annual ranges shown on Fig. 10 are generally in excess of the 17 to 24 N unit annual range previously noted from Figs. 2 - 9 since the maximum annual ranges were determined as the difference between the maximum and minimum values of  $\bar{N}_0$  occurring throughout the year. Maximum diurnal ranges of  $\bar{N}_0$  are given for the months of February and August in Figs. 11 - 12. There is a noticeable trend for the diurnal ranges to increase with increasing distance from the ocean.



Table II

Comparison of Annual and Diurnal Ranges of  $\bar{N}_0$  in Germany and in the United States

Station	Annual Range at 0200 in N units	August Diurnal Range in N units
Germany:		
Helgoland	25	1 - 2
Steinheid	23	2
Quakenbrueck	27	4
Berlin	24	10
Trier	26	8
Frankfurt am Main	26	10
Grosser Falkenstein	20	1
Feldsberg, Schwartz Wald	19	3
United States:		
Tatoosh Island	19	1
Oakland	14	7
Denver	23	20
Joliet	41	10
San Antonio	44	38
Washington	48	15

Values of the individual maximum and minimum observed values of  $N_0$  were obtained for the hours of 0200, 0800, 1400 and 1900 during the months of February, May, August and November. Contour maps of these maximum and minimum  $N_0$  values, as well as the mean of all the observations, were derived for the above indicated hours and months. These maps, Figs. 13 - 60, were checked for consistency of contouring by placing a grid of 72 points over the finished maps, reading the value of  $N_0$  indicated by the contours at the grid point and then comparing the contour-derived diurnal and seasonal cycles with the corresponding cycles of nearby weather stations. This procedure permitted the maintenance of an estimated 1 or 2 N units variation in contouring, depending upon the parameter being contoured.

It is sometimes desirable for radio systems planning to know the individual values of the maximum and minimum  $N_o$  and the times at which they occur. The minimum values of  $N_o$  can be used <sup>5/</sup> to estimate the power requirements of the system. Further, the maximum strength of high undesired field strengths that would cause disruption of the desired service may be estimated from the maximum value of  $N_o$ . The individual maximum values are given on Fig. 61, the hour of occurrence on Fig. 62 and the month of occurrence on Fig. 63. Similar values for the individual minimum observations are given on Figs. 64, 65, and 66.

The times of occurrence of the maximum value of  $N_o$  are during the summer months of June to September with a decided tendency towards occurrence in the early afternoon. This afternoon maximum observation of  $N_o$  is in the opposite sense of the diurnal trend of the mean values which, on the average, shows a minimum during the early afternoon. A close examination of the meteorological observations for the day when the maximum  $N_o$  occurred reveals a most interesting singularity. On these occasions the air was nearly saturated throughout the day with the result that when the air reached its temperature maximum in the early afternoon it also reached an absolute humidity maximum with a resultant maximum in  $N_o$ . It must be noted that this is not a common diurnal pattern, occurring less than 10% of the days during the summer months.

In appraising the climatic charts given above, it is noted that the maps of mean  $N_o$  are more self-consistent than the maximum or minimum maps since these latter maps will frequently represent local meteorological singularities or errors in observation. The addition of more data to the stations used would possibly result in more uniform maps but it seems unlikely that the general trends would be changed. The addition of stations in France, however, would modify the contouring for West Germany with perhaps slight changes in contour detail.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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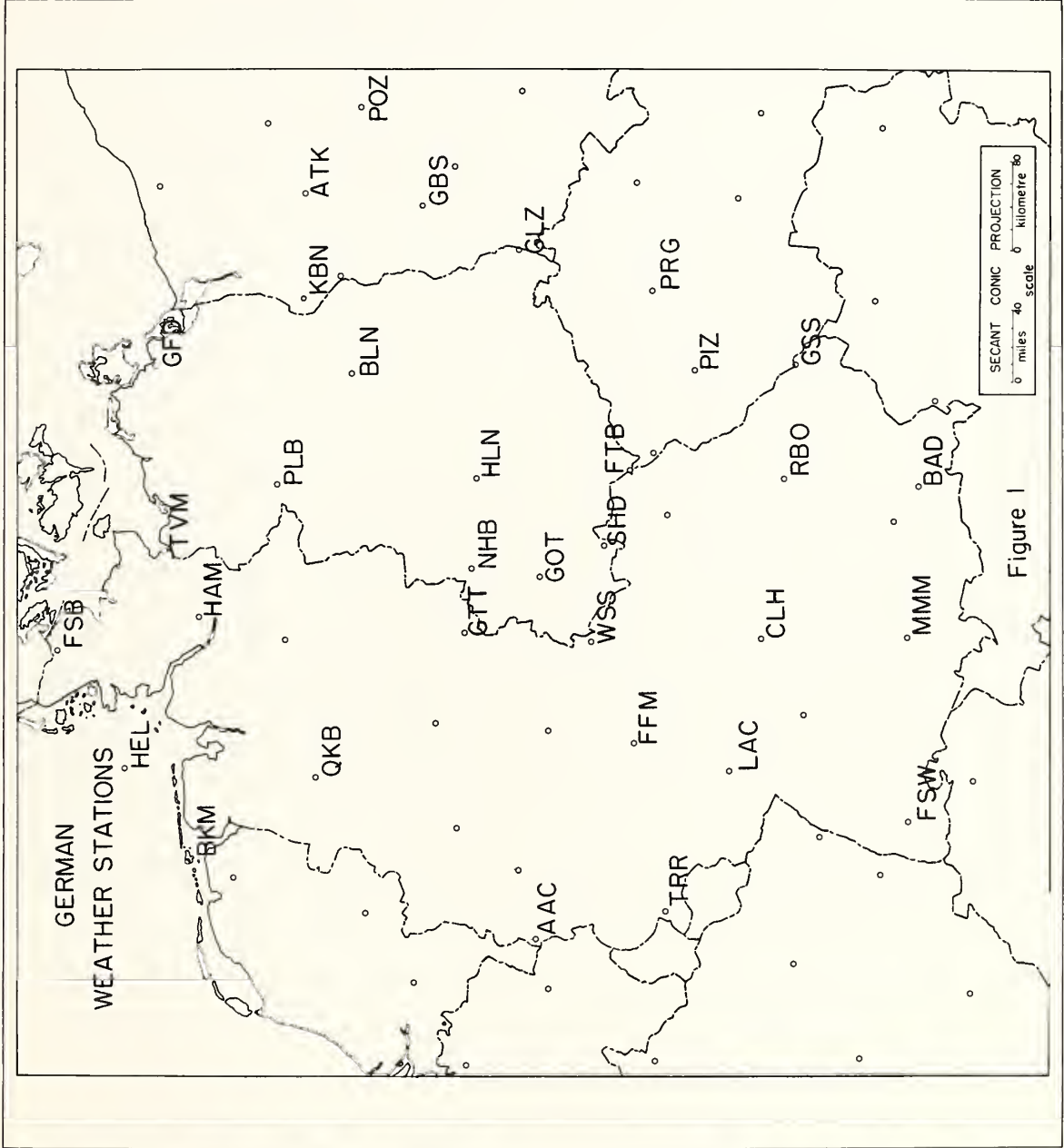


Figure 1



# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

HELGOLAND

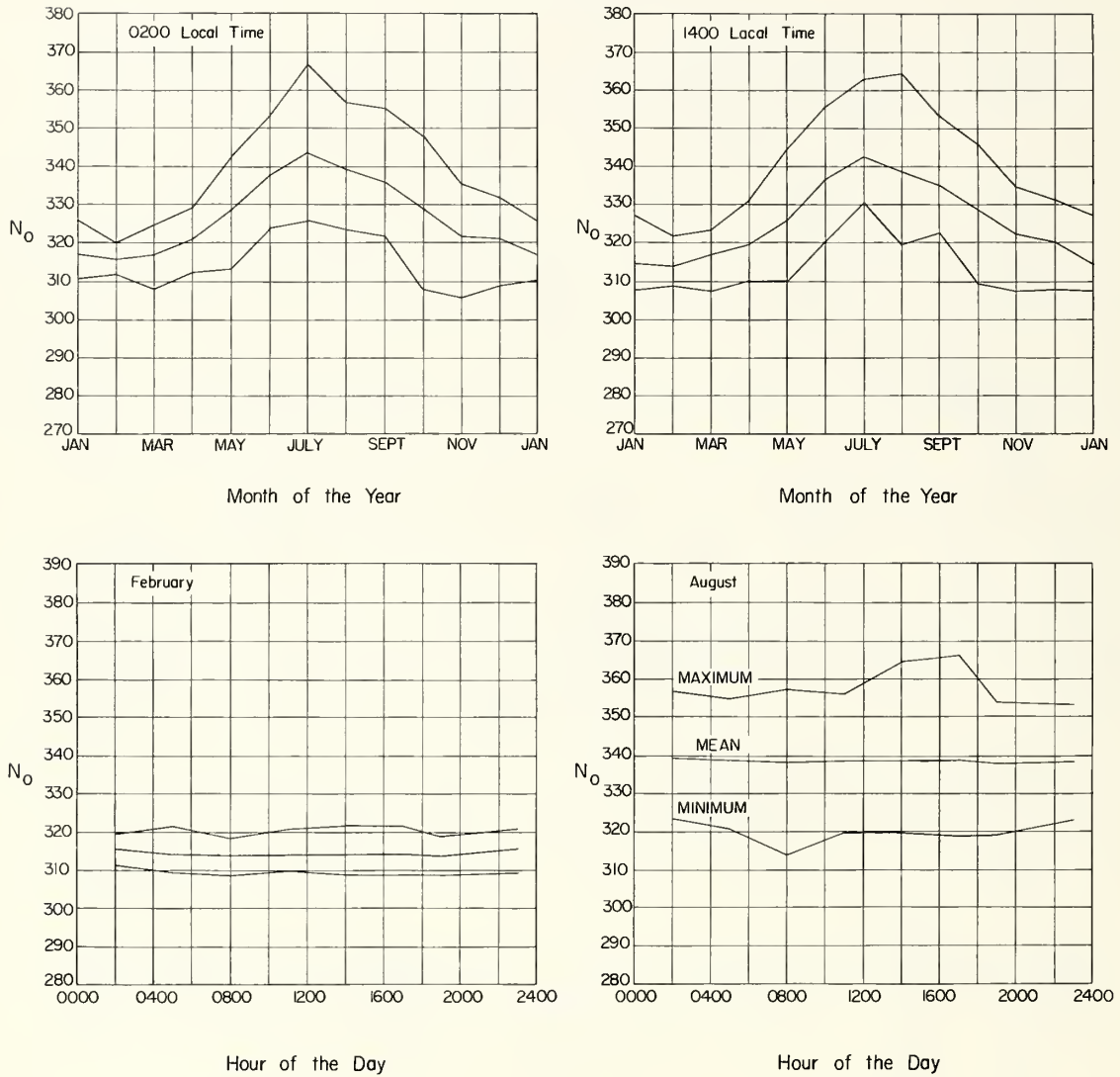
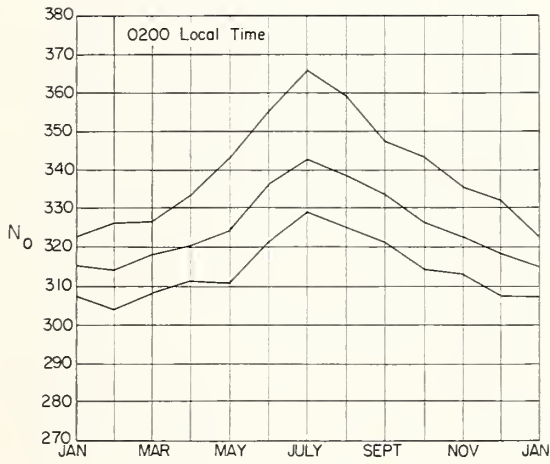


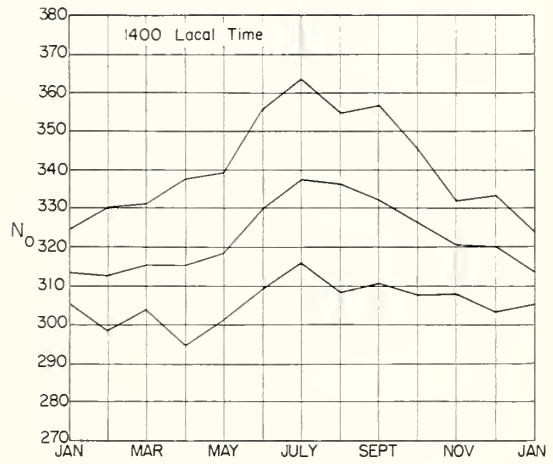
Figure 2

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

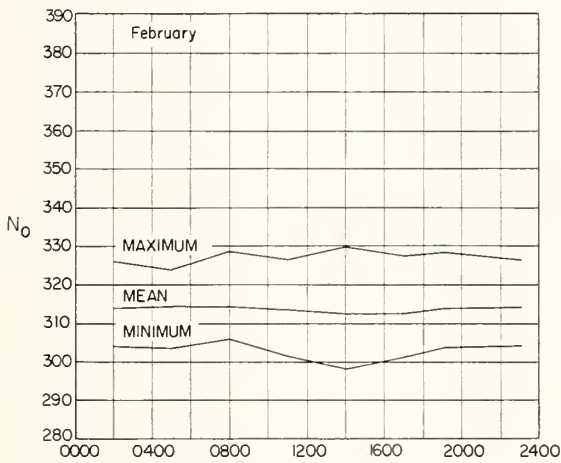
QUAKENBRUECK



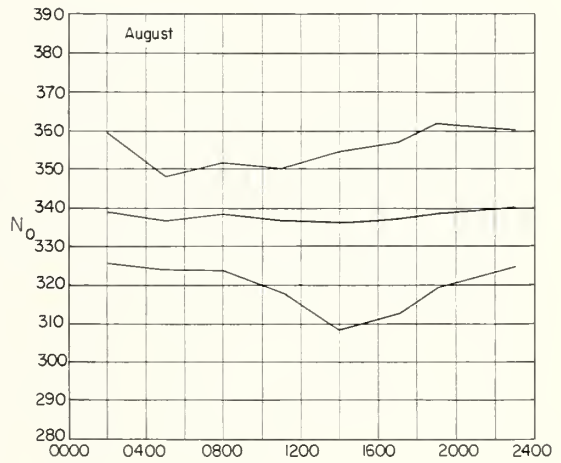
Month of the Year



Month of the Year



Hour of the Day



Hour of the Day

Figure 3

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

TRIER

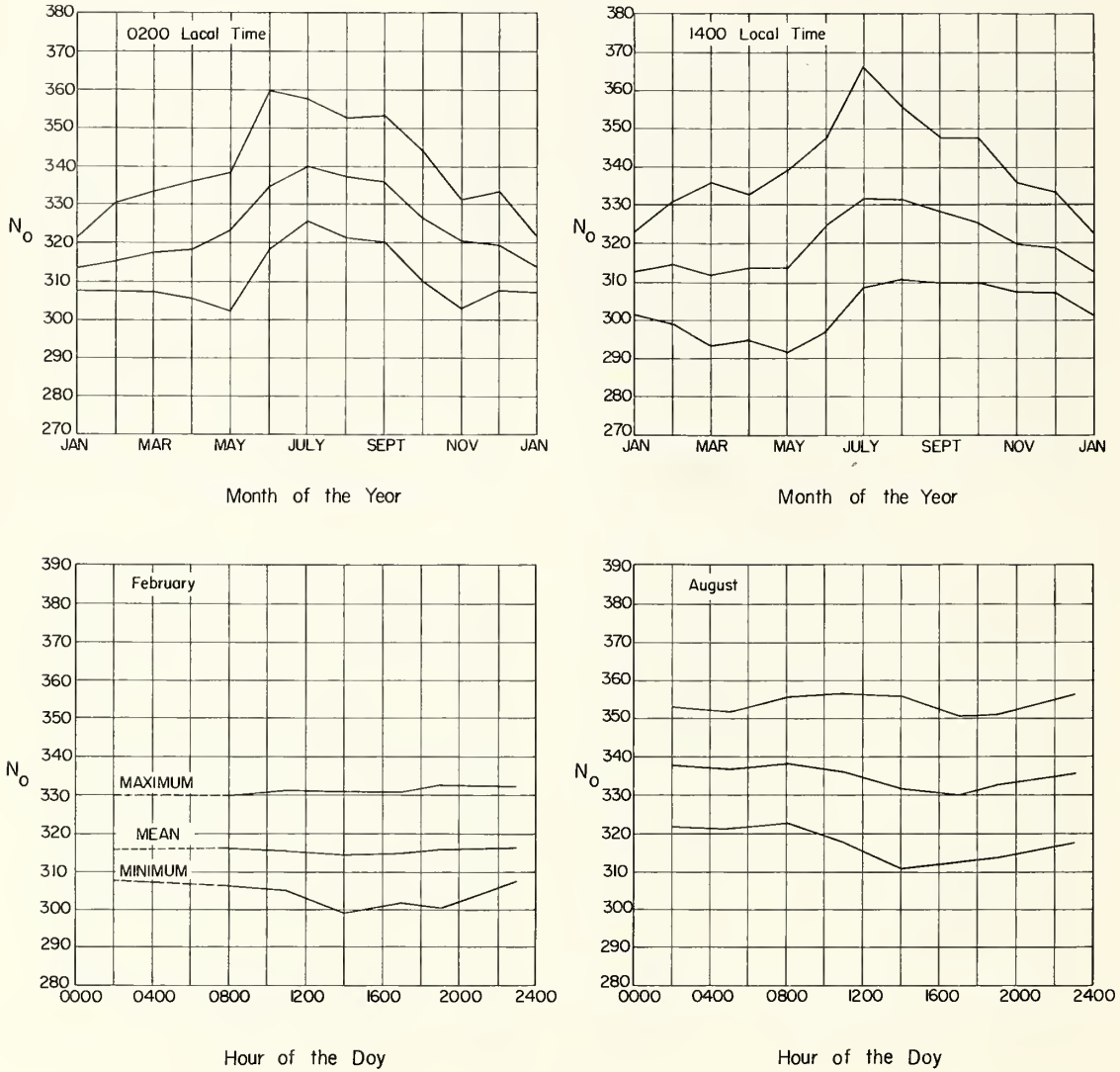


Figure 4

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

FELDBERG SCHWARTZ WALD

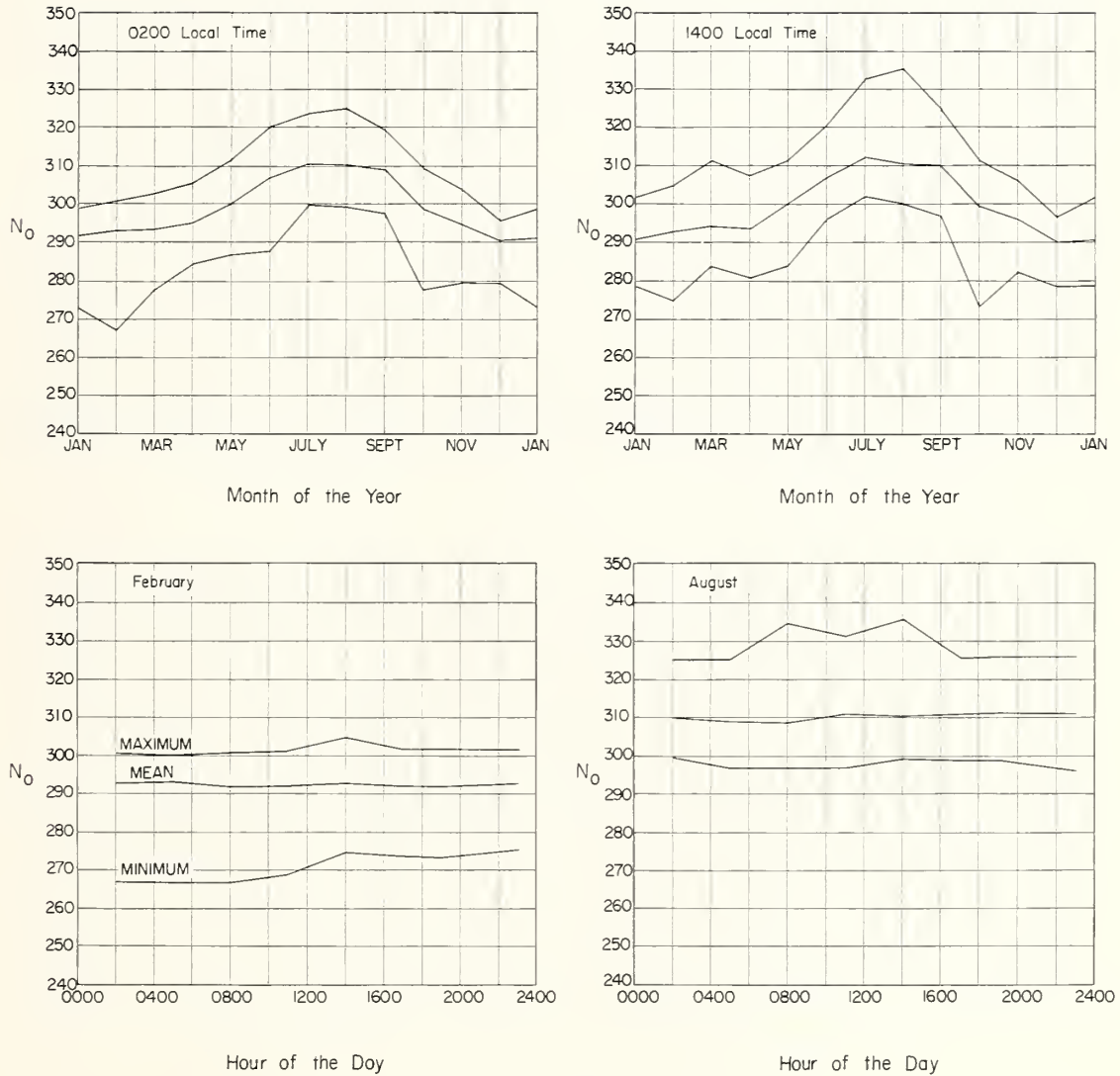


Figure 5

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

FRANKFORT ON MAIN

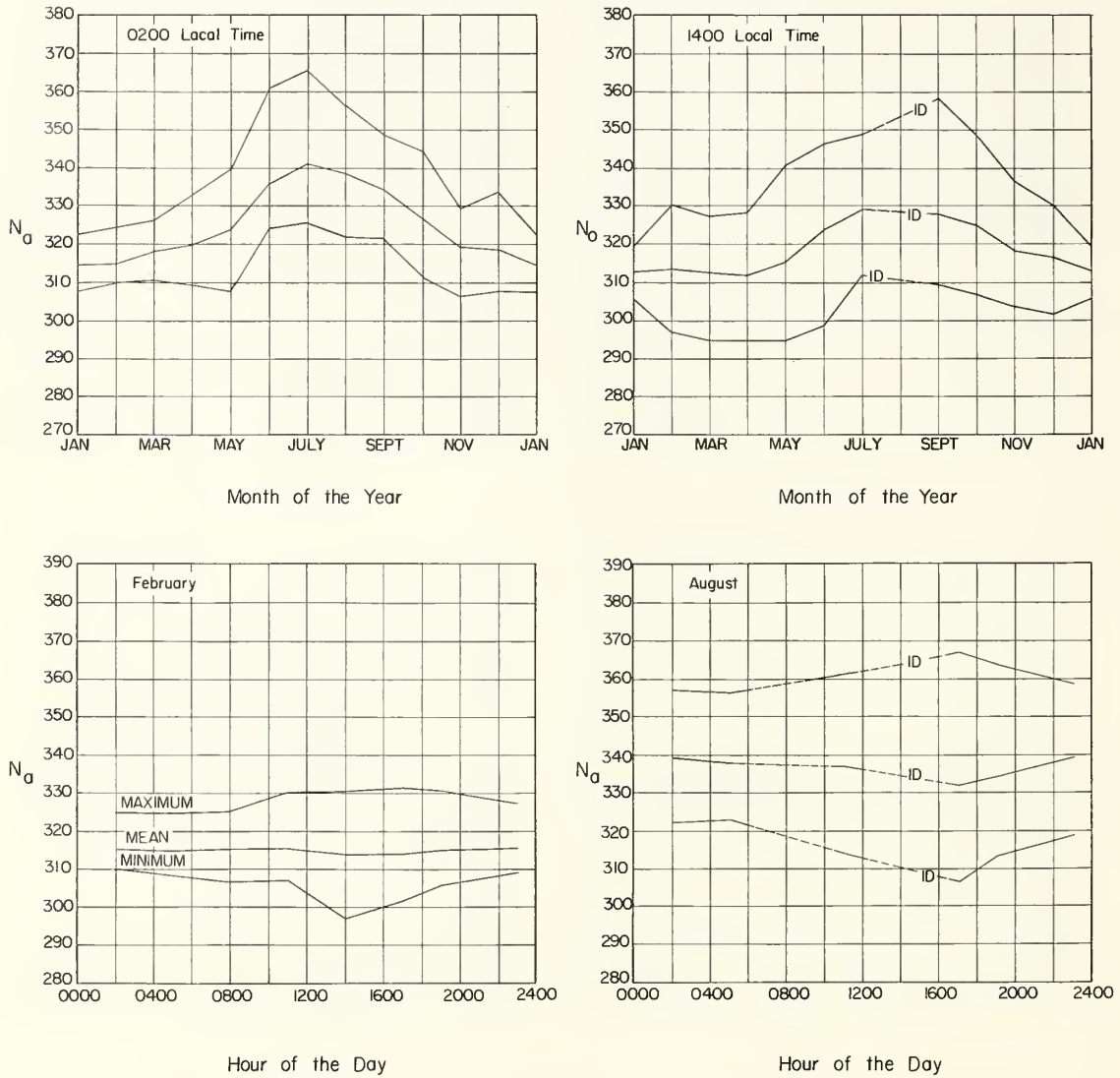


Figure 6



# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

BERLIN

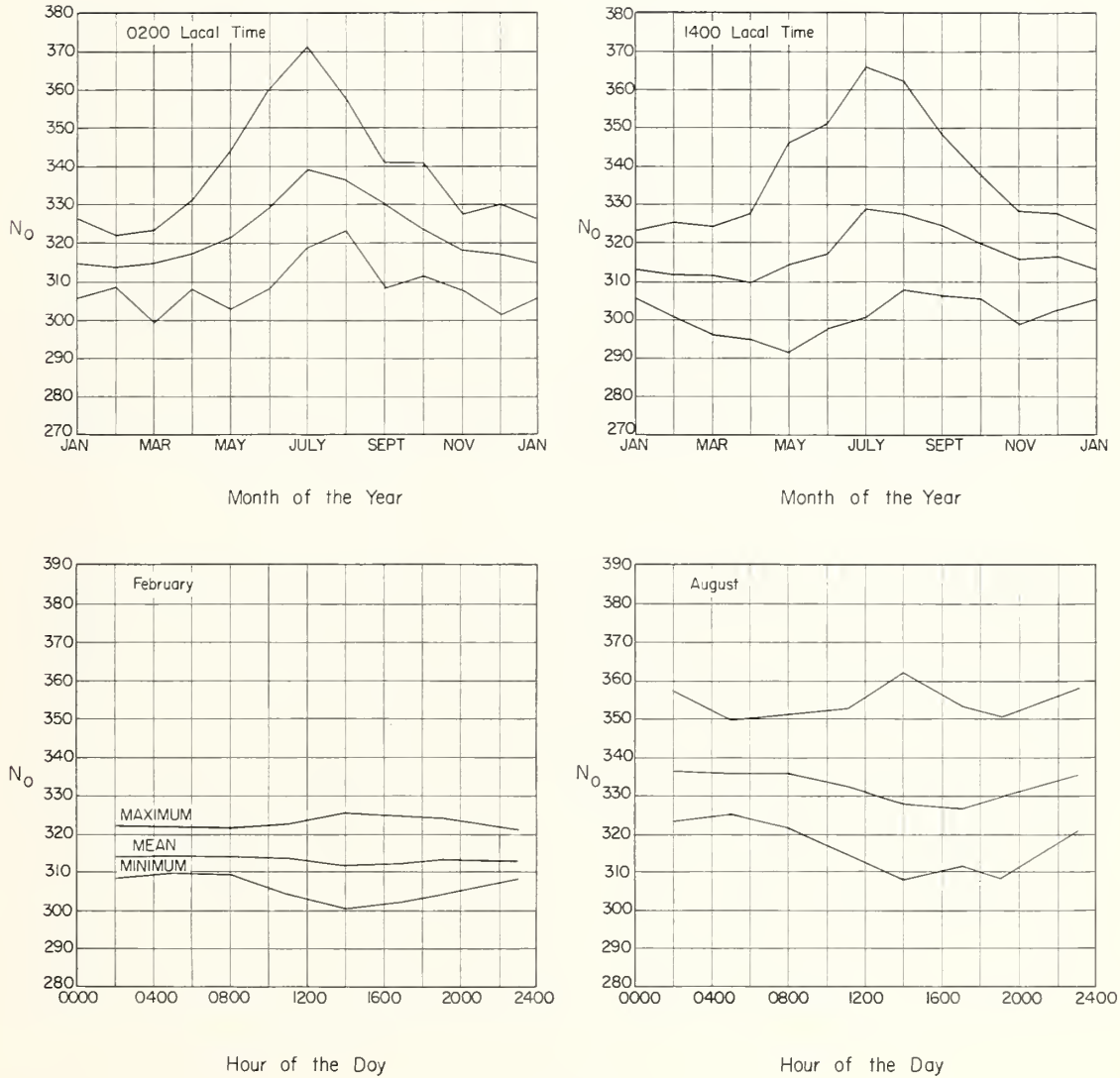


Figure 7

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

STEINHEID

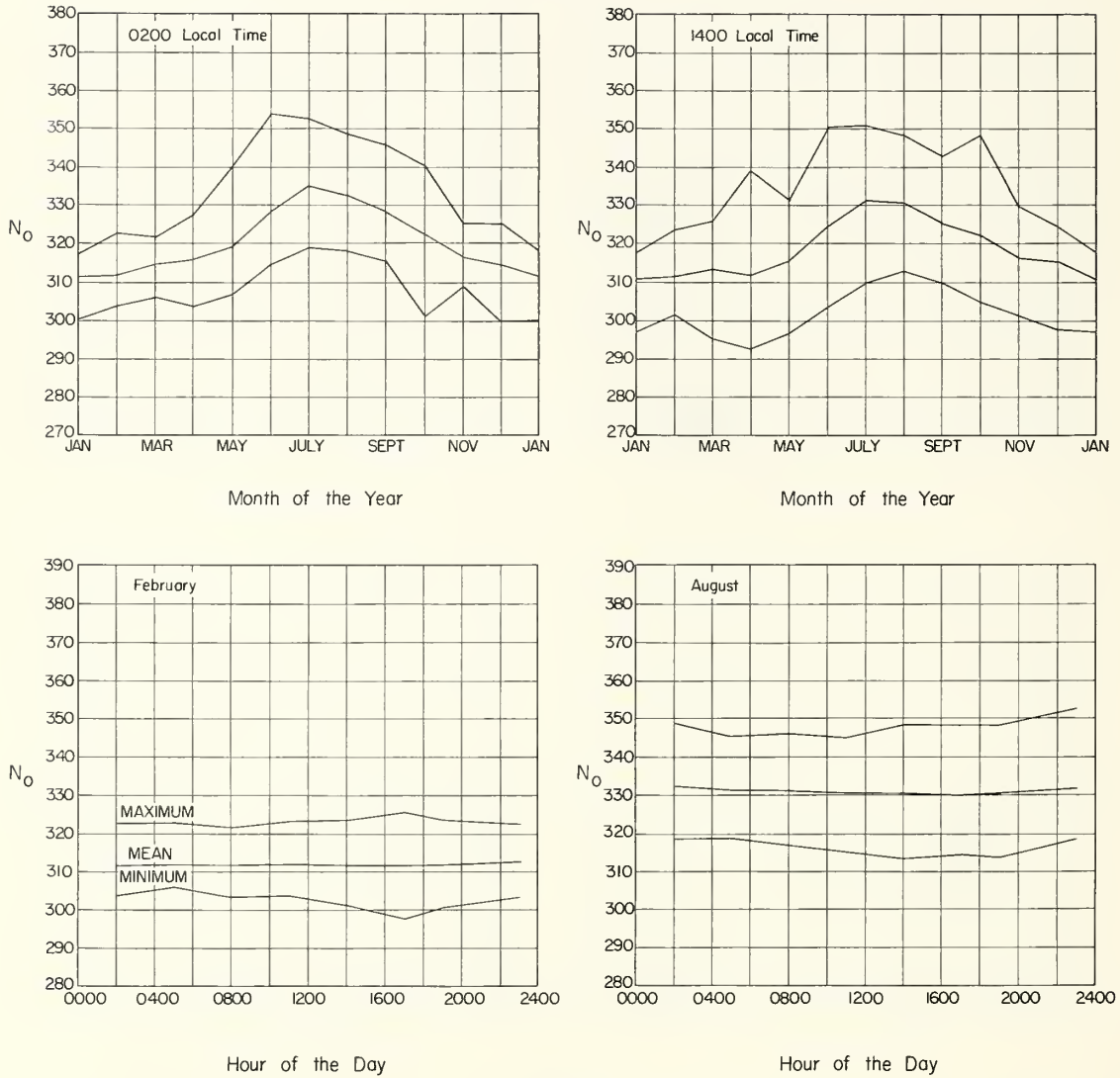


Figure 8

# SEASONAL AND DIURNAL CYCLES OF $N_0$

GROSSER FALKENSTEIN

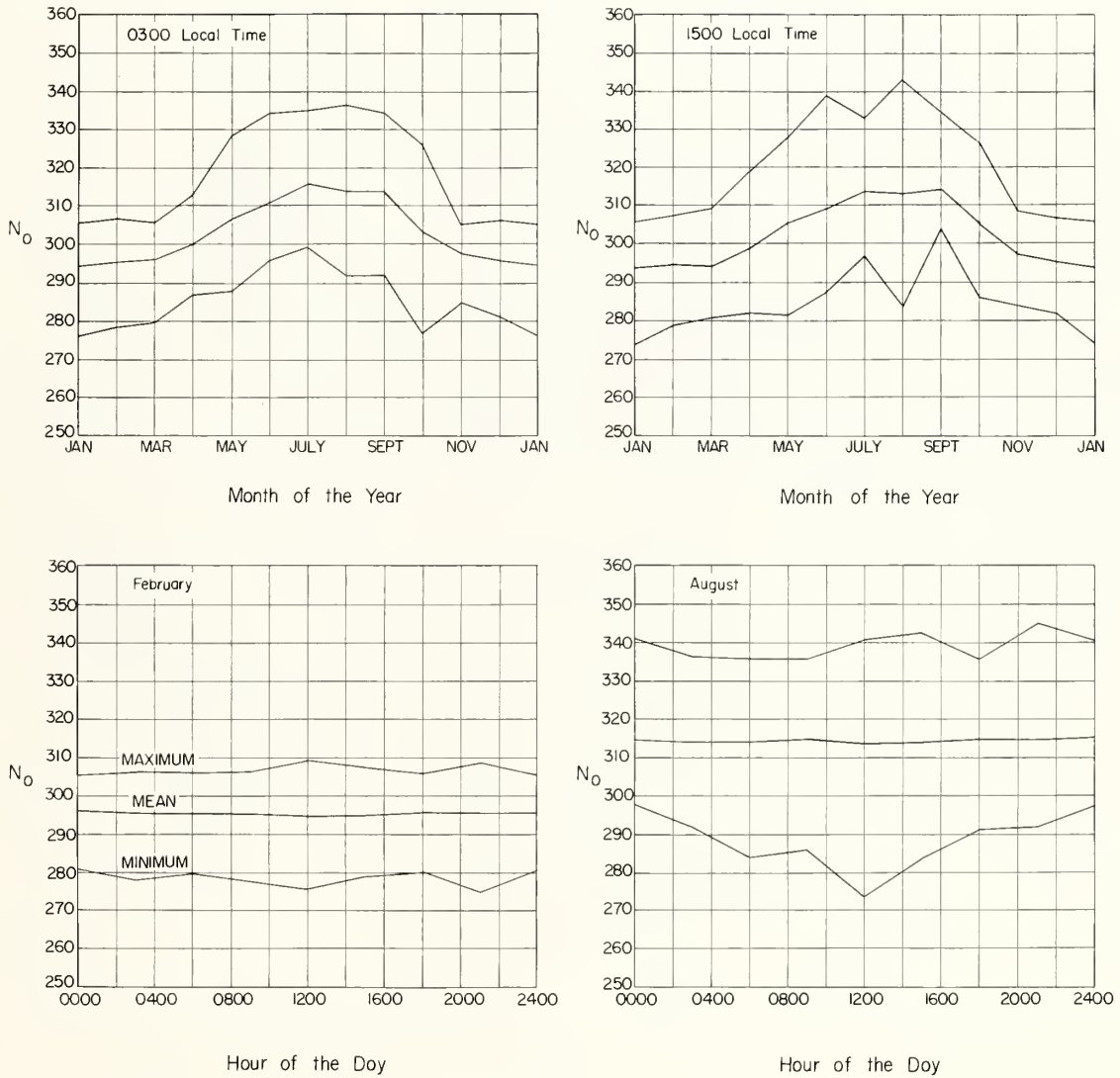


Figure 9

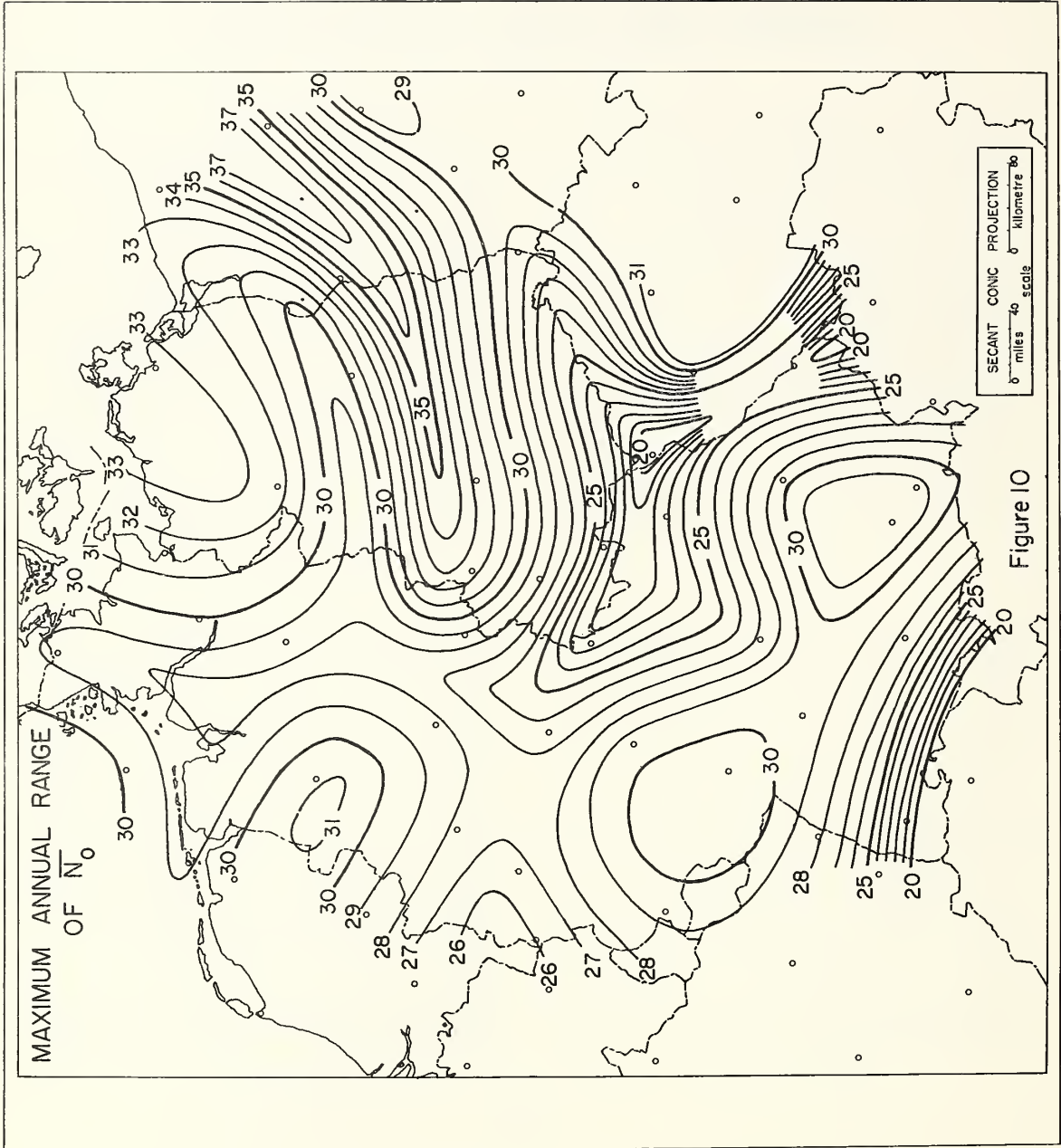


Figure 10

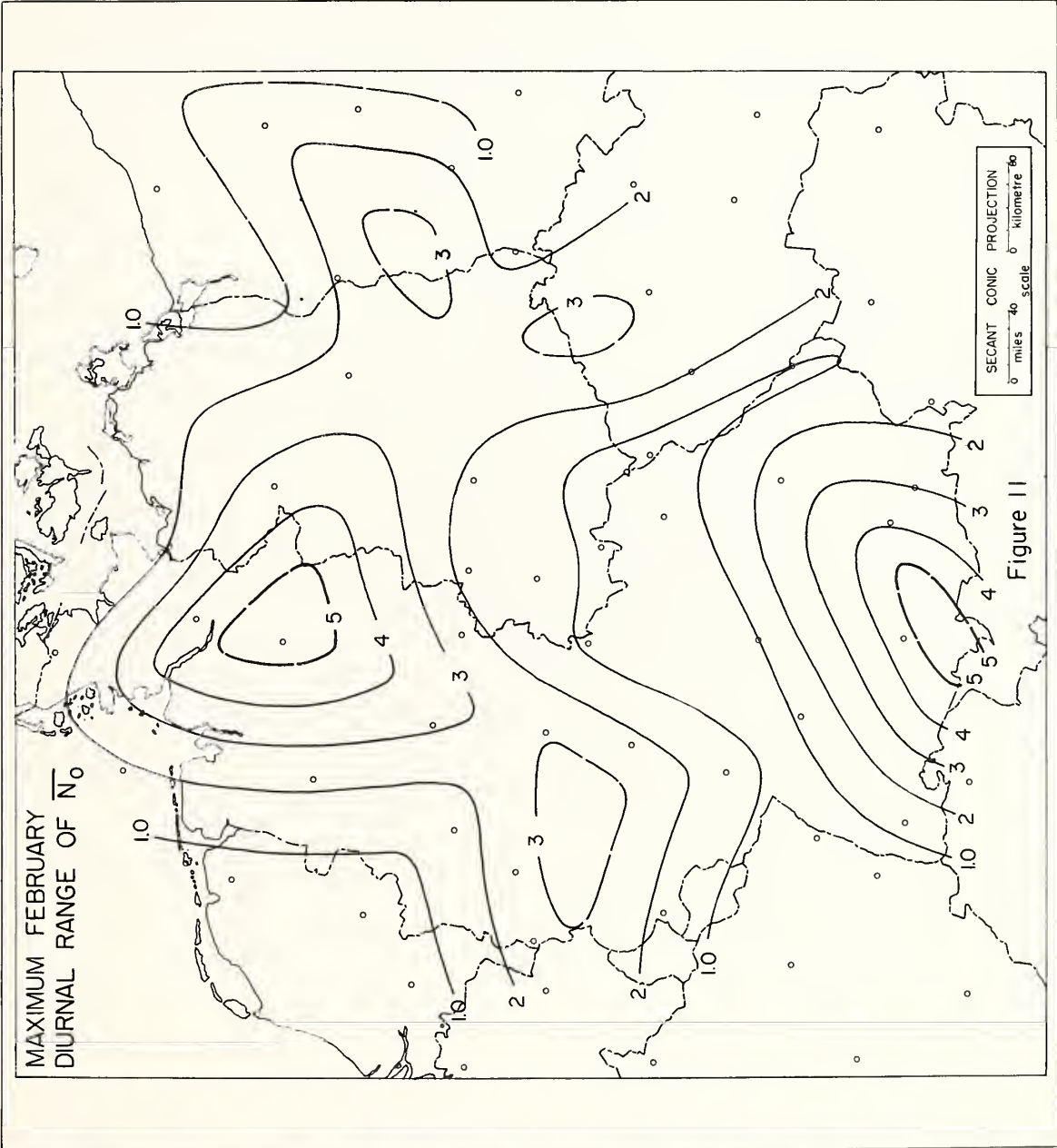


Figure 11



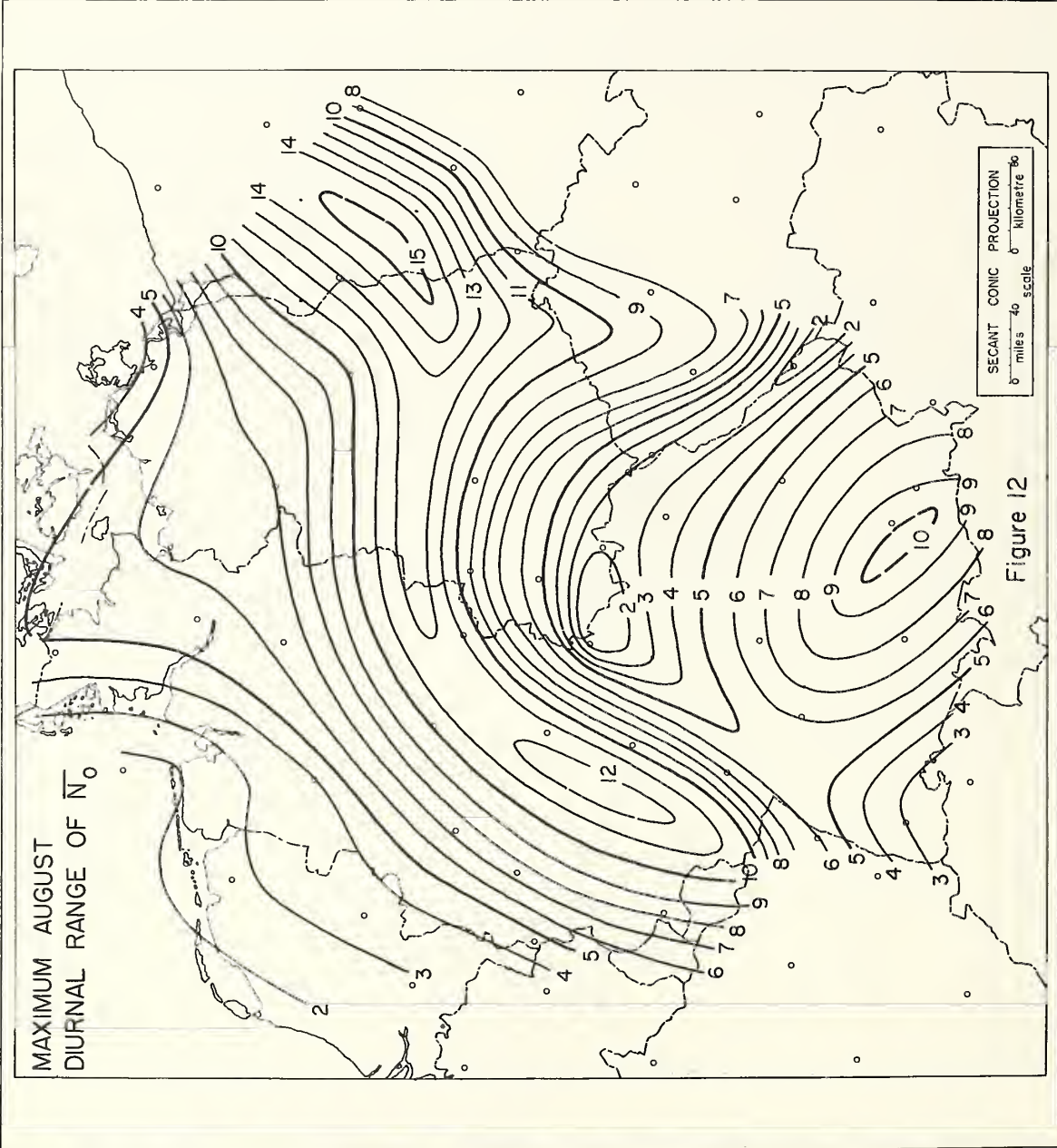
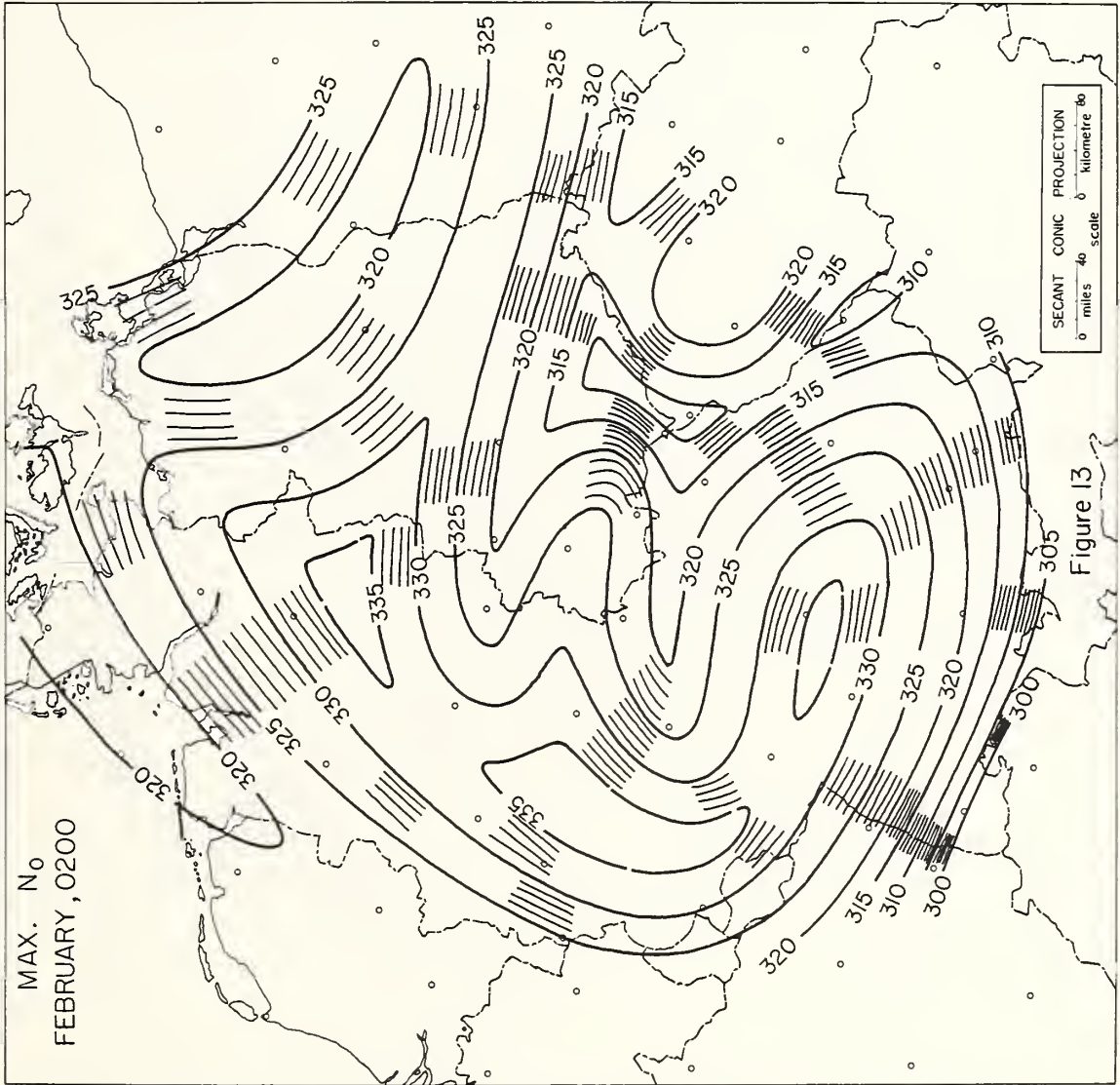


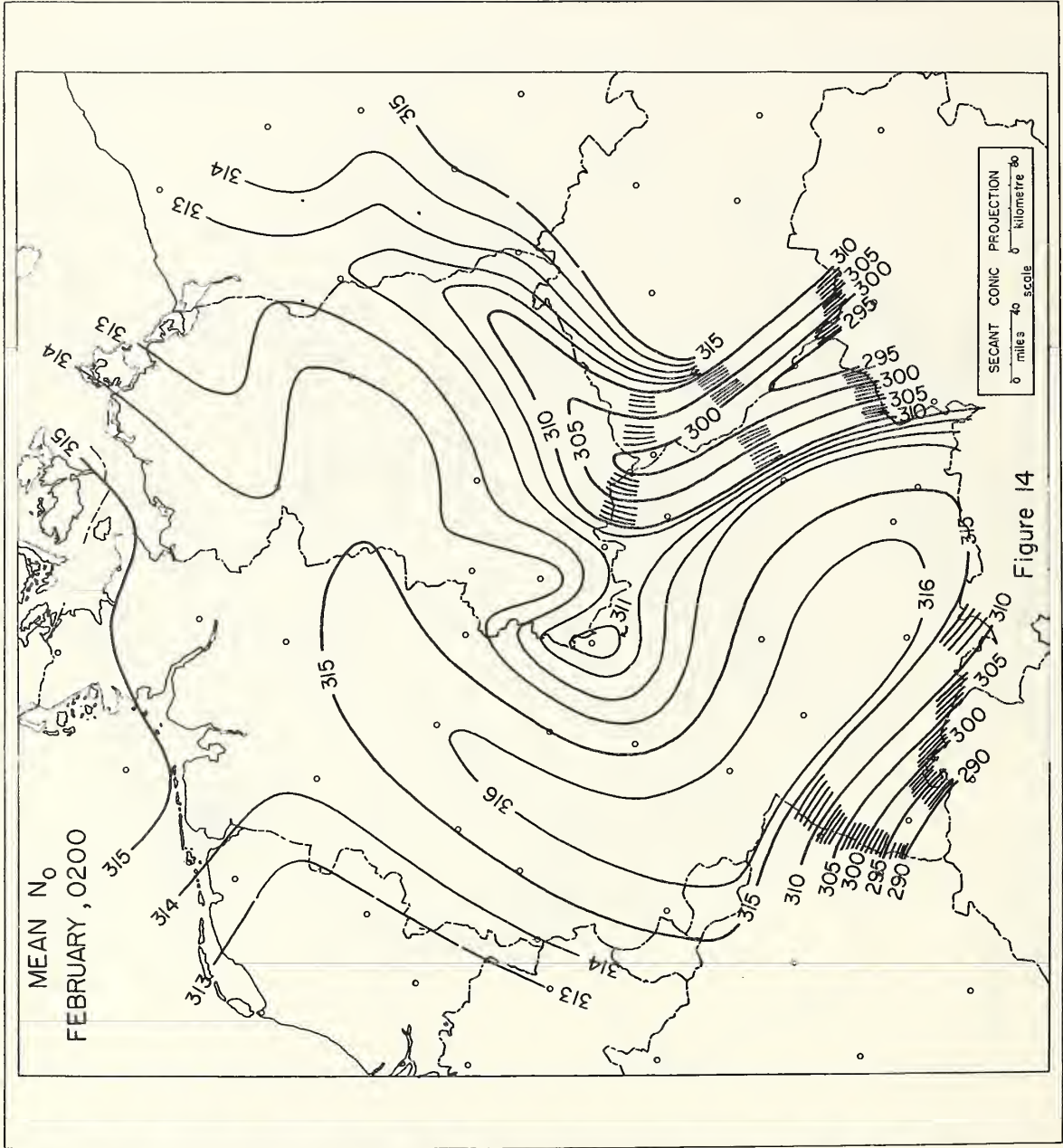
Figure 12

MAX. N<sub>o</sub>  
FEBRUARY, 0200



SECANT CONIC PROJECTION  
0 miles 40 scale  
0 kilometre 60

Figure 13





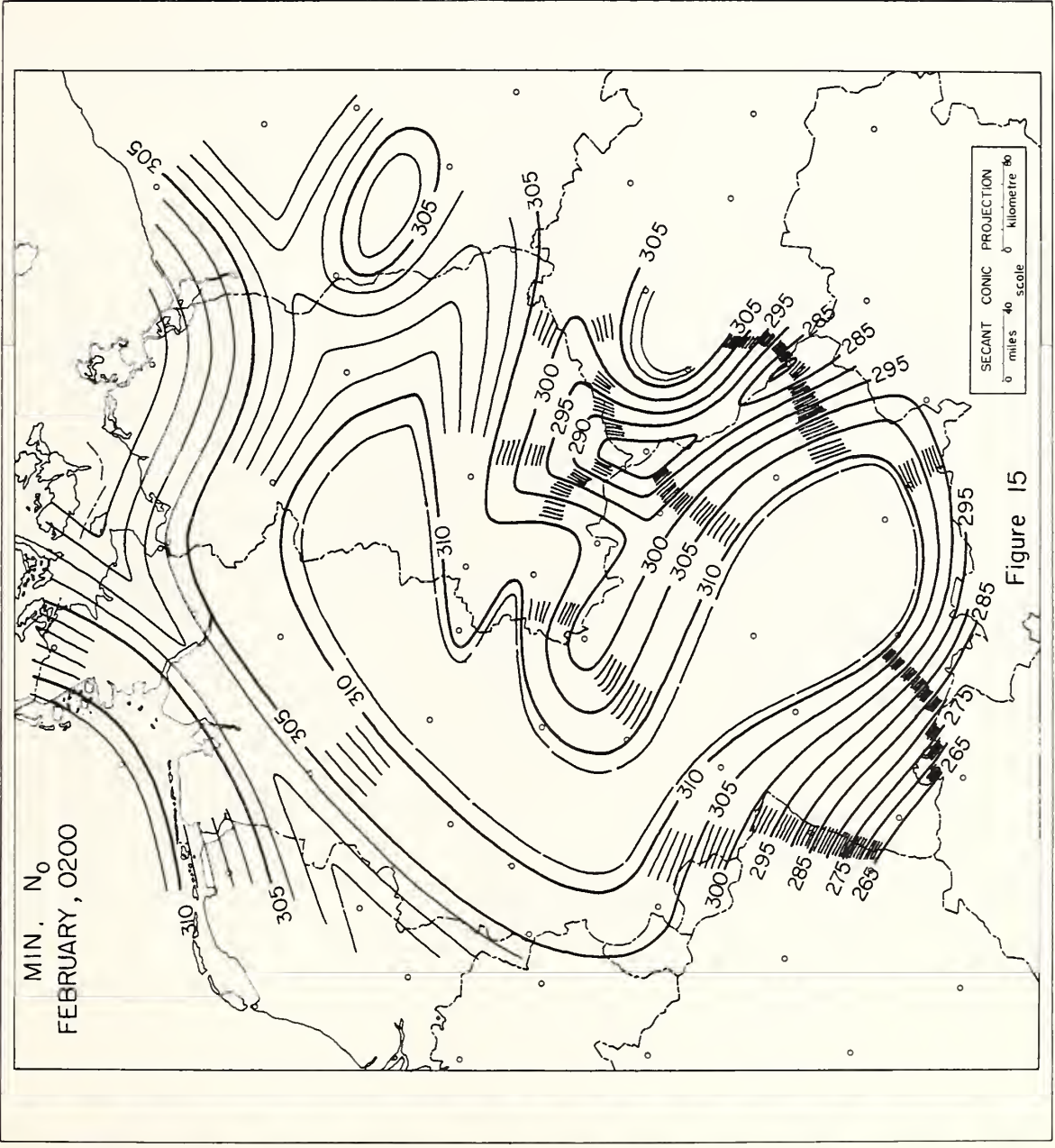
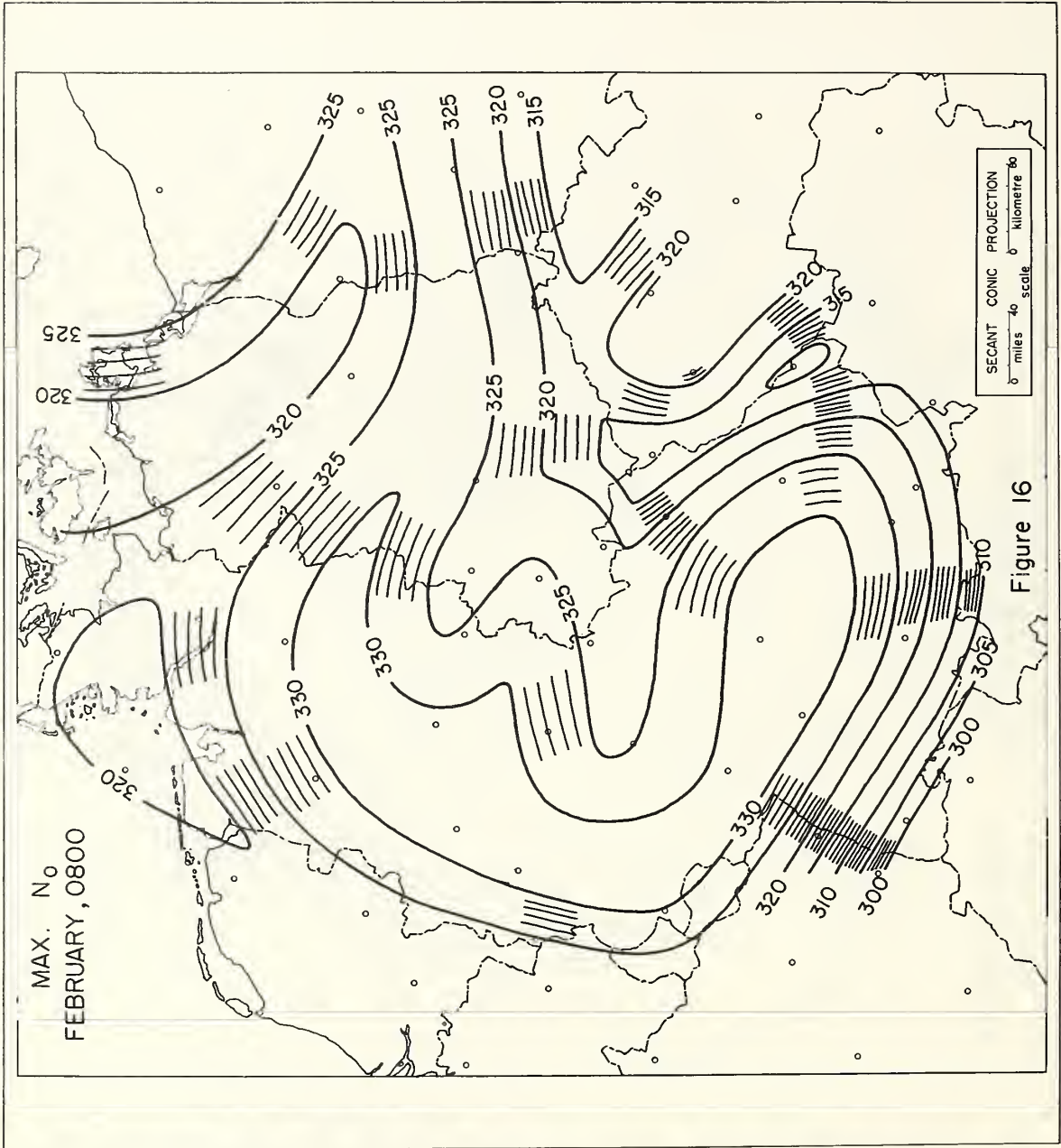
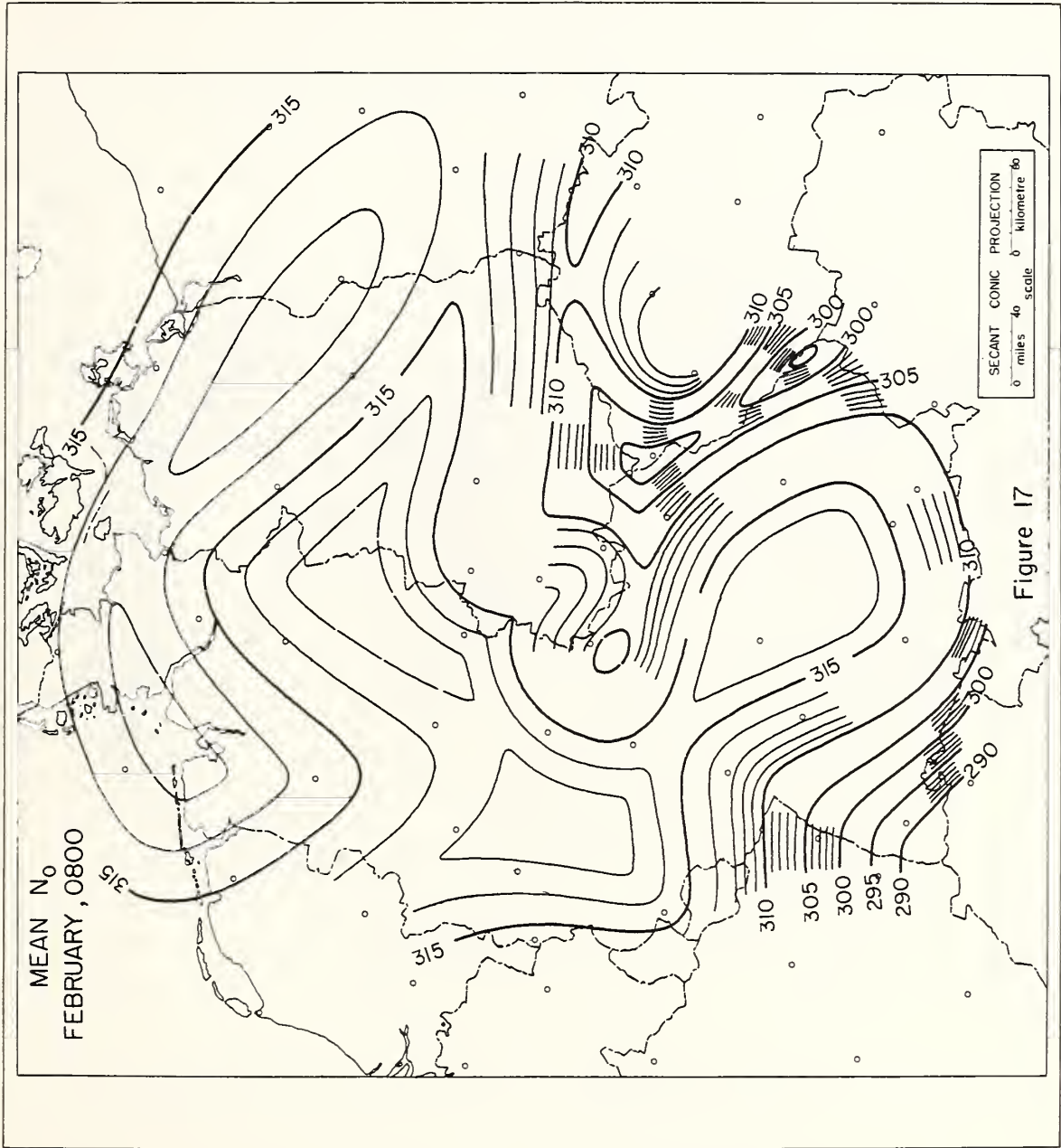


Figure 15







MIN. N<sub>0</sub>  
FEBRUARY, 0800

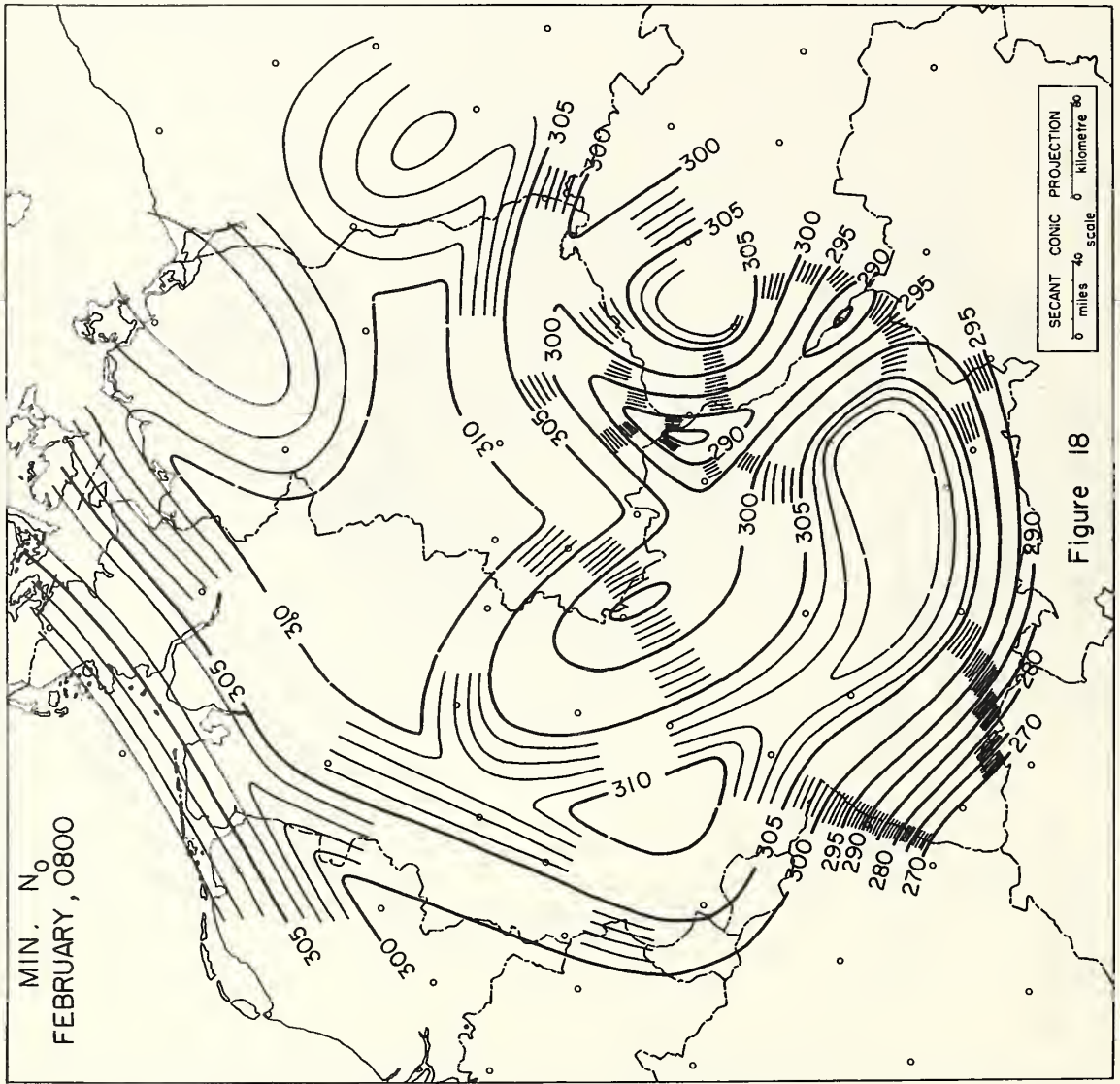
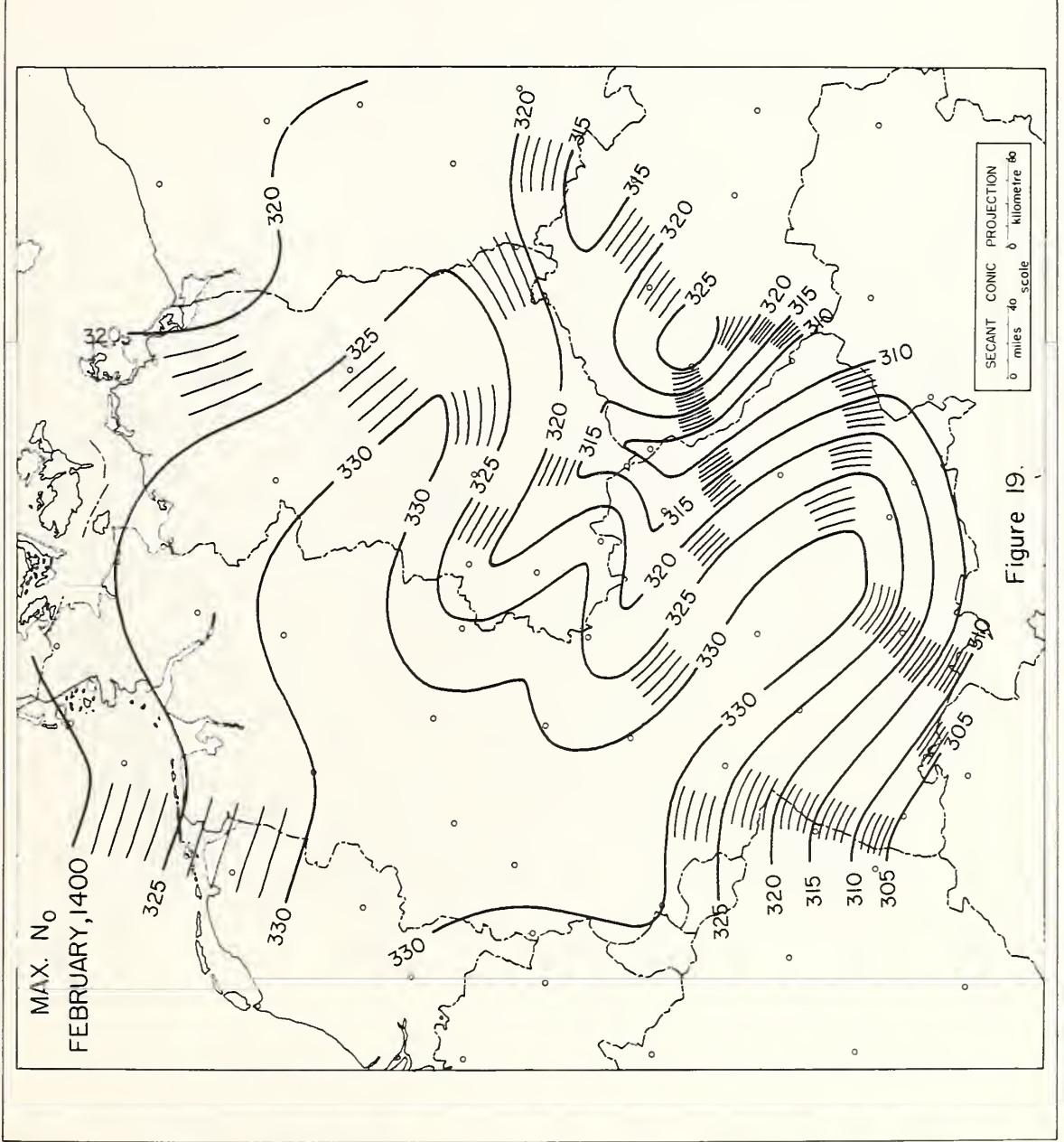
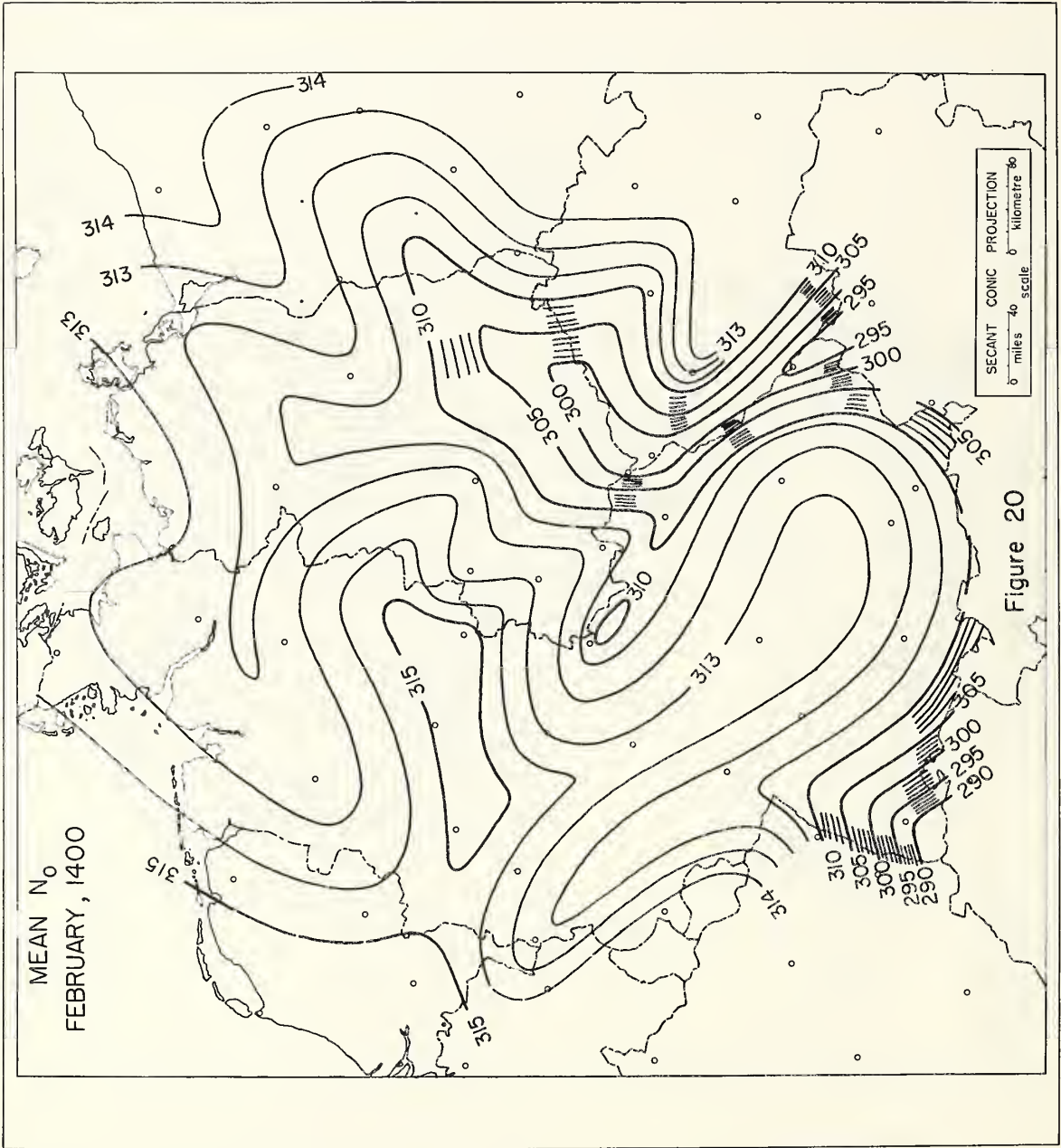


Figure 18







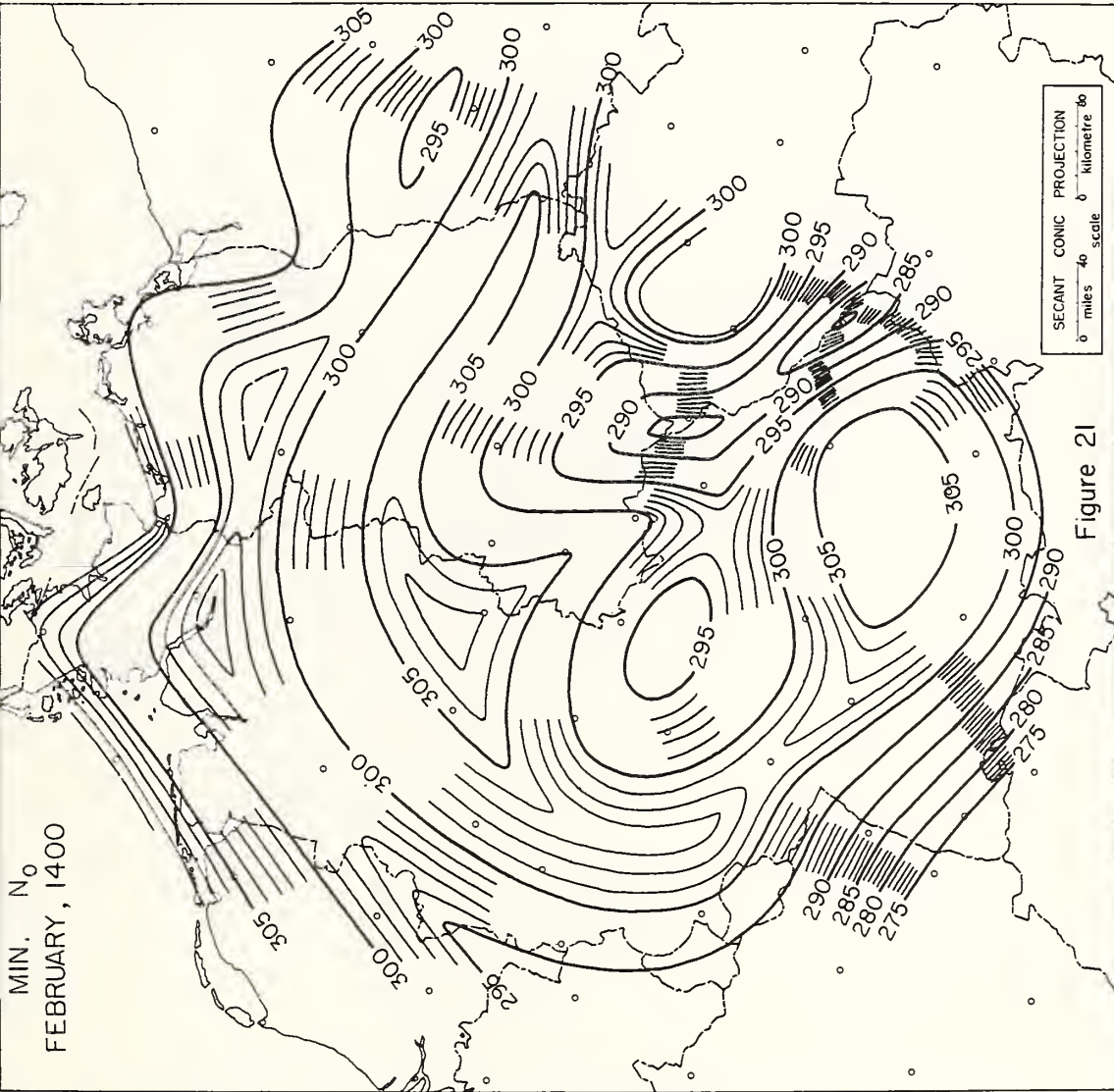


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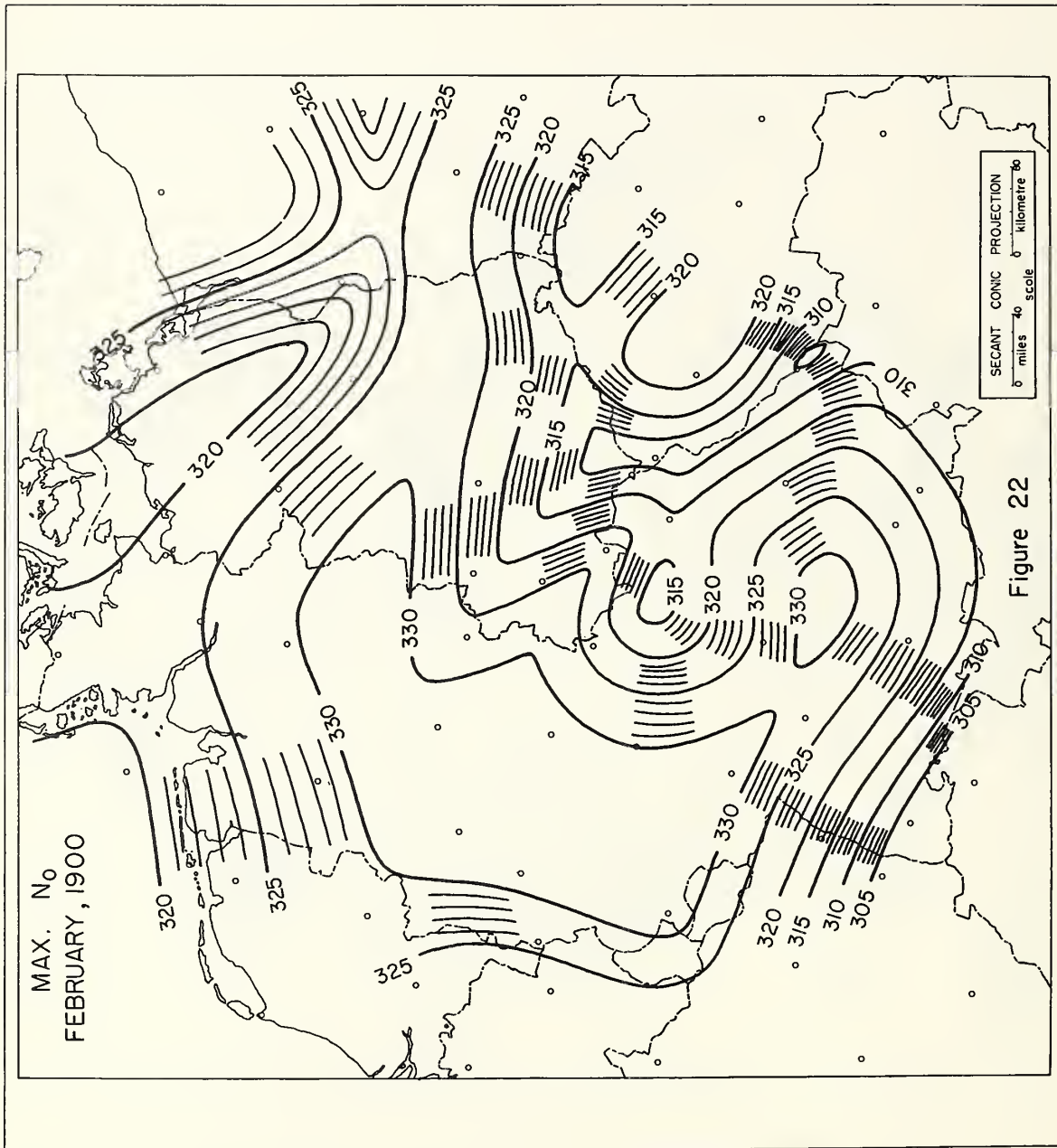


Figure 22



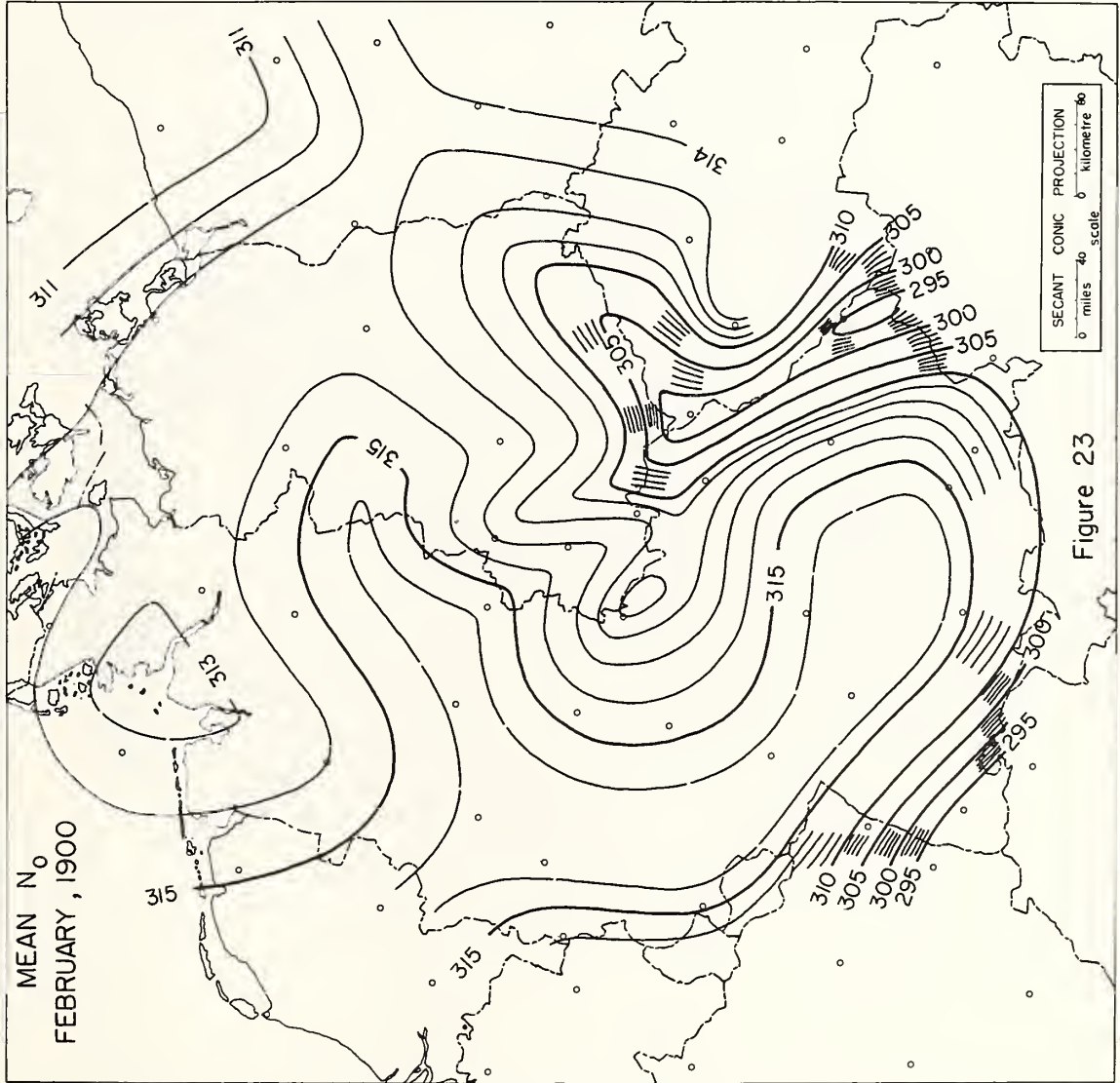
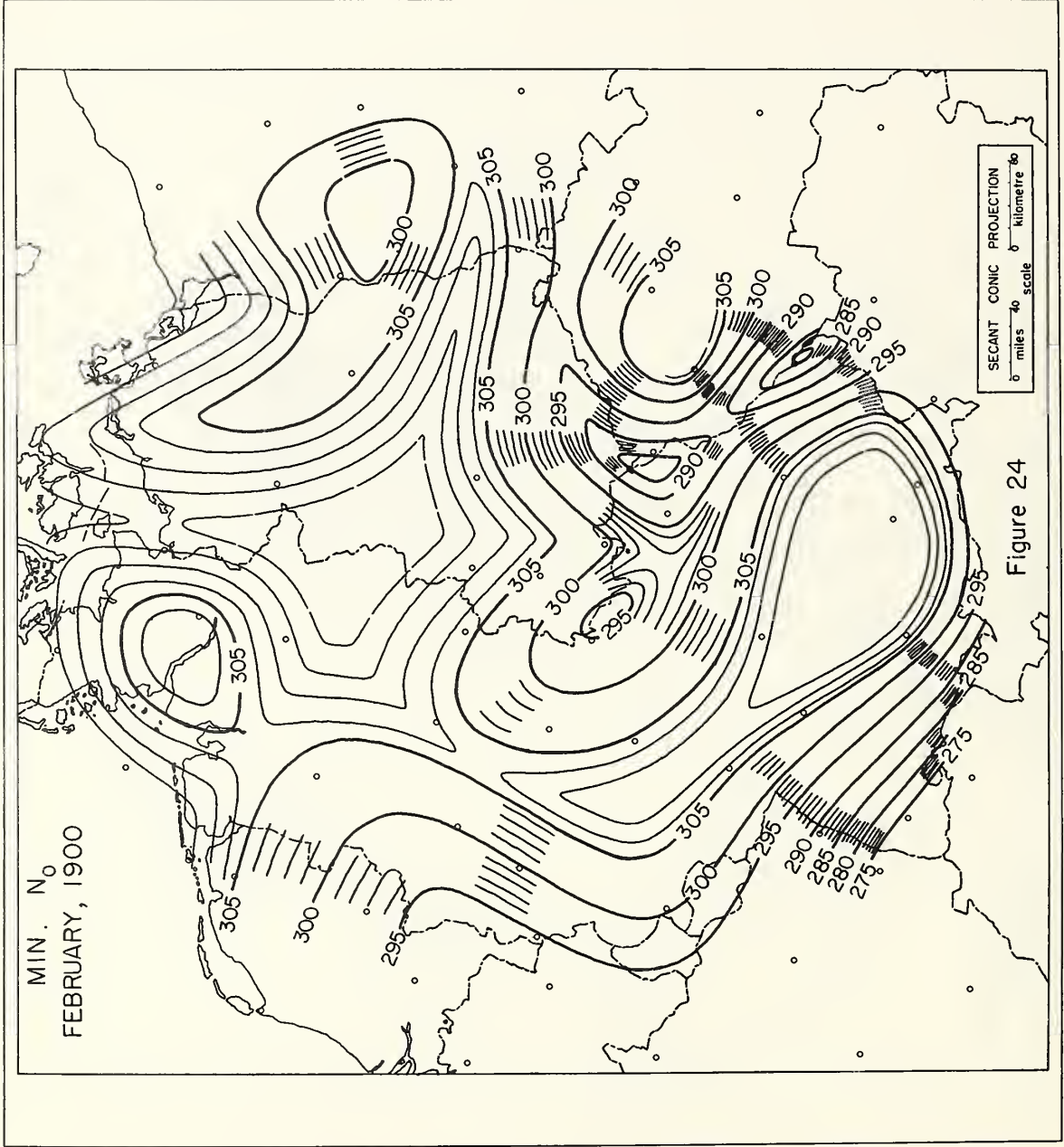
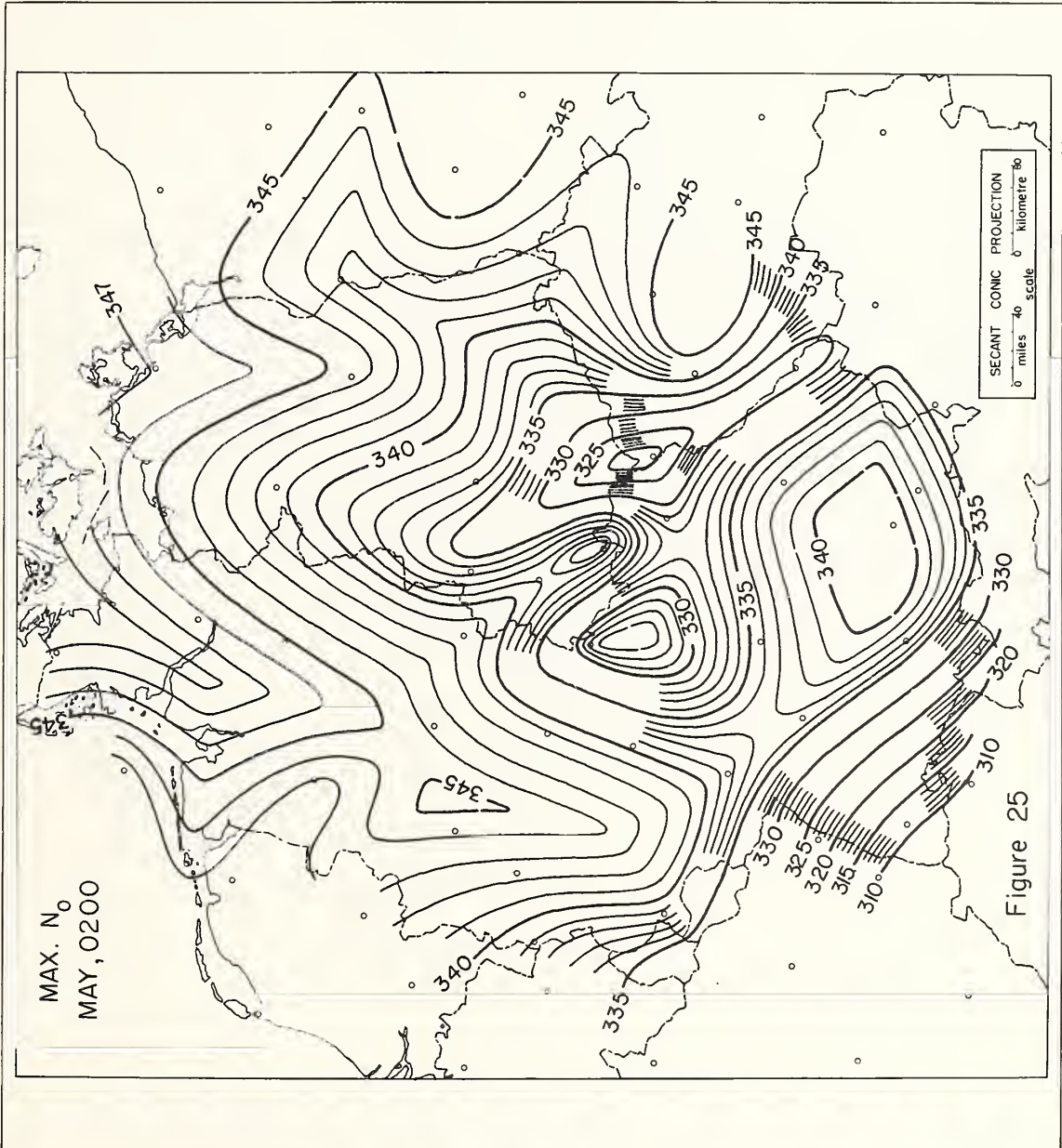


Figure 23





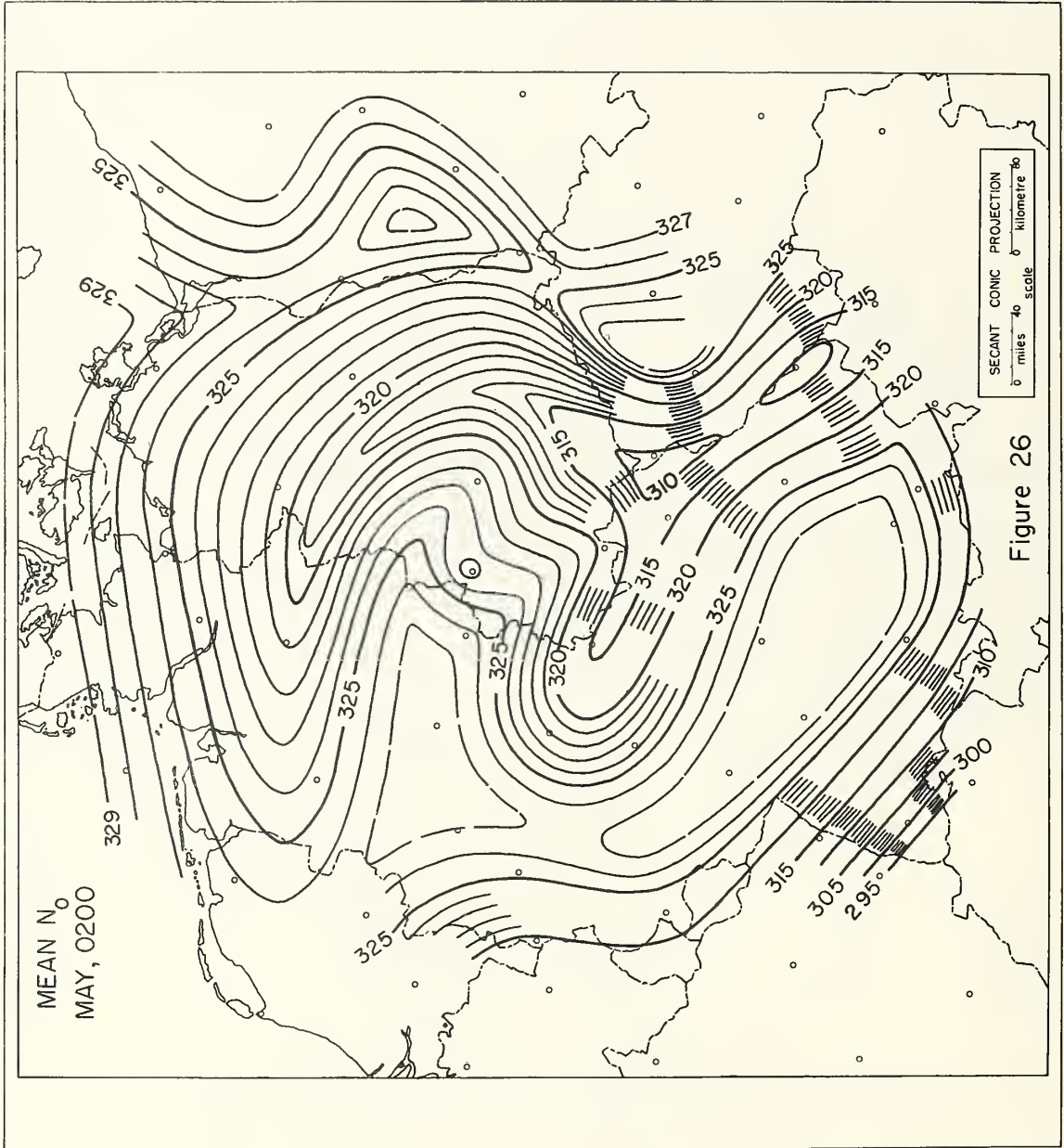
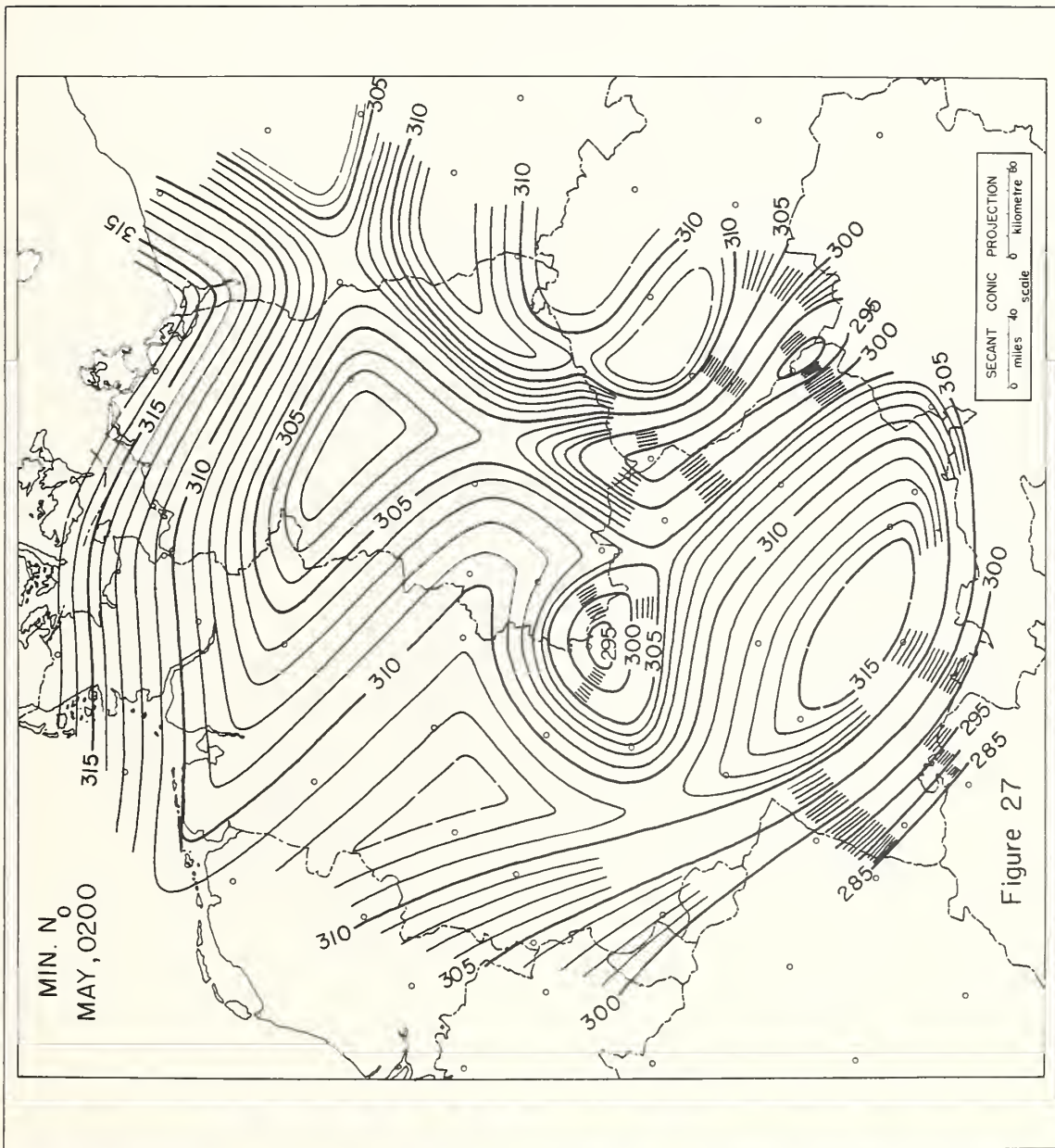
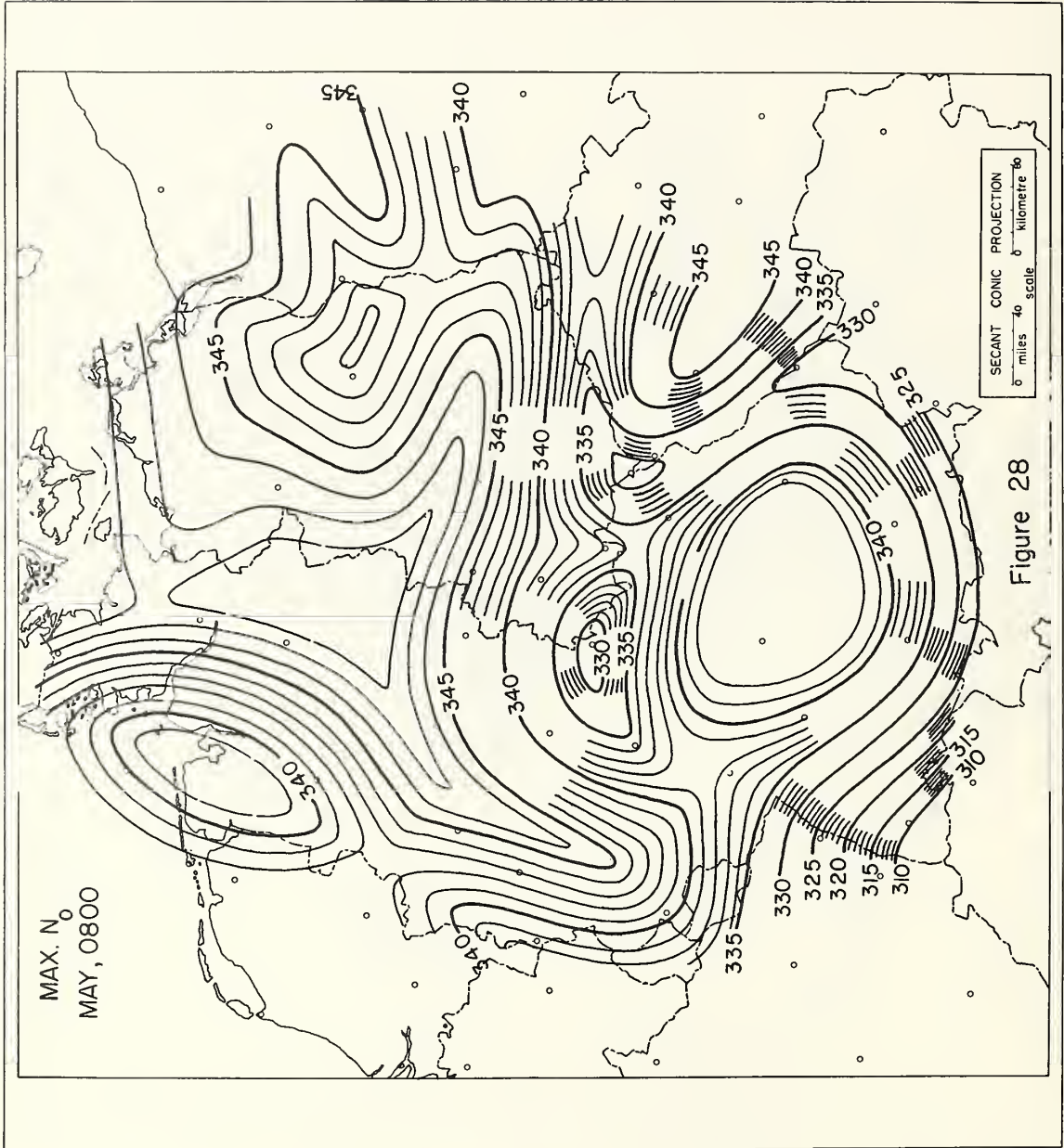


Figure 26









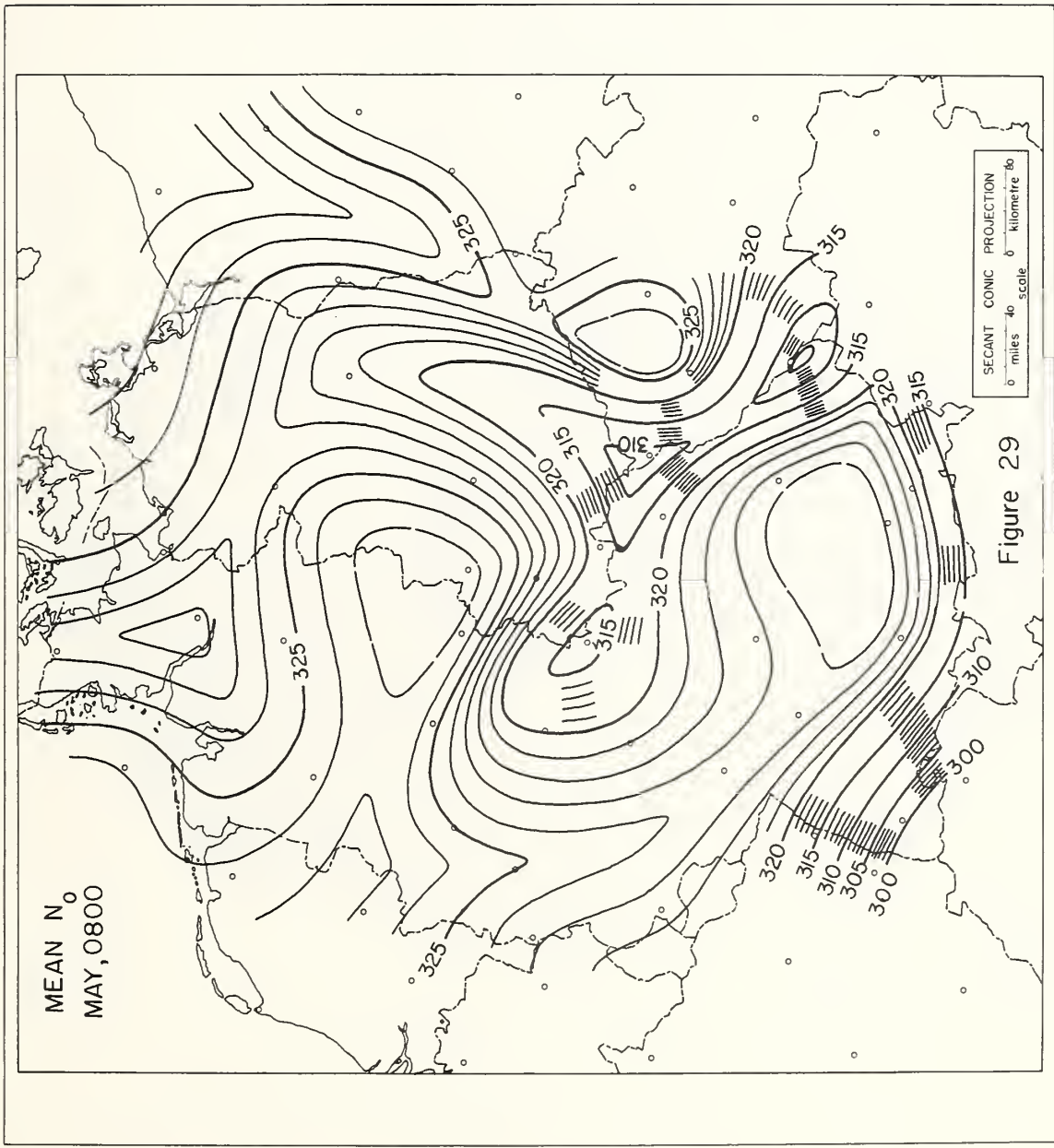
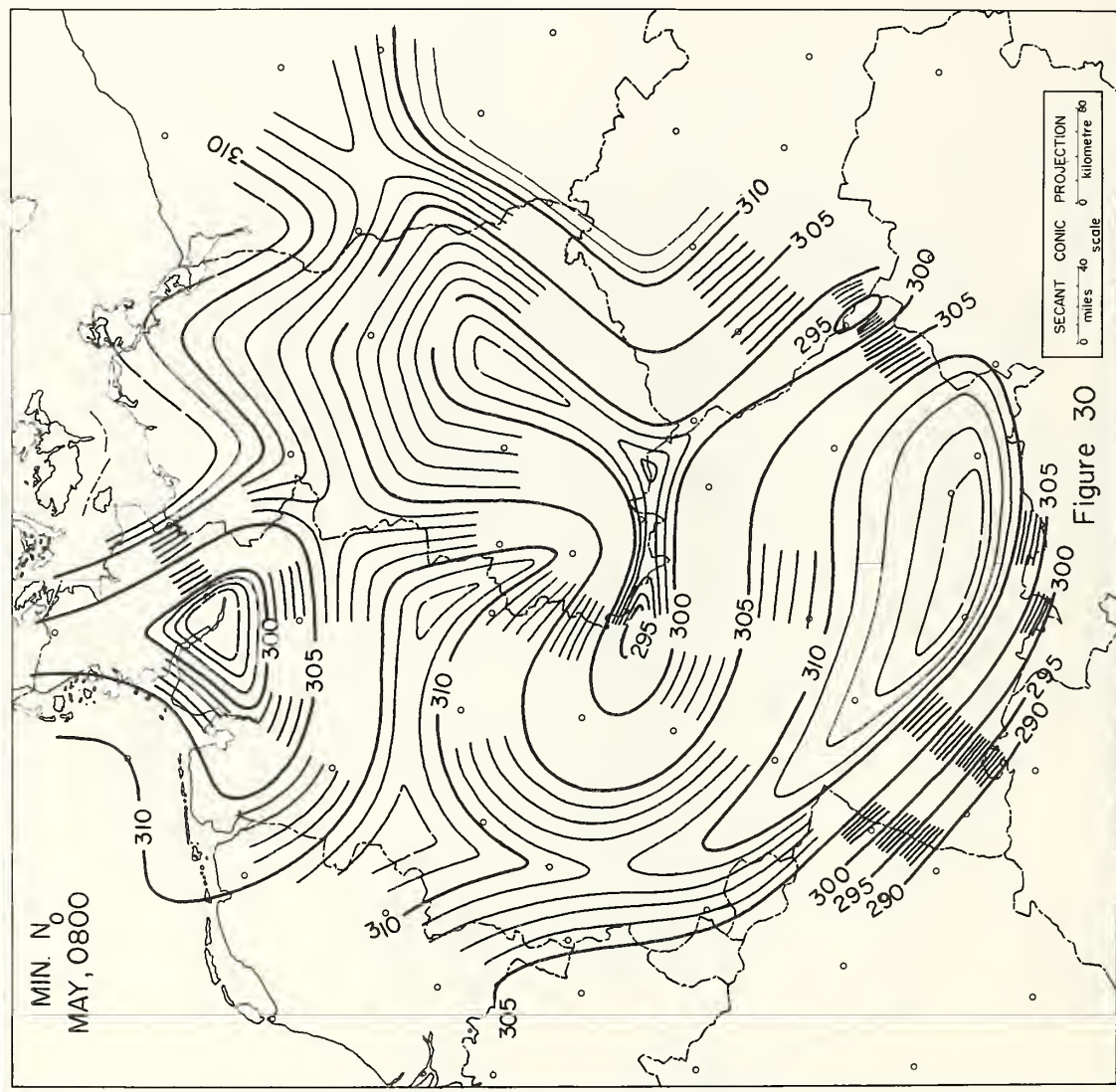


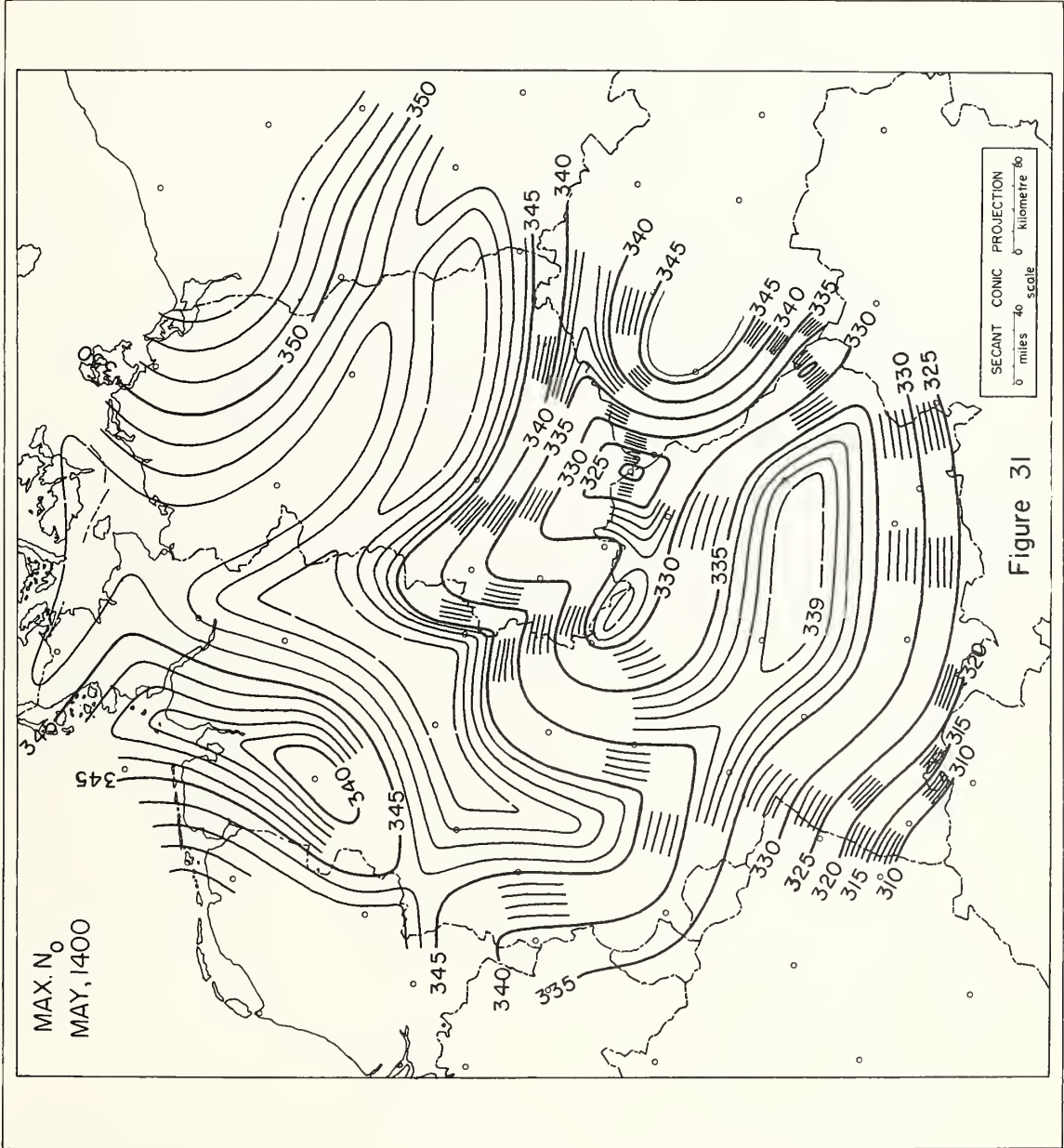
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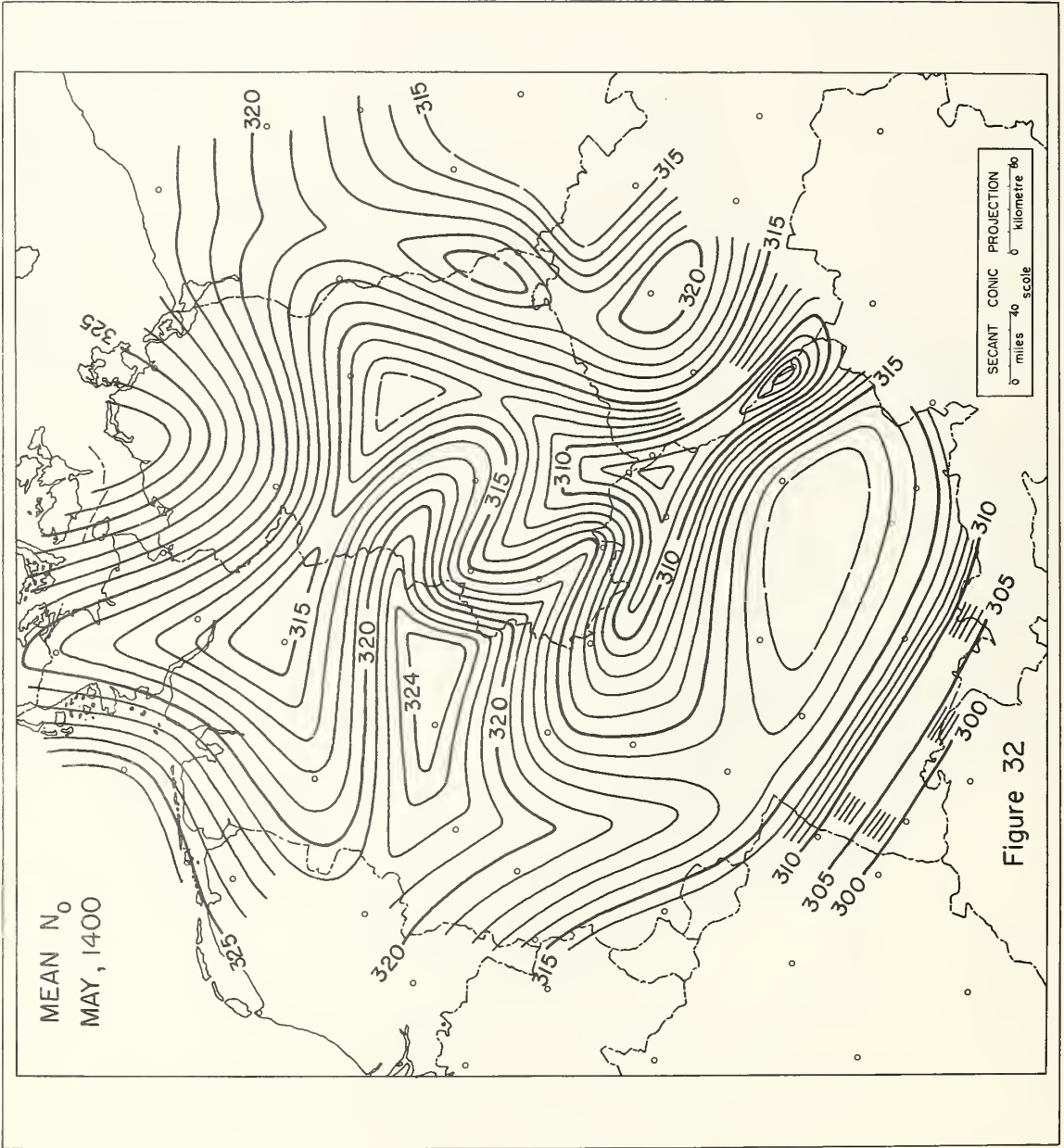
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MAY, 0800



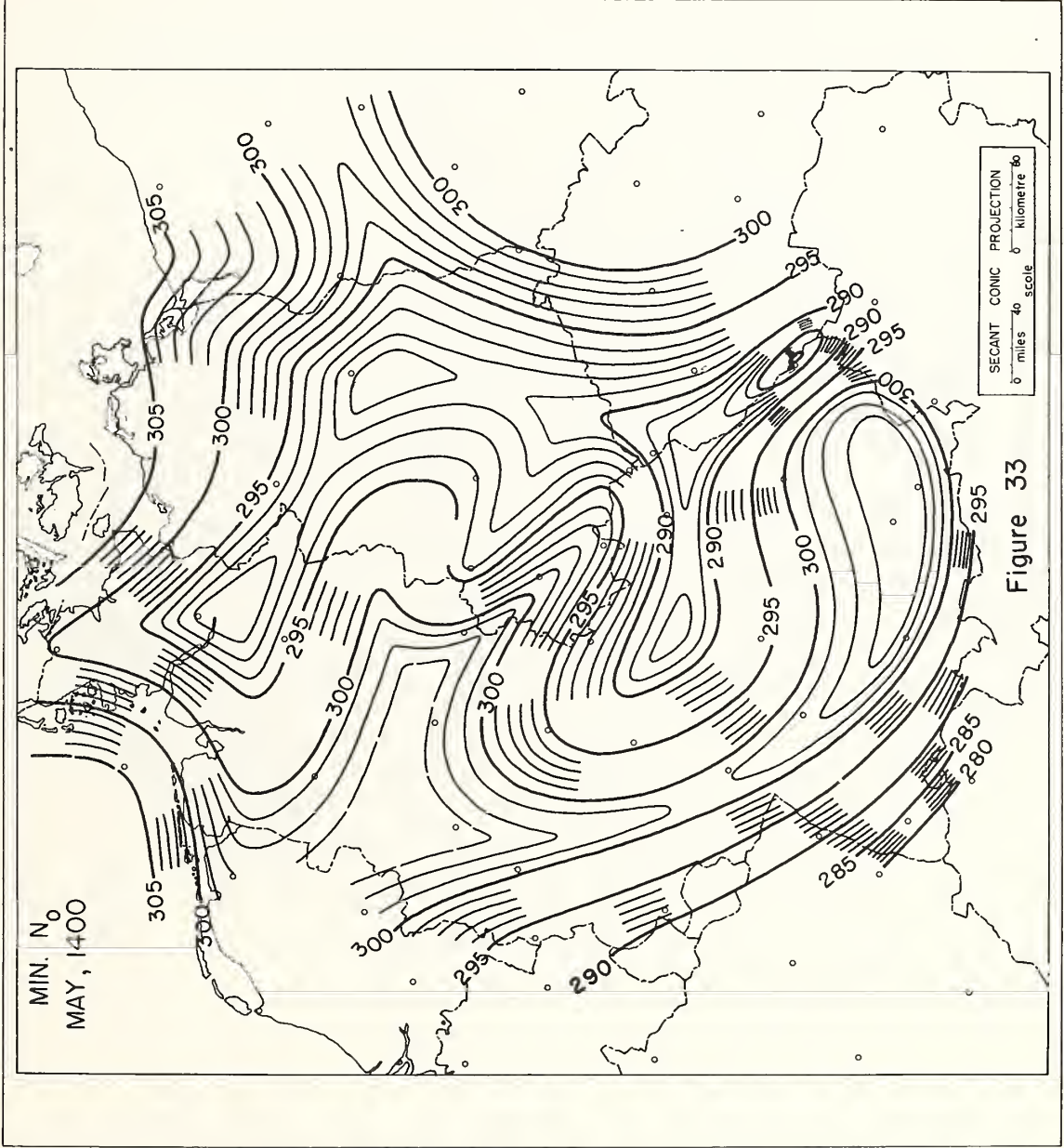
SECANT CONIC PROJECTION  
0 miles 40 scale 0 kilometre 80

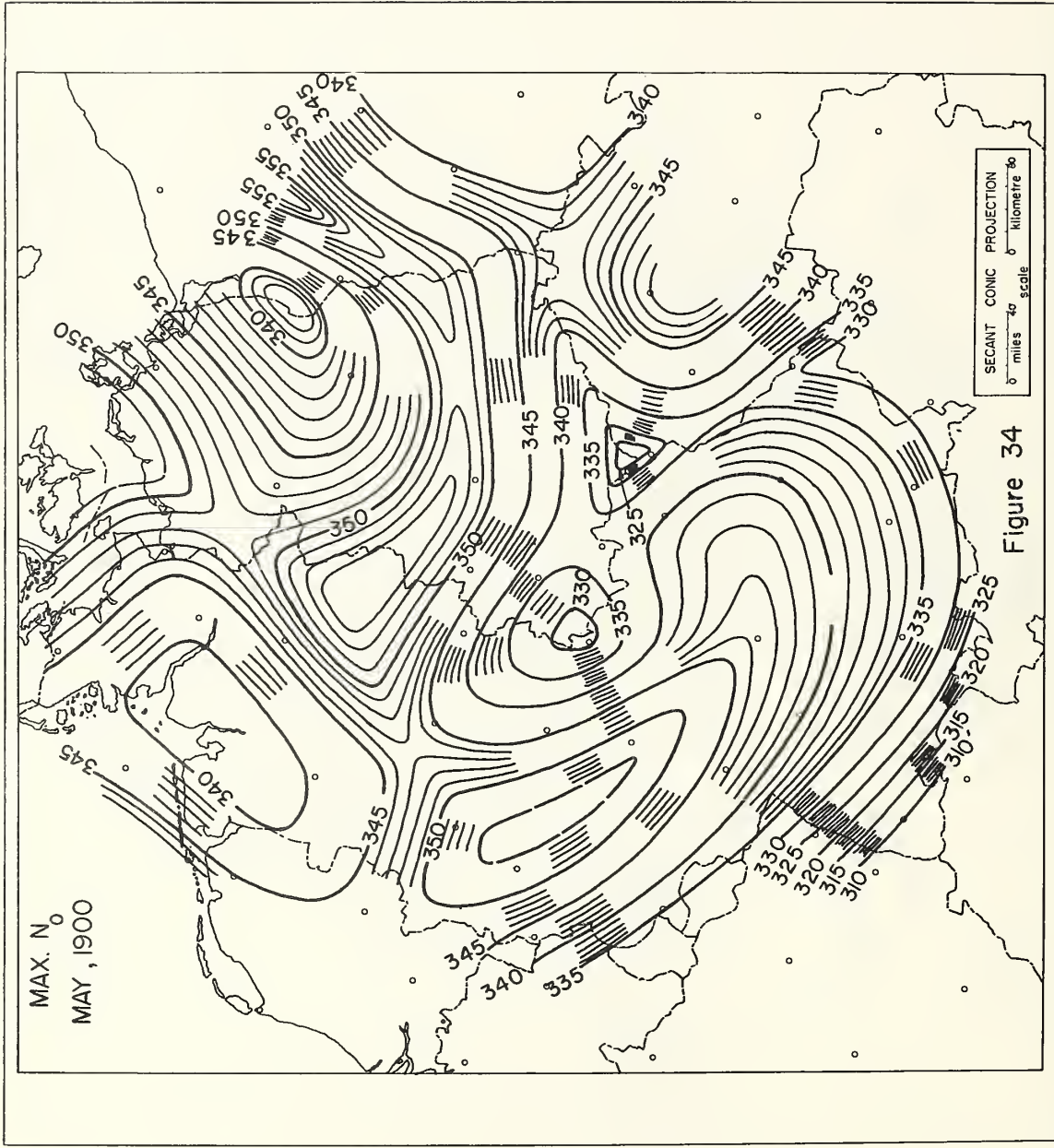
Figure 30













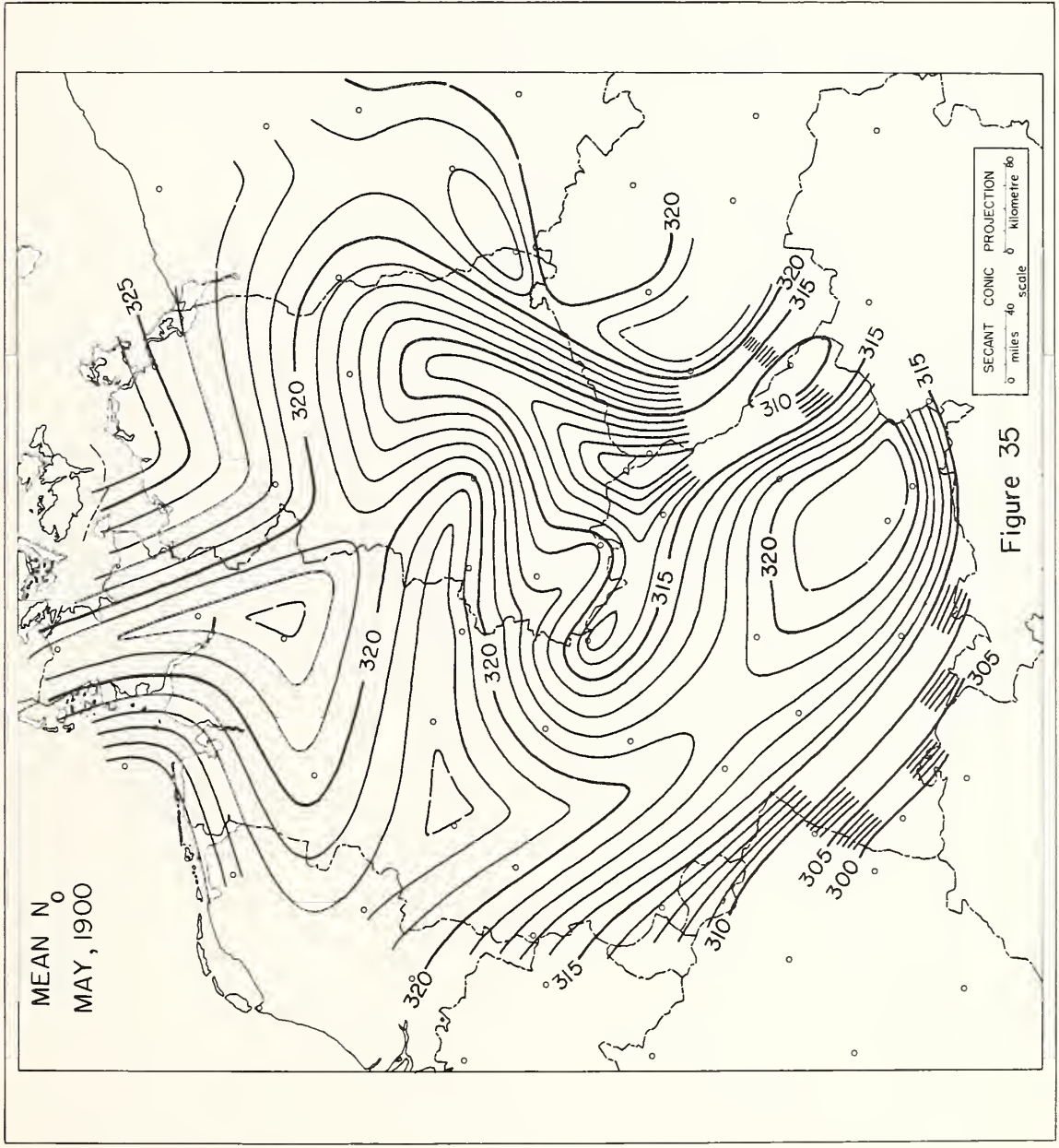
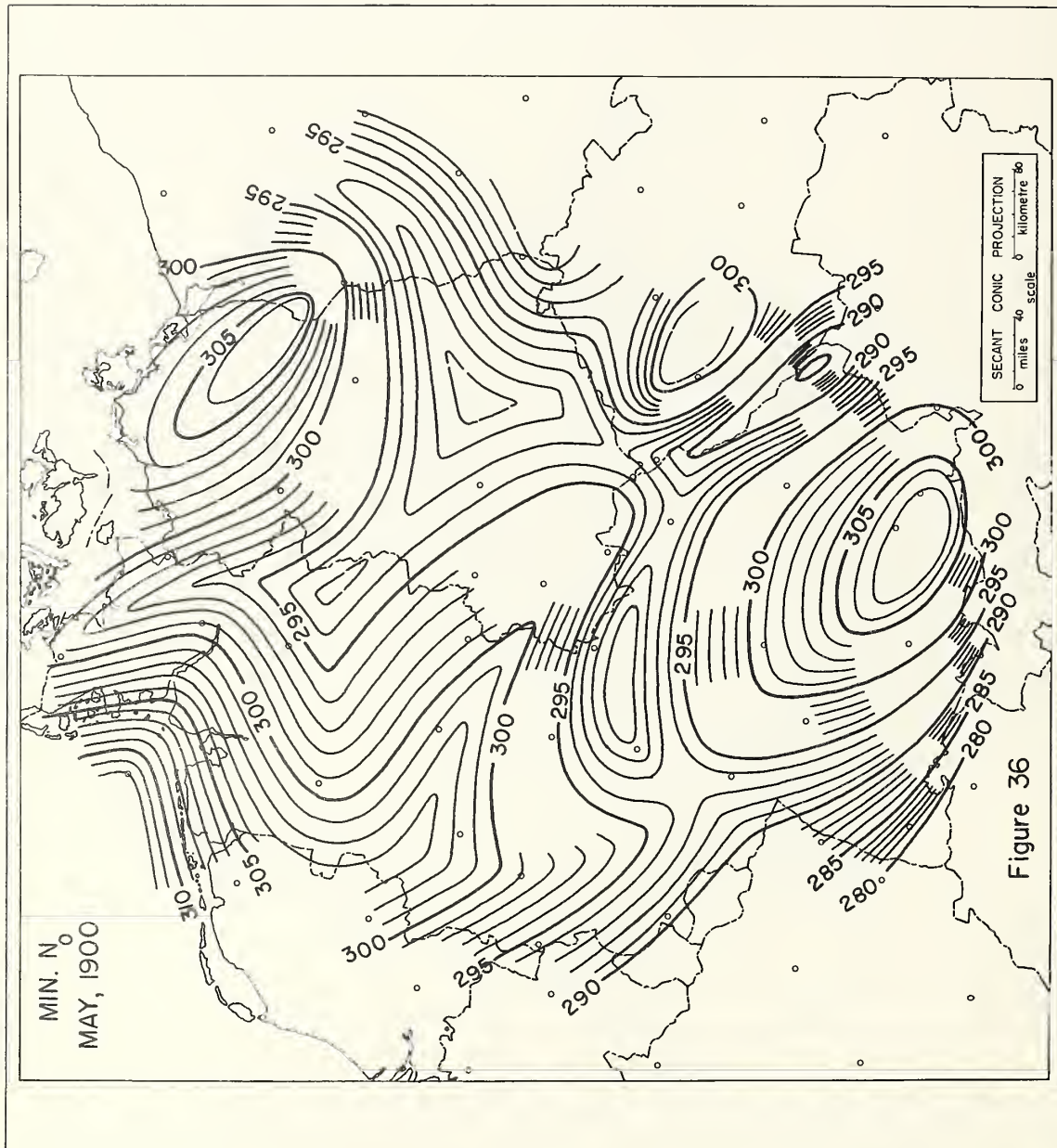
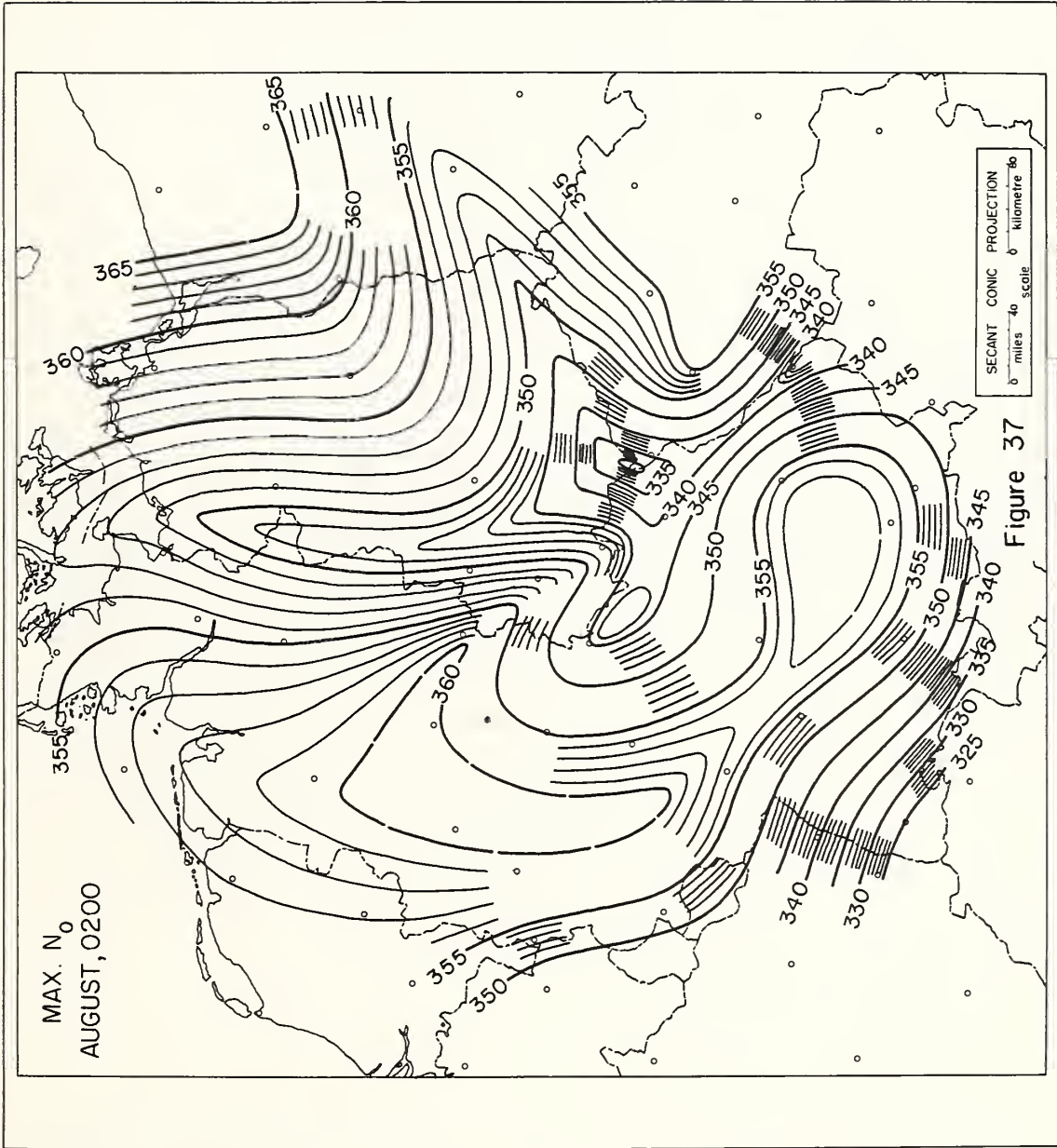
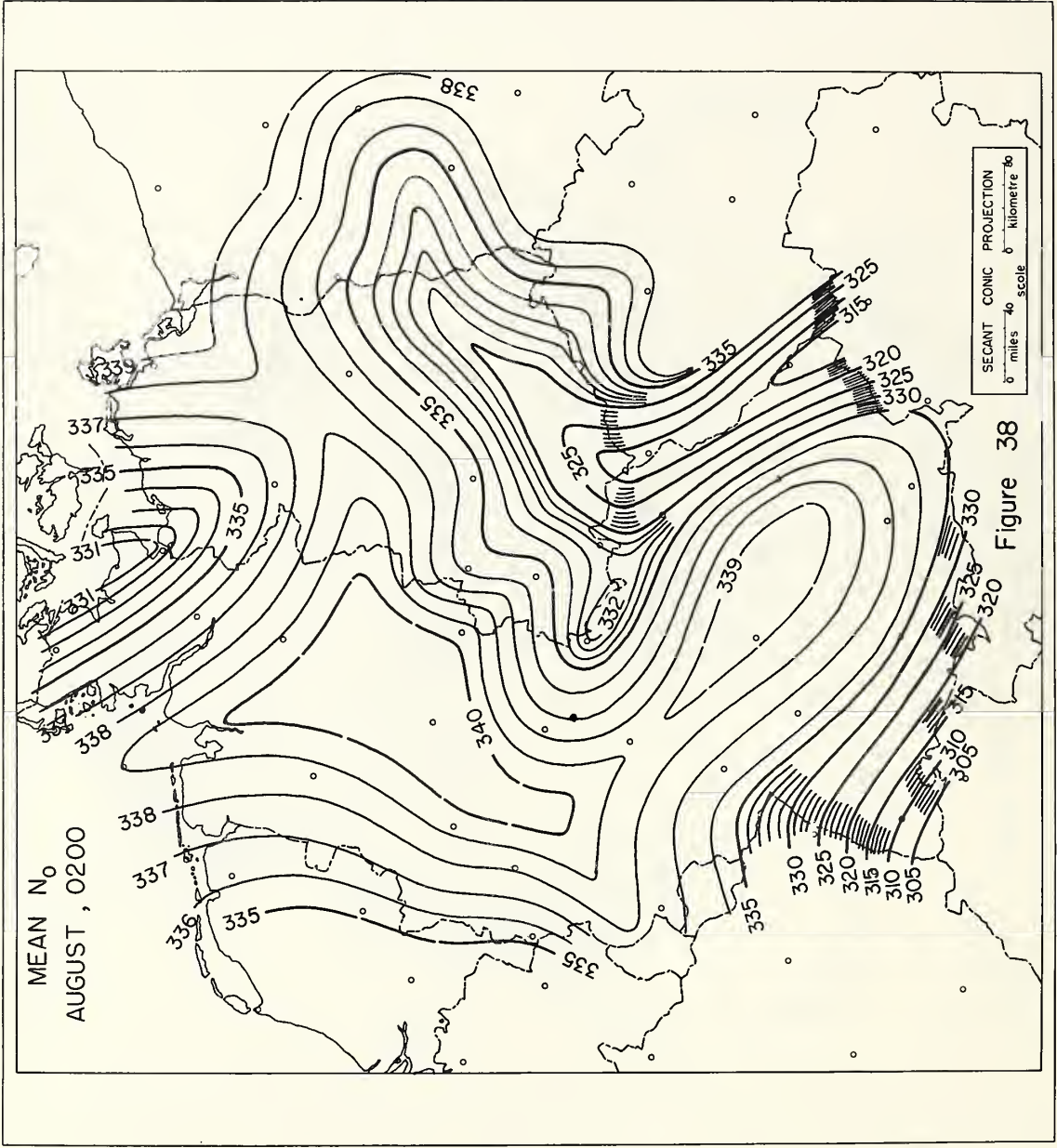


Figure 35









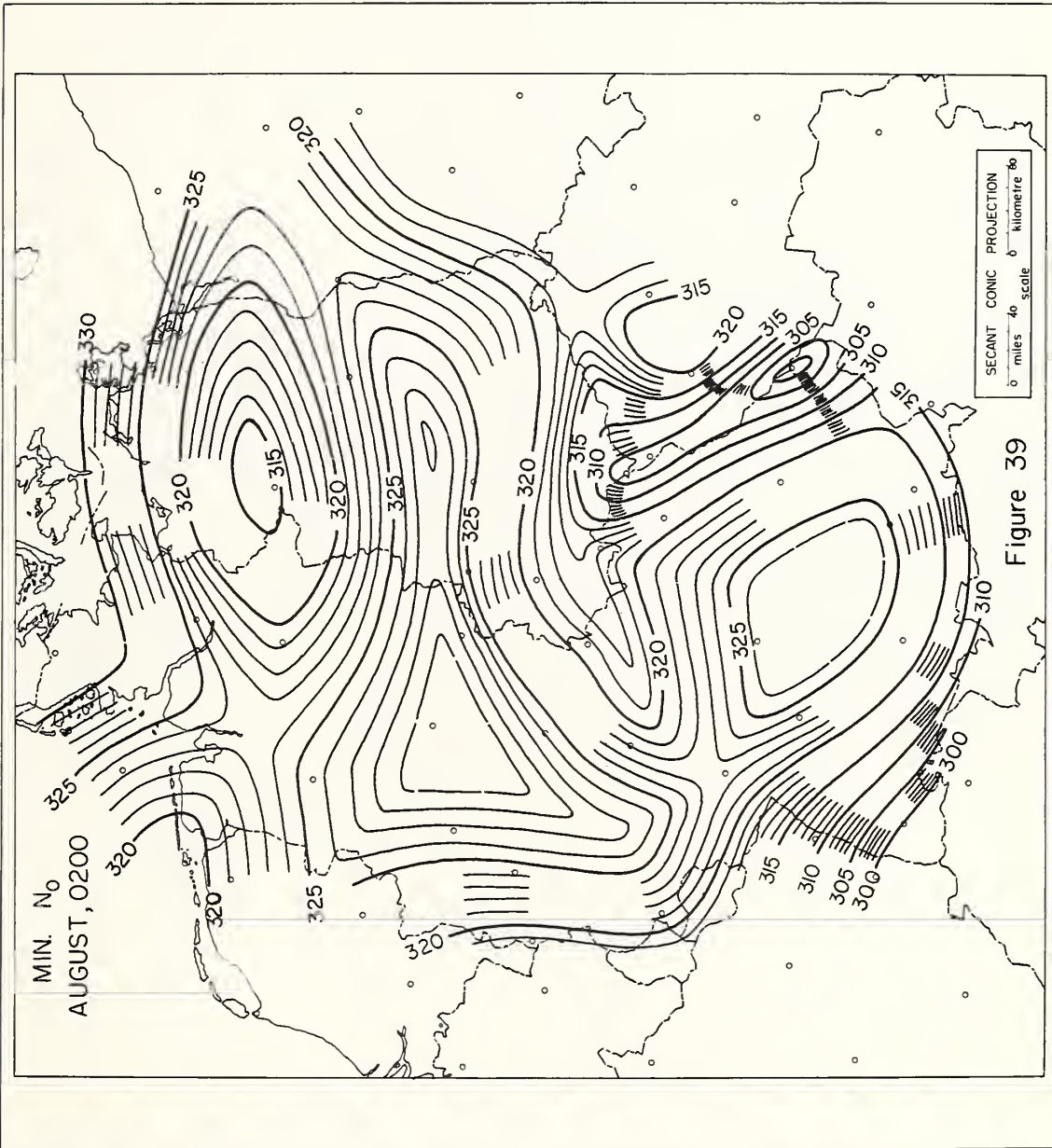


Figure 39



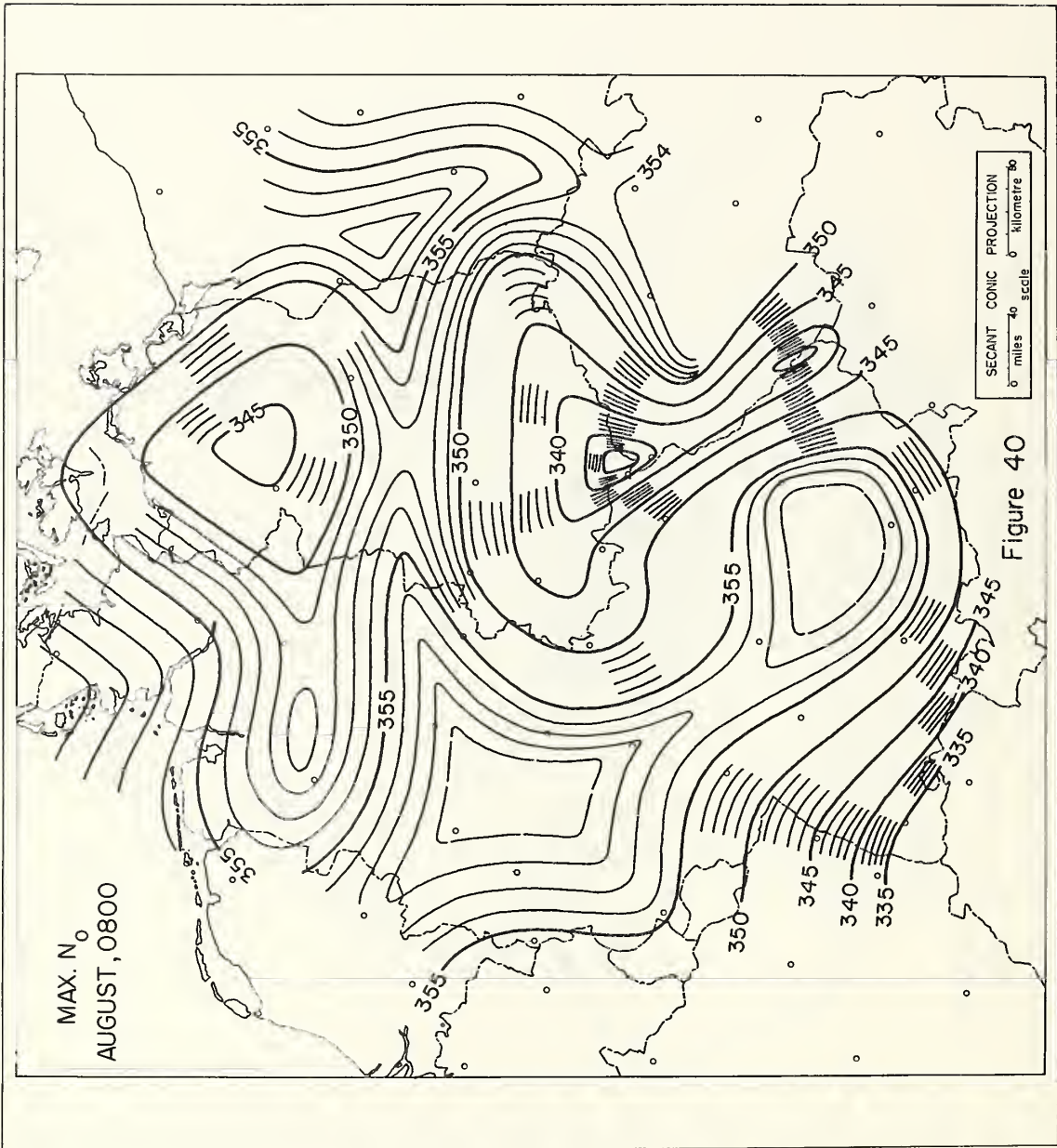
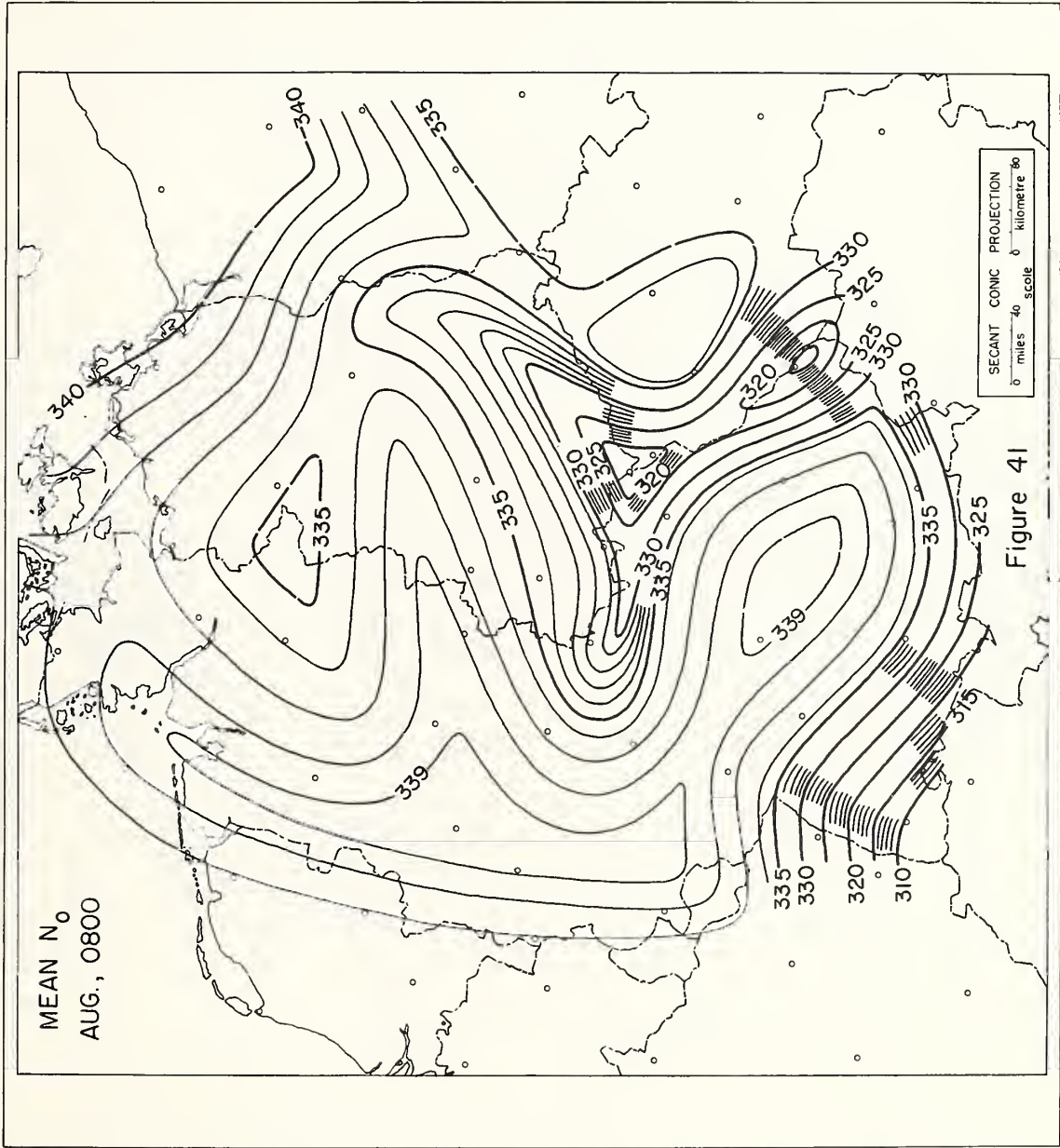
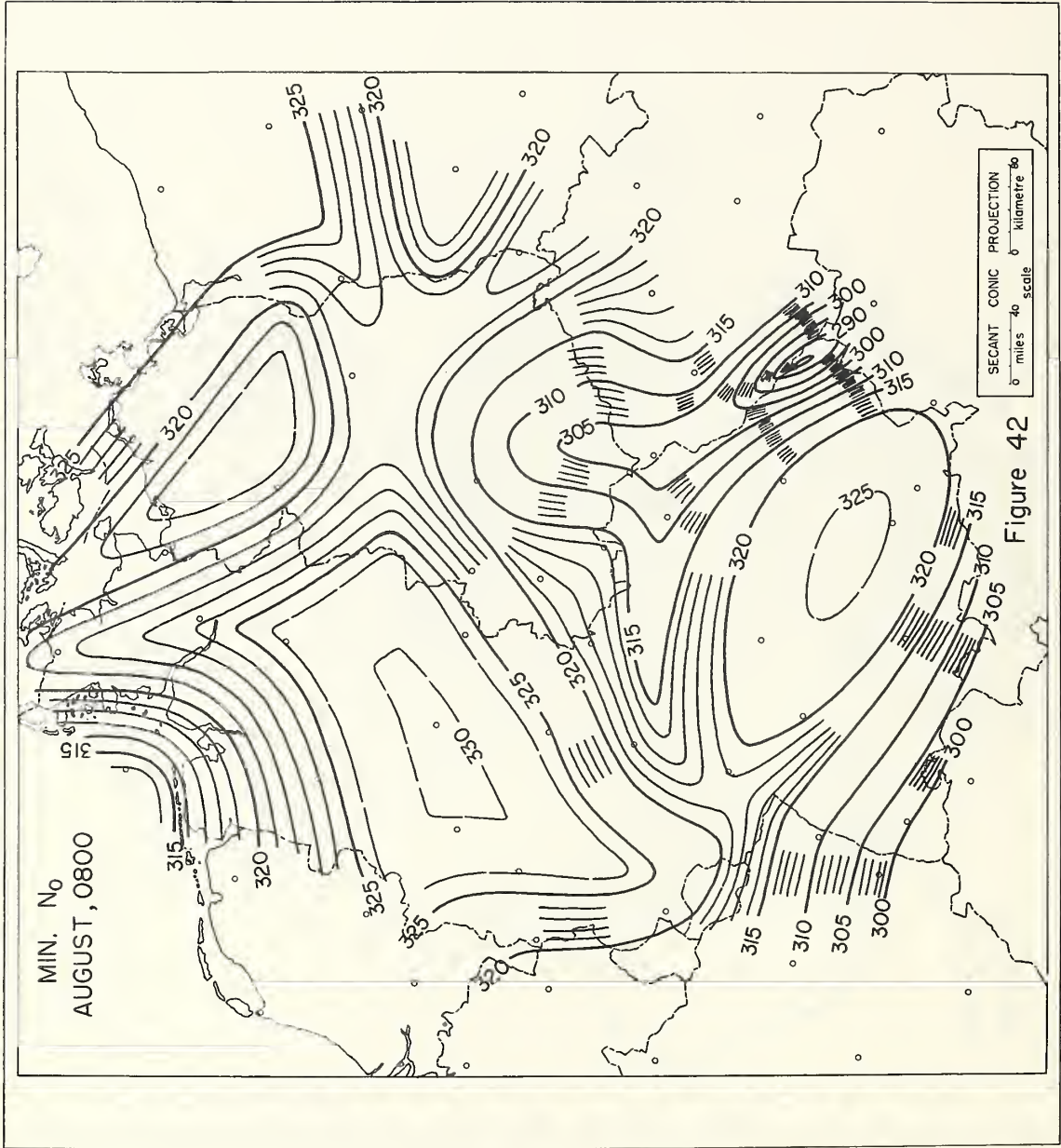


Figure 40







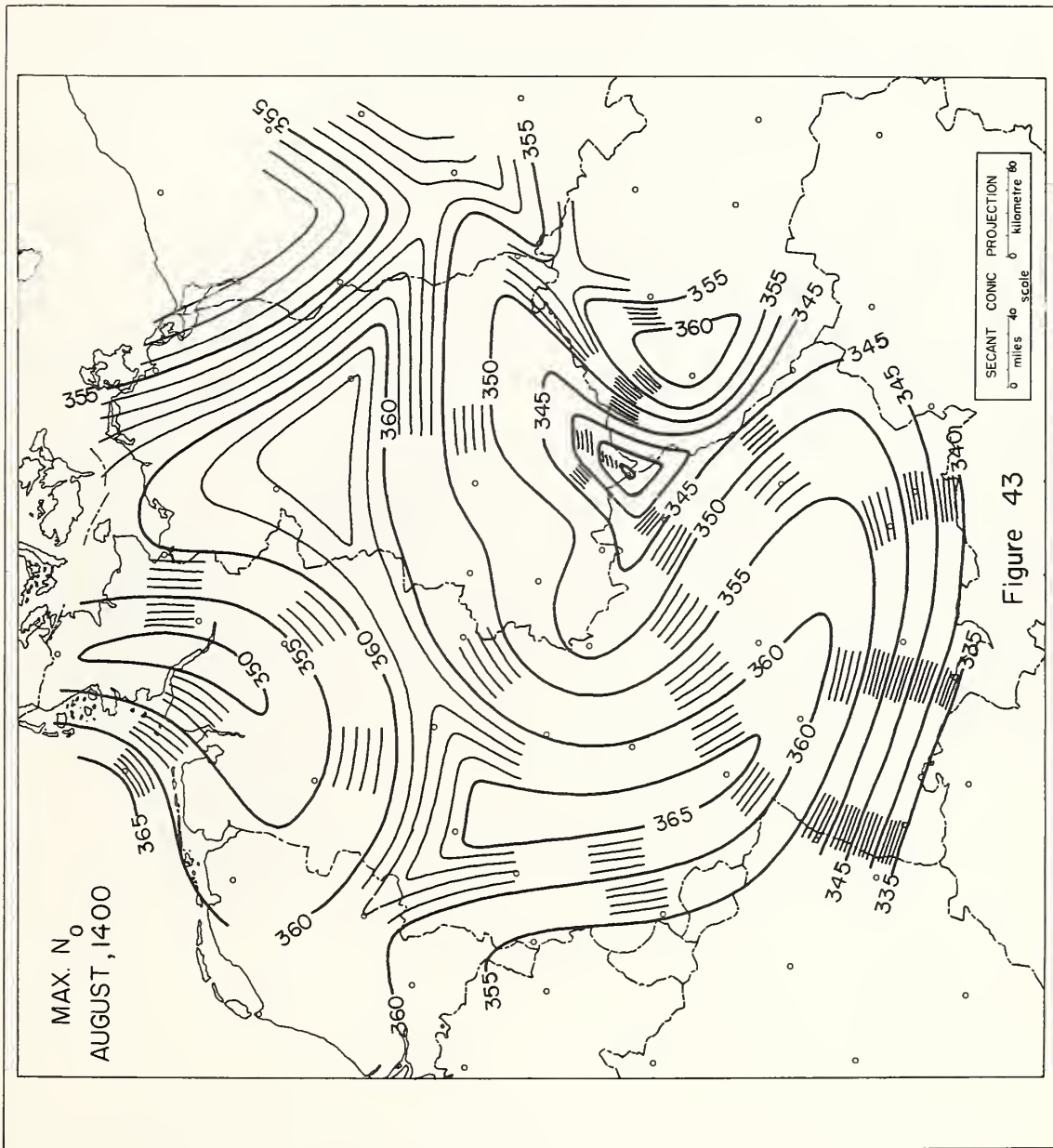


Figure 43



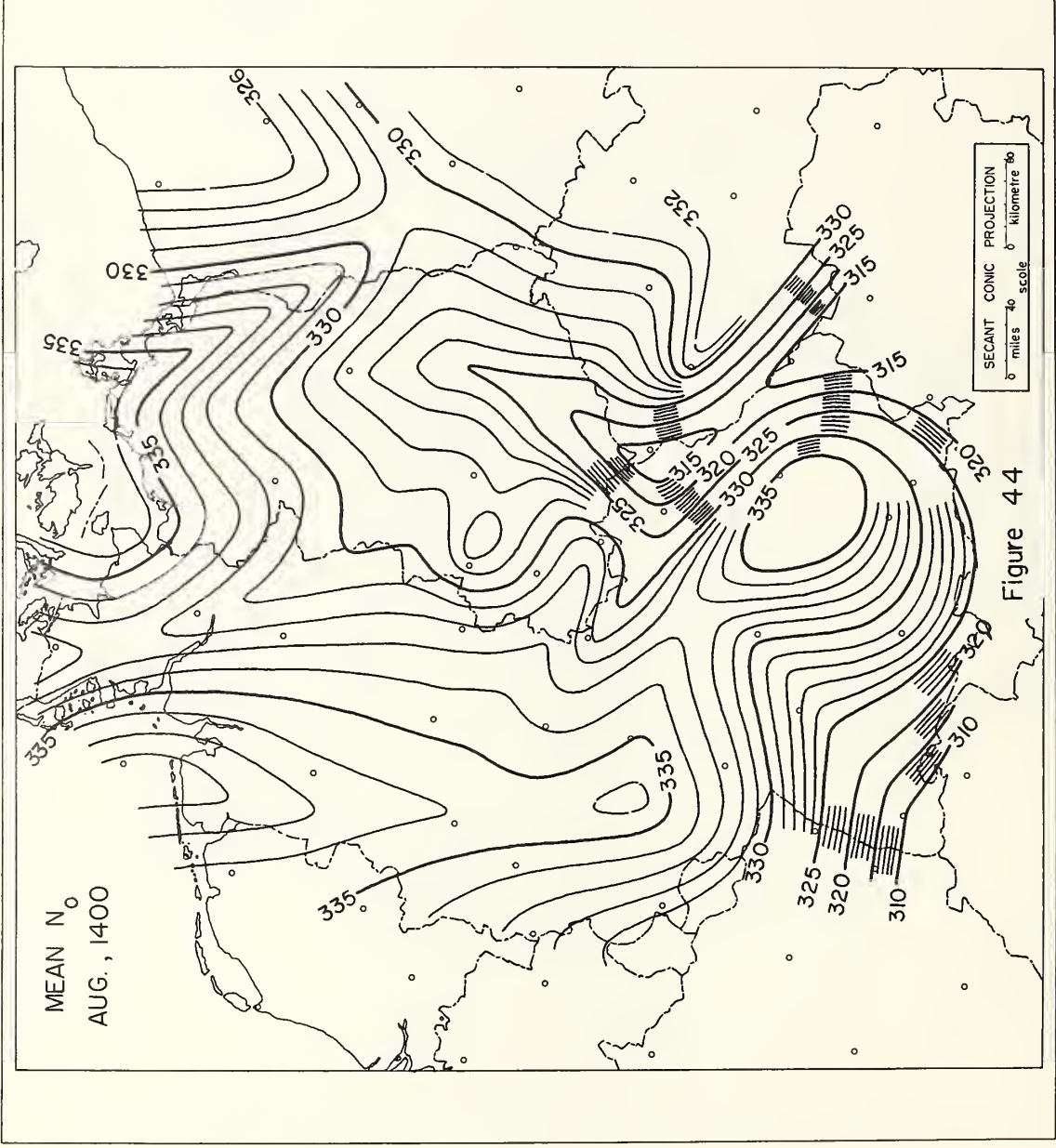
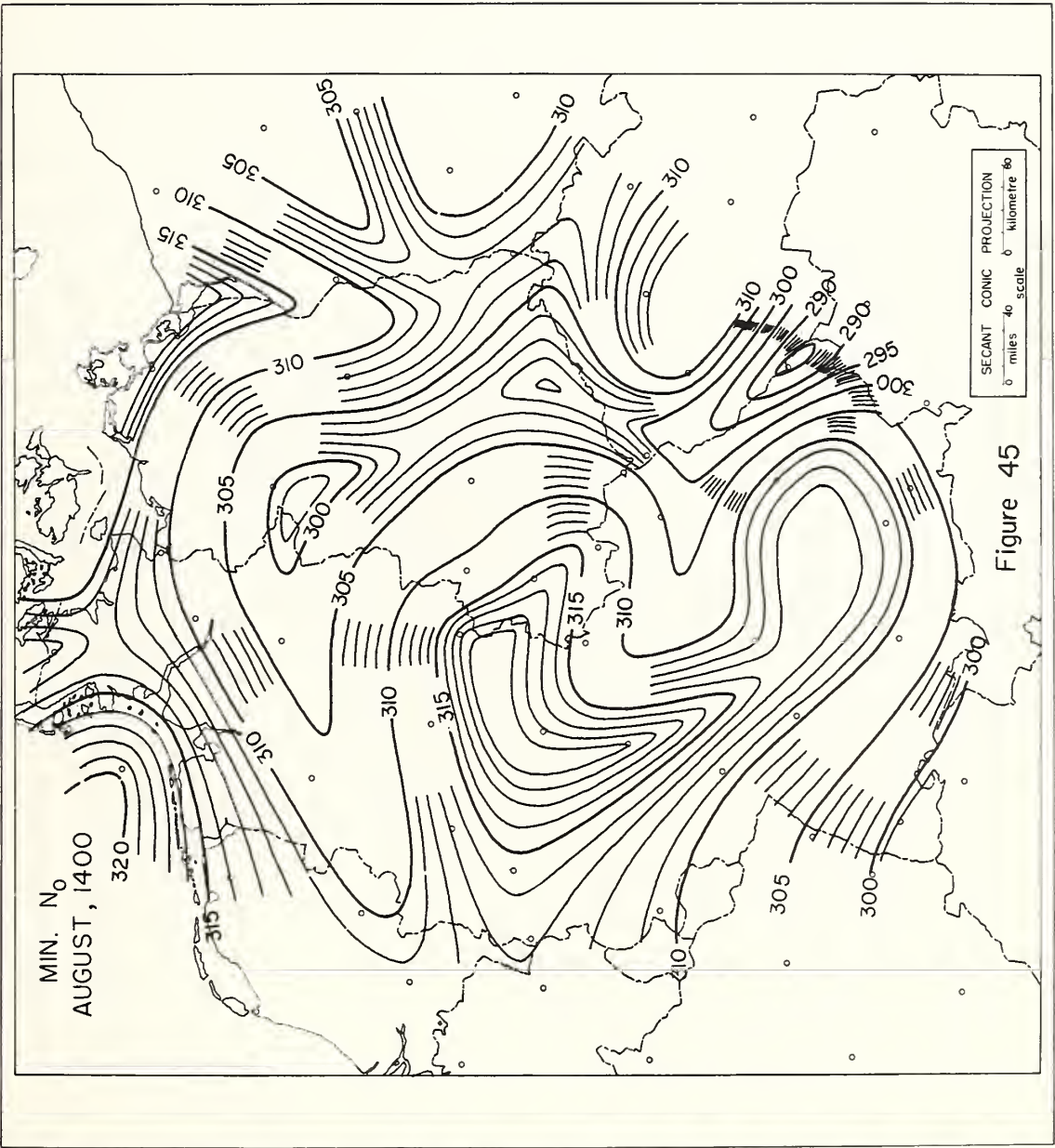
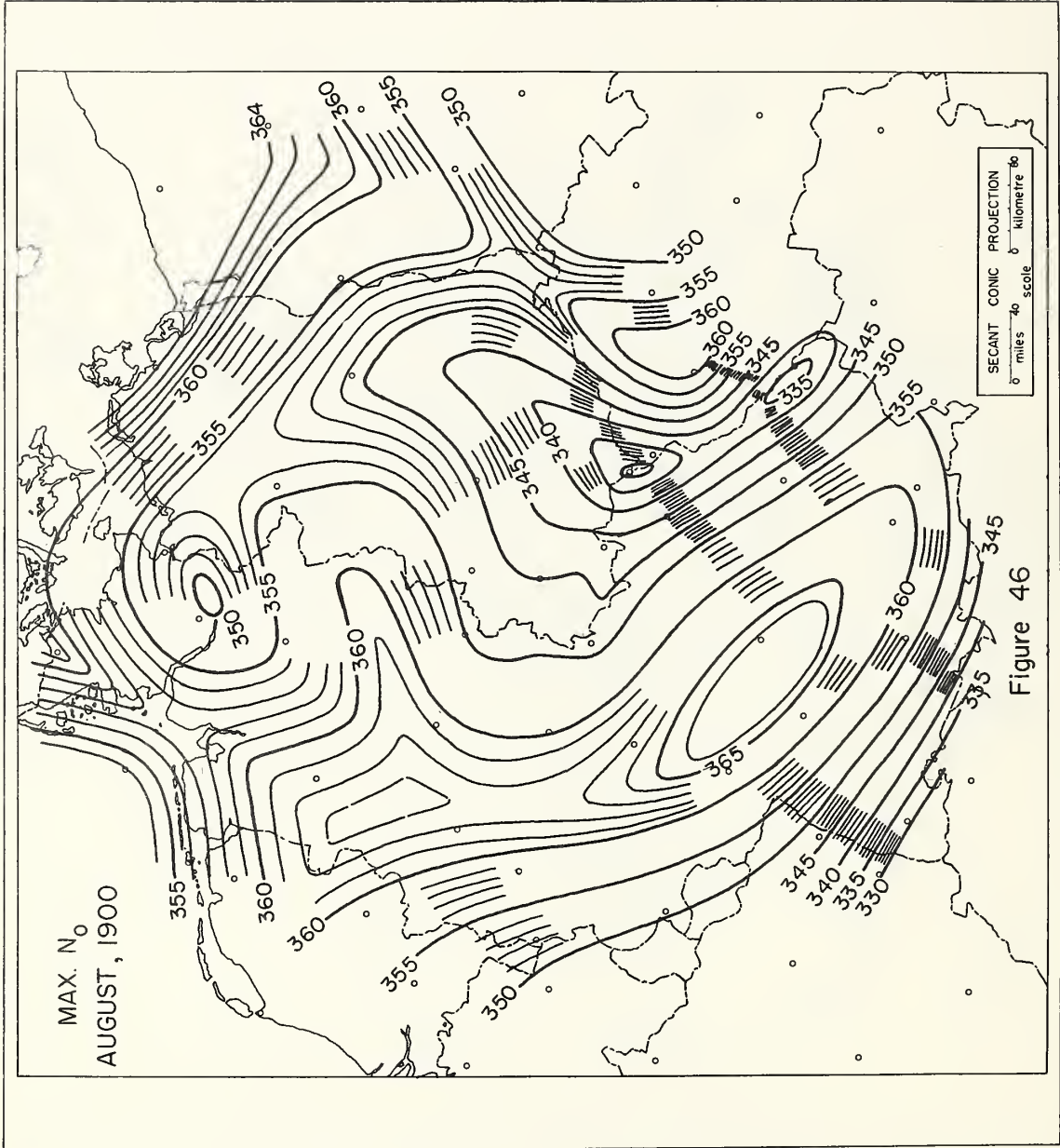
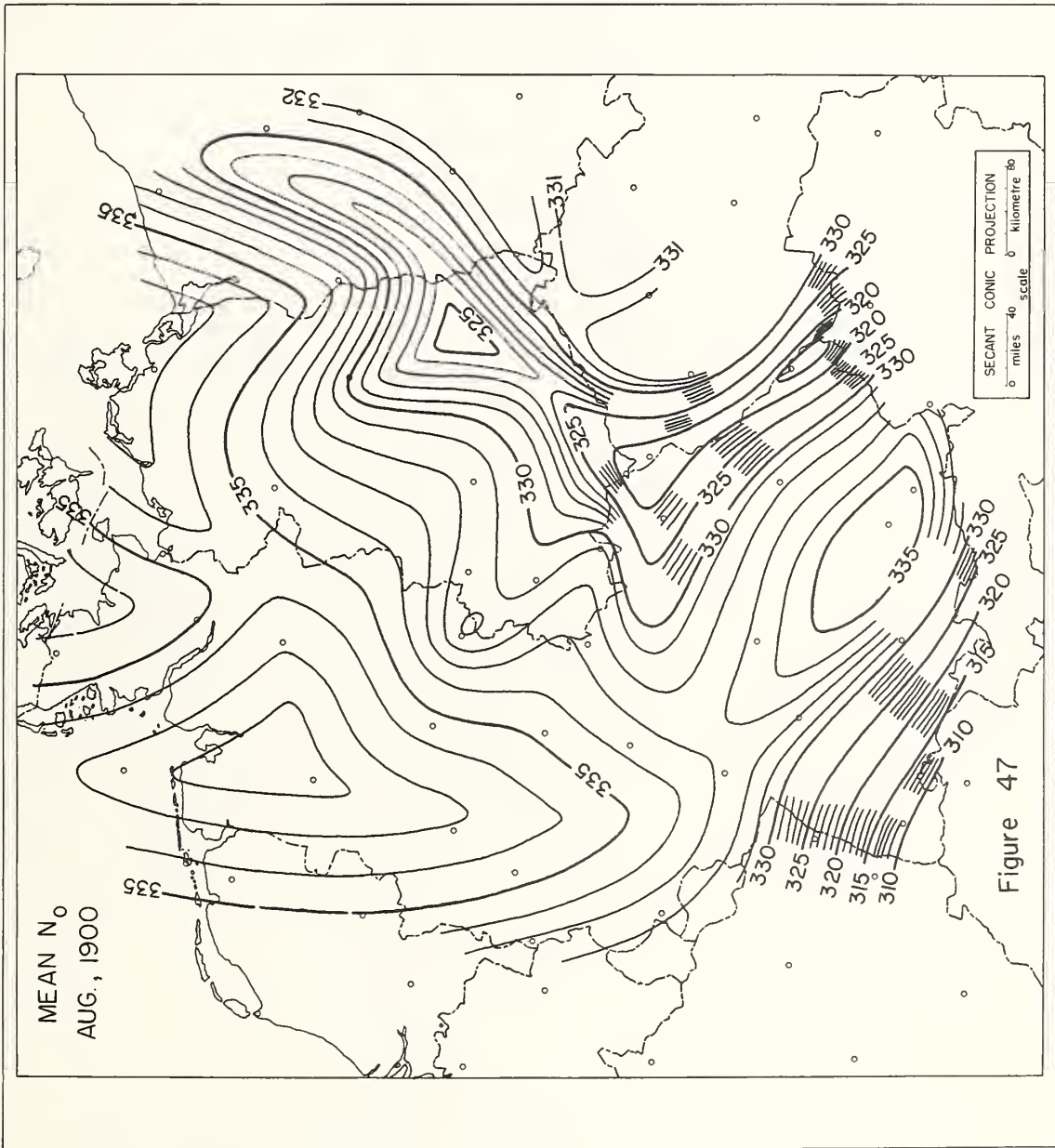


Figure 44









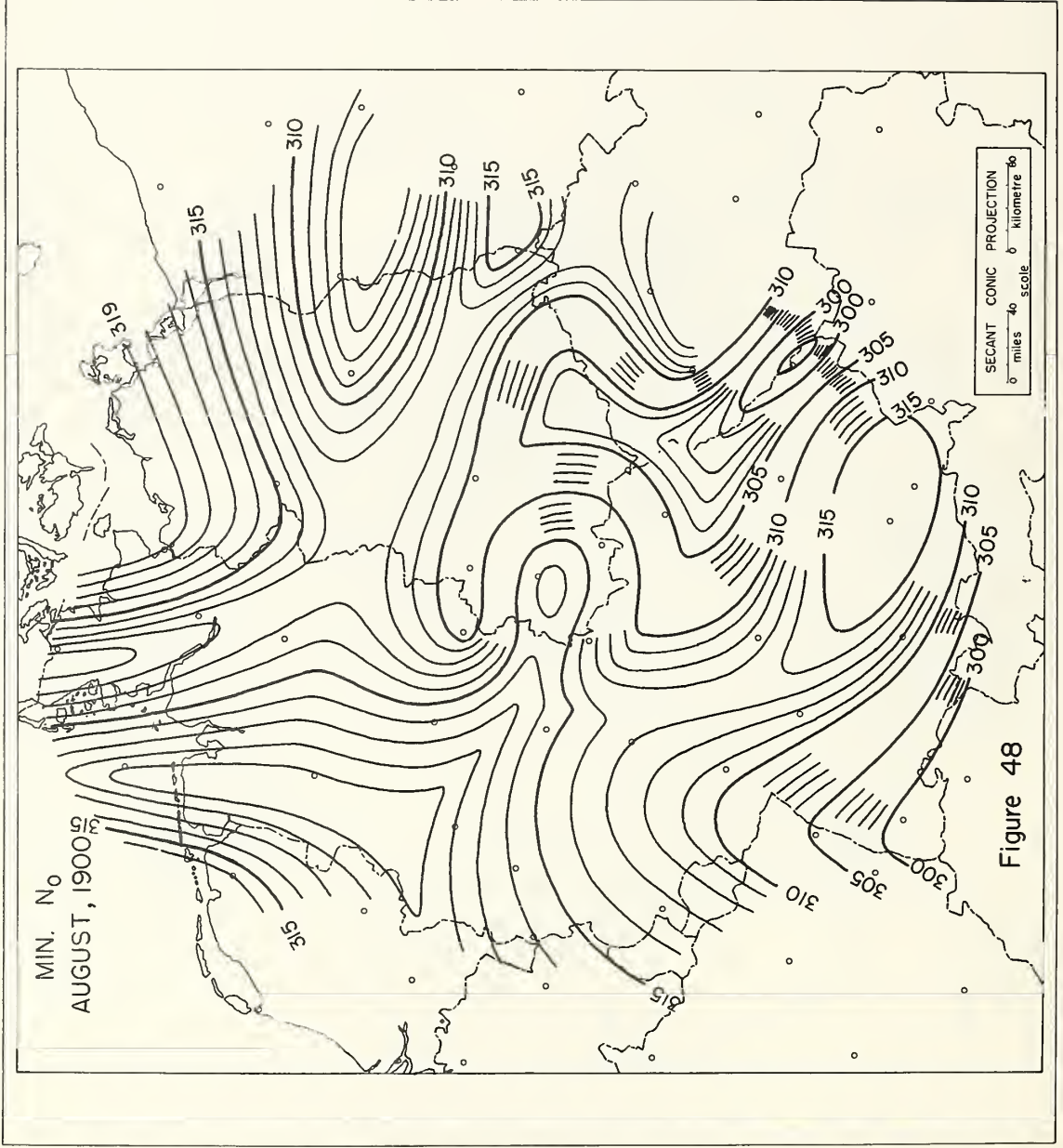


Figure 48

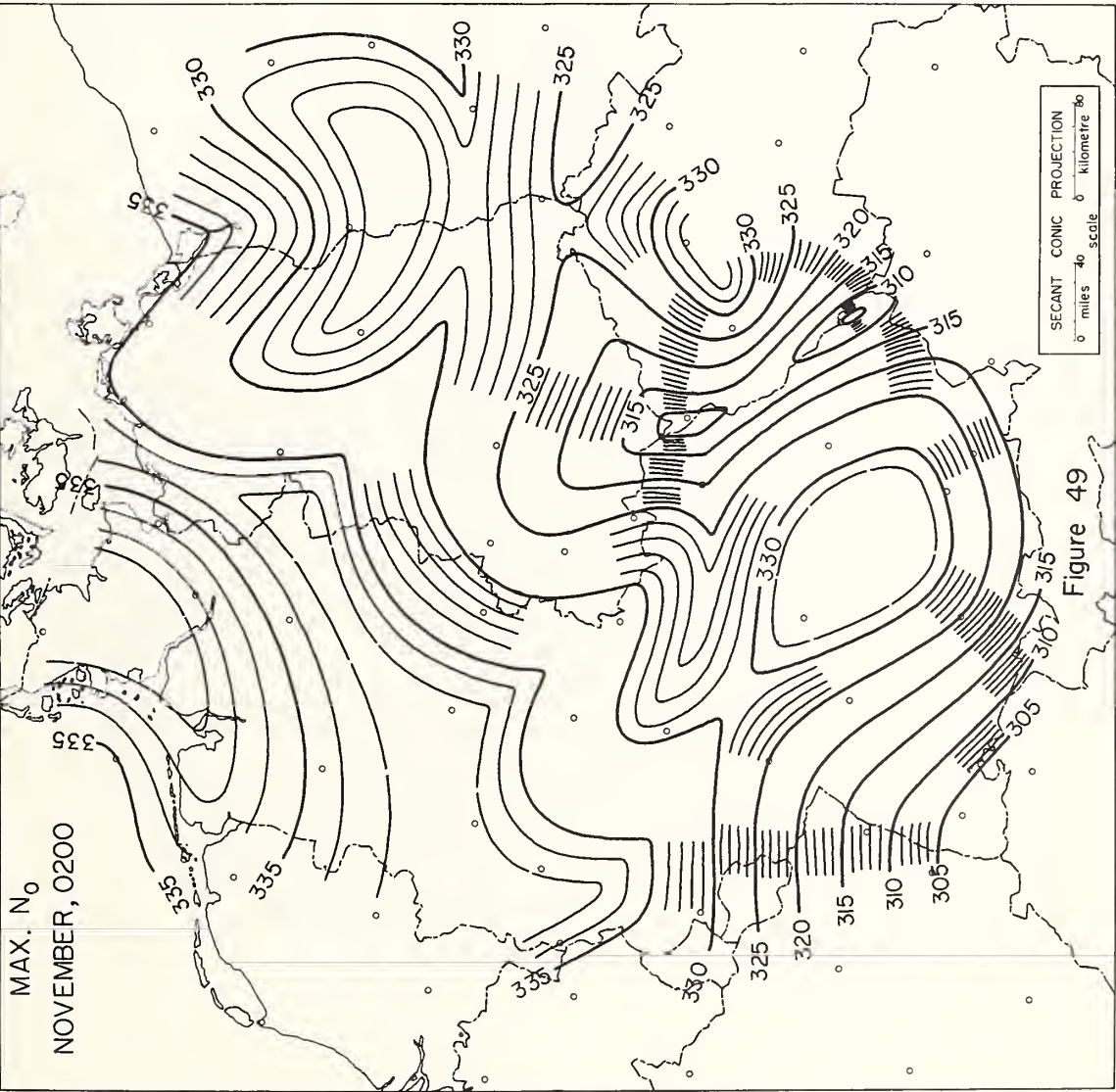
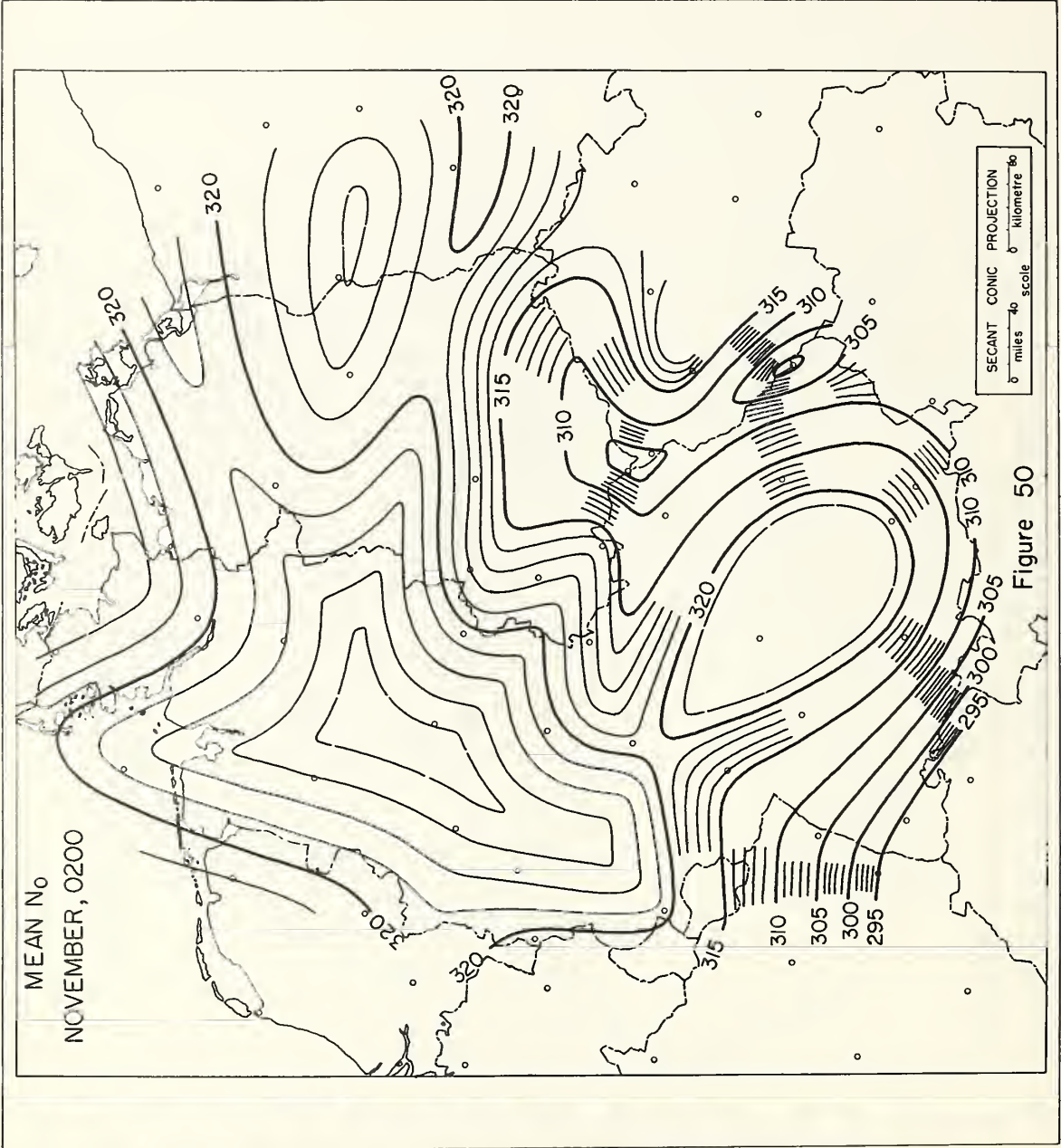
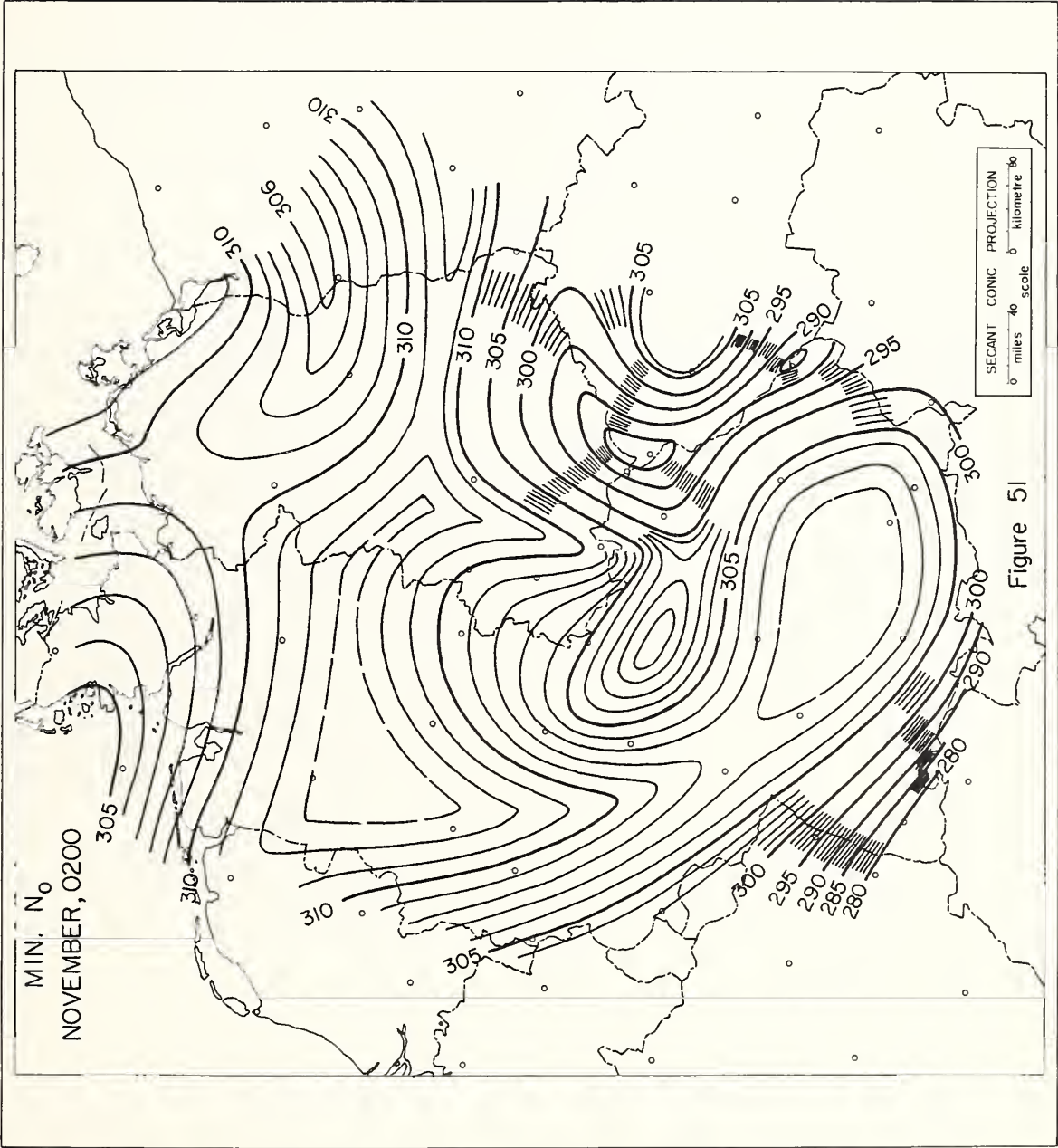


Figure 49









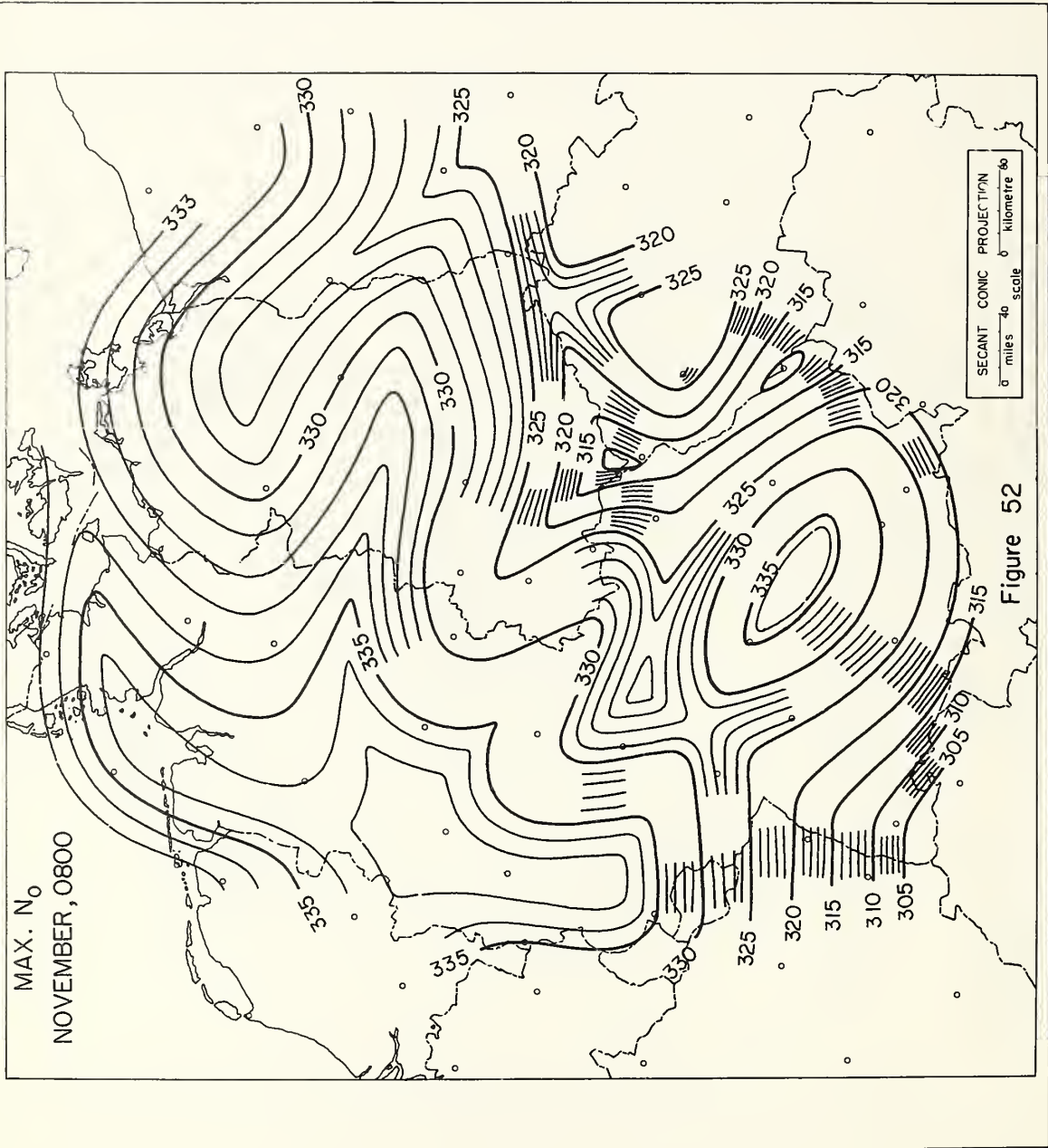


Figure 52

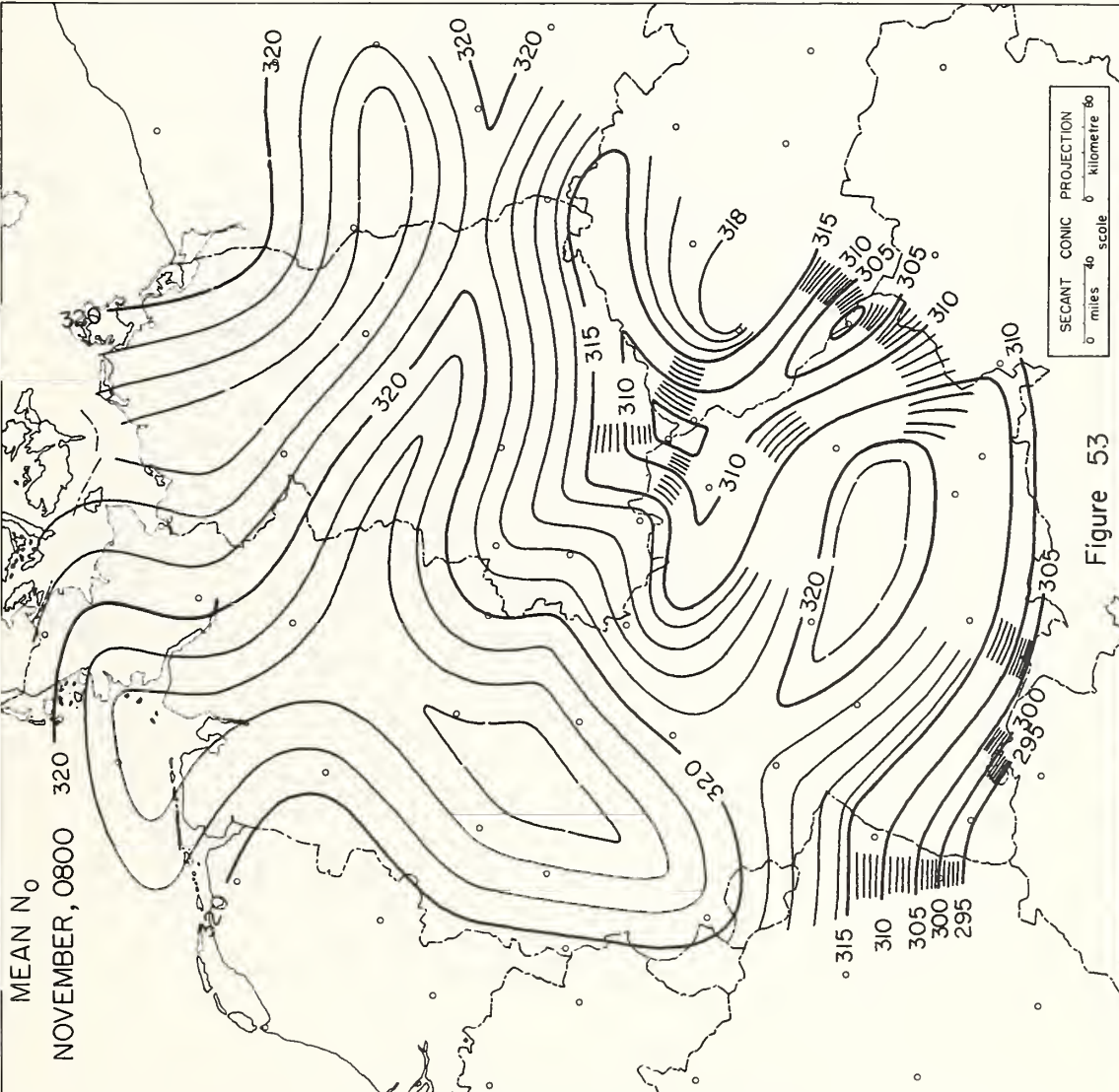
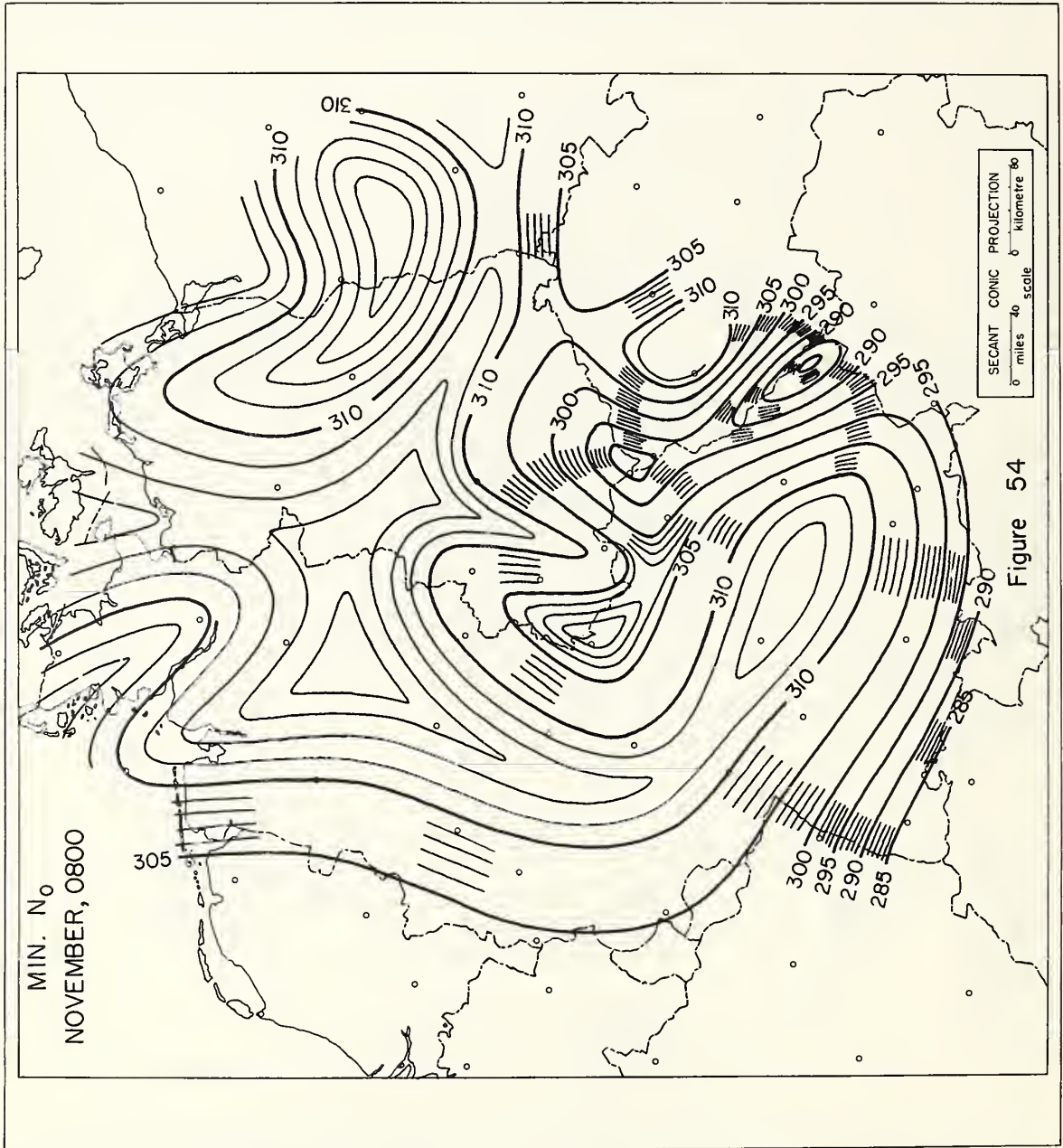
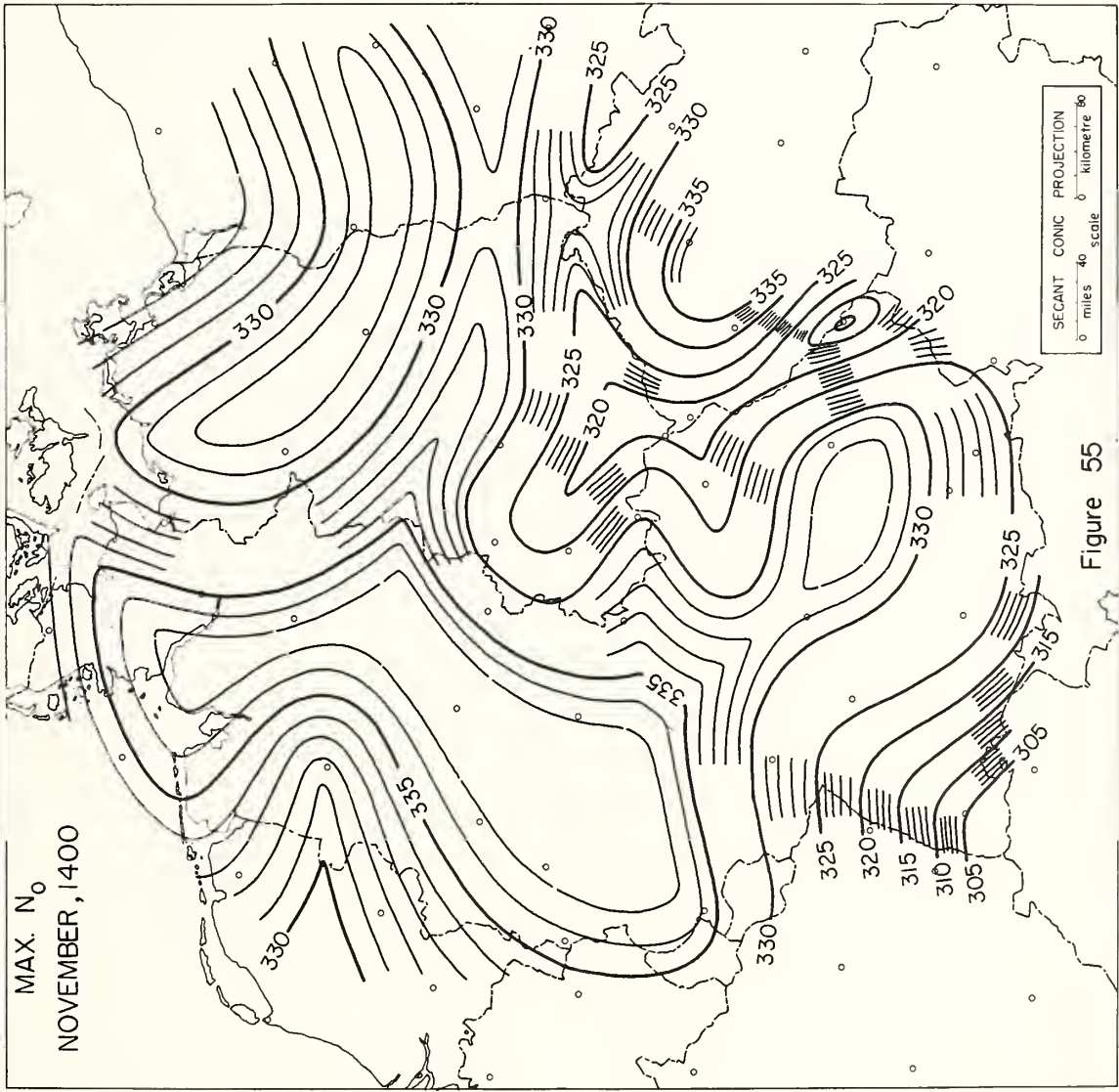


Figure 53





MAX.  $N_0$   
NOVEMBER, 1400

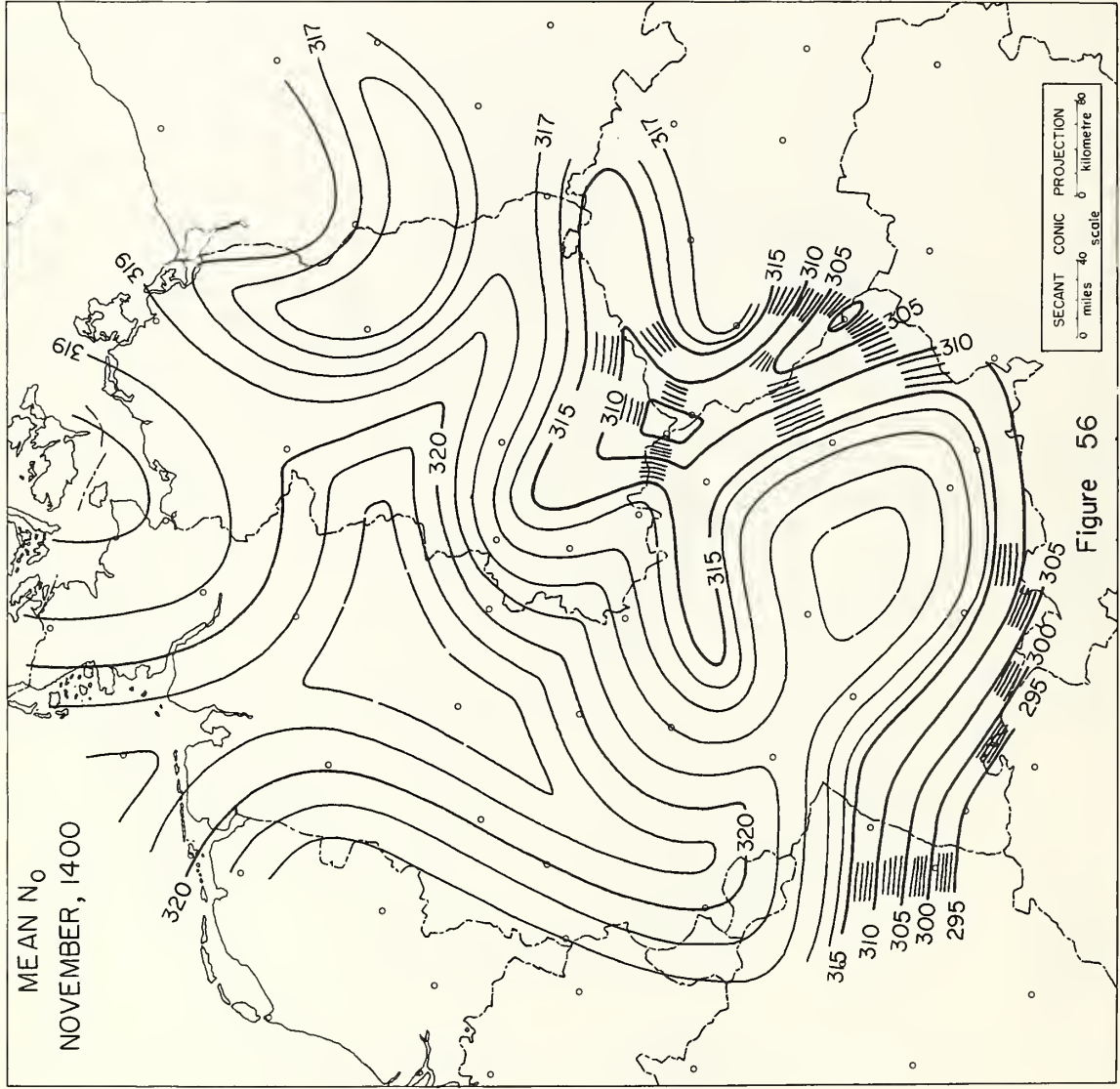


SECANT CONIC PROJECTION  
0 miles 40 scale  
0 kilometre 80

Figure 55

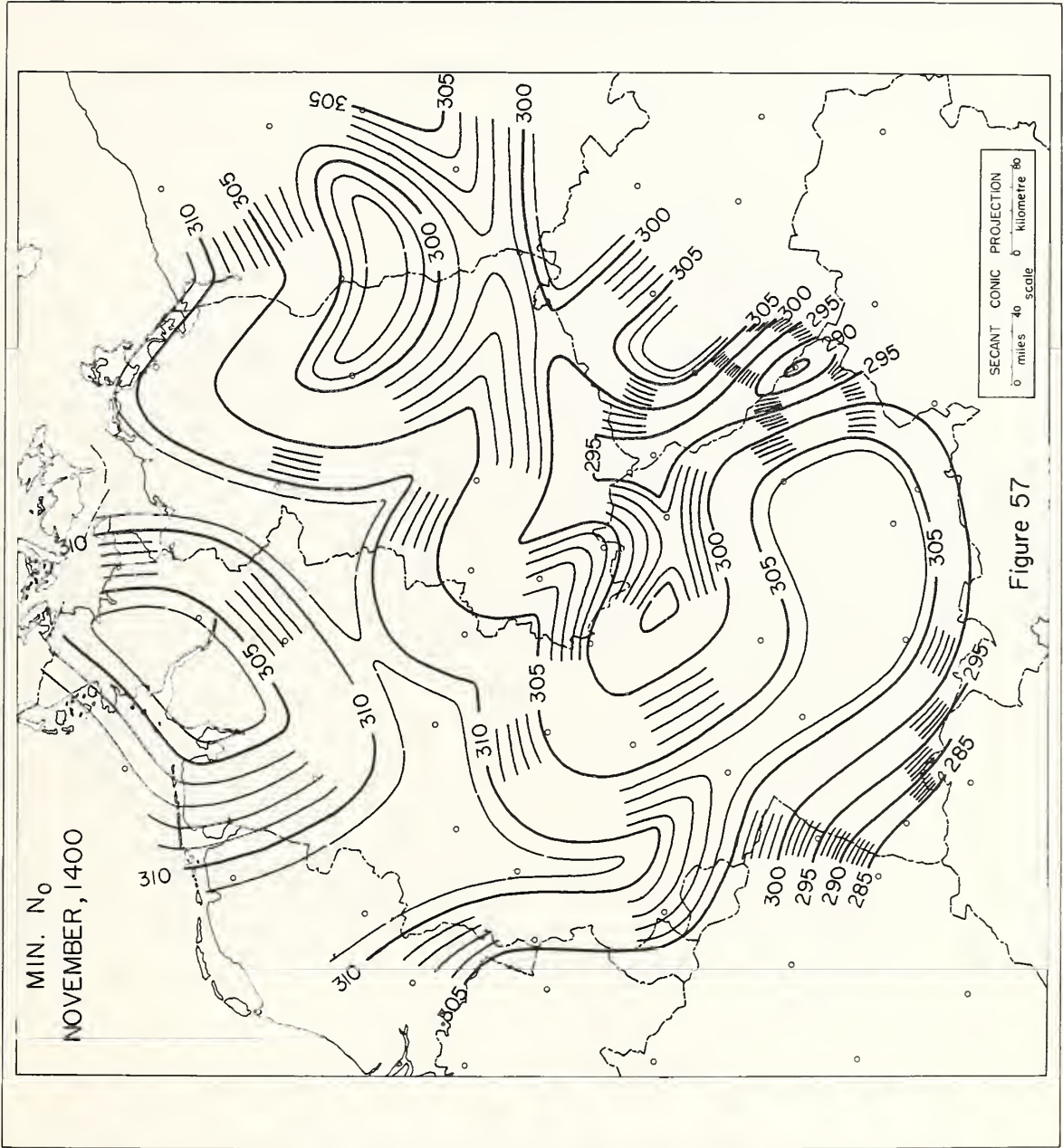


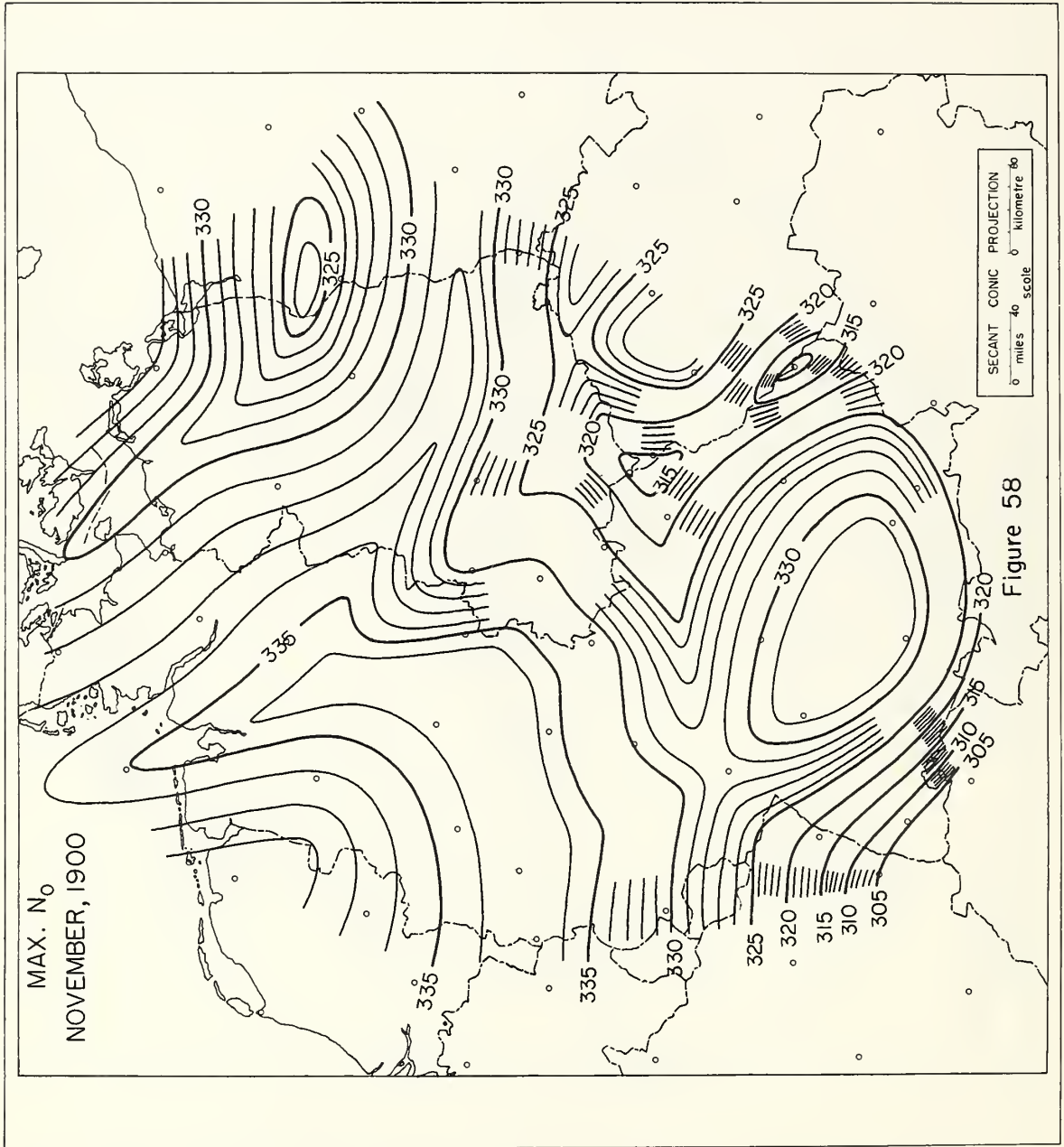
MEAN  $N_0$   
NOVEMBER, 1400



SECANT CONIC PROJECTION  
0 miles 40 scale 0 kilometre 60

Figure 56





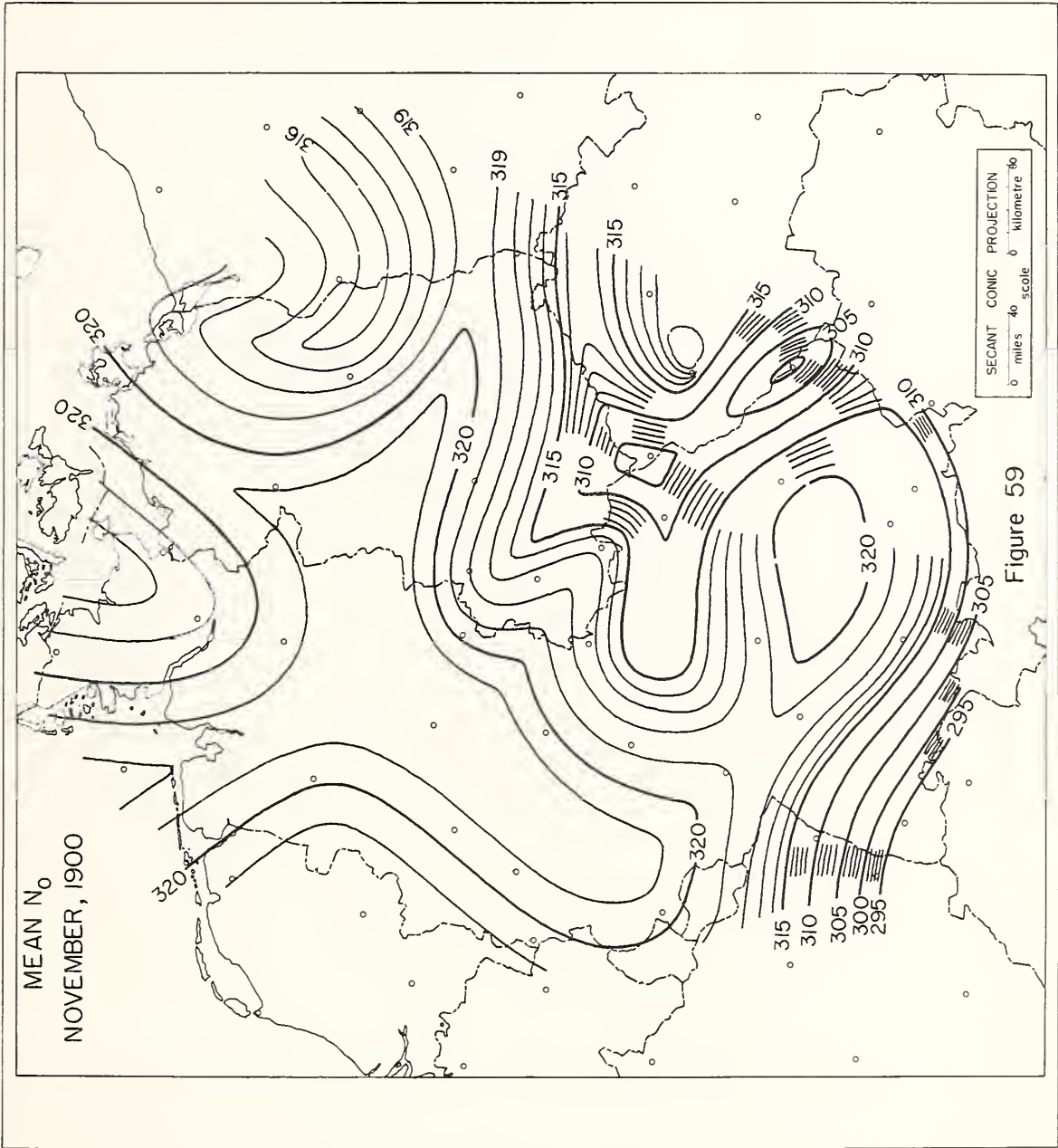
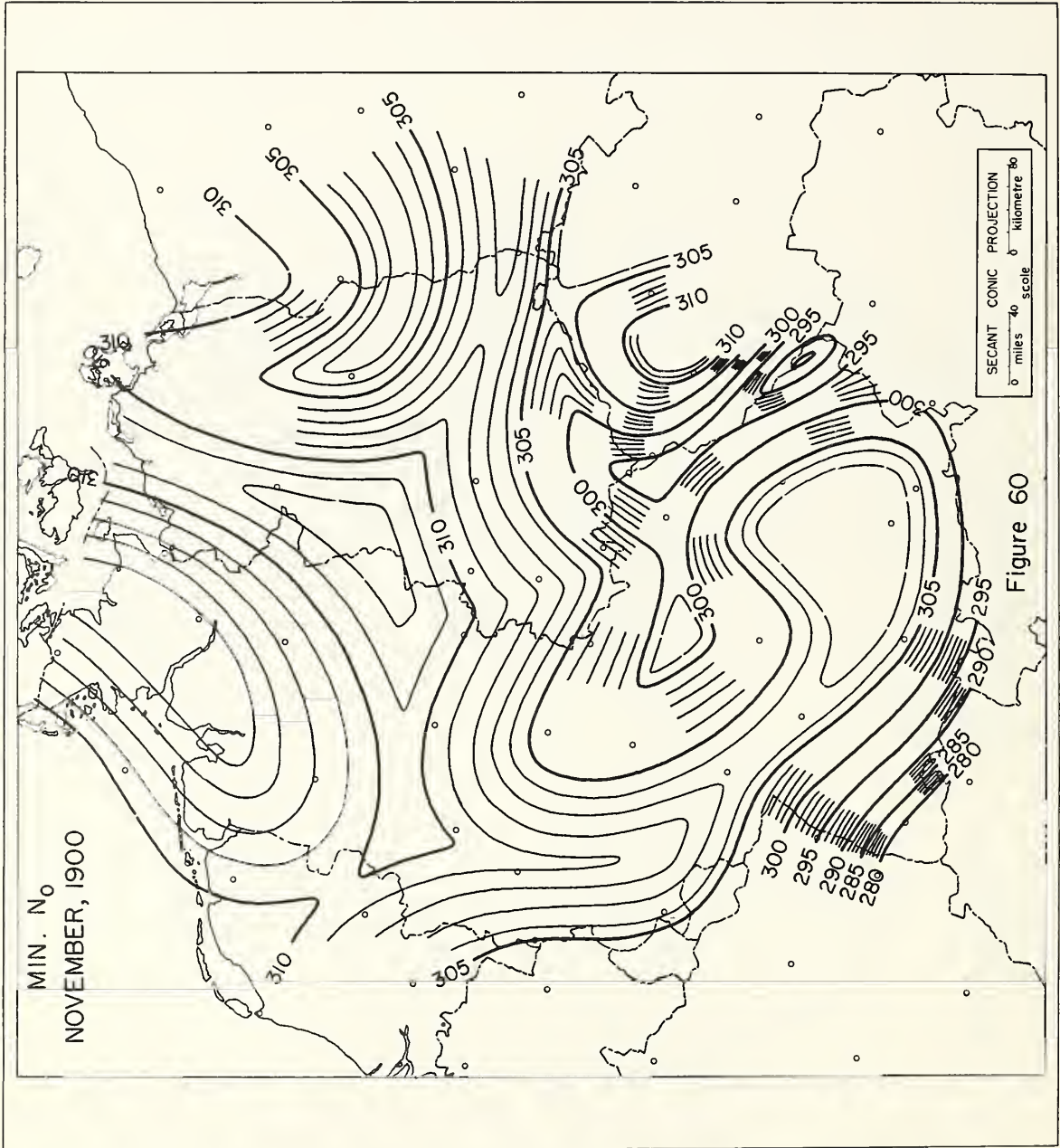


Figure 59





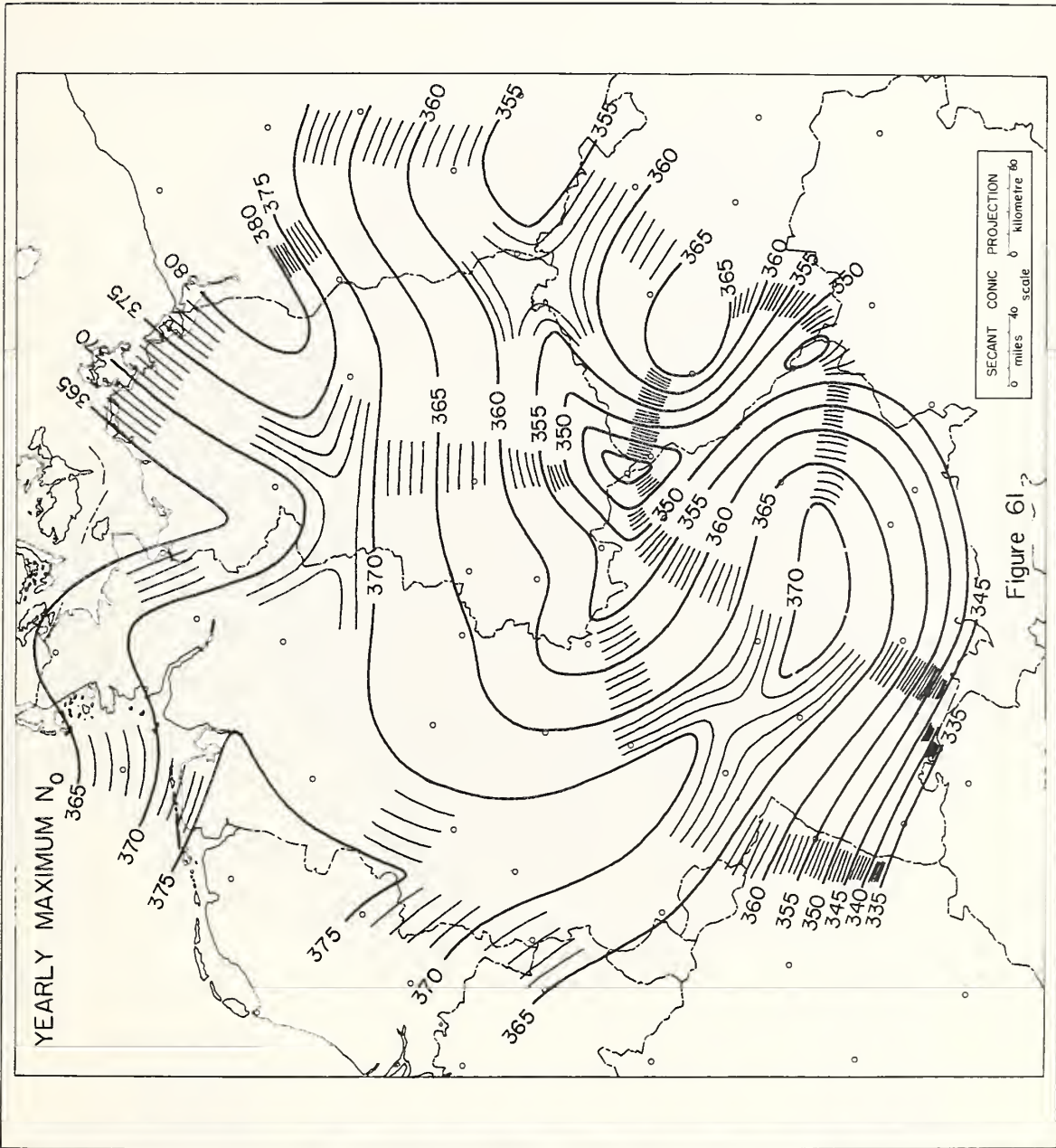


Figure 61

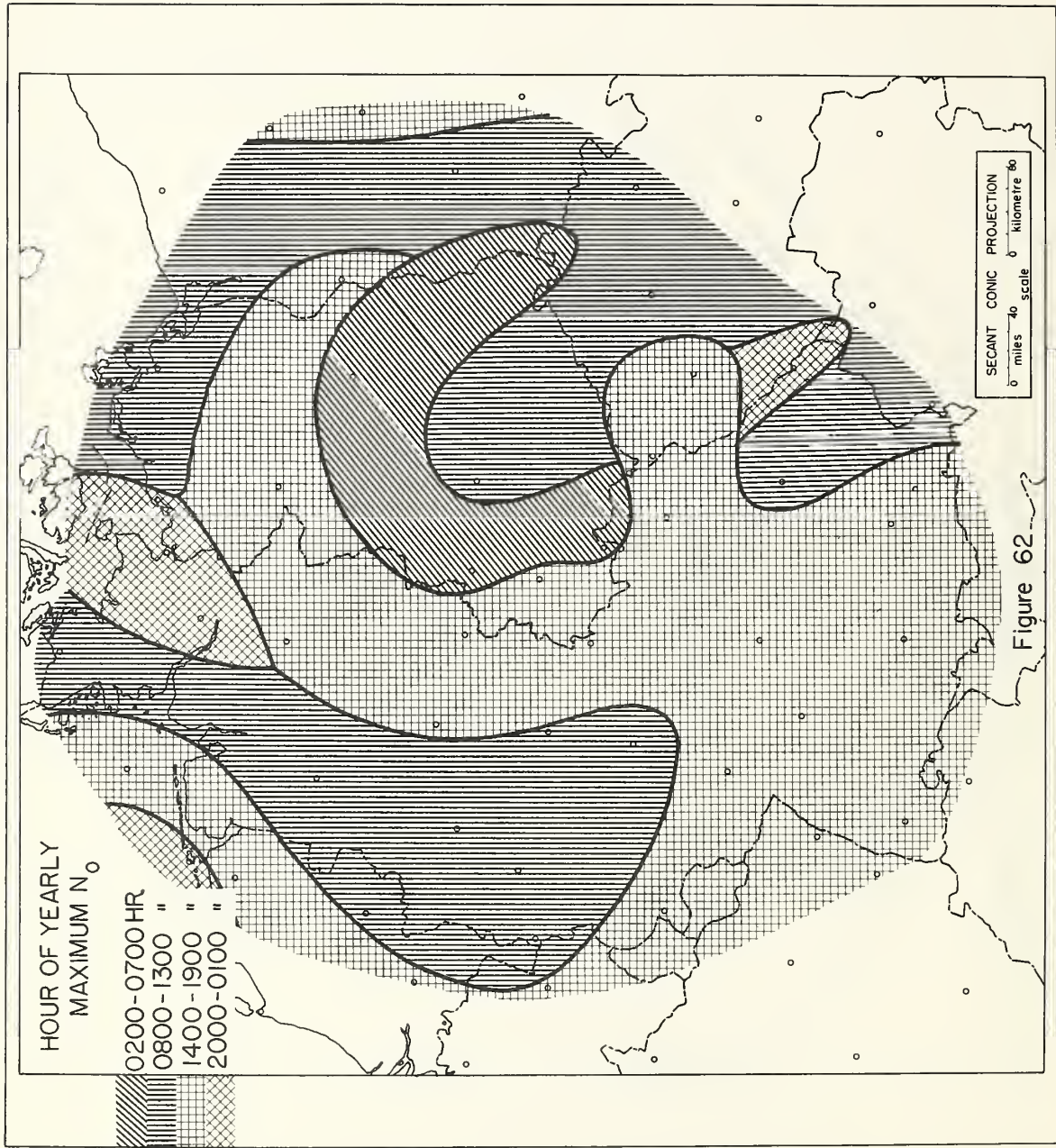


Figure 62



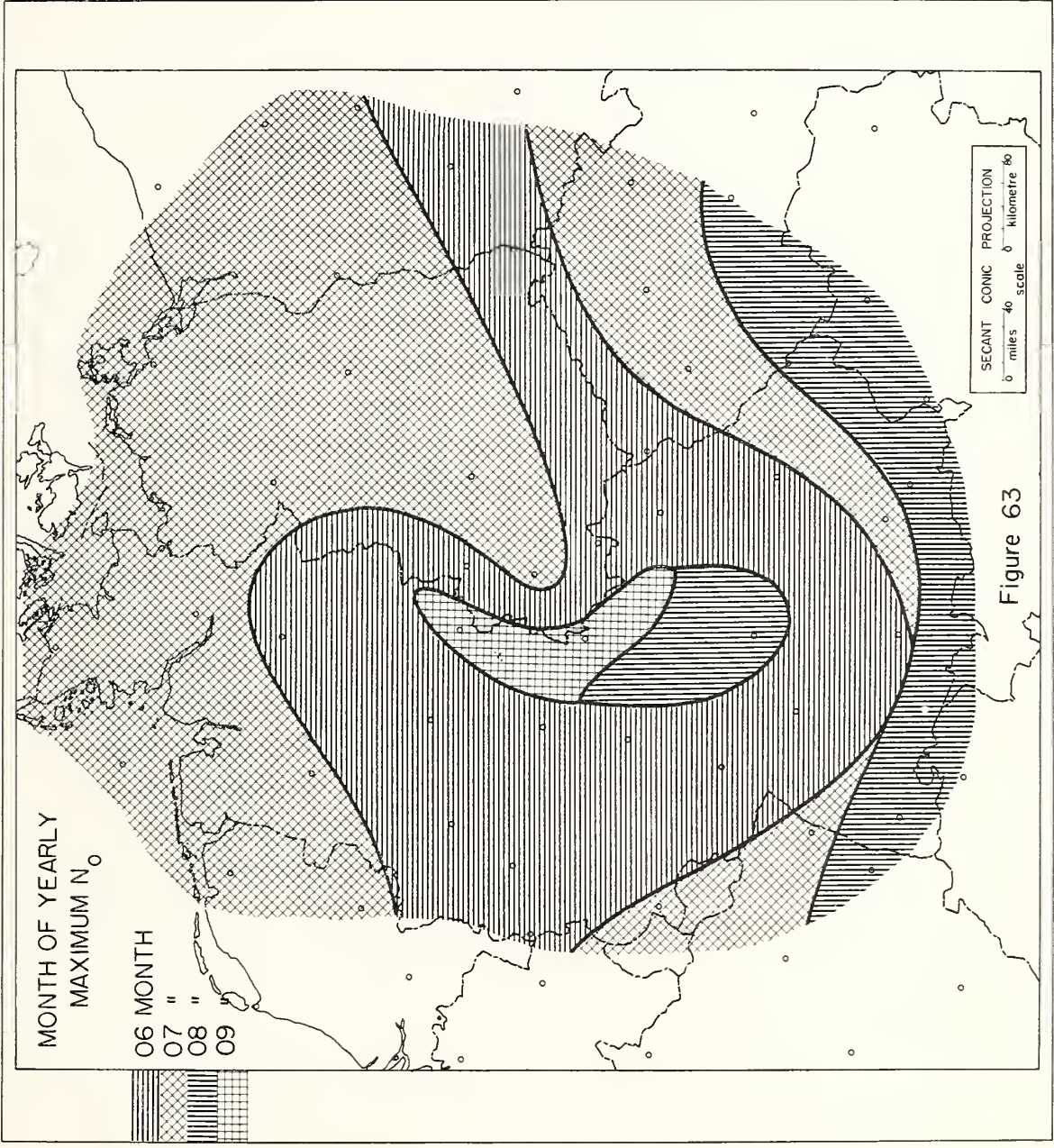


Figure 63



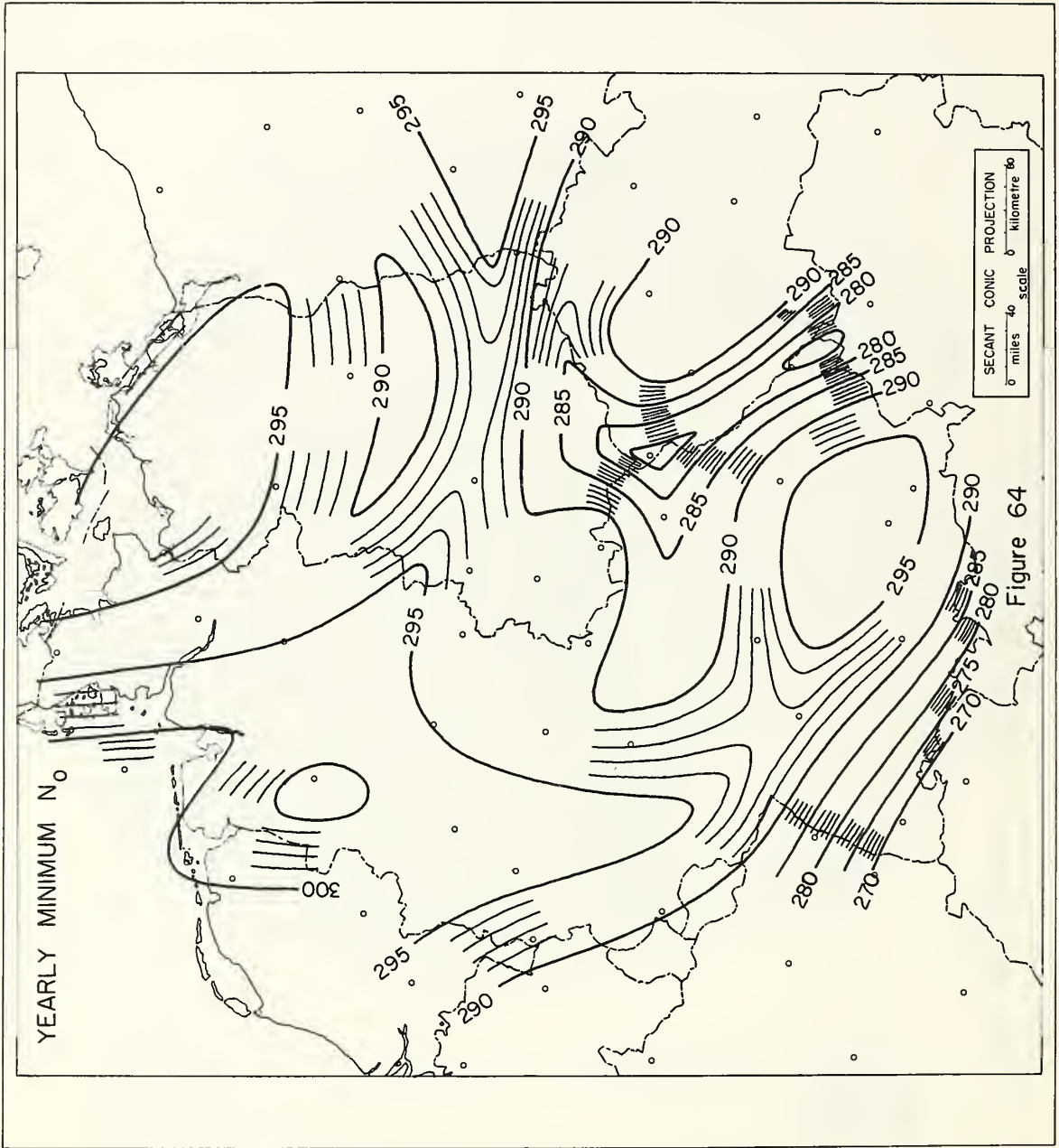


Figure 64

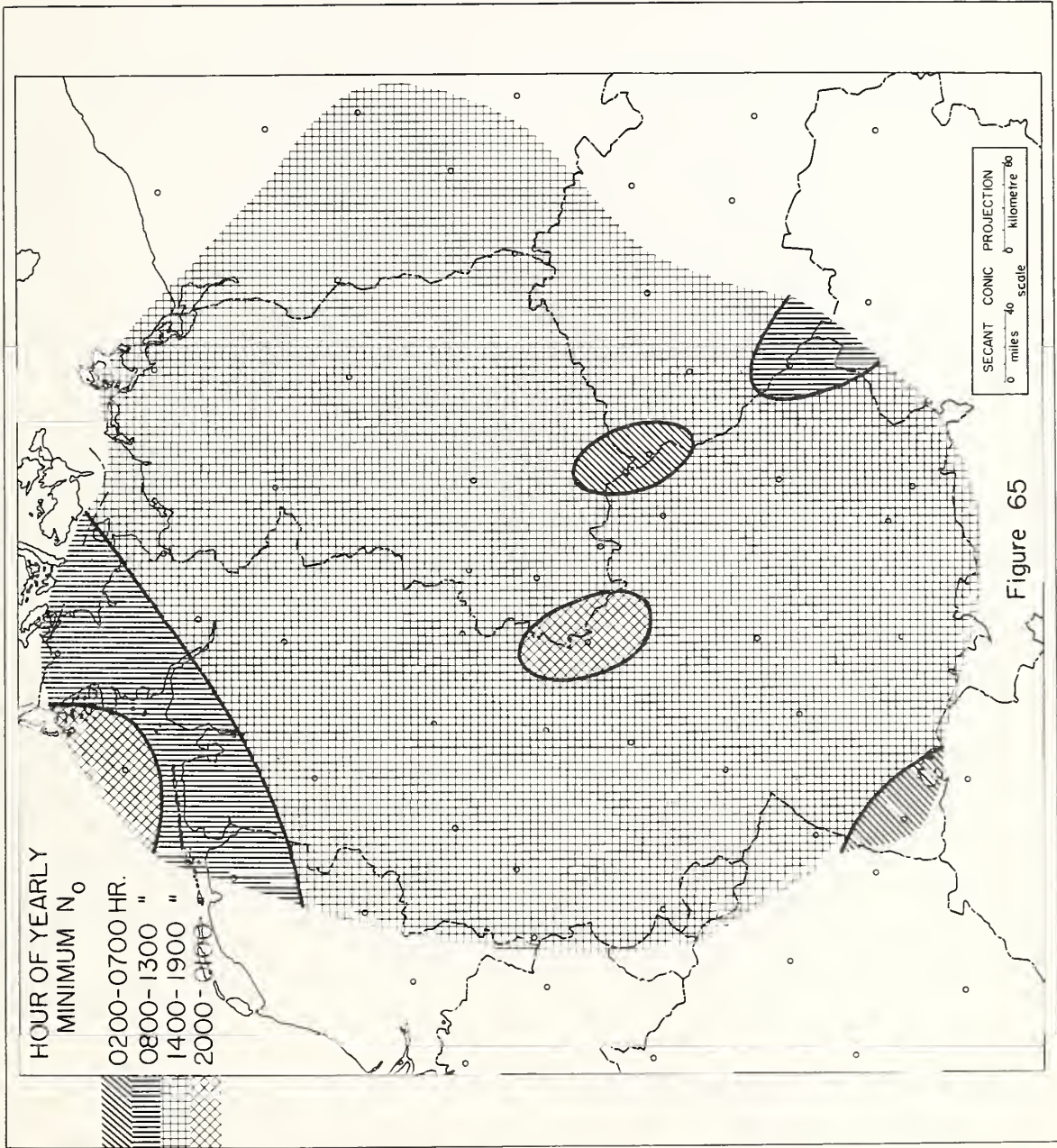


Figure 65

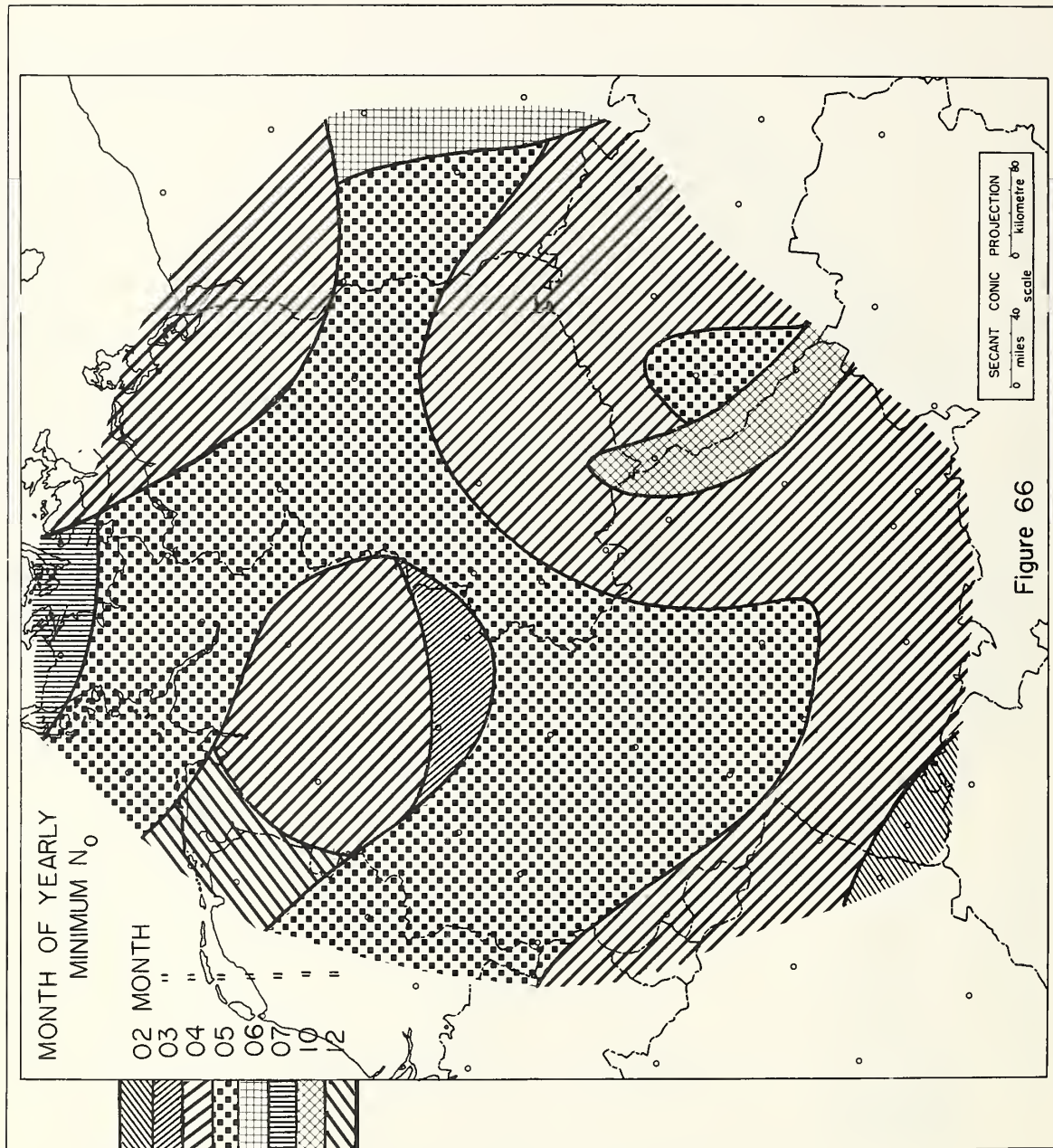


Figure 66



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Sinclair Weeks, *Secretary*

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

A. V. Astin, *Director*



## THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS

The scope of the scientific program of the National Bureau of Standards at laboratory centers in Washington, D. C., and Boulder, Colorado, is given in the following outline:  
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**Electricity and Electronics.** Resistance and Reactance. Electron Devices. Electrical Instruments. Magnetic Measurements. Dielectrics. Engineering Electronics. Electronic Instrumentation. Electrochemistry.

**Optics and Metrology.** Photometry and Colorimetry. Optical Instruments. Photographic Technology. Length. Engineering Metrology.

**Heat.** Temperature Physics. Thermodynamics. Cryogenic Physics. Rheology. Engine Fuels. Free Radicals.

**Atomic and Radiation Physics.** Spectroscopy. Radiometry. Mass Spectrometry. Solid State Physics. Electron Physics. Atomic Physics. Neutron Physics. Nuclear Physics. Radioactivity. X-rays. Betatron. Nucleonic Instrumentation. Radiological Equipment. AEC Radiation Instruments.

**Chemistry.** Organic Coatings. Surface Chemistry. Organic Chemistry. Analytical Chemistry. Inorganic Chemistry. Electrodeposition. Molecular Structure and Properties. Physical Chemistry. Thermochemistry. Spectrochemistry. Pure Substances.

**Mechanics.** Sound. Mechanical Instruments. Fluid Mechanics. Engineering Mechanics. Mass and Scale. Capacity, Density, and Fluid Meters. Combustion Controls.

**Organic and Fibrous Materials.** Rubber. Textiles. Paper. Leather. Testing and Specifications. Polymer Structure. Plastics. Dental Research.

**Metallurgy.** Thermal Metallurgy. Chemical Metallurgy. Mechanical Metallurgy. Corrosion. Metal Physics.

**Mineral Products.** Engineering Ceramics. Glass. Refractories. Enameled Metals. Concreting Materials. Constitution and Microstructure.

**Building Technology.** Structural Engineering. Fire Protection. Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration. Floor, Roof, and Wall Coverings. Codes and Safety Standards. Heat Transfer.

**Applied Mathematics.** Numerical Analysis. Computation. Statistical Engineering. Mathematical Physics.

**Data Processing Systems.** SEAC Engineering Group. Components and Techniques. Digital Circuitry. Digital Systems. Analogue Systems. Application Engineering.

• Office of Basic Instrumentation

• Office of Weights and Measures

Boulder, Colorado

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F. W. Brown, *Director*

**Cryogenic Engineering.** Cryogenic Equipment. Cryogenic Processes. Properties of Materials. Gas Liquefaction.

**Radio Propagation Physics.** Upper Atmosphere. Ionosphere. Regular Propagation Services. Sun-Earth Relationships. VLF Research.

**Radio Propagation Engineering.** Data Reduction Instrumentation. Modulation Systems. Navigation Systems. Radio Noise. Tropospheric Measurements. Tropospheric Analysis. Radio Systems Application Engineering. Radio Meteorology.

**Radio Standards.** High Frequency Electrical Standards. Radio Broadcast Service. High Frequency Impedance Standards. Calibration Center. Microwave Physics. Microwave Circuit Standards.



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National Bureau of Standards  
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