

Mapping Antarctic sea ice thickness distribution from above and below - a first look

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**British
Antarctic Survey**

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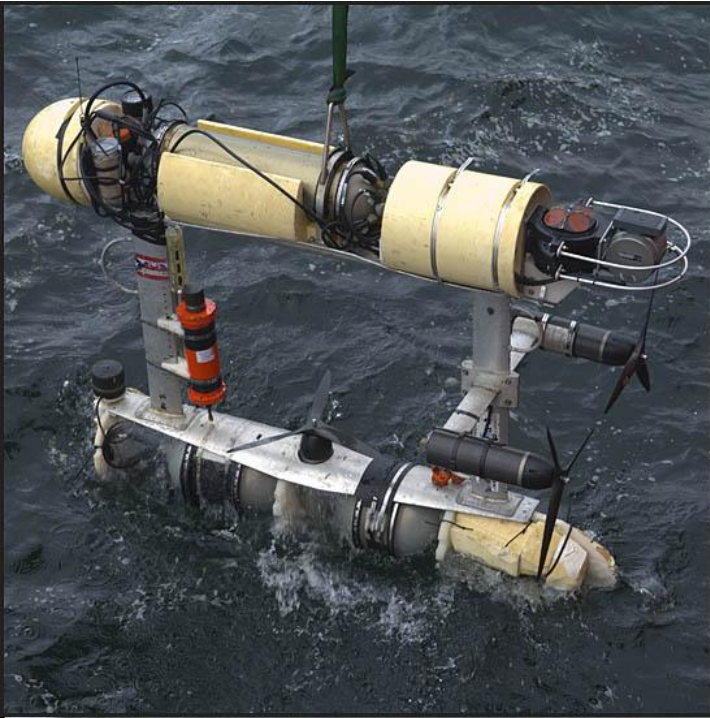


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ICE

Sea ice Mass Balance in the Bellingshausen Sea



British Antarctic Survey

Scottish Association for Marine Science

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Danish Technical University

University of Manitoba

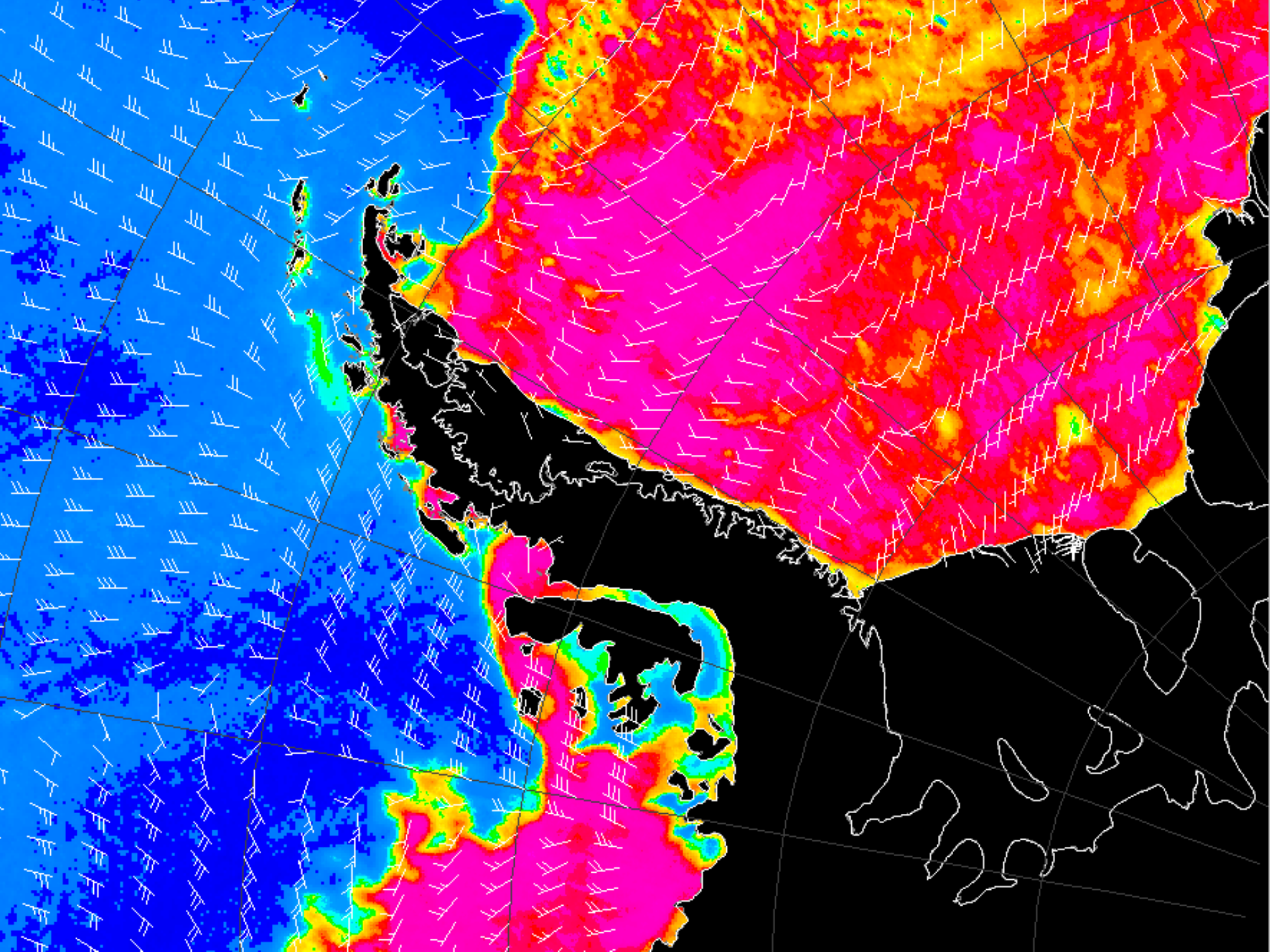
University of Texas San Antonio

Danish Meteorological Institute

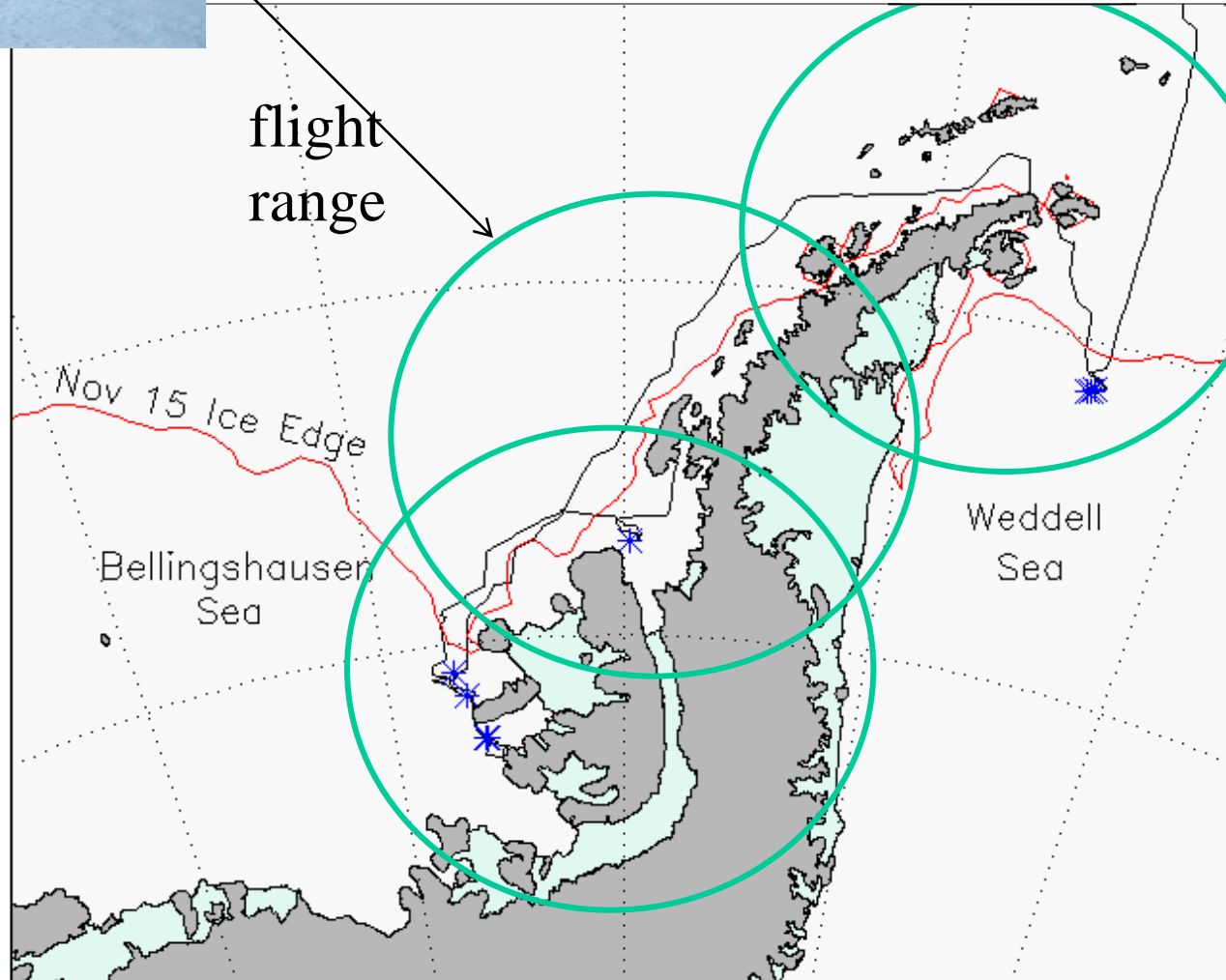
Desert Research Institute

Objectives

- Snow and sea ice thickness distribution
- Satellite snow depth and ice thickness
- Snow and ice melt processes
- Ice-ocean interactions
- Air-ice interactions



ICEBell Cruise Area



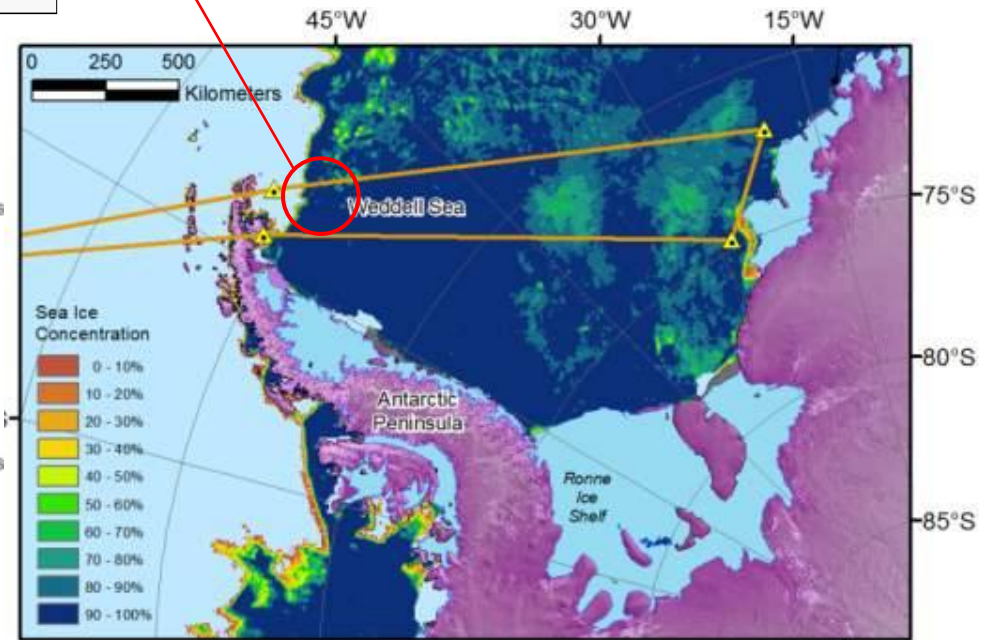
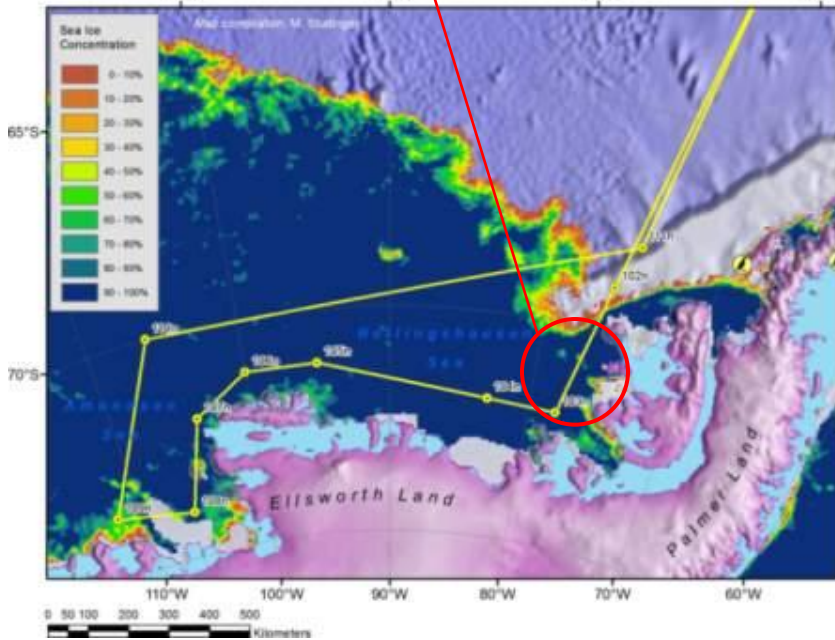
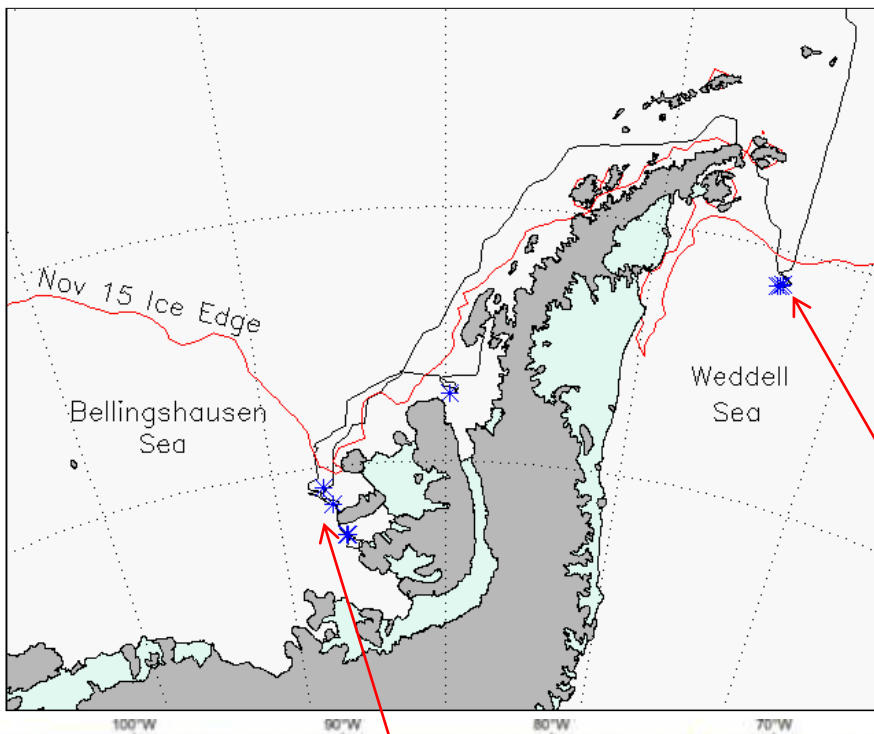
flight
range

Nov 15 Ice Edge

Bellingshouser
Sea

Weddell
Sea

NASA IceBridge



Sea Ice Biological-Physical Interactions (DRI)



Remote Sensing Validation (U. Manitoba,
SAMS, UTSA)



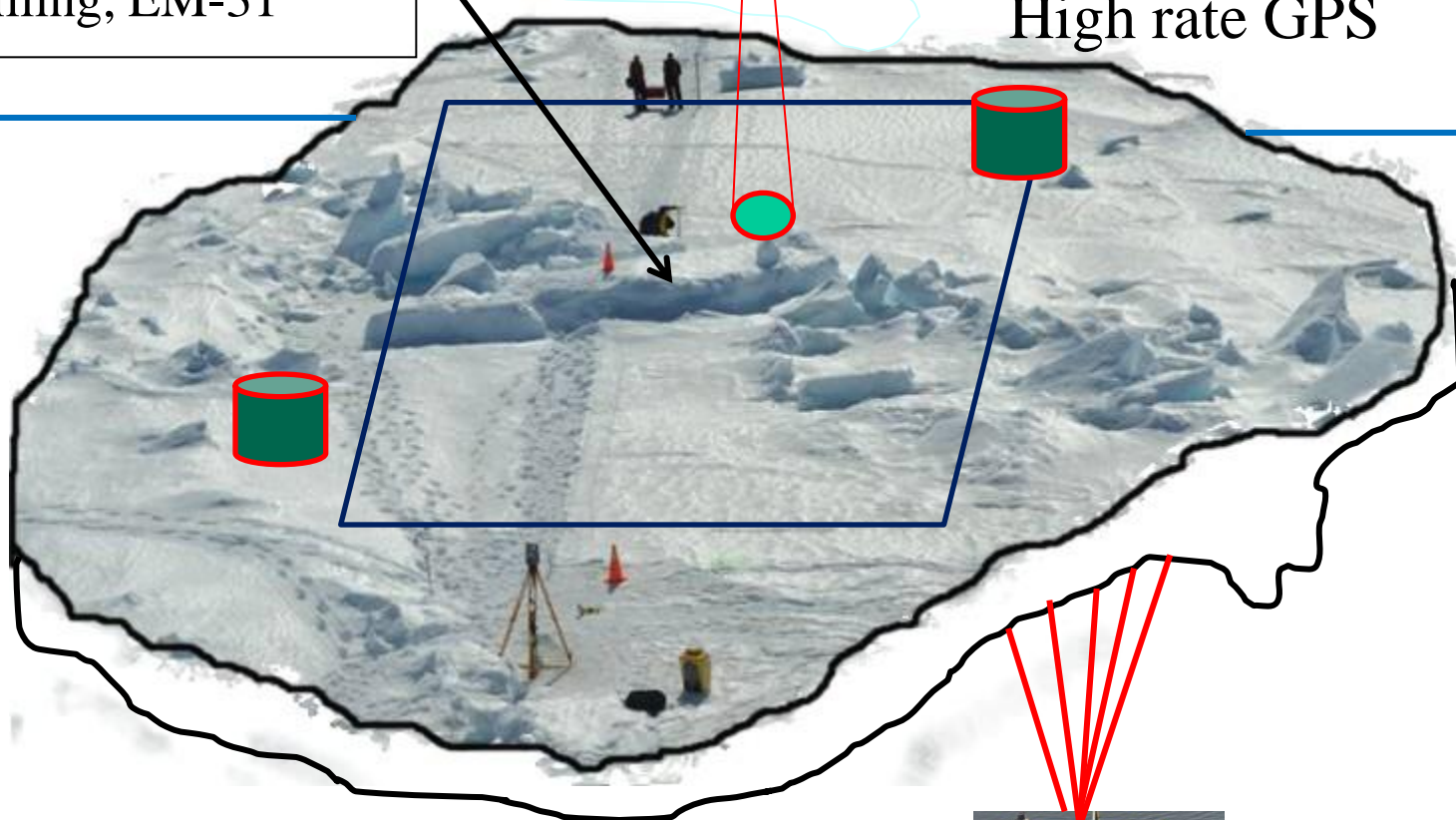
Ice Mass Balance Processes



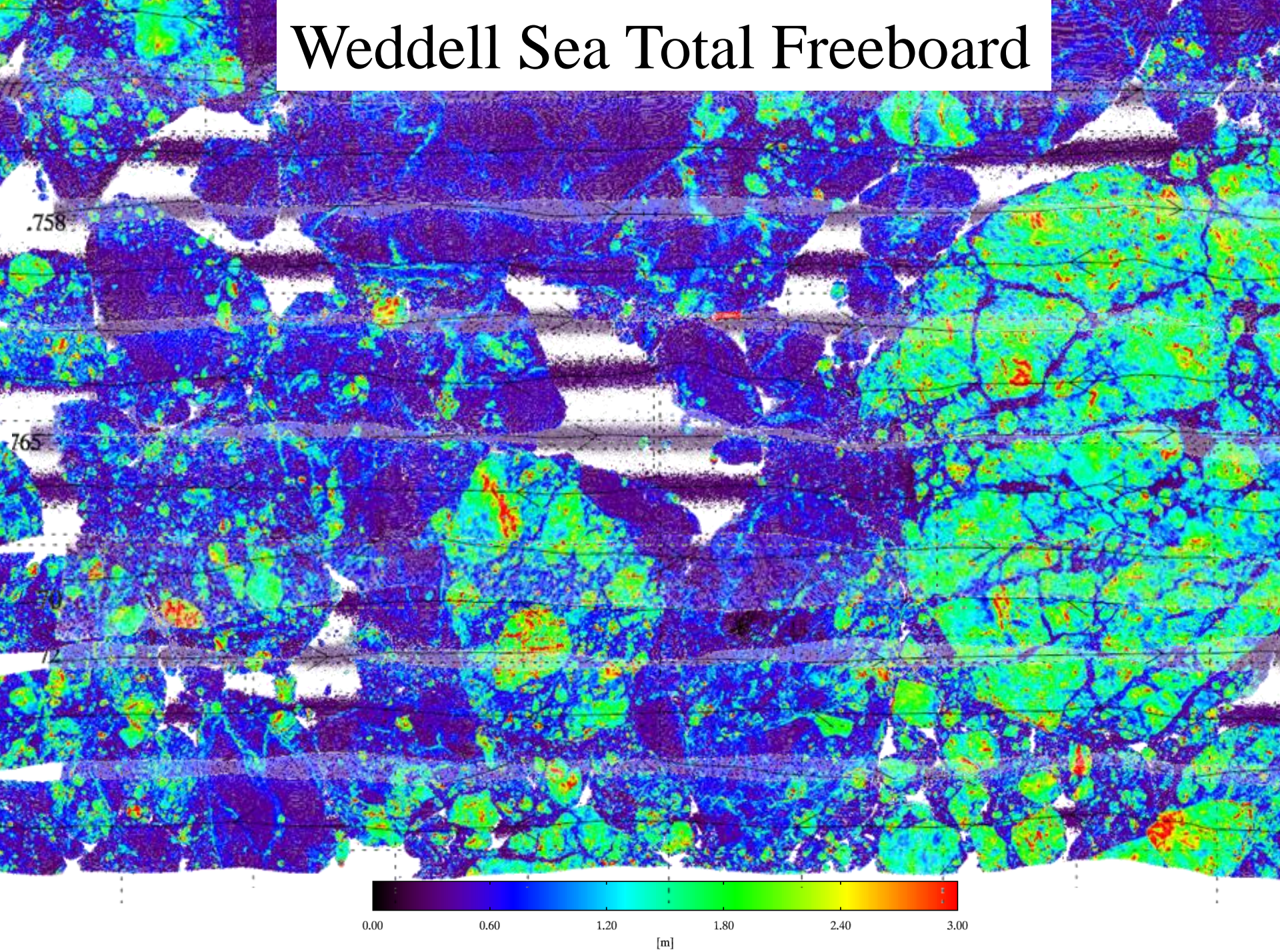
- Lidar surface survey
- Snow depth probe
- GPR
- Drilling, EM-31



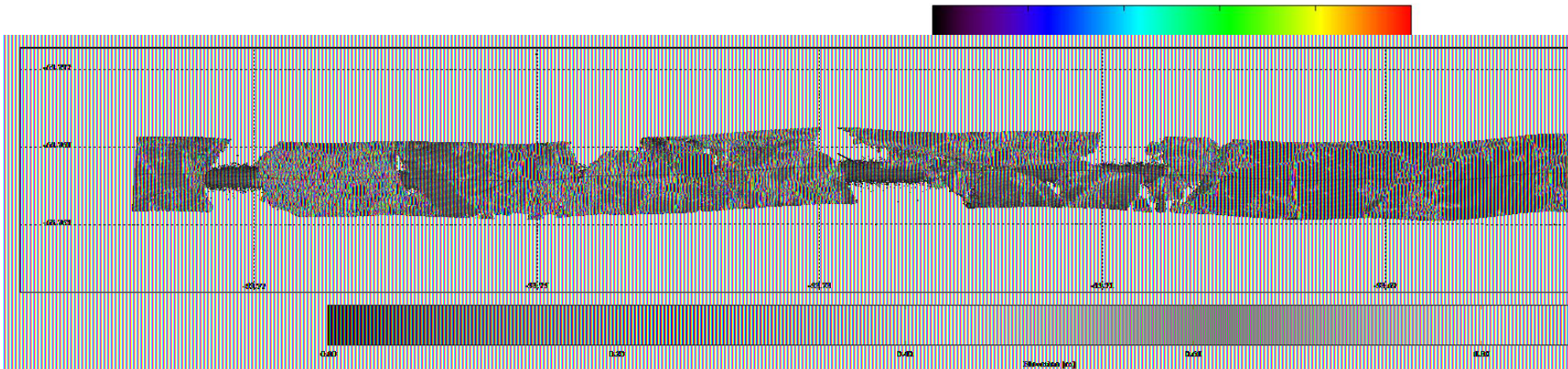
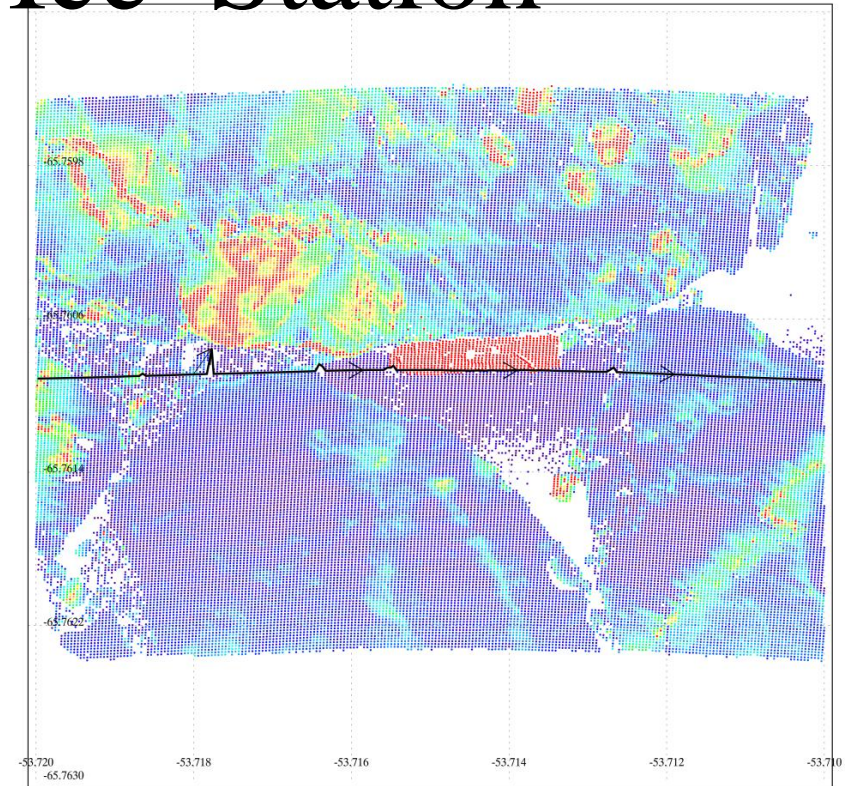
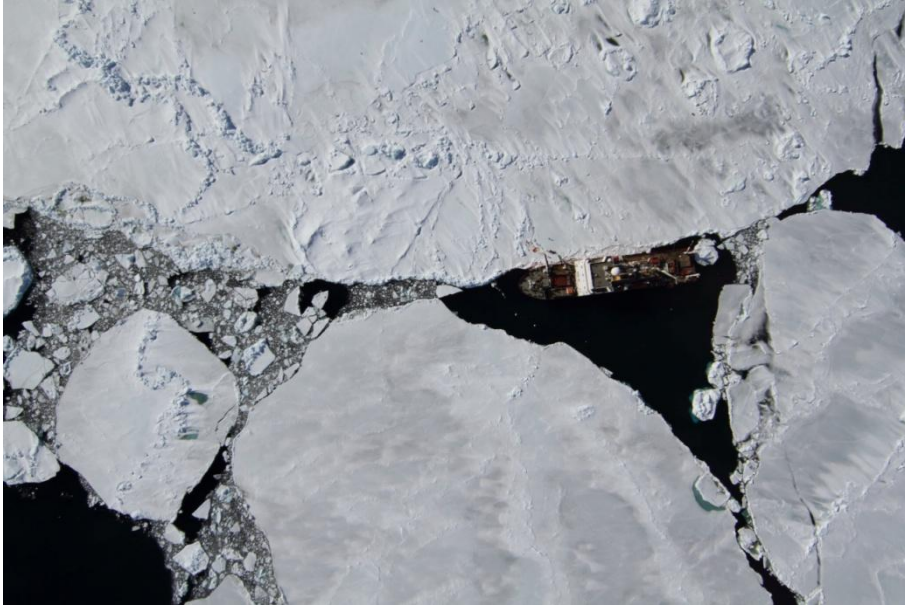
High rate GPS

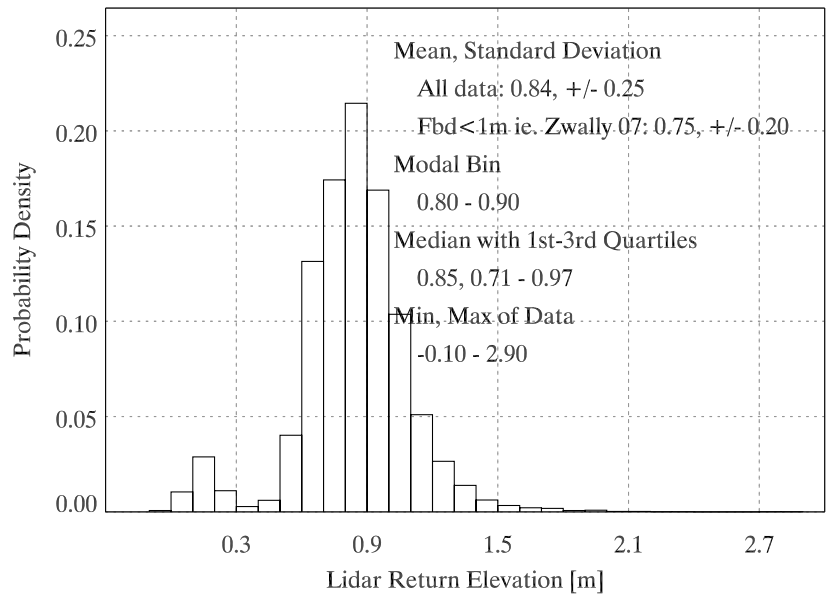
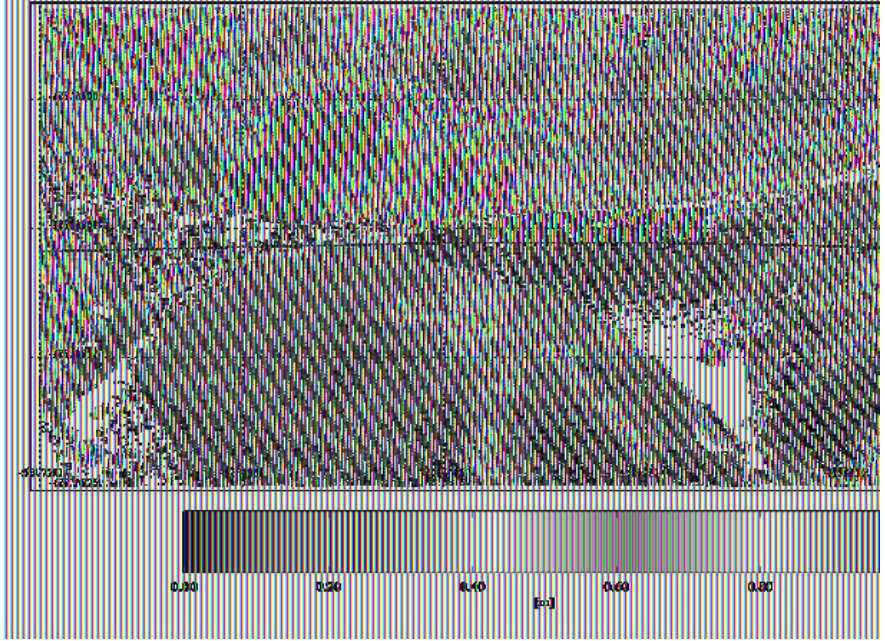
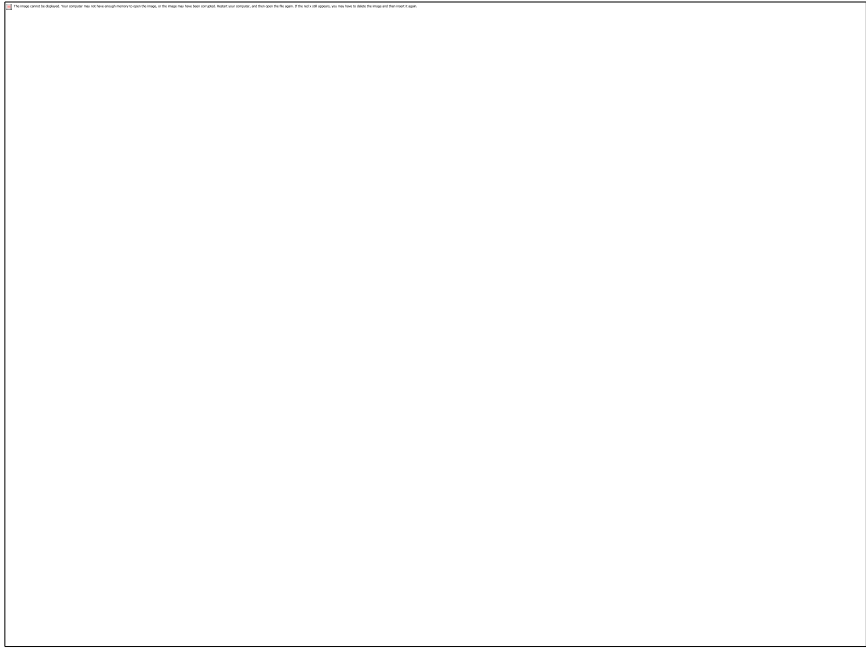


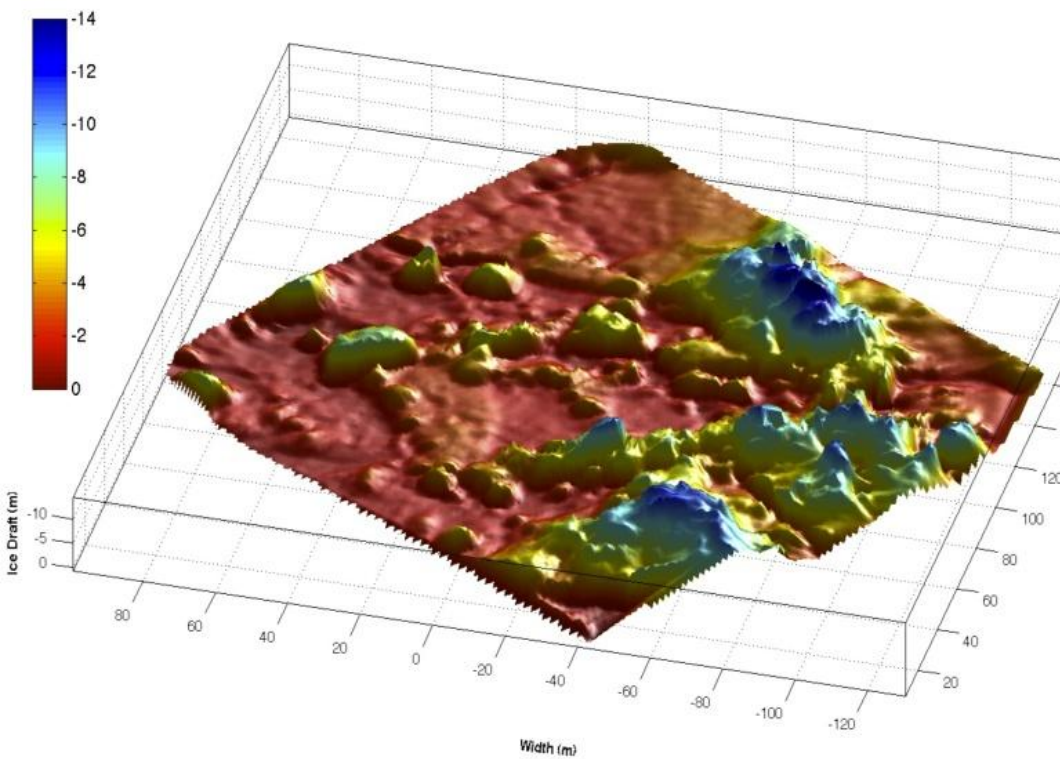
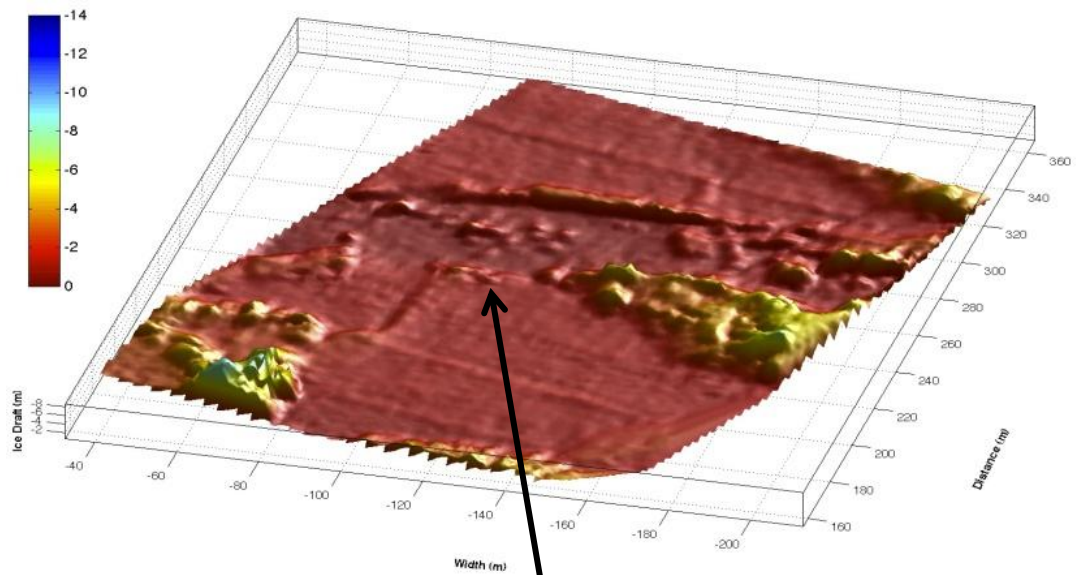
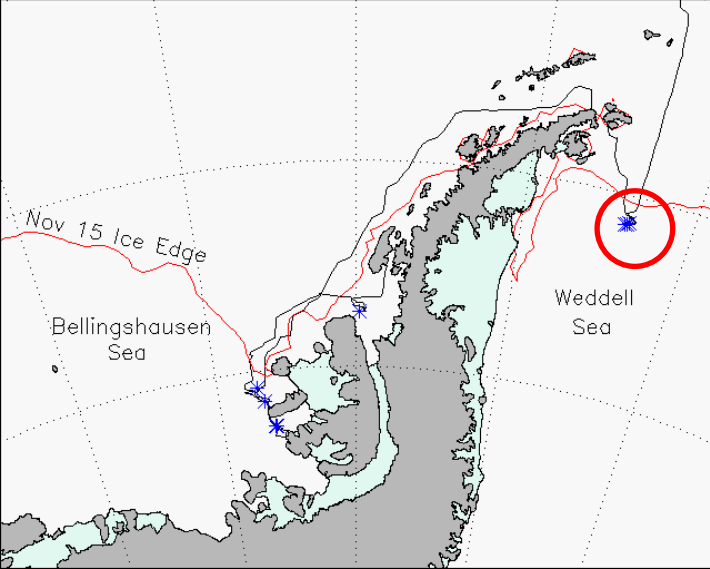
Weddell Sea Total Freeboard



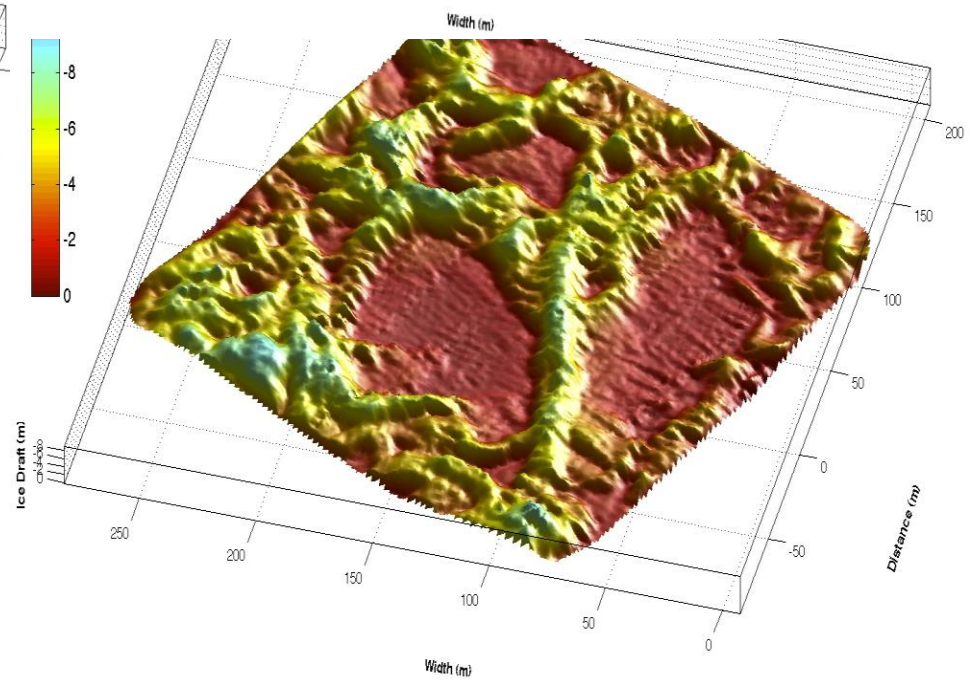
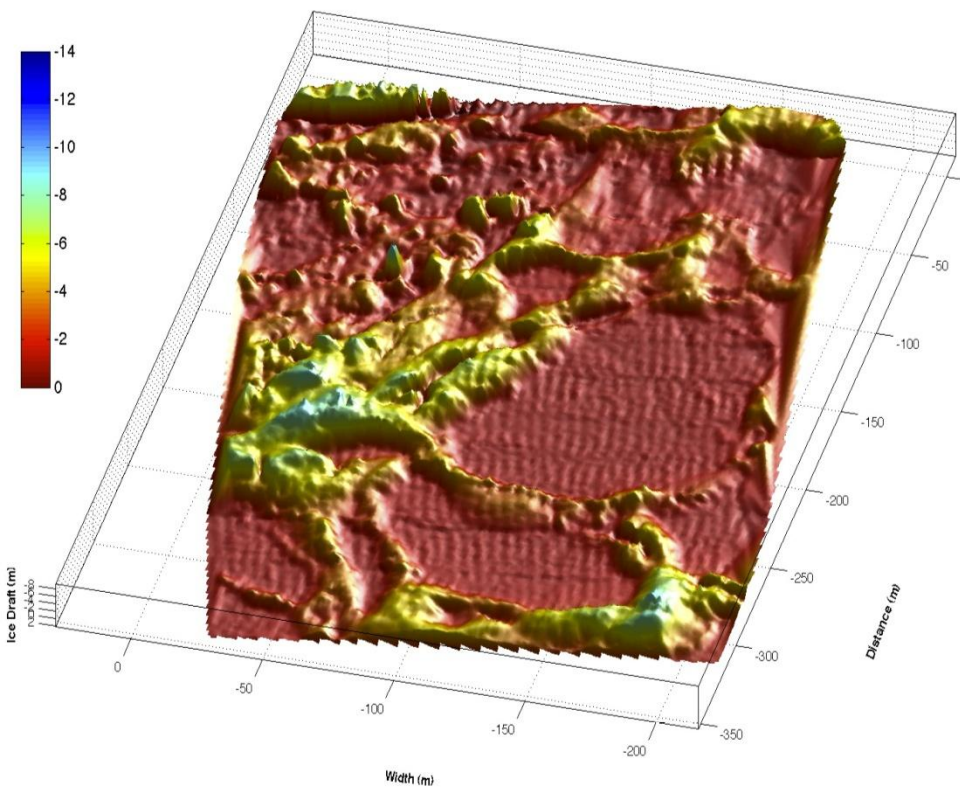
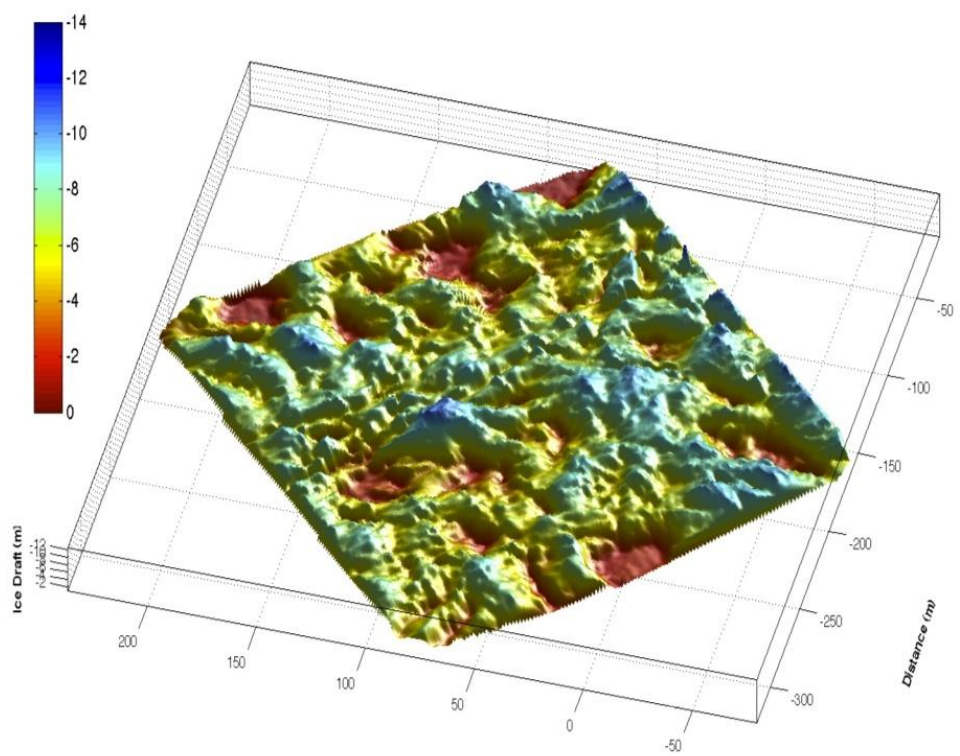
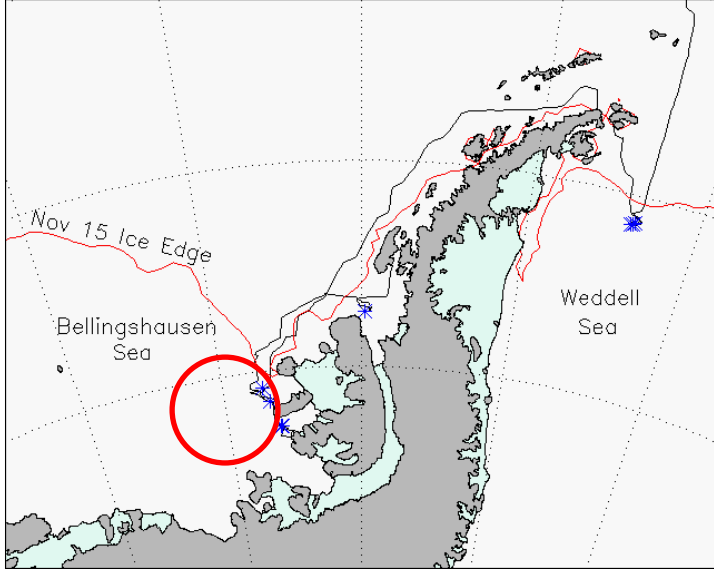
Weddell Sea Ice Station



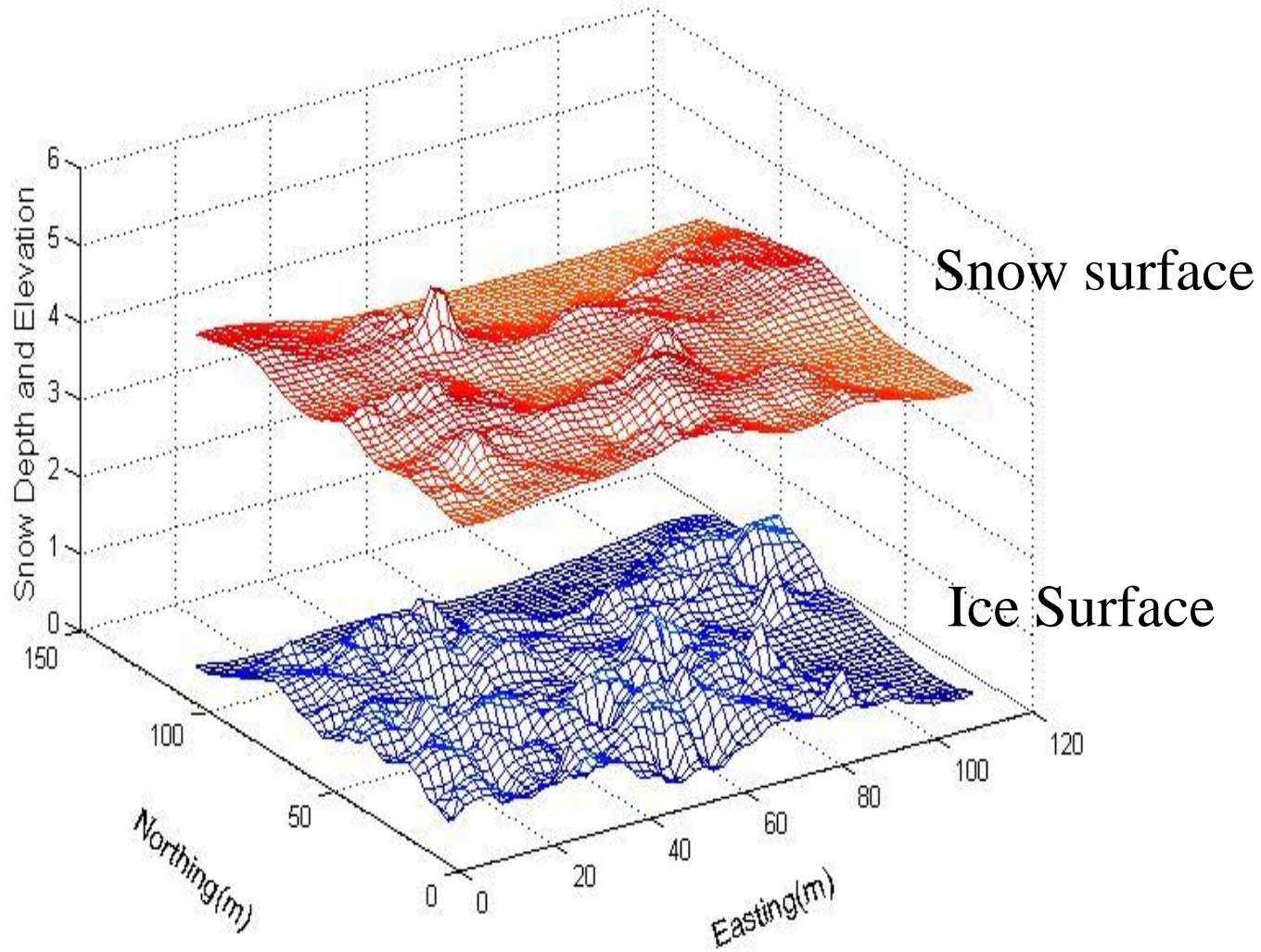




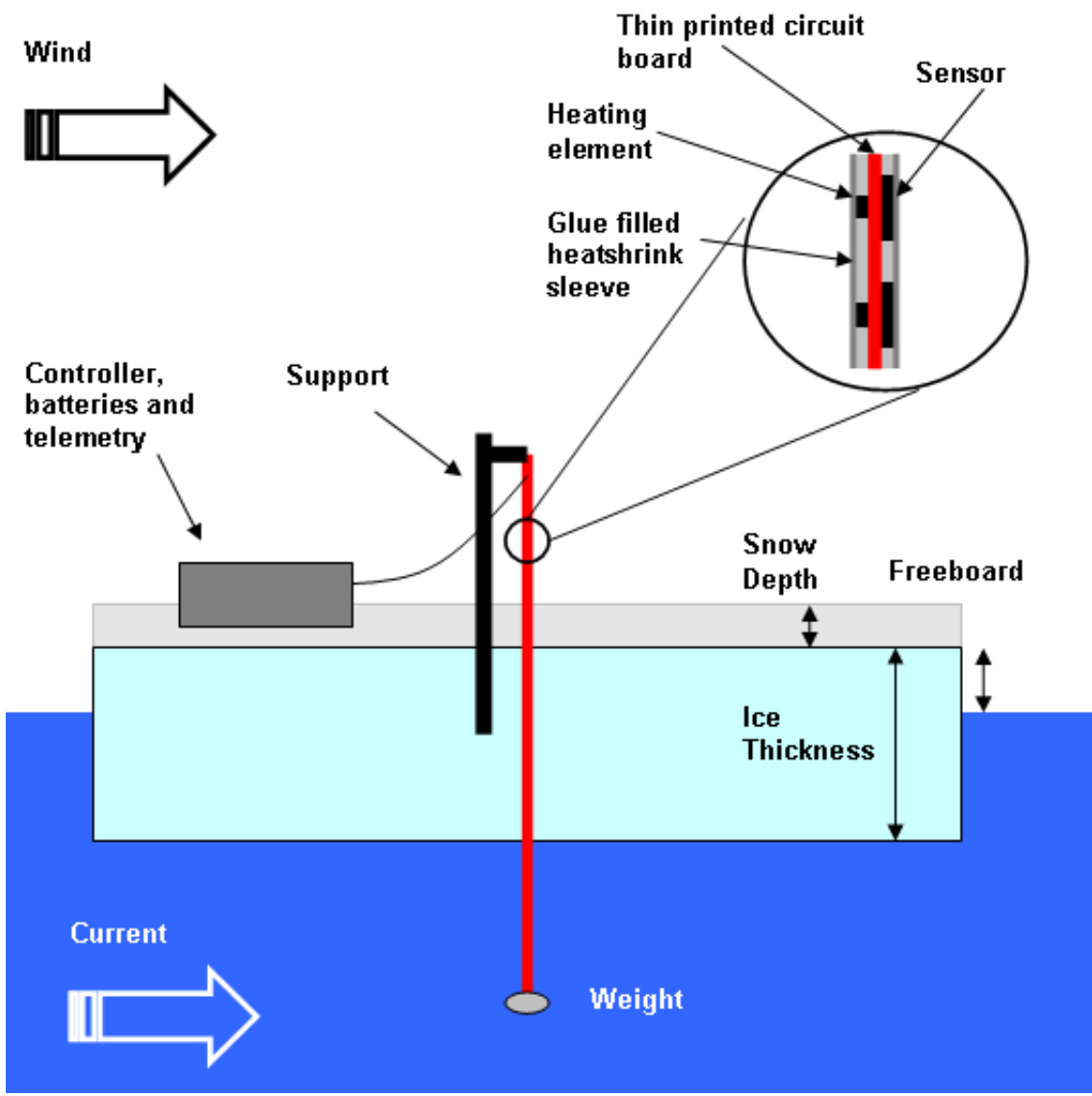
Distance



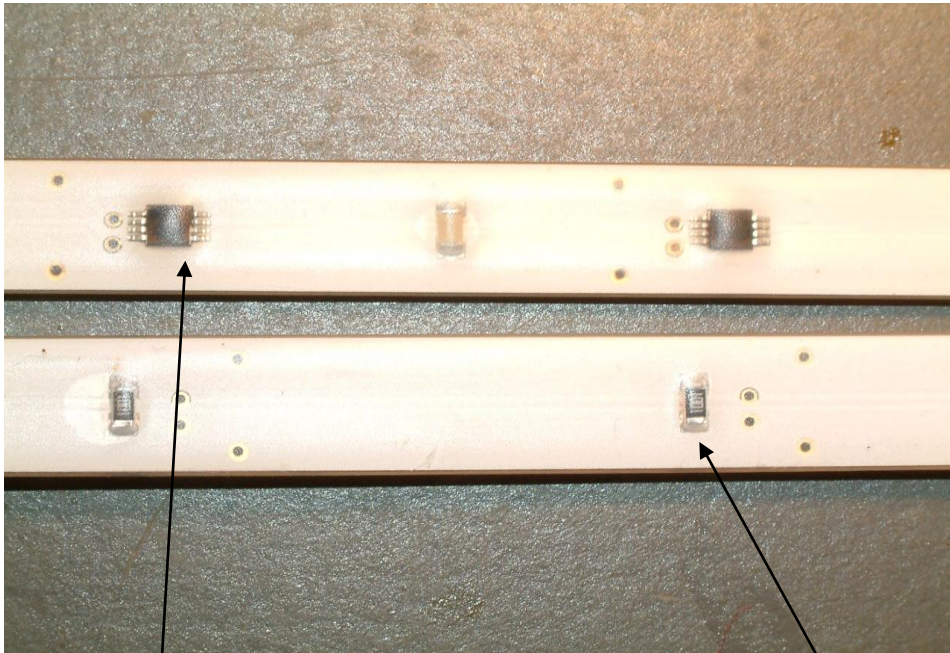
Floe6, Comparison of Elevation and Snow Depth



TMR_c

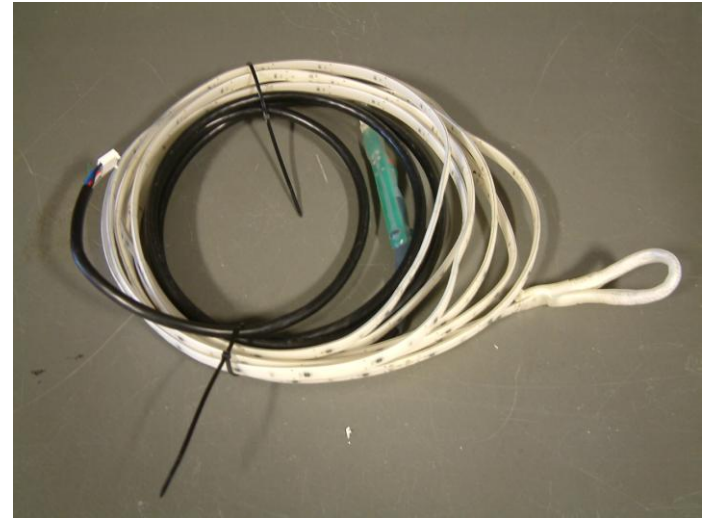


Sensor Chain Detail



Thermometer
Chip

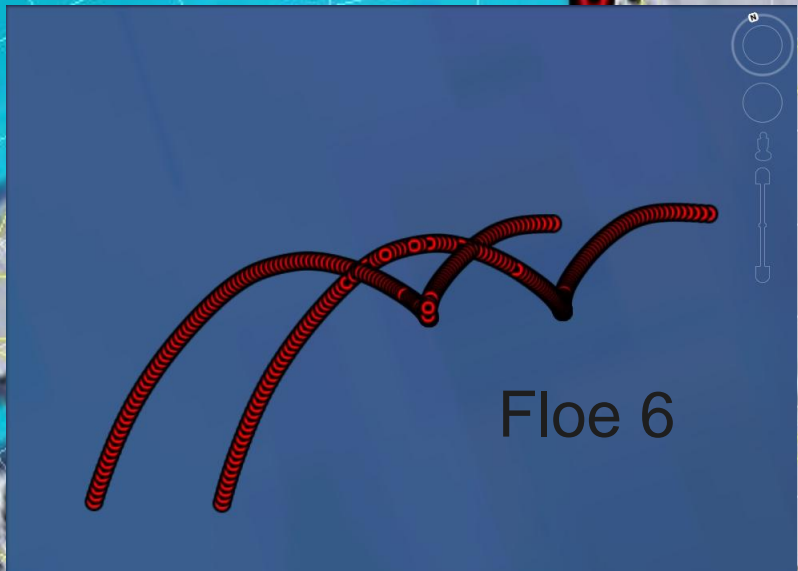
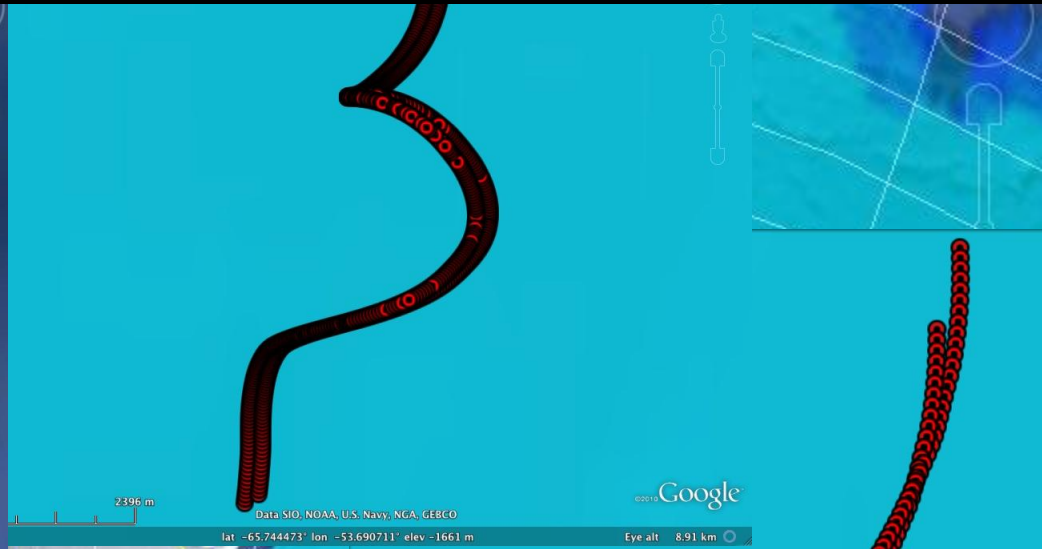
Heating element on reverse
side under sensor chip



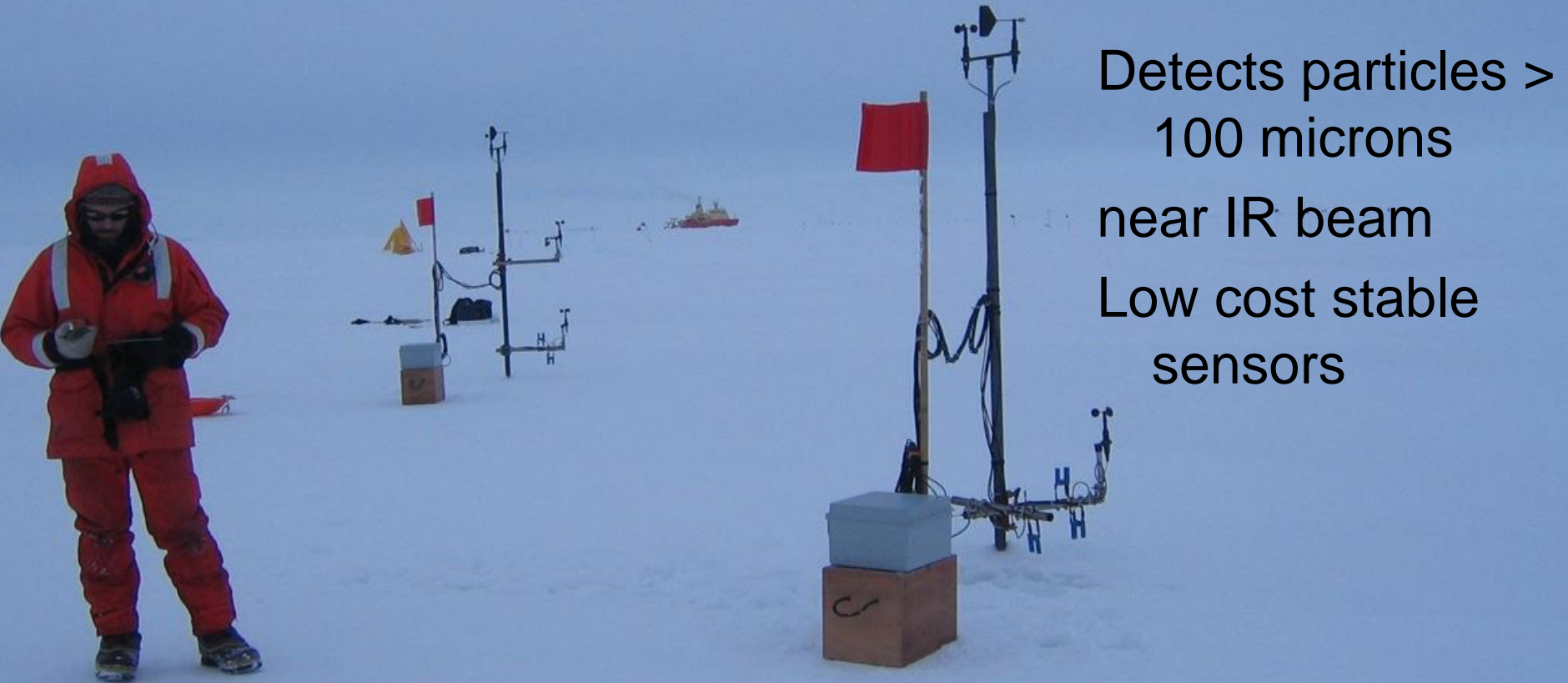
Complete
chain ready for
transport

ICEBell JCR Bellingshausen 2010





Photoelectric metering of snow transport and precipitation



Detects particles >
100 microns
near IR beam
Low cost stable
sensors

Sensors used at SIMBA (this photo), elsewhere, measure beam interruptions per second.
Multiple sensors allow vertical profile of blowing snow intensity.

High resolution wind data is required to evaluate the snow transport data, air temperature, relative humidity other atmospheric parameters are very useful.



- 3D characterisation of freeboard and snow depth
- Lidar mapping of snow surface
- GPS snow probe to provide high-resolution 3D maps of snow depth and freeboard
- Snow radar (HP Marshall)
- Repeat Lidar measurements of snow drift events
- IMBs + AWS to monitor precipitation and accumulation

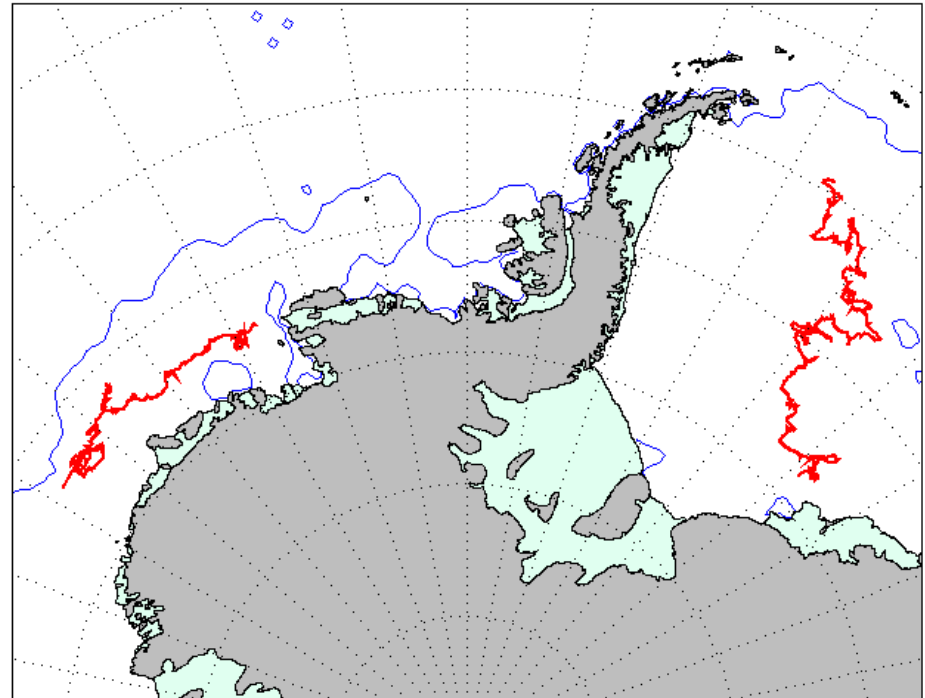




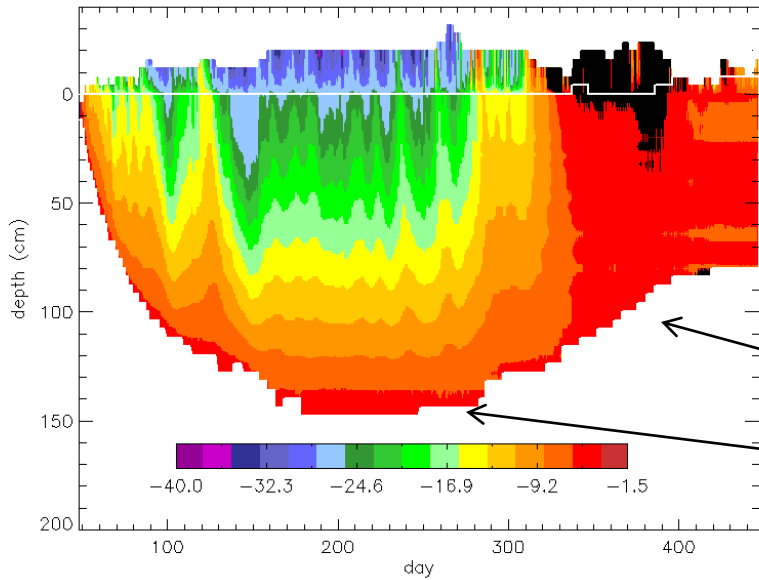
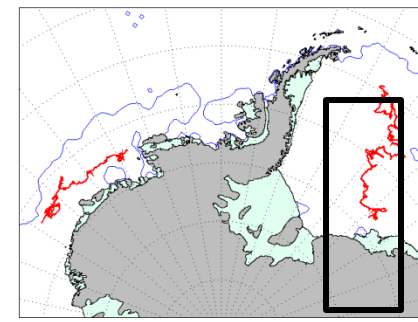
SAMS Ice Mass Balance Buoys



- Autonomous monitoring of snow and ice thickness evolution
- Snow and ice properties?



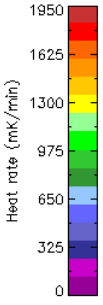
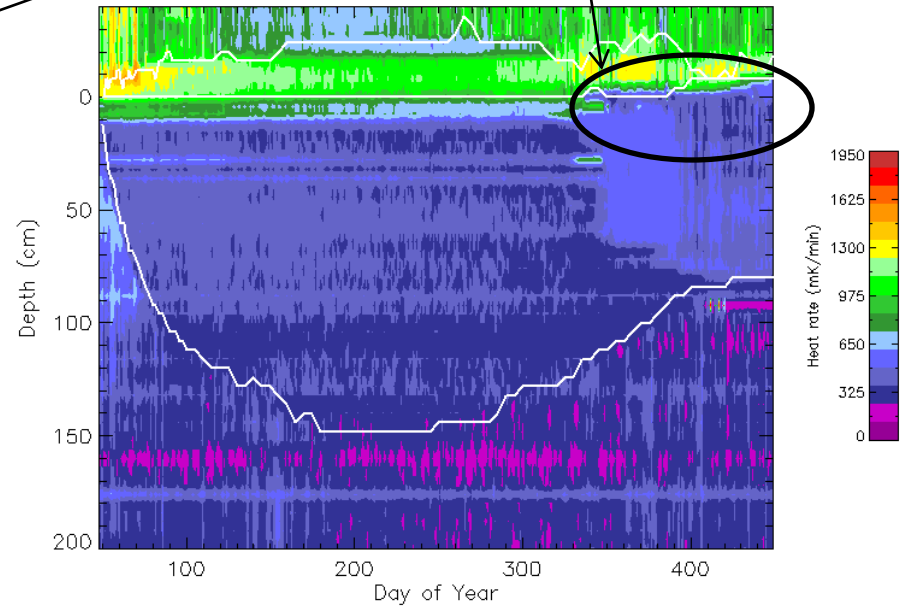
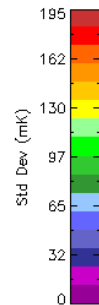
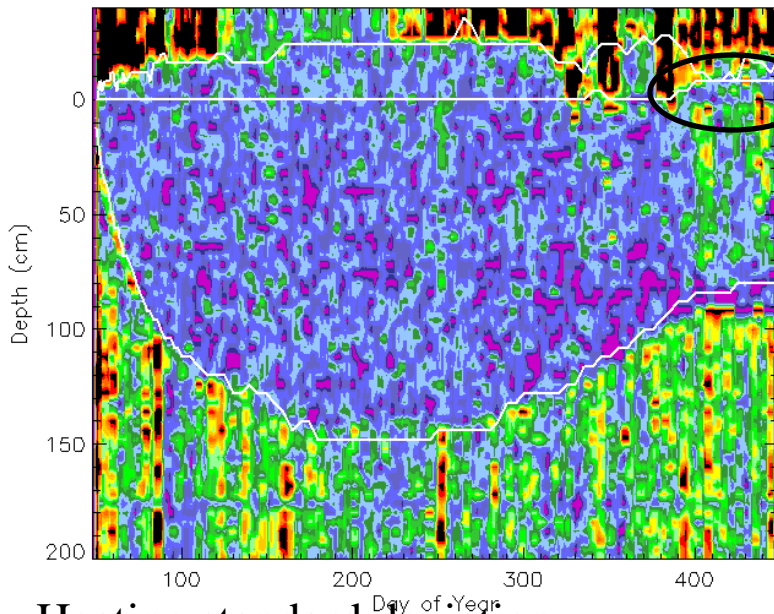
Weddell Sea 2009



$$F_w = 20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$$

$$F_w = 12 \text{ W m}^{-2}$$

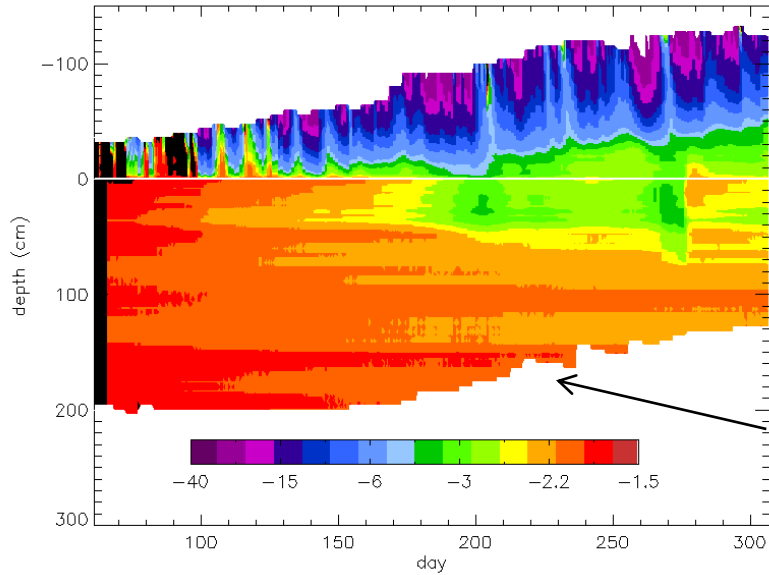
Superimposed ice



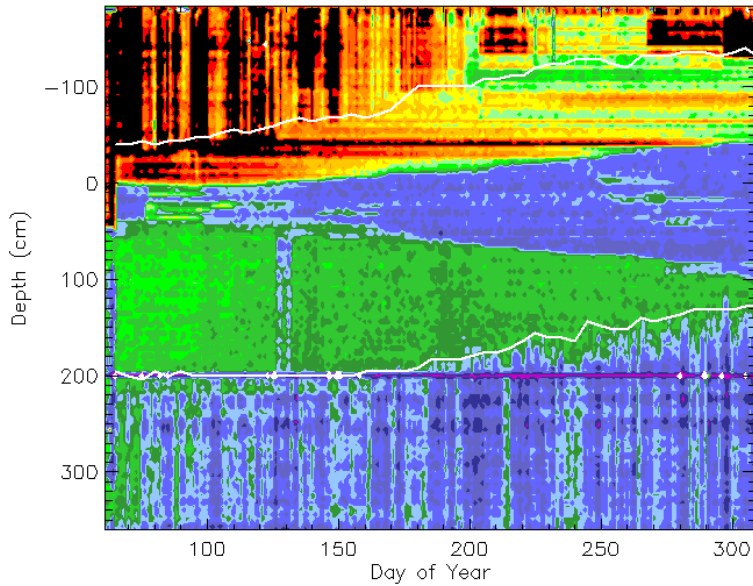
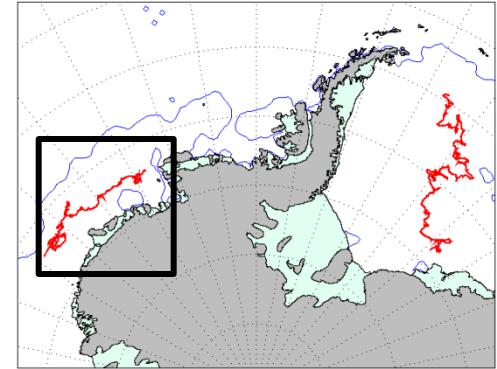
• Heating standard deviation

• Heating rate

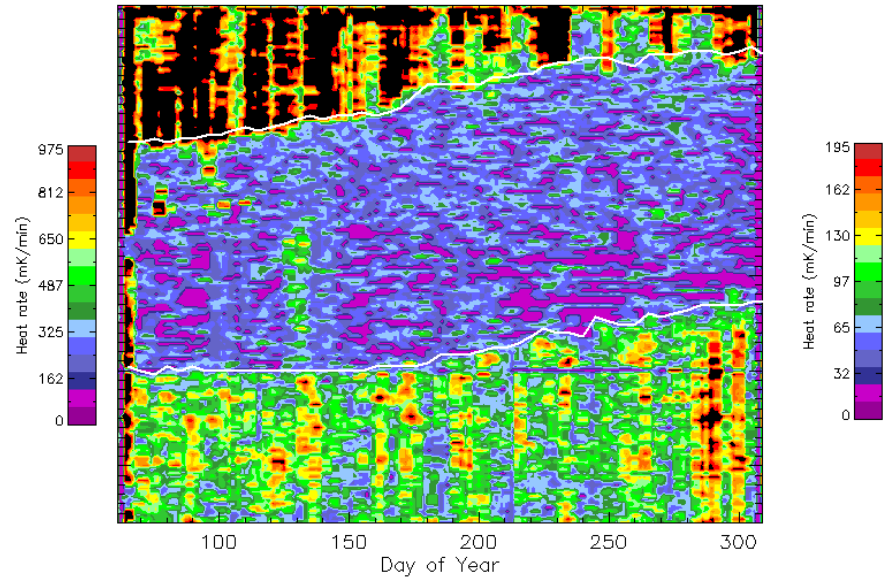
Amundsen MY Ice



$$F_w = 19 \text{ W m}^{-2}$$

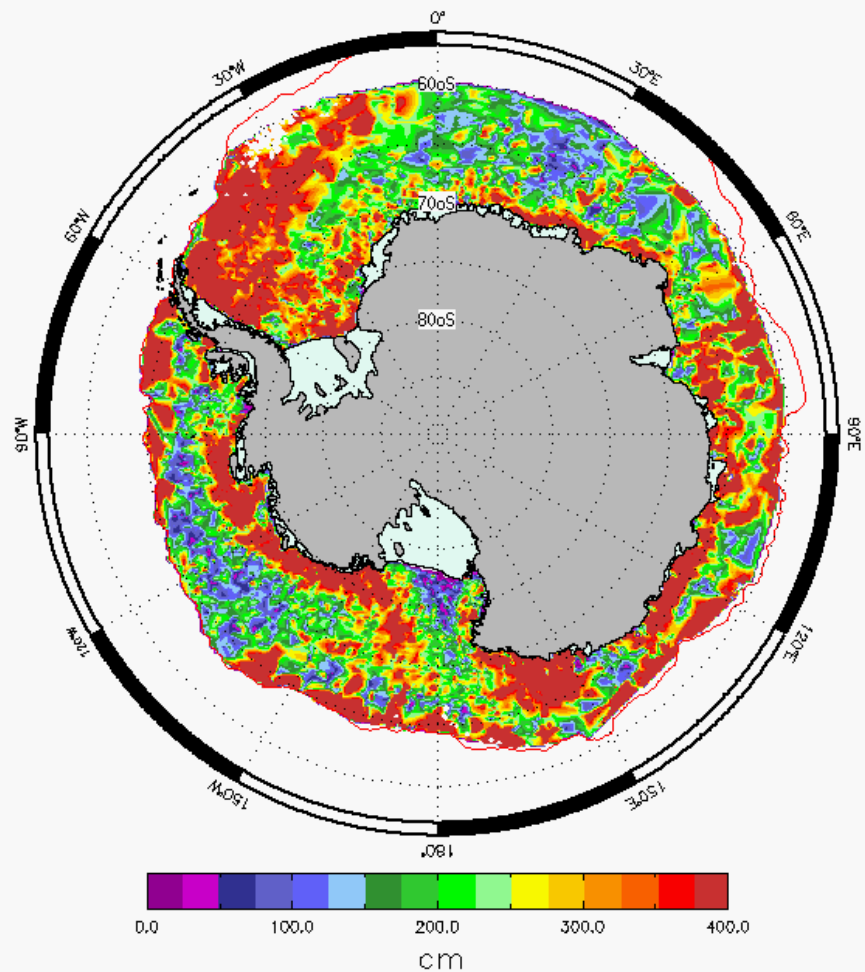


Heating rate



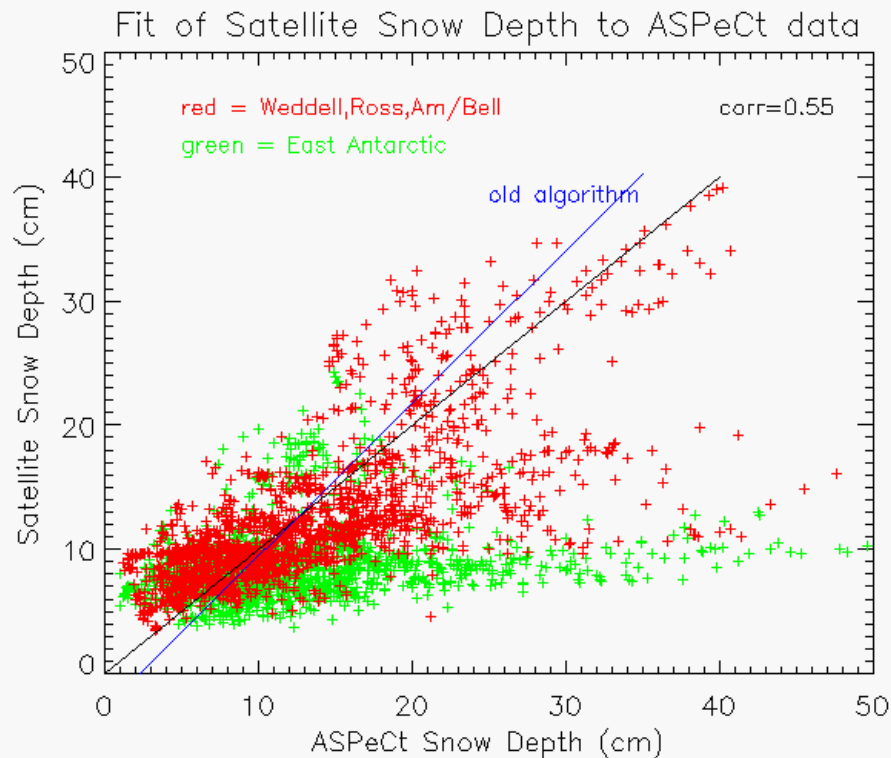
Heating rate standard deviation

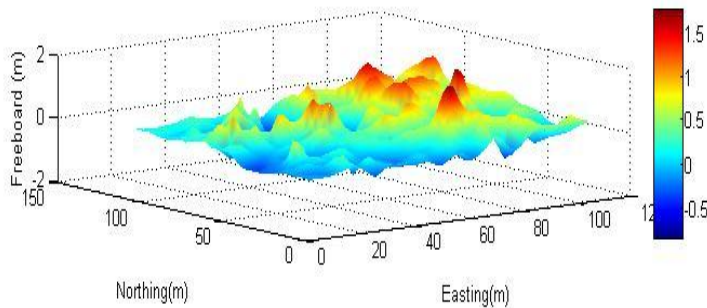
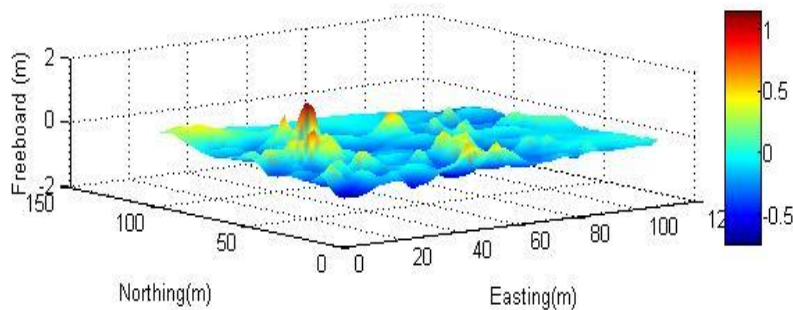
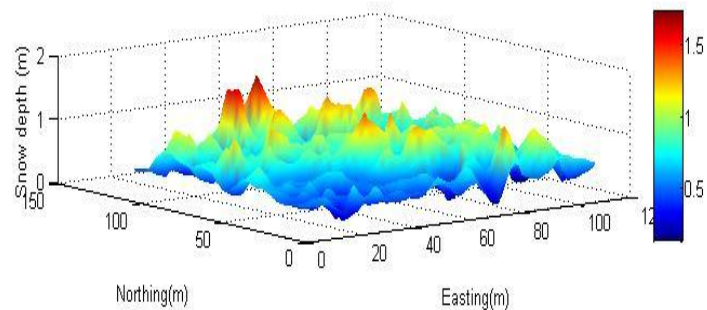
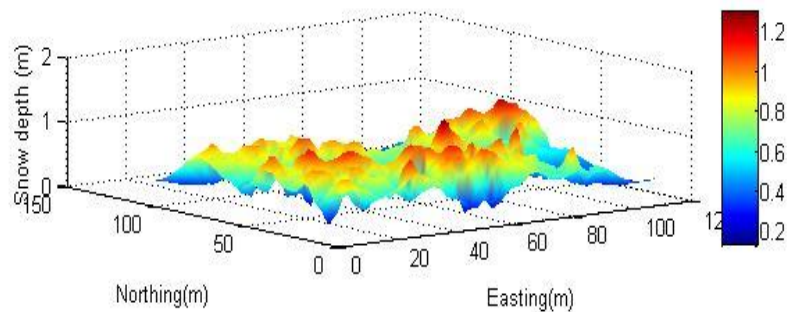
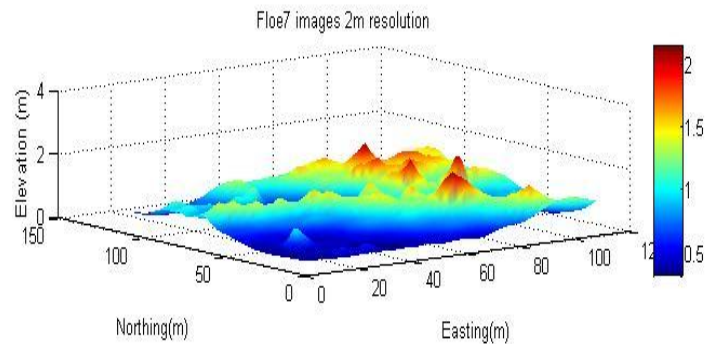
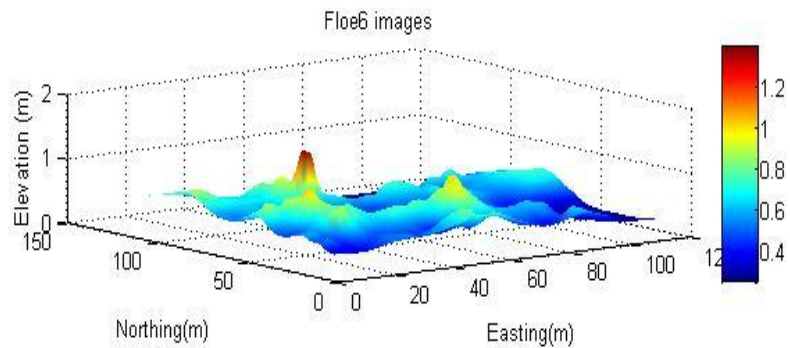
How good is satellite snow depth?



Ice Thickness (Oct –Nov)

Satellite snow depth

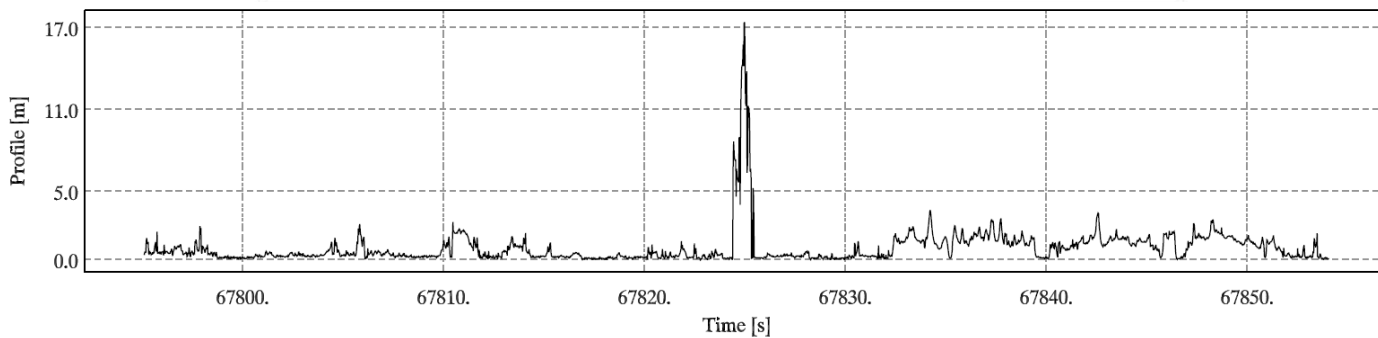
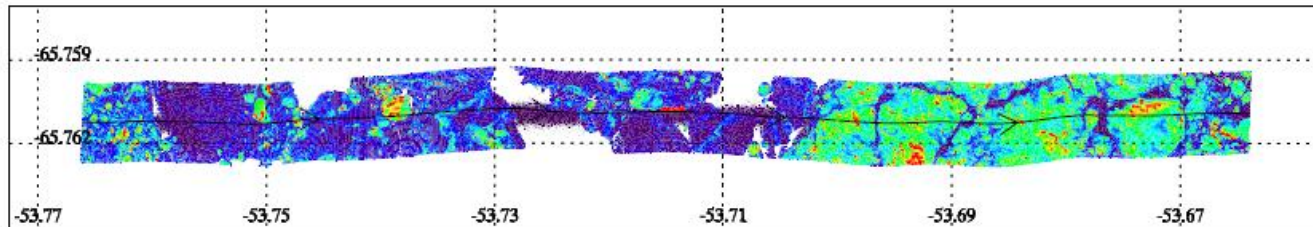
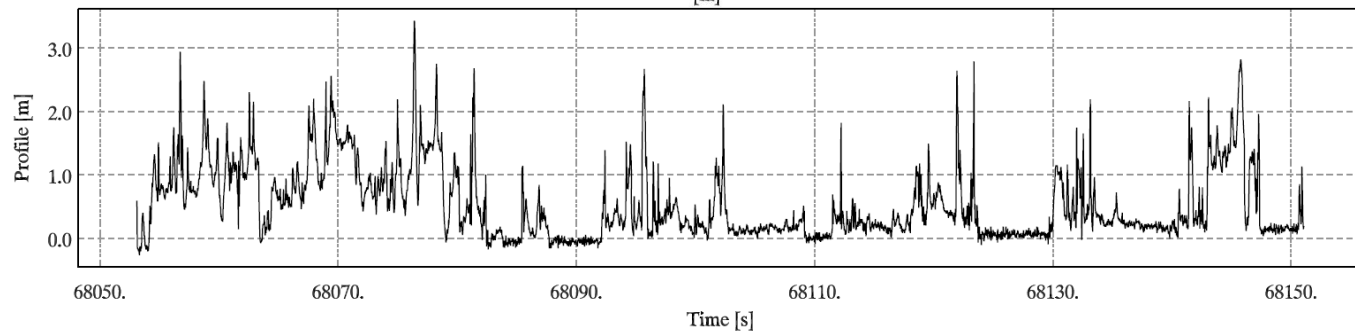
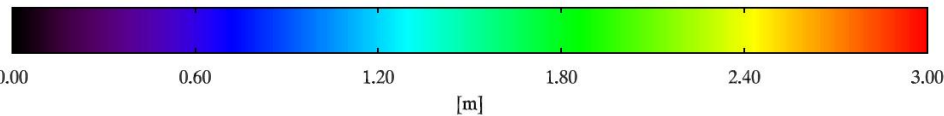
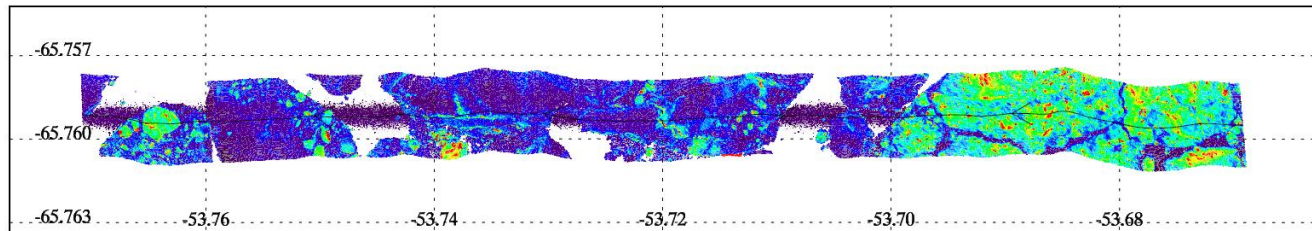




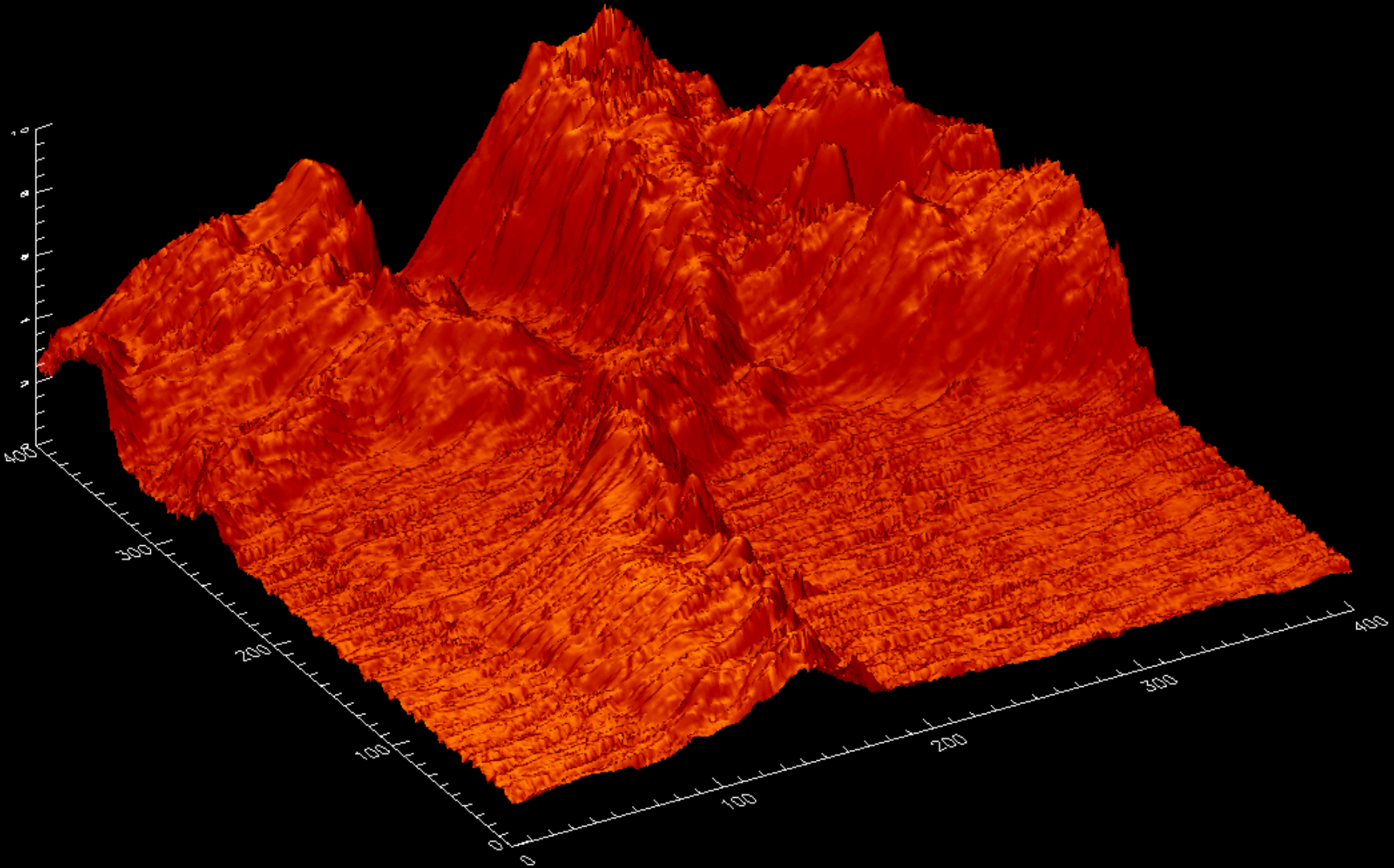
Floe 6 ~ 79% negative freeboard

Floe 7 ~ 37% negative freeboard

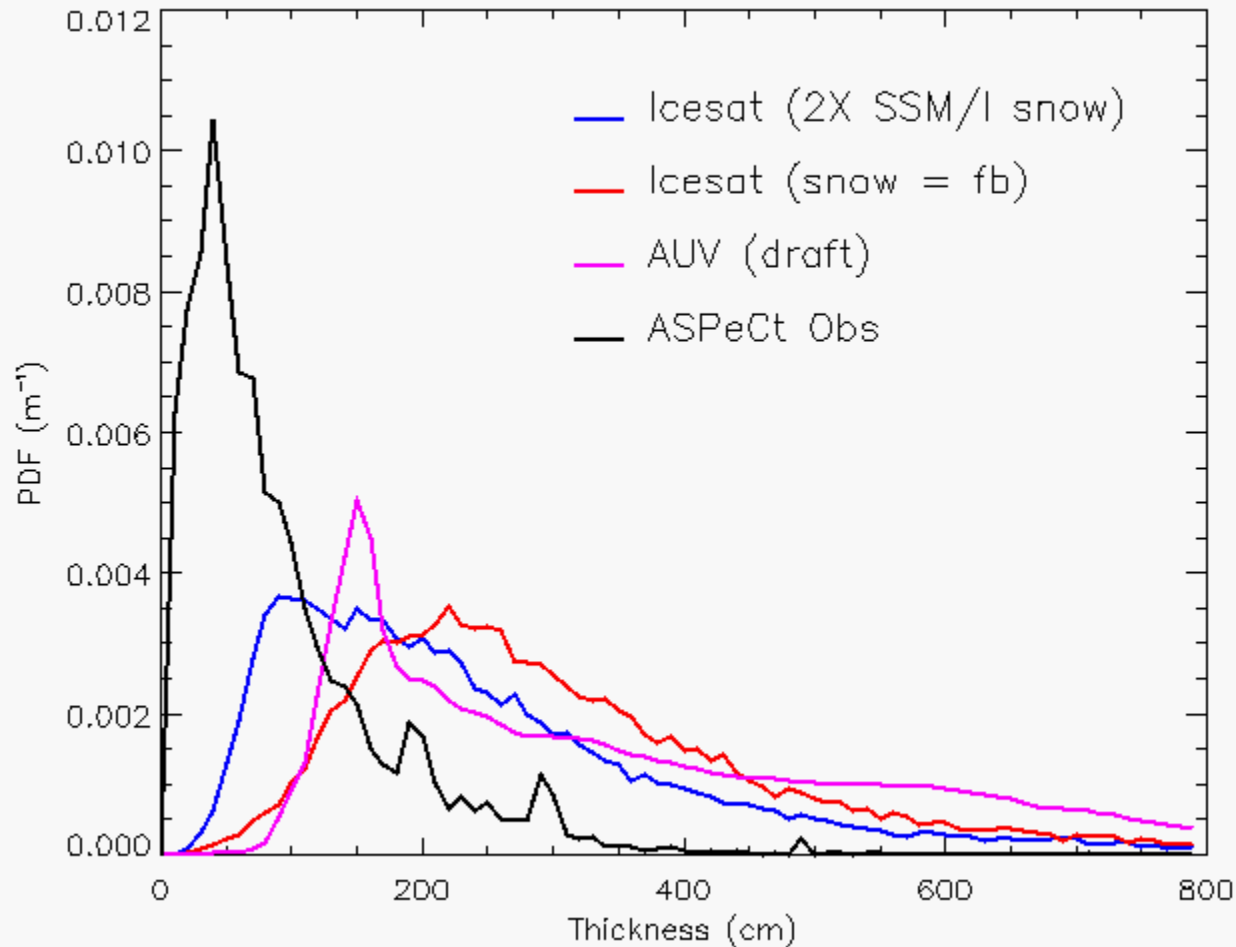
Sea Ice Flight 15-Nov-10 Weddell Sea



Floe 6 Ice Draft (mean 2.66 m)



Ice Thickness Distribution



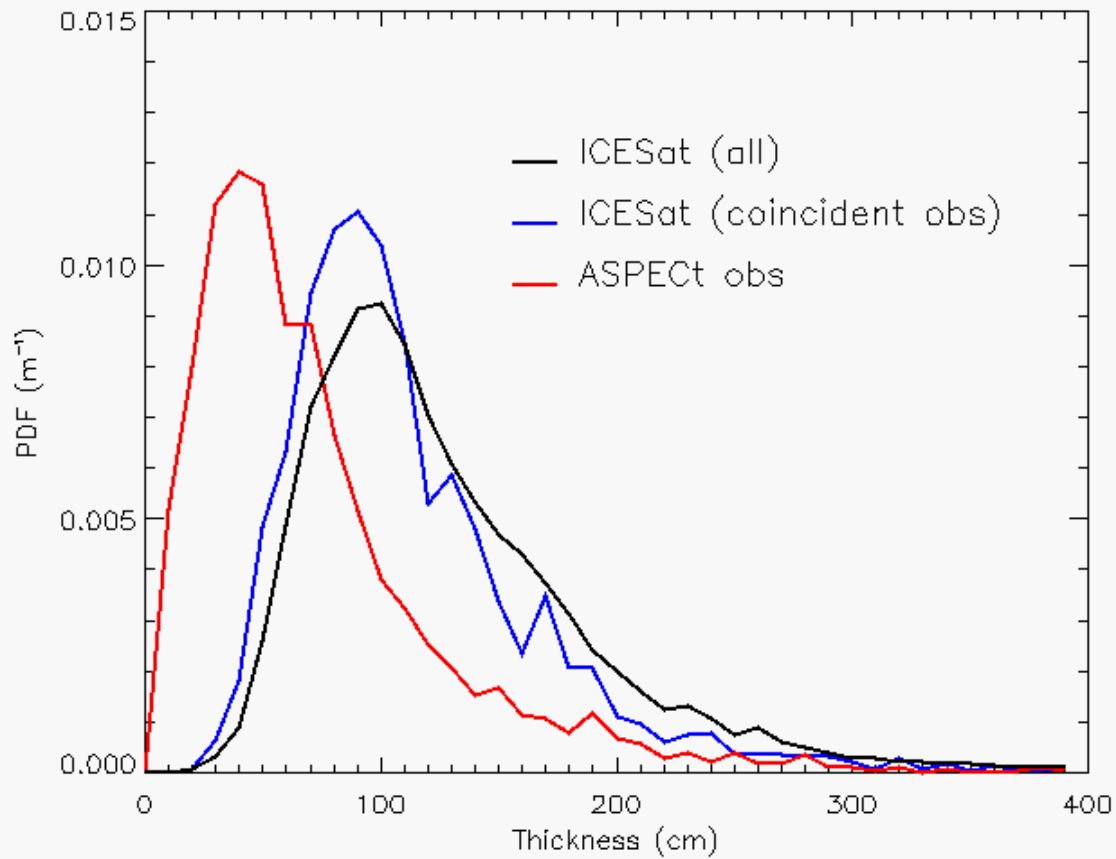
Mean ice thickness

ASPeCt – 100cm

ICESat (2X snow) – 268 cm

ICESat (snow = fb) – 139 cm

AUV – 367 cm



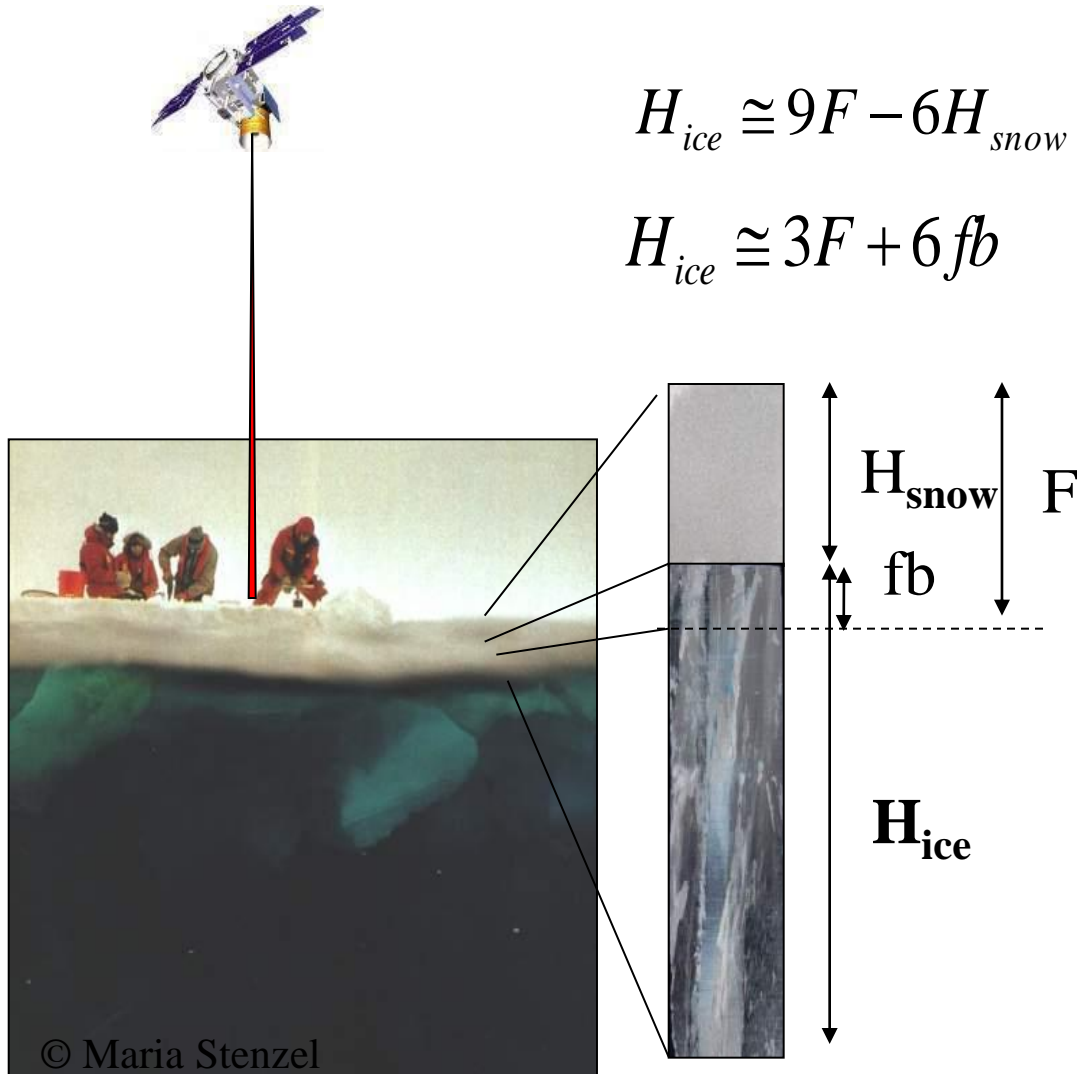
Mean ice thickness + snow

ASPeCt – 80 cm + 14.6

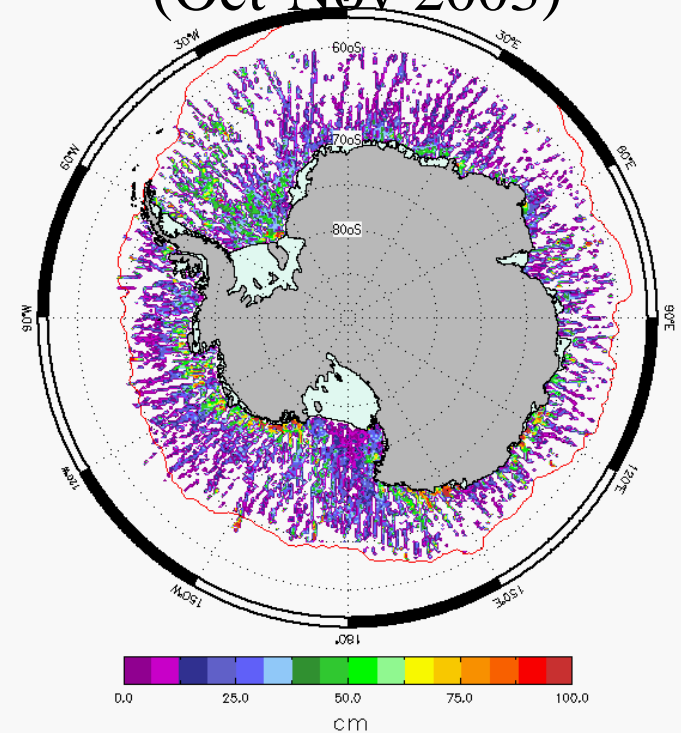
ICESat (coincident) – 139 + 14 cm

ICESat (snow = fb) – 122 + 12.7 cm

Sea ice thickness from space



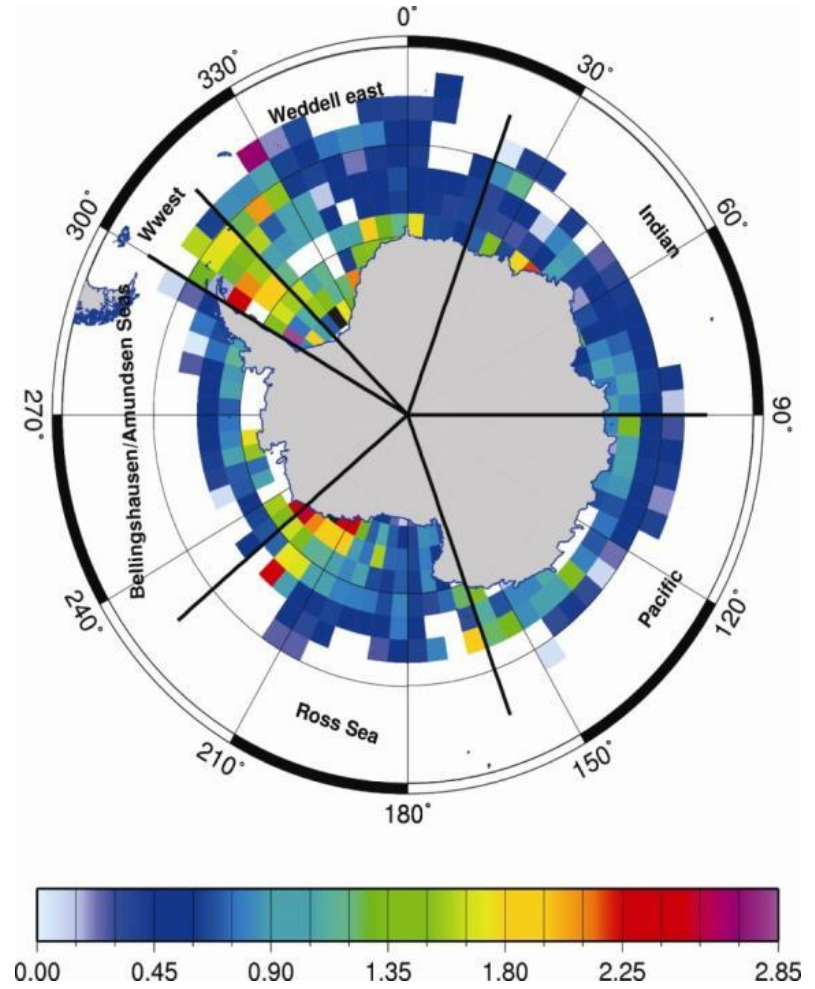
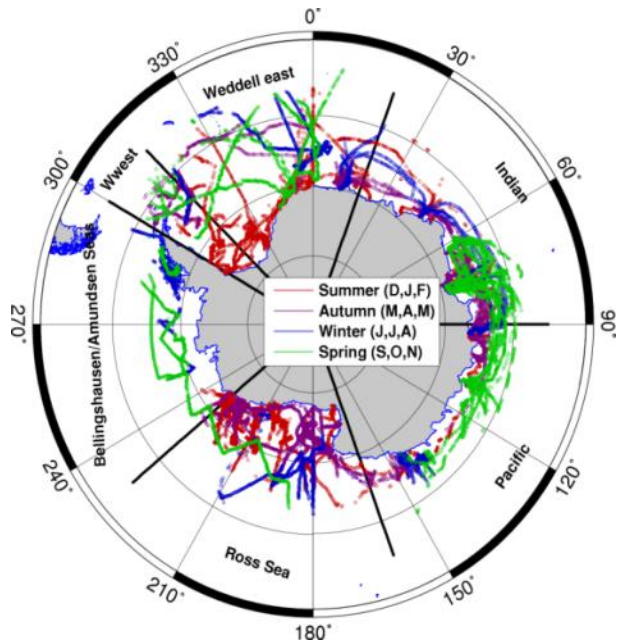
ICESat ice surface elevation
(Oct-Nov 2003)



Data Courtesy Ron Kwok, JPL



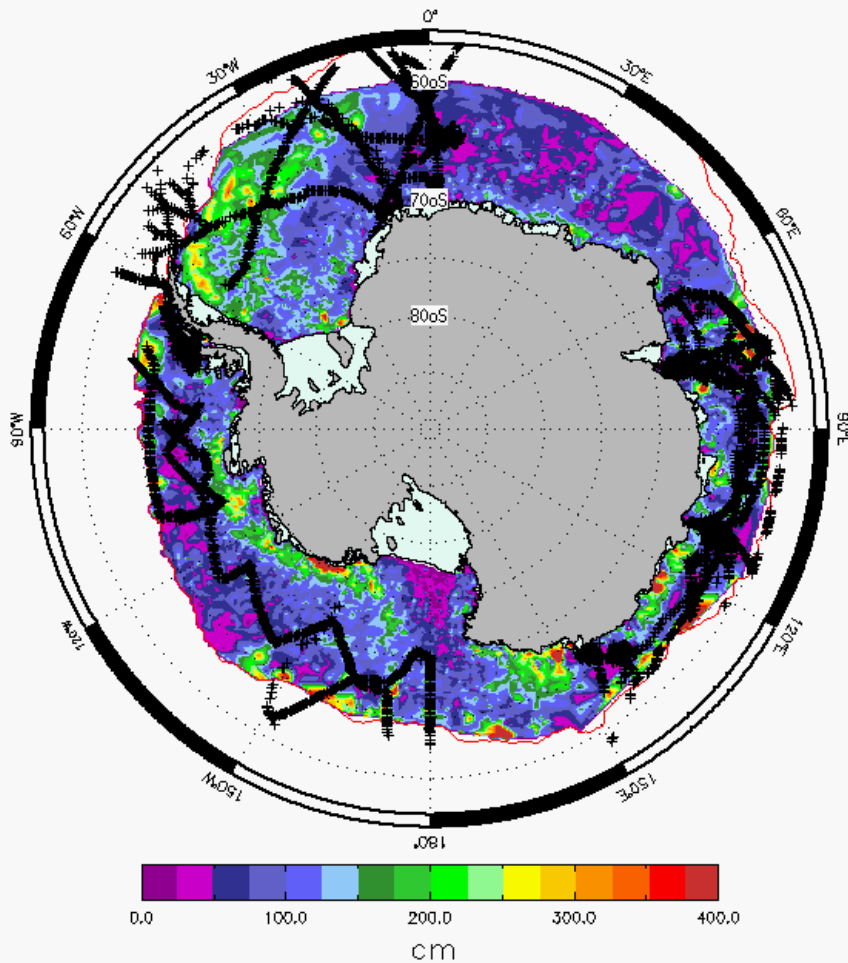
ASPECT ice thickness



Worby et al. JGR, 2008

Mean ~ 100 cm

Ice Thickness (freeboard all snow) (Oct–Nov '03)



	Ice Thickness (cm)
IceSat (ssmi snow)	335
IceSat (all snow)	139
ASPECT	100

	Ice Freeboard (cm)
ASPECT	1.0 (est)
Drilling data	1.6

Freeboard-Draft Relationship

	Floe 3a	Floe3b	Floe 4	Floe 5	Floe 6	Floe 7	Floe 8	Mean
elevation	42	28	126	78	55	92	82	72
Snow depth	17	8	110	123	67	67	196	84
freeboard	25	20	16	-45	-12	26	-114	-12
draft	195	367	601	358	266		335	355
Sat. Est. Thickness	126	84	378	234	165	276	246	261

