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Modeling Sea Ice



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An invited review commemorating 350 years of scientific publishing at the Royal Society A method to distinguish between different types of sea ice using remote sensing techniques A computer model to determine how a human should walk so as to expend the least energy



Cover image

The Australian icebreaker Aurora Australis sails through a vast field of pancake ice in the Southern Ocean off the coast of East Antarctica. The pancakes form in wavy conditions, and typically have a granular polycrystalline microstructure. (Image courtesy of A. Gully, J. Lin, E. Cherkaev and K. M. Golden, Bounds on the complex permittivity of polycrystalline materials by analytic continuation. Proc. R. Soc. A 471: 20140702; http://dx.doi. org/10.1098/rspa.2014.0702.)

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Icy Math



Ken Golden/University of Utah

A penguin poses for the camera as the National Science Foundation's icebreaking research ship, the Nathaniel Palmer, is docked in the distance during a trip to Antarctica to study polar sea ice.



Ken Golden/University of Utah

Researchers measure increase in ice thickness in Antarctica. Study is aimed at understanding polar ice and major role it plays in Earth's climate and weather.

THE MATHEMATICS OF

U. Professor Goes South to Study Antarctica's 'Blanket'

By Lee Siegel The salt lake tribune

The glittering beauty of light as it danced off snow and ice drew Ken Golden to mathematics, to Utah and to an Antarctic adventure amid fierce storms, 30-foot seas and frigid floes.

And delays during his latest trip to Earth's southernmost seas almost made him miss his own wedding.

Golden, an associate professor of mathematics at the University of Utah, is among 50 scientists nationwide working on a \$10 million Navy effort to learn how microwaves reflect and scatter off polar sea ice.

As the project's theoretical re-

search coordinator, his workis aimed at improving the accuracy of measurements when planes and satellites bounce microwaves off polar ice, then capture the reflected microwaves to learn what the ice is like: its age, thickness, roughness, brine content, porosity and so forth.

The project, which began in 1992, stemmed from the Navy's desire to help U.S. submarines navigate and communicate beneath the ice shelf. The findings still should help ships navigate around ice, said physicist Art Jordan, of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington.

With the end of the Cold War, the research now is aimed at understanding polar ice and the major role it plays in Earth's climate and weather. The transfer of heat from oceans to the atmosphere drives the planet's weather, and sea ice serves as an insulating blanket that influences the process. By determining the detailed internal structure of sea ice — a mixture of frozen water, brine and air — Golden also hopes to learn more about other "composite" materials: mixtures of substances that don't react chemically with each other.

The movement of sea water through porous ice is similar to the movement of electrons through certain semiconductors, the formation of cracks in metals and the weakening of human bone by the disease osteoporosis.

"Developing the mathematics for understanding sea ice will help us understand the fractures of metals in things like airplane wings and buildings, and will help us understand the development of osteoporosis in bones," Golden said.

Using microwaves to study sea-ice characteristics also is similar to making medical images of the body with

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