

# Linking Scales in Earth's Sea Ice System

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# sea ice is a multiscale composite



millimeters



centimeters



meters



meters



kilometers



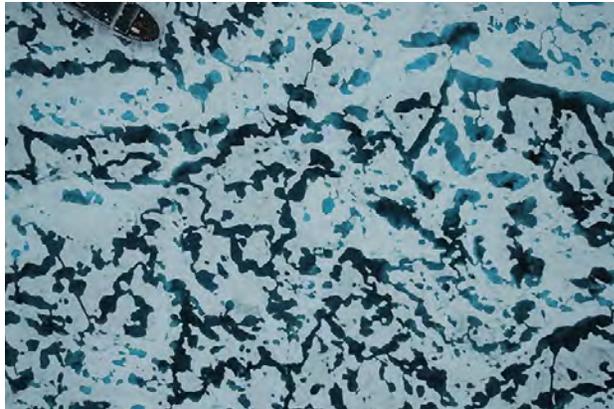
# How do scales interact in the sea ice system?



basin scale -  
grid scale  
albedo

## Linking Scales

km  
scale  
melt  
ponds



km  
scale  
melt  
ponds



## Linking

## Scales

mm  
scale  
brine  
inclusions



meter  
scale  
snow  
topography



# *What is this talk about?*

# HOMOGENIZATION

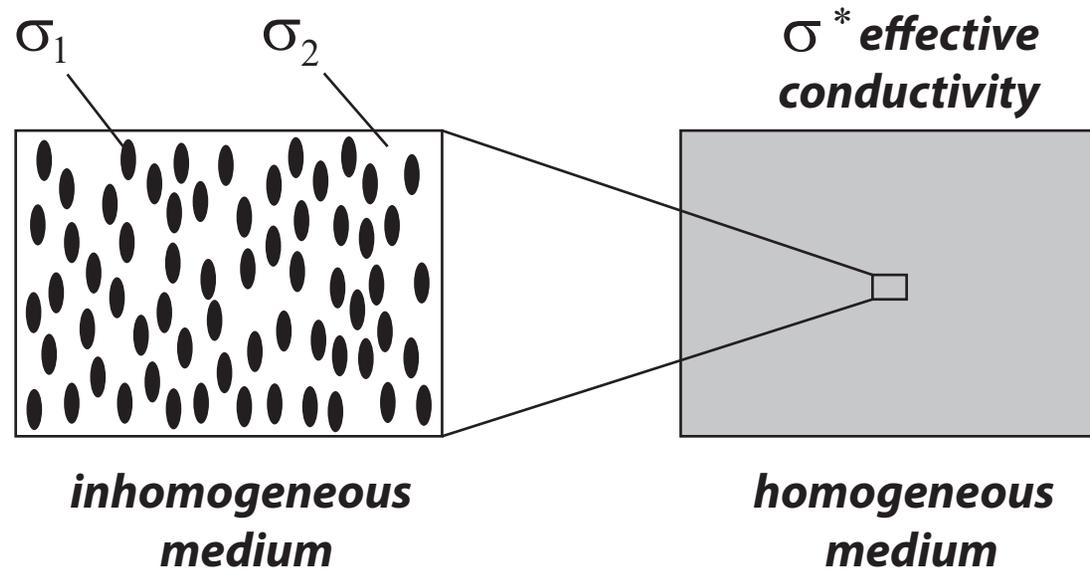
*Using methods of statistical physics and homogenization to LINK SCALES in the sea ice system ... rigorously compute effective behavior and improve climate models.*

- 1. Sea ice microphysics and fluid transport*
- 2. Stieltjes integral representations for EM properties*
- 3. Extension to polycrystals, advection diffusion, waves in MIZ*
- 4. Fractal geometry of melt pond evolution*

*cross - pollination*

*Solving problems in physics and biology of sea ice drives advances in theory of composite materials.*

# HOMOGENIZATION - Linking Scales in Composites



**find the homogeneous medium which behaves macroscopically the same as the inhomogeneous medium**

*Maxwell 1873 : effective conductivity of a dilute suspension of spheres*

*Einstein 1906 : effective viscosity of a dilute suspension of rigid spheres in a fluid*

*Wiener 1912 : arithmetic and harmonic mean **bounds** on effective conductivity*

*Hashin and Shtrikman 1962 : variational **bounds** on effective conductivity*

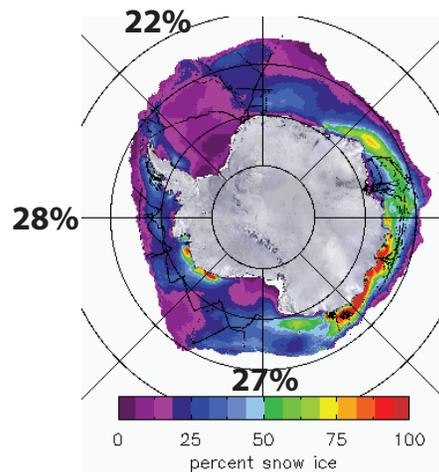
widespread use of composites in late 20th century due in large part to advances in mathematically predicting their effective properties

# fluid flow through the porous microstructure of sea ice governs key processes in polar climate and ecosystems

*evolution of Arctic melt ponds and sea ice albedo*



*nutrient flux for algal communities*



September  
snow-ice  
estimates

T. Maksym and T. Markus, 2008

*Antarctic surface flooding  
and snow-ice formation*

- *evolution of salinity profiles*
- *ocean-ice-air exchanges of heat, CO<sub>2</sub>*

# fluid permeability of a porous medium



how much water gets through the sample per unit time?

## *Darcy's Law*

for slow viscous flow in a porous medium

averaged  
fluid velocity

pressure  
gradient

$$\mathbf{v} = -\frac{\mathbf{k}}{\eta} \nabla p$$

viscosity

$\mathbf{k}$  = fluid permeability tensor

## *HOMOGENIZATION*

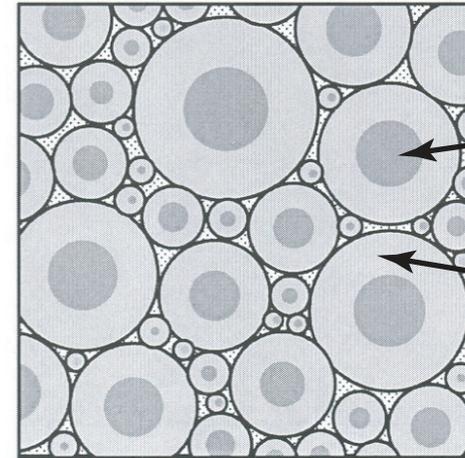
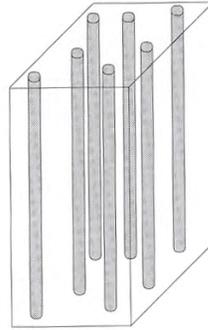
*mathematics for analyzing effective behavior of heterogeneous systems*

# PIPE BOUNDS on vertical fluid permeability $k$

Golden, Heaton, Eicken, Lytle, Mech. Materials 2006

Golden, Eicken, Heaton, Miner, Pringle, Zhu, Geophys. Res. Lett. 2007

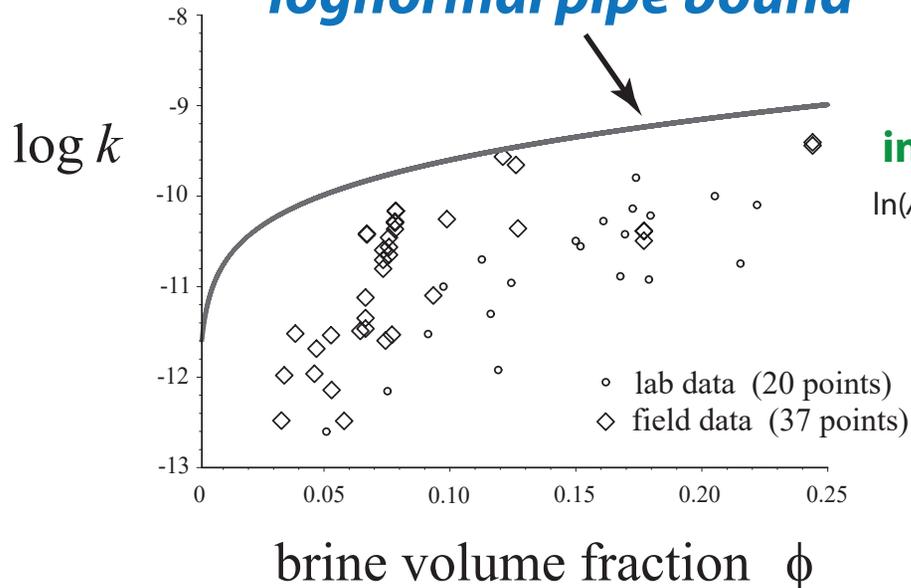
vertical pipes  
with appropriate radii  
maximize  $k$



optimal coated  
cylinder geometry

**fluid analog of arithmetic mean upper bound for effective conductivity of composites (Wiener 1912)**

**lognormal pipe bound**



Golden et al., Geophys. Res. Lett. 2007

$$k \leq \frac{\phi \langle R^4 \rangle}{8 \langle R^2 \rangle} = \frac{\phi}{8} \langle R^2 \rangle e^{\sigma^2}$$

**inclusion cross sectional areas  $A$  lognormally distributed**

$\ln(A)$  normally distributed, mean  $\mu$  (increases with  $T$ ) variance  $\sigma^2$  (Gow and Perovich 96)

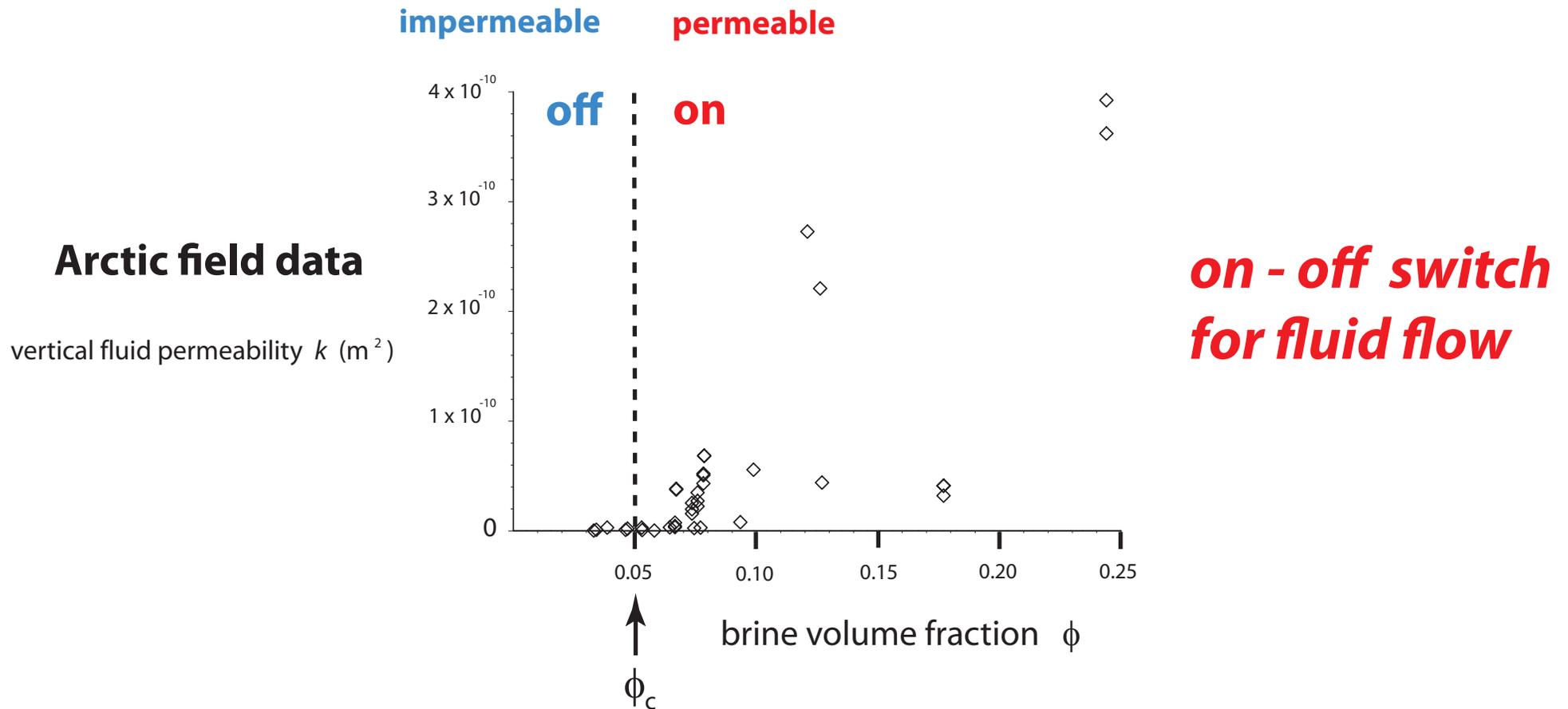
get bounds through variational analysis of **trapping constant**  $\gamma$  for diffusion process in pore space with absorbing BC

Torquato and Pham, PRL 2004

$$\mathbf{k} \leq \gamma^{-1} \mathbf{I}$$

for any ergodic porous medium (Torquato 2002, 2004)

# Critical behavior of fluid transport in sea ice



critical brine volume fraction  $\phi_c \approx 5\%$   $\longleftrightarrow$   $T_c \approx -5^\circ \text{C}$ ,  $S \approx 5 \text{ ppt}$

**RULE OF FIVES**

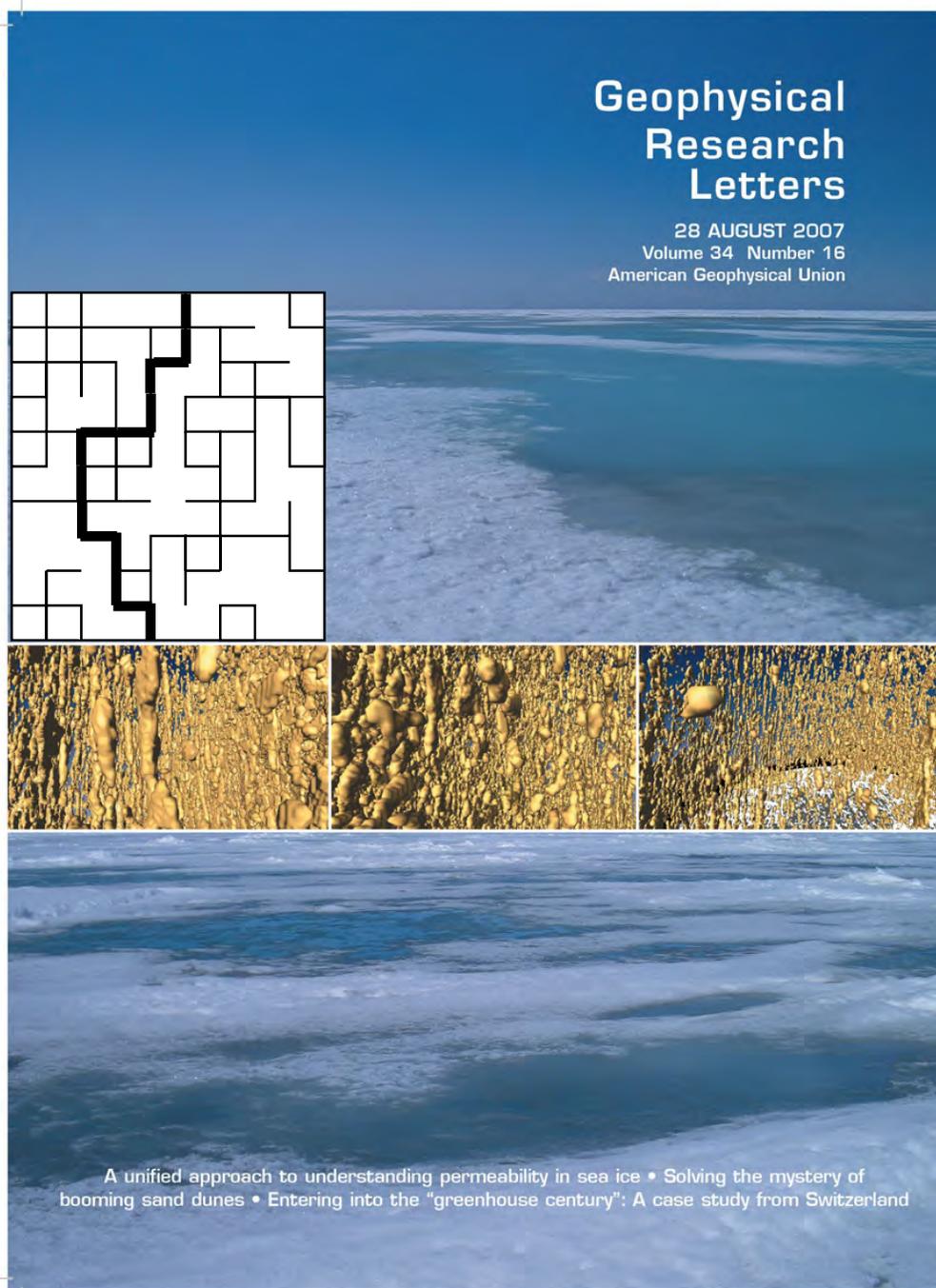
Golden, Ackley, Lytle *Science* 1998

Golden, Eicken, Heaton, Miner, Pringle, Zhu, *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 2007

Pringle, Miner, Eicken, Golden *J. Geophys. Res.* 2009

# Thermal evolution of permeability and microstructure in sea ice

Golden, Eicken, Heaton, Miner, Pringle, Zhu, *Geophysical Research Letters* 2007



micro-scale  
controls  
macro-scale  
processes

## percolation theory

$$k(\phi) = k_0 (\phi - 0.05)^2$$

critical exponent  $t$

$$k_0 = 3 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^2$$

hierarchical model  
network model  
rigorous bounds

agree closely  
with field data

X-ray tomography for  
brine inclusions

unprecedented look  
at thermal evolution  
of brine phase and  
its connectivity

confirms rule of fives

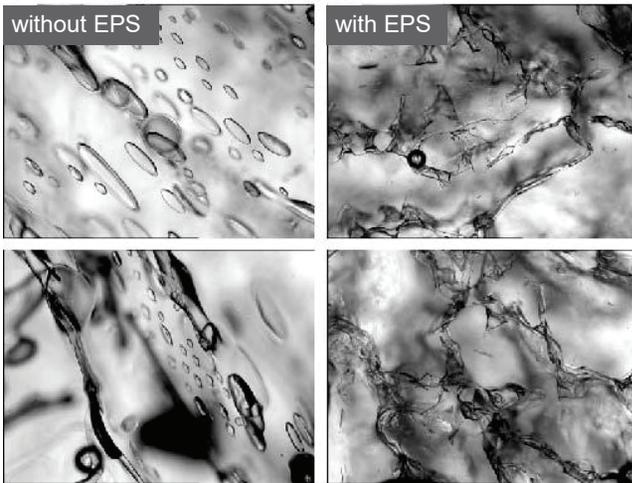
Pringle, Miner, Eicken, Golden  
*J. Geophys. Res.* 2009

# Sea ice algae secrete extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) affecting evolution of brine microstructure.

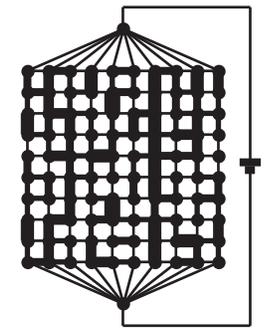
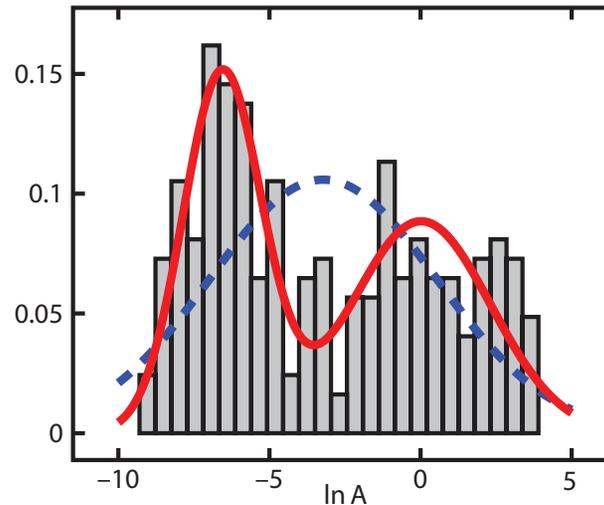
## How does EPS affect fluid transport?

4:30 Today

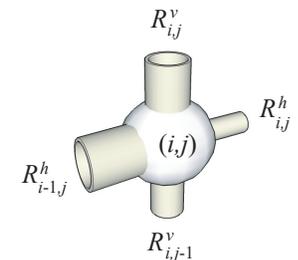
**RANDOM  
PIPE  
MODEL**



Krems, Eicken, Deming, PNAS 2011



- **Bimodal** lognormal distribution for brine inclusions
- Develop random pipe network model with bimodal distribution; Use numerical methods that can handle larger variances in sizes.
- Results predict observed drop in fluid permeability  $k$ .
- Rigorous bound on  $k$  for bimodal distribution of pore sizes



Steffen, Epshteyn, Zhu, Bowler, Deming, Golden  
*Multiscale Modeling and Simulation*, 2018

Zhu, Jabini, Golden,  
Eicken, Morris  
*Ann. Glac.* 2006

**How does the biology affect the physics?**

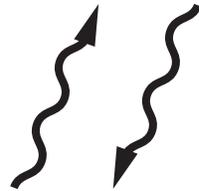
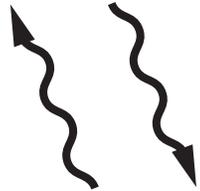
# Remote sensing of sea ice

## ***INVERSE PROBLEM***

Recover sea ice properties from electromagnetic (EM) data

$$\epsilon^*$$

effective complex permittivity  
(dielectric constant, conductivity)

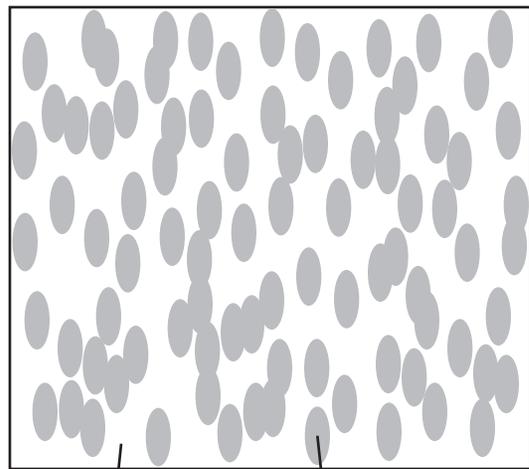


***sea ice thickness***  
***ice concentration***



***brine volume fraction***  
***brine inclusion connectivity***

# Effective complex permittivity of a two phase composite in the quasistatic (long wavelength) limit



$\epsilon_1$        $\epsilon_2$



$\epsilon^*$

$$D = \epsilon E$$

$$\nabla \cdot D = 0$$

$$\nabla \times E = 0$$

$$\langle D \rangle = \epsilon^* \langle E \rangle$$

$p_1, p_2$  = volume fractions of  
the components

$$\epsilon^* = \epsilon^* \left( \frac{\epsilon_1}{\epsilon_2}, \text{ composite geometry} \right)$$

# Analytic Continuation Method

Bergman (1978), Milton (1979), Golden and Papanicolaou (1983), Theory of Composites, Milton (2002)

## Stieltjes integral representation for homogenized parameter

$$F(s) = 1 - \frac{\epsilon^*}{\epsilon_2} = \int_0^1 \frac{d\mu(z)}{s - z}$$

*geometry* ←

← *material parameters*

**separates geometry  
from parameters**

- $\mu$  {
- spectral measure of self adjoint operator  $\Gamma\chi$
  - mass =  $p_1$
  - higher moments depend on  $n$ -point correlations

$$\Gamma = \nabla(-\Delta)^{-1}\nabla.$$

$\chi$  = characteristic function of the brine phase

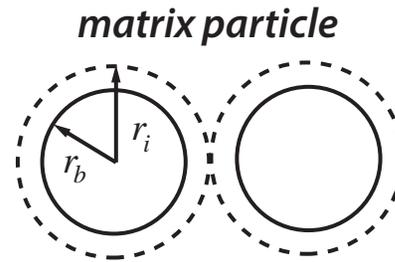
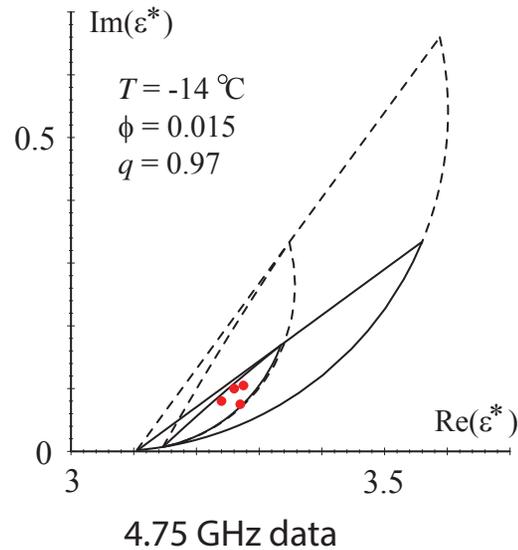
$$E = (s + \Gamma\chi)^{-1}e_k$$

$\Gamma\chi$  : microscale  $\rightarrow$  macroscale

$\Gamma\chi$  *links scales*

# forward and inverse bounds on the complex permittivity of sea ice

## forward bounds

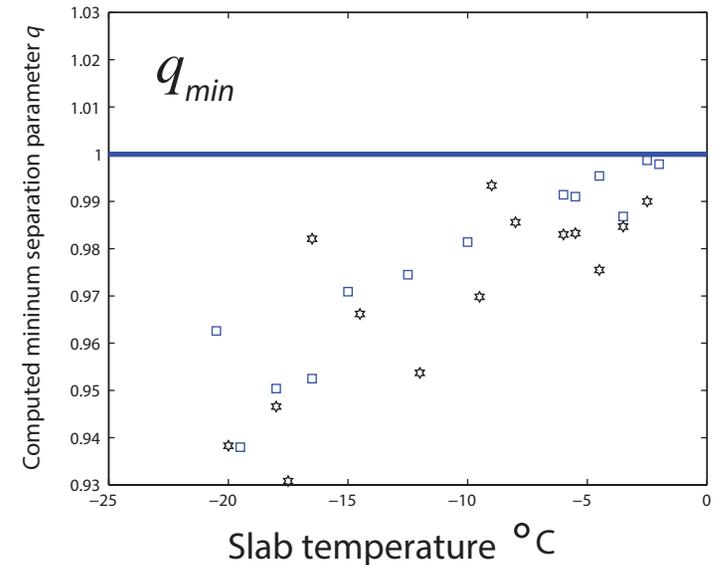


$$q = r_b / r_i$$

$$0 < q < 1$$

**Golden 1995, 1997**

## inverse bounds



## inverse bounds and recovery of brine porosity

**Gully, Backstrom, Eicken, Golden  
Physica B, 2007**

## inversion for brine inclusion separations in sea ice from measurements of effective complex permittivity $\epsilon^*$

### rigorous inverse bound on spectral gap

construct algebraic curves which bound admissible region in  $(p, q)$ -space

**Orum, Cherkaev, Golden  
Proc. Roy. Soc. A, 2012**

## ***direct calculation of spectral measure***

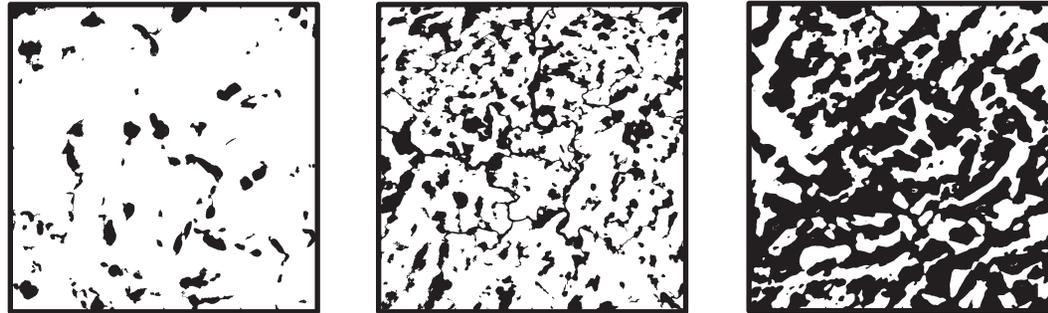
1. Discretization of composite microstructure gives lattice of 1's and 0's (random resistor network).
2. The fundamental operator  $\chi\Gamma\chi$  becomes a random matrix depending only on the composite geometry.
3. Compute the eigenvalues  $\lambda_i$  and eigenvectors of  $\chi\Gamma\chi$  with inner product weights  $\alpha_i$

$$\mu(\lambda) = \sum_i \alpha_i \delta(\lambda - \lambda_i)$$



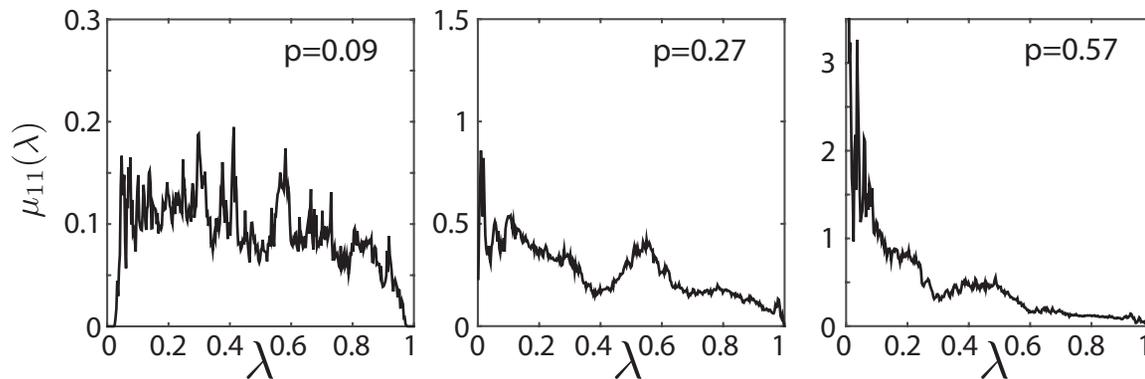
Dirac point measure (Dirac delta)

# Spectral computations for Arctic melt ponds



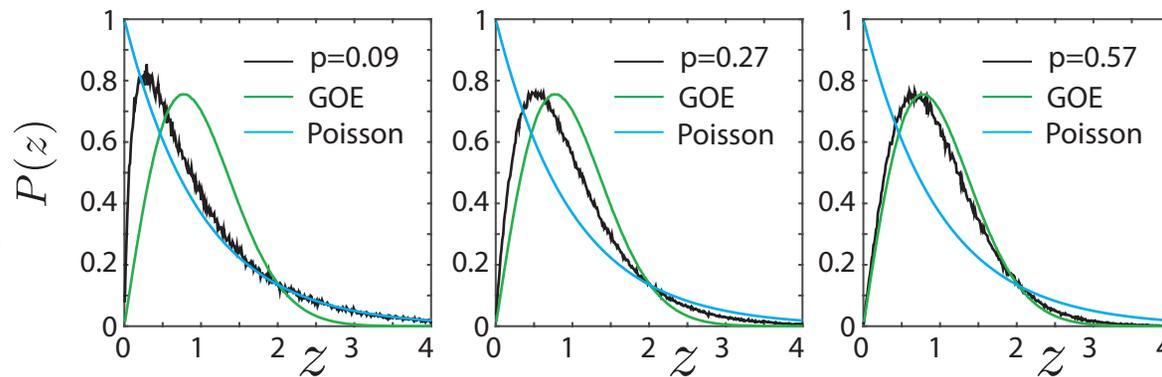
**Anderson Transition  
in Composites**

**spectral  
measures**



**Ben Murphy  
Elena Cherkaev  
Ken Golden  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* 2017**

**eigenvalue  
spacing  
distributions**



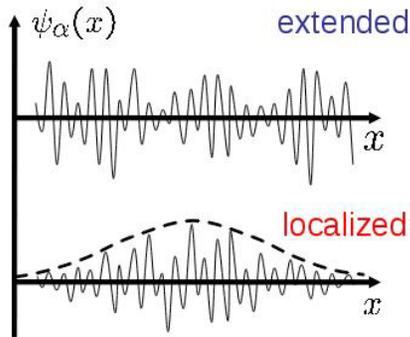
**uncorrelated**



**level repulsion**

**TRANSITION**

***eigenvalue statistics  
for transport tend  
toward the  
UNIVERSAL  
Wigner-Dyson  
distribution  
as the “conducting”  
phase percolates***



metal / insulator transition  
**localization**

*Anderson 1958*  
*Mott 1949*  
*Shklovshii et al 1993*  
*Evangelou 1992*

**Anderson transition in wave physics:  
 quantum, optics, acoustics, water waves, ...**

**we find a surprising analog**

***Anderson transition for classical transport in composites***

*Murphy, Cherkhev, Golden Phys. Rev. Lett. 2017*

**PERCOLATION  
 TRANSITION**



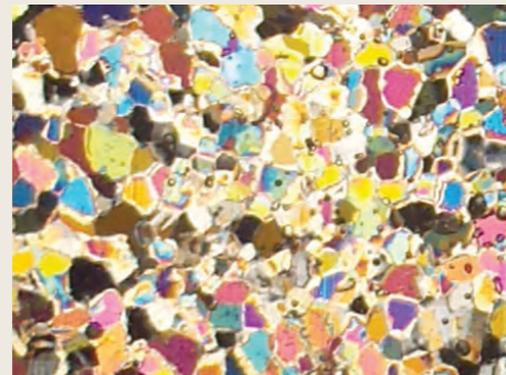
**transition to universal  
 eigenvalue statistics (GOE)  
 extended states, mobility edges**

**-- but without wave interference or scattering effects ! --**

# Bounds on the complex permittivity of polycrystalline materials by analytic continuation

Adam Gully, Joyce Lin,  
Elena Cherkaev, Ken Golden

- **Stieltjes integral representation for effective complex permittivity**  
Milton (1981, 2002), Barabash and Stroud (1999), ...
- **Forward and inverse bounds**
- **Applied to sea ice using two-scale homogenization**
- **Inverse bounds give method for distinguishing ice types using remote sensing techniques**



ISSN 1364-5021 | Volume 471 | Issue 2174 | 8 February 2015

## PROCEEDINGS A

350 YEARS  
OF SCIENTIFIC  
PUBLISHING

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



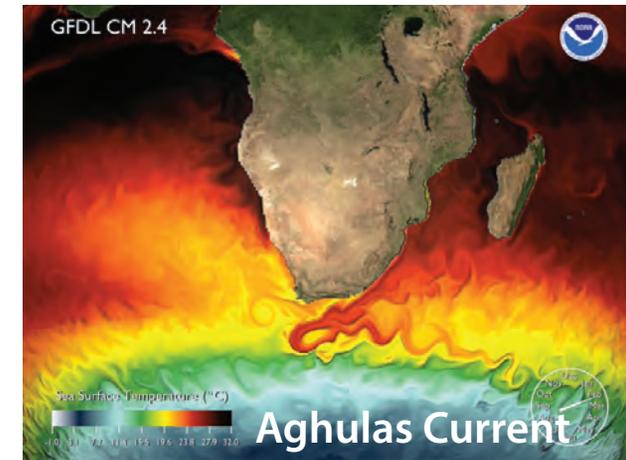
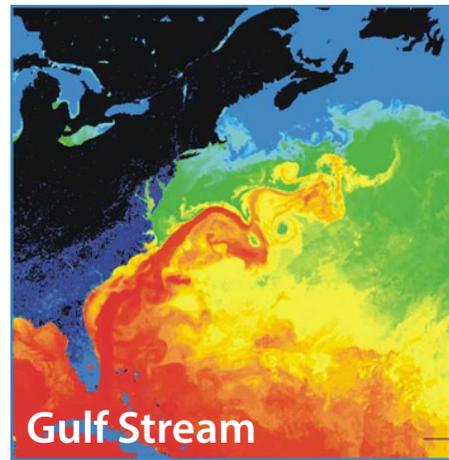
THE  
ROYAL  
SOCIETY  
PUBLISHING

Proc. R. Soc. A | Volume 471 | Issue 2174 | 8 February 2015

# advection enhanced diffusion

## effective diffusivity

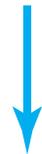
- sea ice floes diffusing in ocean currents
- diffusion of pollutants in atmosphere
- salt and heat transport in ocean
- heat transport in sea ice with convection



advection diffusion equation with a velocity field  $\vec{u}$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T = \kappa_0 \Delta T$$

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$



homogenize

$$\frac{\partial \bar{T}}{\partial t} = \kappa^* \Delta \bar{T}$$

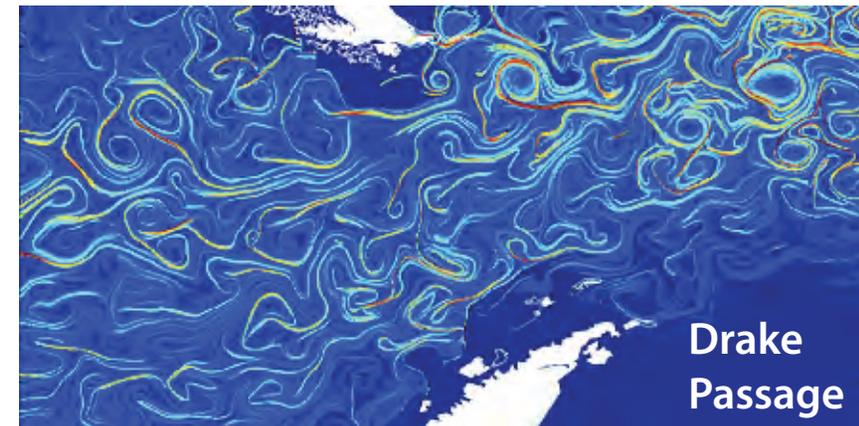
$\kappa^*$  effective diffusivity

Stieltjes integral for  $\kappa^*$  with spectral measure

Avellaneda and Majda, PRL 89, CMP 91

Murphy, Cherkaev, Xin, Zhu, Golden, Ann. Math. Sci. Appl. 2017

Murphy, Cherkaev, Zhu, Xin, Golden, 2018



# Stieltjes Integral Representation for Advection Diffusion

[Murphy, Cherkaev, Zhu, Xin & Golden 2018]

[Murphy, Cherkaev, Xin, Zhu & Golden 2017]

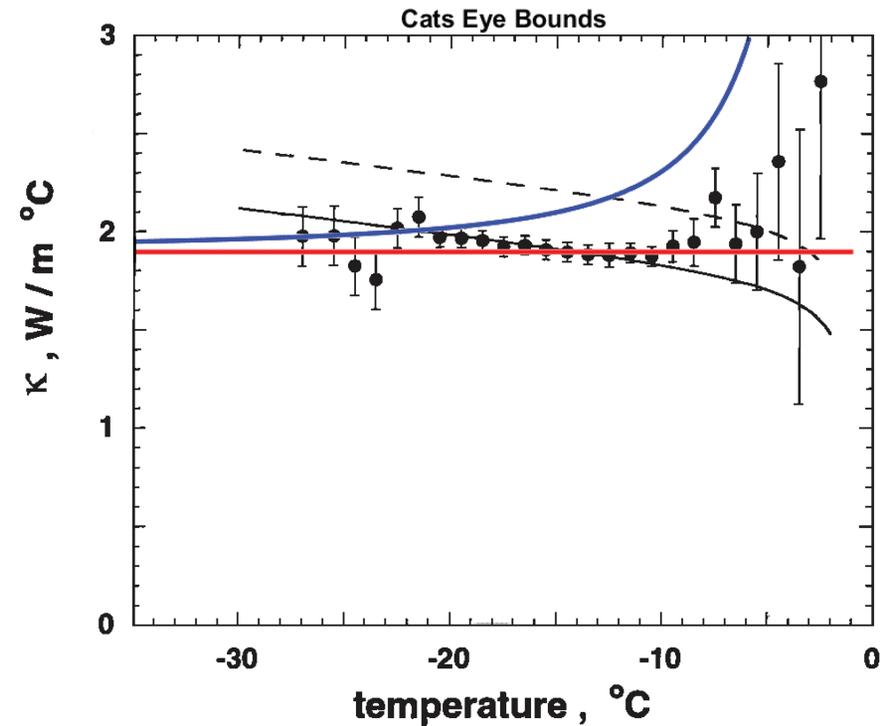
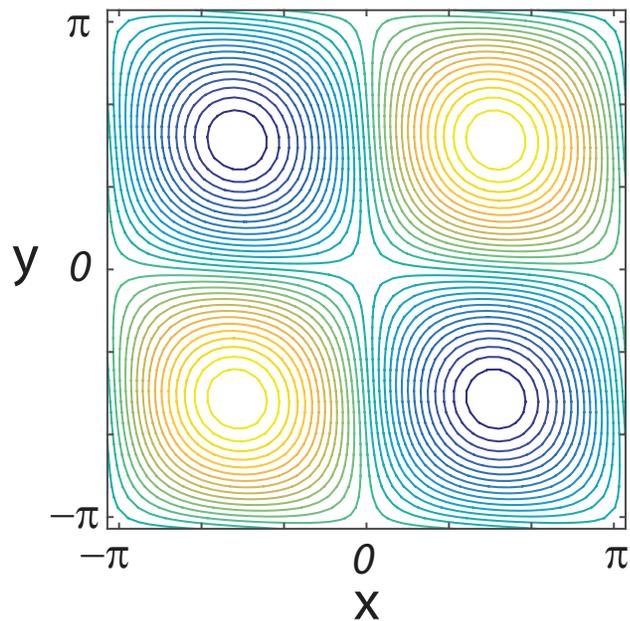
$$\kappa^* = \kappa \left( 1 + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu(\tau)}{\kappa^2 + \tau^2} \right), \quad F(\kappa) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu(\tau)}{\kappa^2 + \tau^2}$$

- $\mu$  is a positive definite measure corresponding to the spectral resolution of the self-adjoint operator  $i\Gamma H\Gamma$
- $H =$  stream matrix ,  $\kappa =$  local diffusivity
- $\Gamma := -\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1}\nabla \cdot$  ,  $\Delta$  is the Laplace operator
- $i\Gamma H\Gamma$  is bounded for time independent flows
- $F(\kappa)$  is analytic off the spectral interval in the  $\kappa$ -plane

separation of material properties and flow field  
spectral measure calculations

# RIGOROUS BOUNDS on convection - enhanced thermal conductivity of sea ice

Kraitzman, Hardenbrook, Murphy, Zhu, Cherkaev, Golden 2018



*Friday 10:30*

rigorous Padé bounds  
from Stieltjes integral  
+ analytical calculations  
of moments of measure

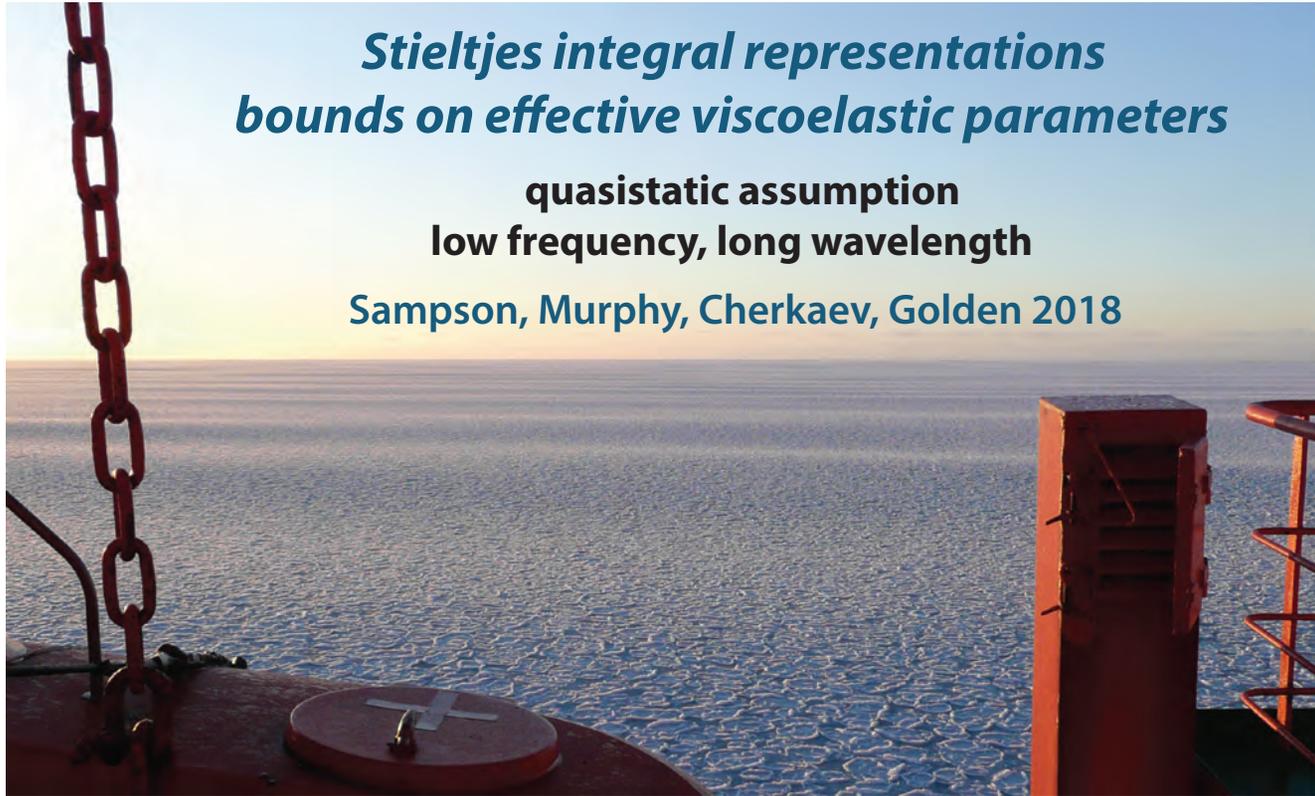
# wave propagation in the marginal ice zone

*Stieltjes integral representations  
bounds on effective viscoelastic parameters*

quasistatic assumption  
low frequency, long wavelength

Sampson, Murphy, Cherkaev, Golden 2018

Friday 11:00



## Two Layer Models

Viscous fluid layer (Keller 1998)

Effective Viscosity  $\nu$

Viscoelastic fluid layer (Wang-Shen 2010)

Effective Complex Viscosity  $\nu_e = \nu + iG/\rho\omega$

Viscoelastic thin beam (Mosig *et al.* 2015)

Effective Complex Shear Modulus  $G_v = G - i\omega\rho\nu$



# bounds on the effective complex viscoelasticity

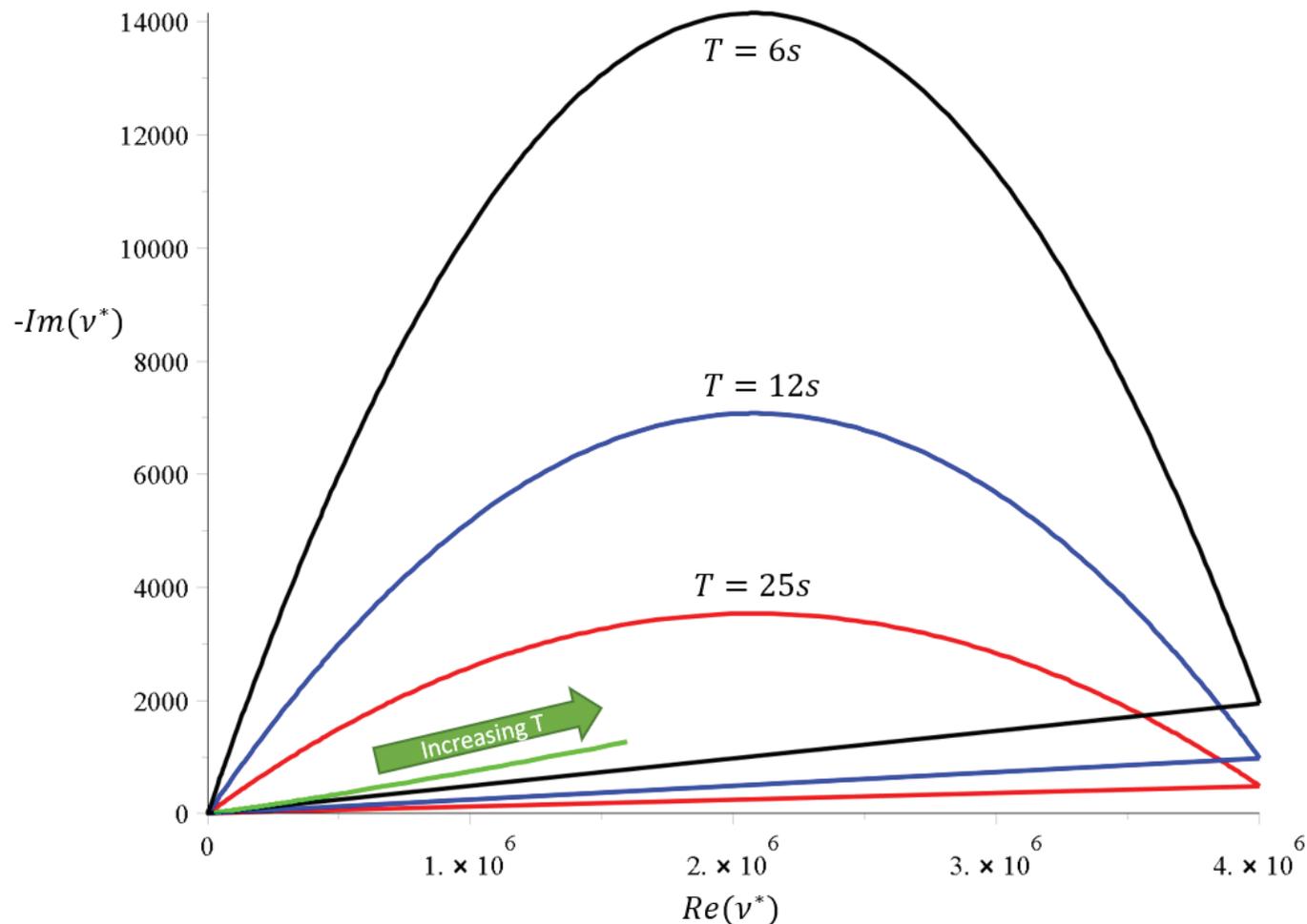
complex elementary bounds  
(fixed area fraction of floes)

$$V_1 = 10^7 + i4875$$

pancake ice

$$V_2 = 5 + i0.0975$$

slush / frazil



Sampson, Murphy, Cherkaev, Golden 2018

# Arctic and Antarctic field experiments

*develop electromagnetic methods  
of monitoring fluid transport and  
microstructural transitions*

extensive measurements of fluid and  
electrical transport properties of sea ice:

**2007**    *Antarctic*    **SIPEX**

**2010**    *Antarctic*    **McMurdo Sound**

**2011**    *Arctic*        **Barrow AK**

**2012**    *Arctic*        **Barrow AK**

**2012**    *Antarctic*    **SIPEX II**

**2013**    *Arctic*        **Barrow AK**

**2014**    *Arctic*        **Chukchi Sea**



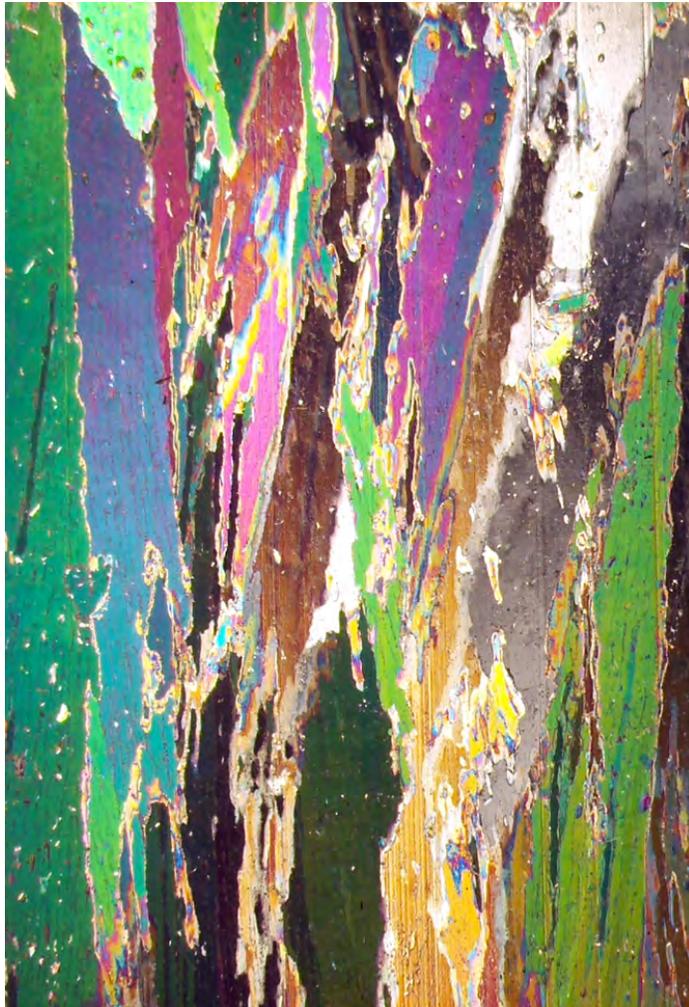
# ***higher threshold for fluid flow in Antarctic granular sea ice***

linkage of scales: details of microscale impact macroscale behavior

columnar

granular

**5%**



**10%**



***Golden, Sampson, Gully, Lubbers, Tison 2018***

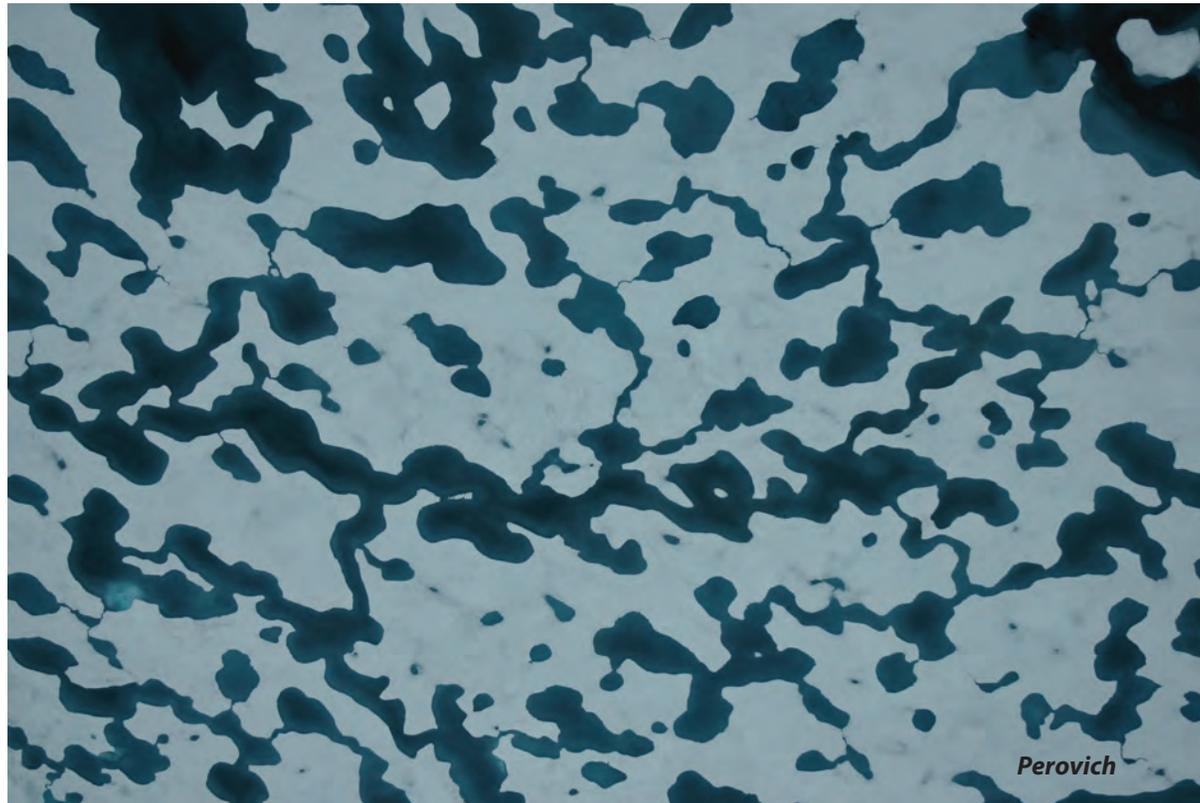
# *melt pond formation and albedo evolution:*

- *major drivers in polar climate*
- *key challenge for global climate models*

**numerical models of melt pond evolution, including topography, drainage (permeability), etc.**

Lüthje, Feltham,  
Taylor, Worster 2006  
Flocco, Feltham 2007

Skyllingstad, Paulson,  
Perovich 2009  
Flocco, Feltham,  
Hunke 2012



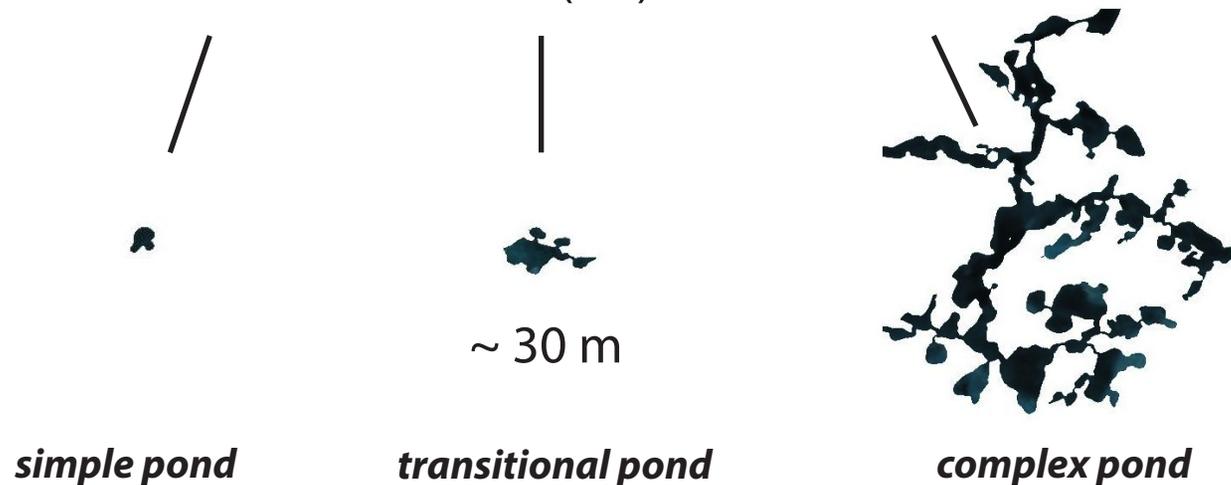
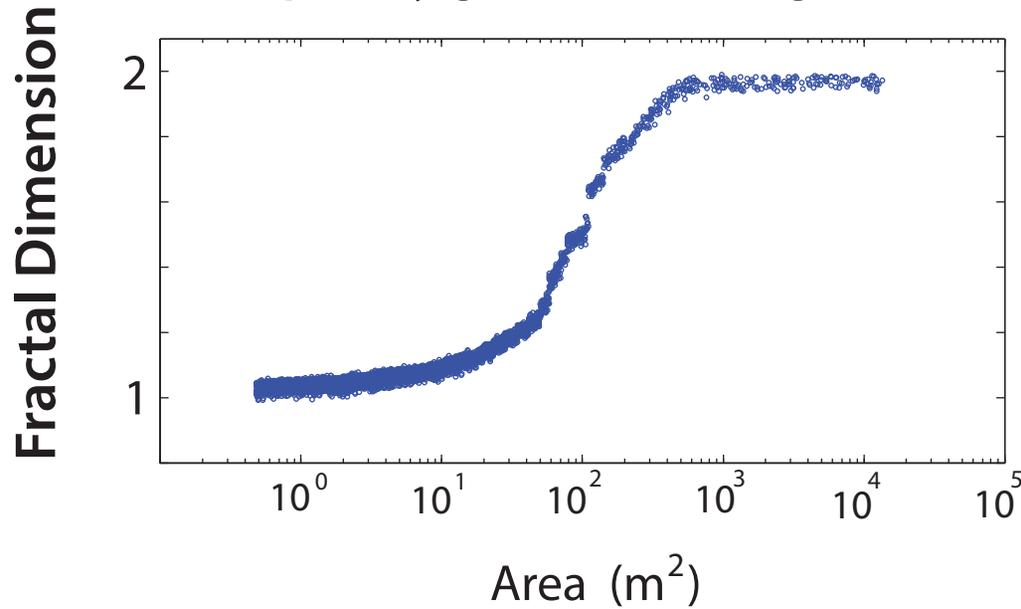
**Are there universal features of the evolution similar to phase transitions in statistical physics?**

# Transition in the fractal geometry of Arctic melt ponds

Christel Hohenegger, Bacim Alali, Kyle Steffen, Don Perovich, Ken Golden

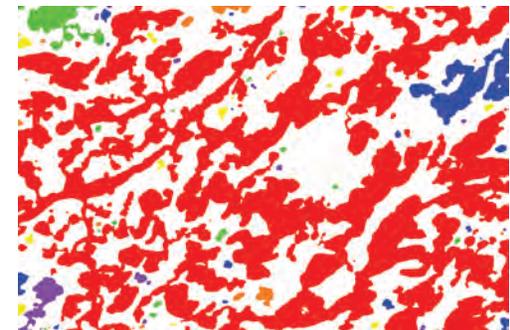
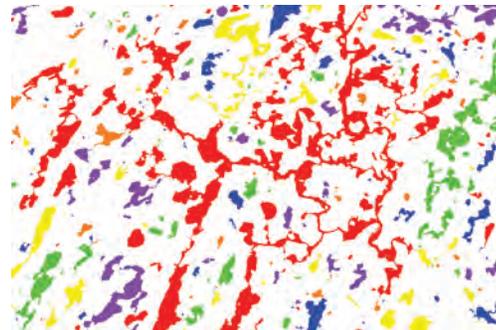
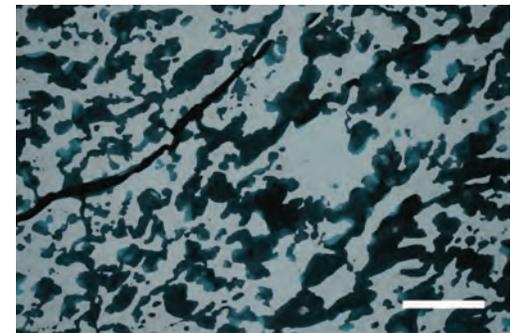
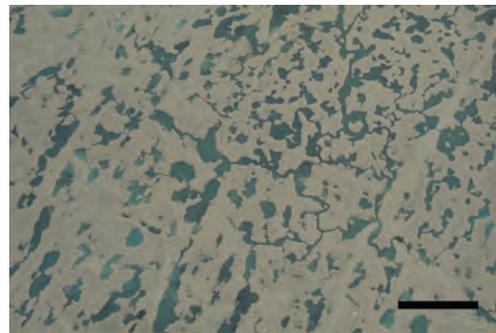
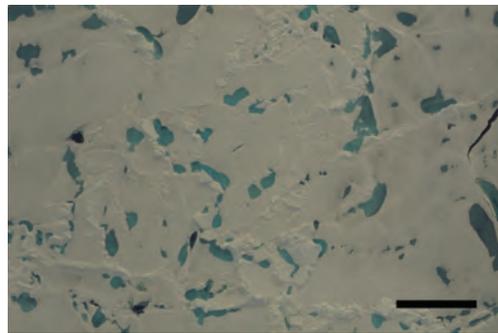
*The Cryosphere, 2012*

complexity grows with length scale



# ***small simple ponds coalesce to form large connected structures with complex boundaries***

*Hohenegger, et al., The Cryosphere, 2012*



## **melt pond percolation**

**results on percolation threshold, correlation length, cluster behavior**

*A. Cheng (Hillcrest HS), D. Webb (Skyline HS), R. Moore, C. Strong, K. M. Golden*

# Melt pond geometrical characteristics consistent with behavior of continuum percolation models:

## 1. Void model

*5:30 today*

P. Popovic, B. B. Cael, M. Silber, and D. S. Abbot, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 2018.

*disks of varying size which represent ice are placed randomly on the plane (possibly overlapping) with the voids between them representing the ponds*

*data on pond sizes, area fractions, correlations measured from helicopter photos incorporated into model*

## 2. Random surface model

B. Bowen, C. Strong, K. M. Golden, *J. Fractal Geometry* 2018.

*pond boundary = level set of random surface representing snow surface*

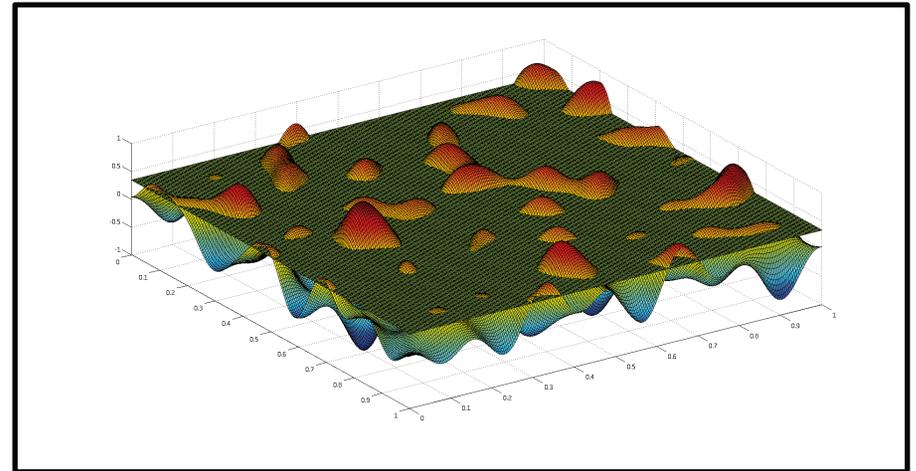
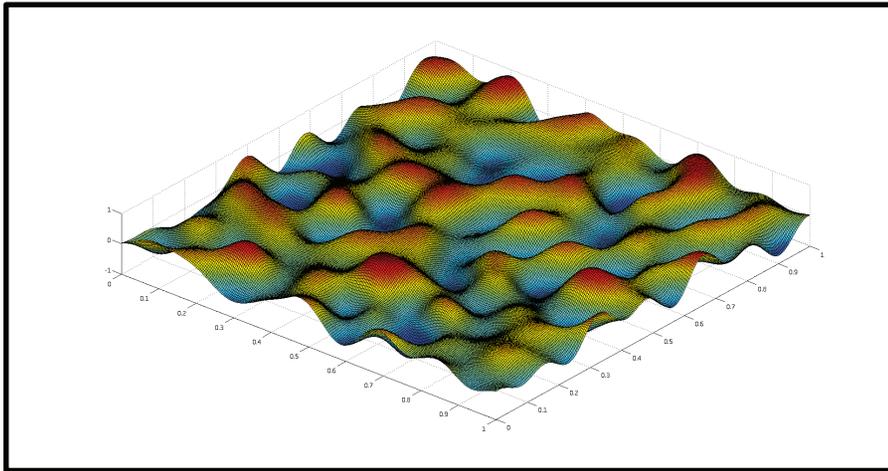
*data on snow topography incorporated into model*

**These models reproduce observed fractal dimension vs. area, ...**

# Continuum percolation model for melt pond evolution

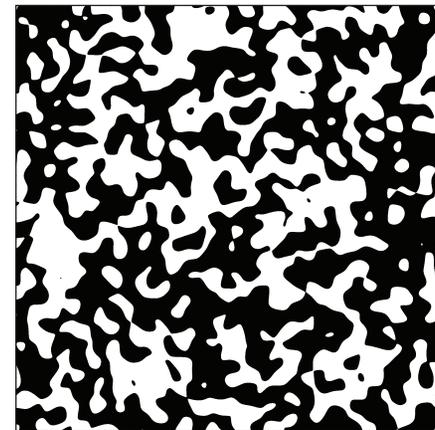
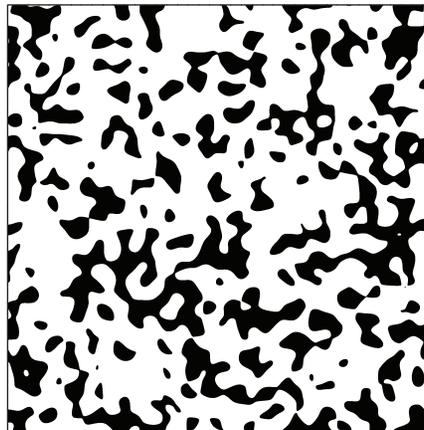
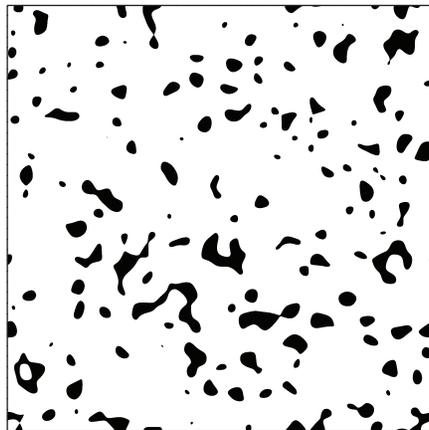
## *level sets of random surfaces*

*Brady Bowen, Court Strong, Ken Golden, J. Fractal Geometry 2018*



random Fourier series representation of surface topography

intersections of a plane with the surface define melt ponds

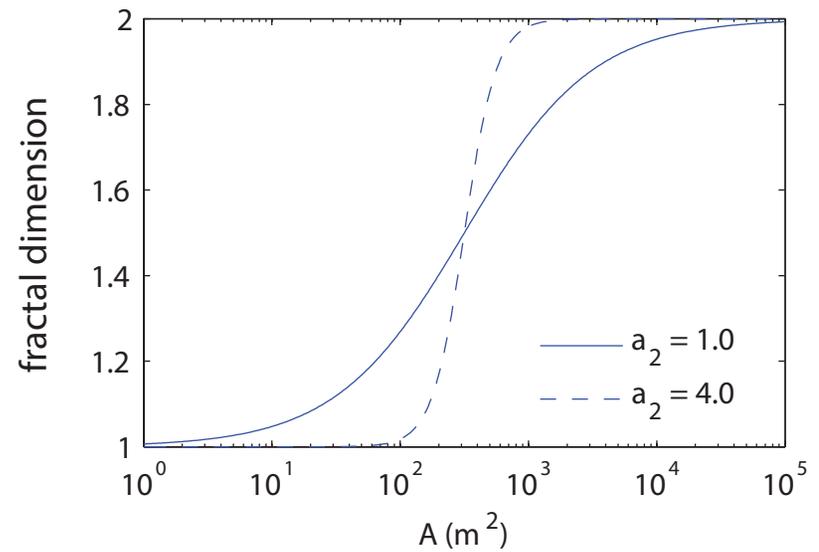
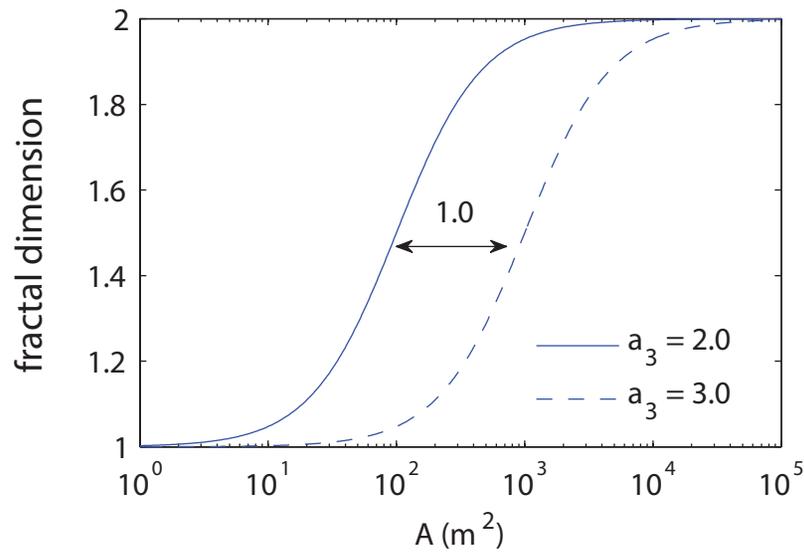


*electronic transport in disordered media*

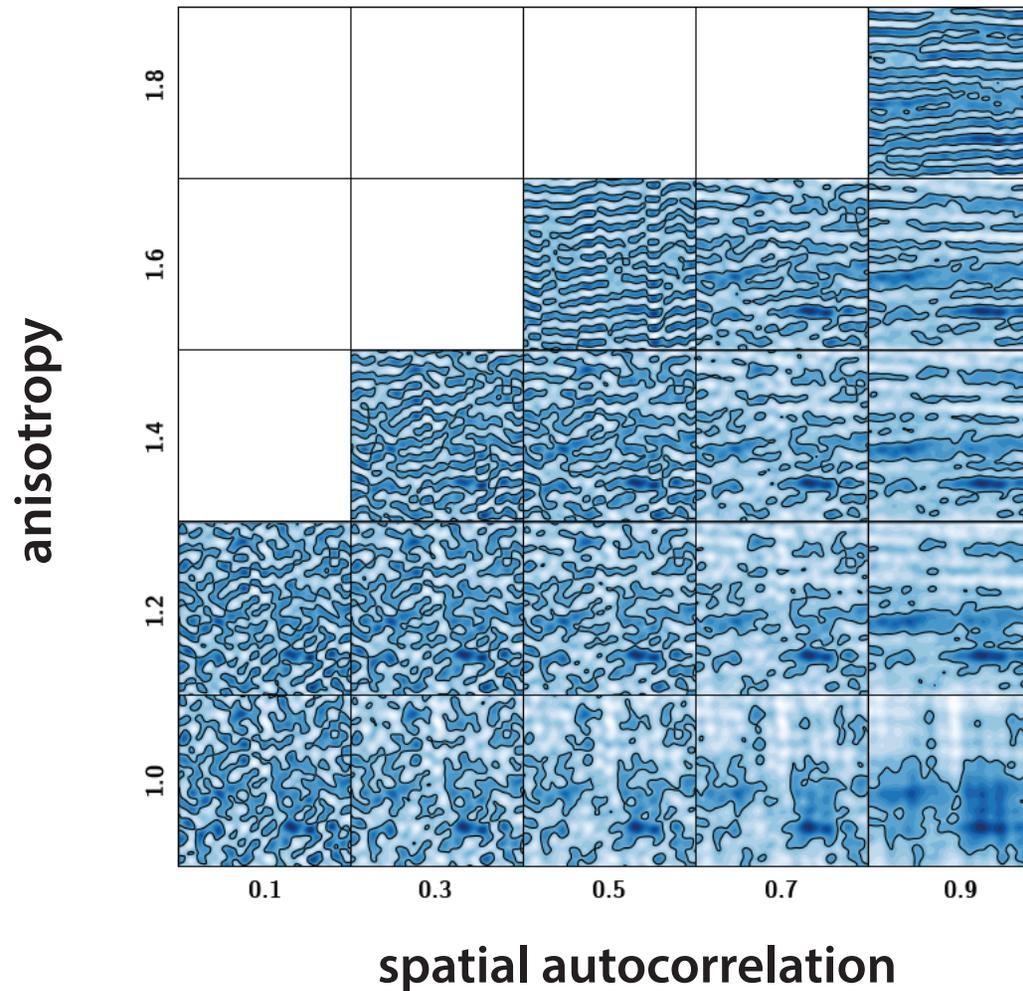
*diffusion in turbulent plasmas*

*Isichenko, Rev. Mod. Phys., 1992*

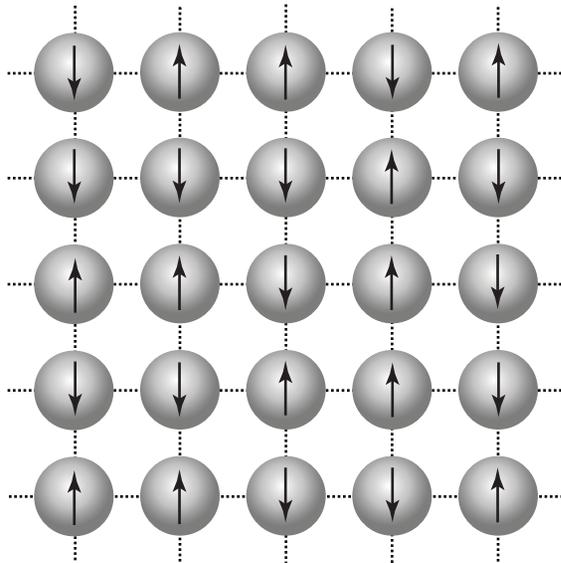
# fractal dimension curves depend on statistical parameters defining random surface



# Coefficients of Fourier surface chosen to produce topography with given autocorrelation and anisotropy



# Ising Model for a Ferromagnet



$$s_i = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{spin up} \\ -1 & \text{spin down} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_\omega = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} s_i s_j - H \sum_i s_i$$

**nearest neighbor Ising Hamiltonian**

for any configuration  $\omega \in \Omega = \{-1, 1\}^N$  of the spins

$$J \geq 0$$

applied  
magnetic  
field  $\uparrow$   
 $H$

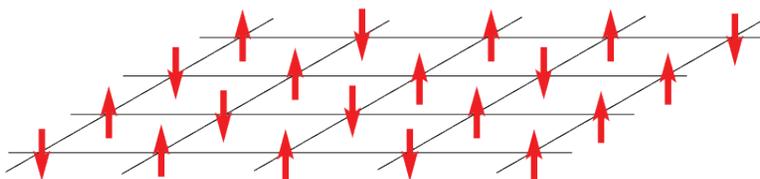
**canonical partition function**

$$Z_N(T, H) = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} \exp(-\beta \mathcal{H}_\omega) = \exp(-\beta N f_N)$$

$$\beta = 1/kT$$

**free energy per site**

$$f_N(T, H) = \frac{-1}{\beta N} \log Z_N(T, H)$$



2-D Ising Model

## Ising model for ferromagnets



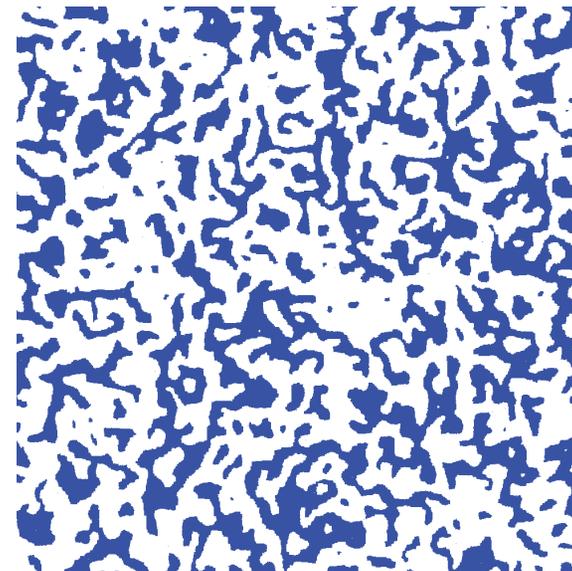
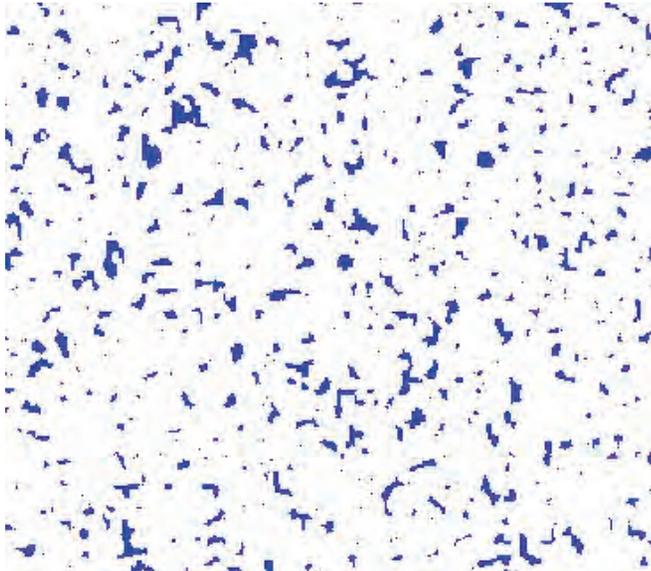
## Ising model for melt ponds

$$\mathcal{H}_\omega = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} s_i s_j - H \sum_i s_i$$

$$s_i = \begin{cases} \uparrow & +1 & \text{water} & (\text{spin up}) \\ \downarrow & -1 & \text{ice} & (\text{spin down}) \end{cases}$$

magnetization  $M = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_j s_j \right\rangle$

pond coverage  $\frac{(M+1)}{2}$



***“melt ponds” are clusters of magnetic spins that align with the applied field***

predictions of fractal transition, pond size exponent Ma, Sudakov, Strong, Golden 2018

# Glauber Dynamics (Metropolis at $T=0$ ):

if spin flip lowers energy, accept  
if spin flip raises energy, reject

*majority wins, water fills troughs*

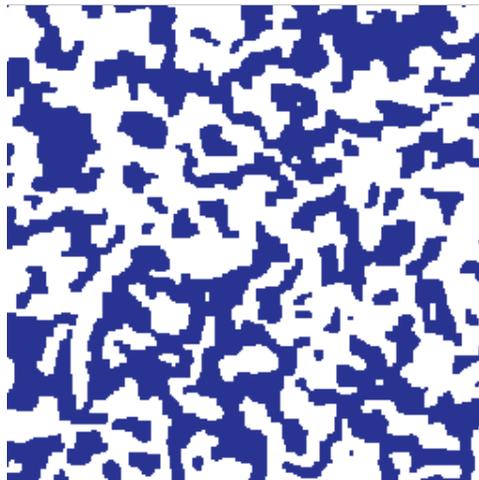
Metropolis algorithm: if lower accept

if raises accept with prob = Gibbs factor

*Random initial configuration; as energy is minimized  
system "flows" toward metastable equilibrium*

## *Order from Disorder*

**Ising model**



**melt pond photo**

(Perovich)

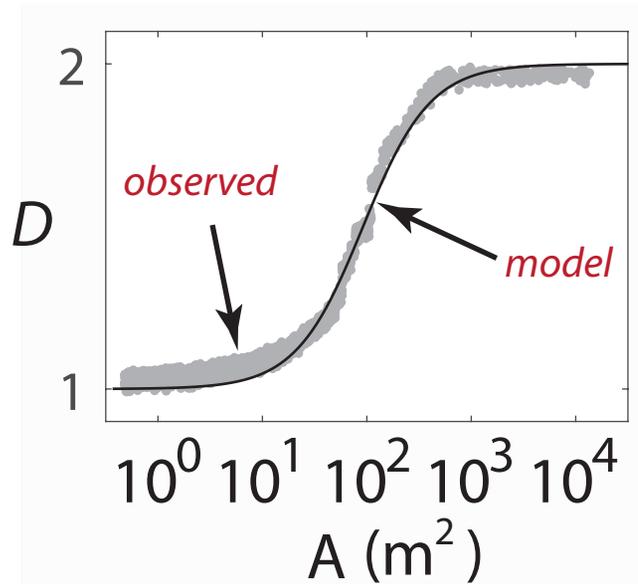
**ONLY MEASURED INPUT = LENGTH SCALE (GRID SIZE)**

# Ising model results

Minimize Ising Hamiltonian energy

Random magnetic field represents snow topography; interaction term represents horizontal heat transfer.

*Melt ponds — metastable islands of like spins in our random field Ising model.*

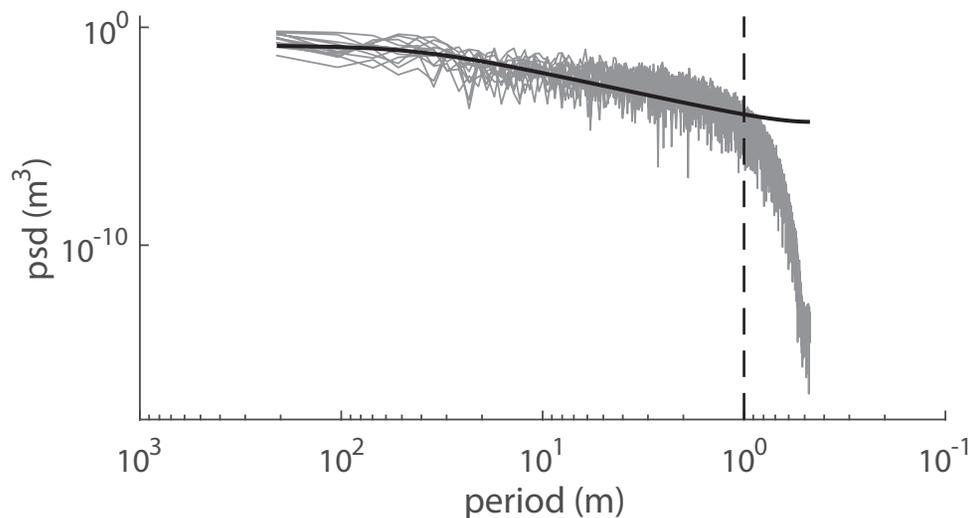


*pond size distribution exponent*

*observed -1.5*  
*(Perovich, et al 2002)*

*model -1.58*

**order out of disorder**



The lattice constant  $a$  must be small relative to the 10-20 m length scales prominent in sea ice and snow topography. We set  $a=1$  m as the length scale above which important spatially correlated fluctuations occur in the power spectrum of snow topography.



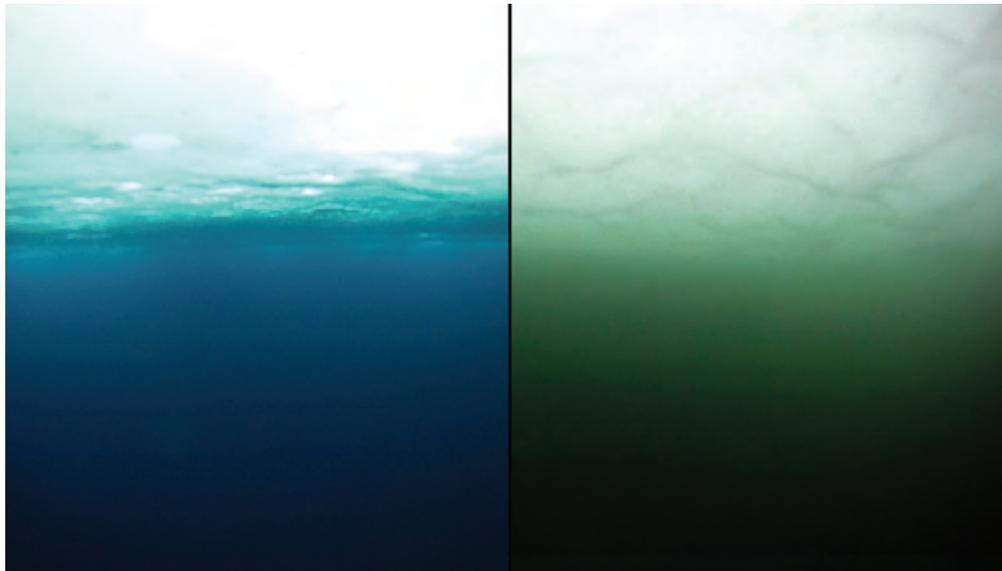
# 2011 massive under-ice **algal bloom**

Arrigo et al., *Science* 2012

melt ponds act as

**WINDOWS**

allowing light  
through sea ice



**no bloom**

**bloom**

## ***Have we crossed into a new ecological regime?***

The frequency and extent of sub-ice  
phytoplankton blooms in the Arctic Ocean

Horvat, Rees Jones, Iams, Schroeder,  
Flocco, Feltham, *Science Advances*, 2017

The distribution of solar energy under  
ponded sea ice

Horvat, Flocco, Rees Jones, Roach, Golden, 2018

(2015 AMS MRC)

# The Melt Pond Conundrum:

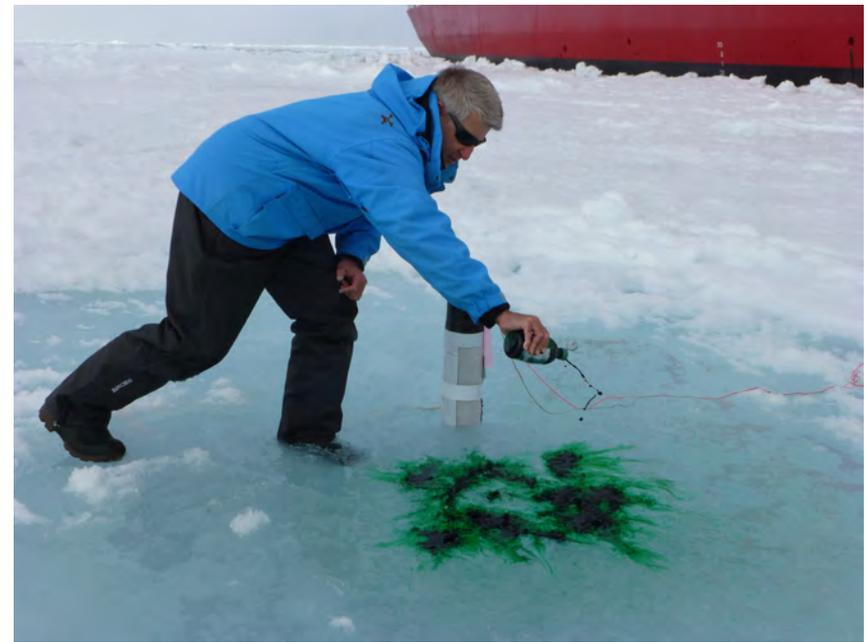
## *How can ponds form on top of sea ice that is highly permeable?*

C. Polashenski, K. M. Golden, D. K. Perovich, E. Skyllingstad, A. Arnsten, C. Stwertka, N. Wright

**Percolation Blockage: A Process that Enables Melt Pond Formation on First Year Arctic Sea Ice**

*J. Geophys. Res. Oceans 2017*

*2014 Study of Under Ice Blooms in the Chuckchi Ecosystem (SUBICE)  
aboard USCGC Healy*



# Conclusions

1. Sea ice is a fascinating multiscale composite with structure similar to many other natural and man-made materials.
2. Mathematical methods developed for sea ice advance the theory of composites in general.
2. **Homogenization and statistical physics help *link scales in sea ice and composites***; provide rigorous methods for finding effective behavior; advance sea ice representations in climate models.
3. **Fluid flow** through sea ice mediates **melt pond evolution** and many processes important to climate change and polar ecosystems.
5. Field experiments are essential to developing relevant mathematics.
6. Our research will help to **improve projections of climate change**, the fate of Earth's sea ice packs, and the ecosystems they support.

# THANK YOU

## National Science Foundation

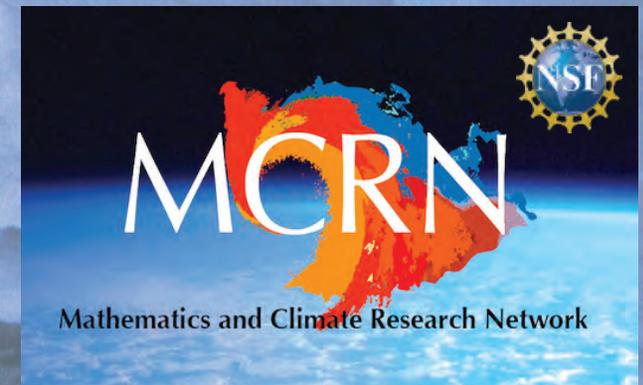
Division of Mathematical Sciences

Division of Polar Programs

## Office of Naval Research

Arctic and Global Prediction Program

Applied and Computational Analysis Program



***Buchanan Bay, Antarctica Mertz Glacier Polynya Experiment July 1999***