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The apparent depth parameter is a useful indicator of simple layering in areas lacking a heavy tree cover. The DIGHEM<sup>II</sup> system has been flown for the purpose of permafrost mapping, where positive apparent depths were used as a measure of permafrost thickness. However, little quantitative use has been made of negative apparent depths because the absolute value of the negative depth is not a measure of the thickness of the conductive upper layer and, therefore, is not meaningful physically. Qualitatively, a negative apparent depth estimate usually shows that the EM anomaly is caused by conductive overburden. Consequently, the apparent depth channel 41 can be of significant help in distinguishing between overburden and bedrock conductors.

#### Interpretation in conductive environments

Environments having background resistivities below 30 ohm-m cause all airborne EM systems to yield very large responses from the conductive ground. This usually prohibits the recognition of bedrock conductors. The processing of DIGHEM<sup>II</sup> data, however, produces six channels which contribute significantly to the recognition of bedrock conductors. These are the inphase and quadrature difference channels (#33 and 34), the resistivity and depth channels (#40 and 41), the conductivity contrast channel (#42), and the product of the conductivity contrast and depth contrast channels (#44).