

# Homogenization in the Physics and Biology of Sea Ice

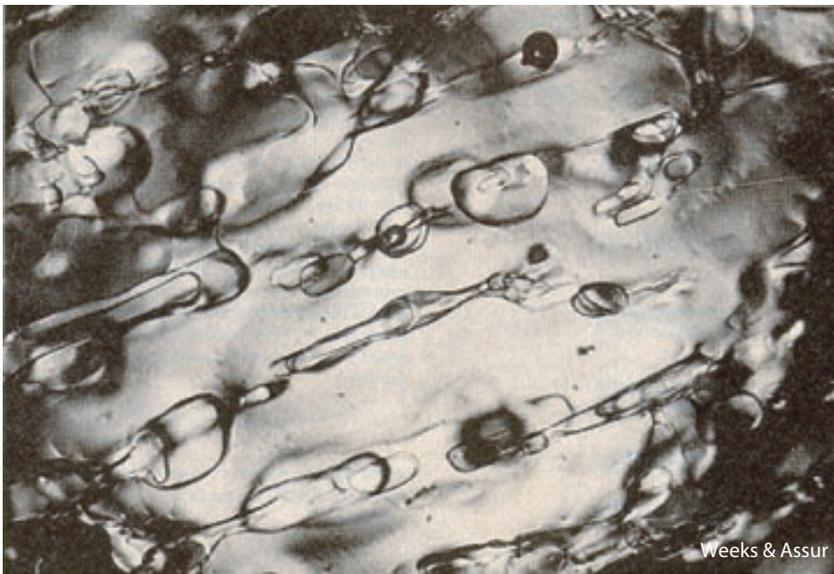
**Kenneth M. Golden**  
**Department of Mathematics, University of Utah**



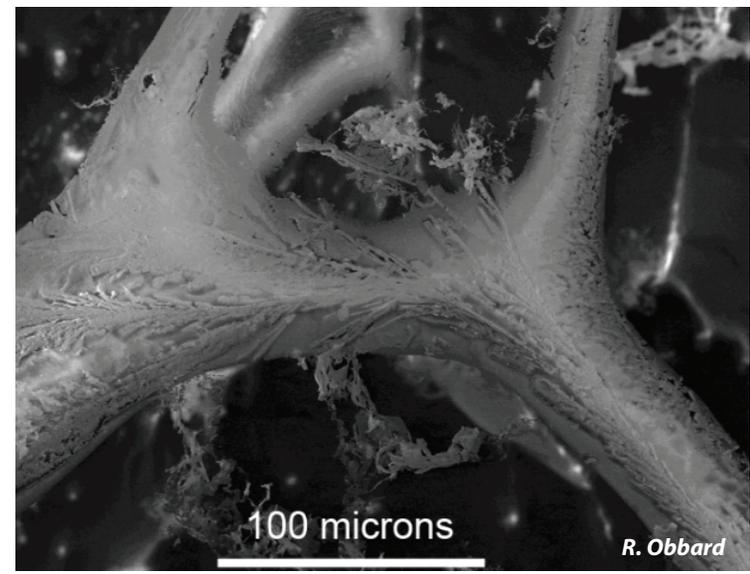
Applied Math Seminar, Rutgers University  
7 April 2022



*sea ice may appear to be a barren, impermeable cap ...*



**brine inclusions in sea ice (mm)**



**micro - brine channel (SEM)**

**brine channels (cm)**

***sea ice is a porous composite***

pure ice with brine, air, and salt inclusions



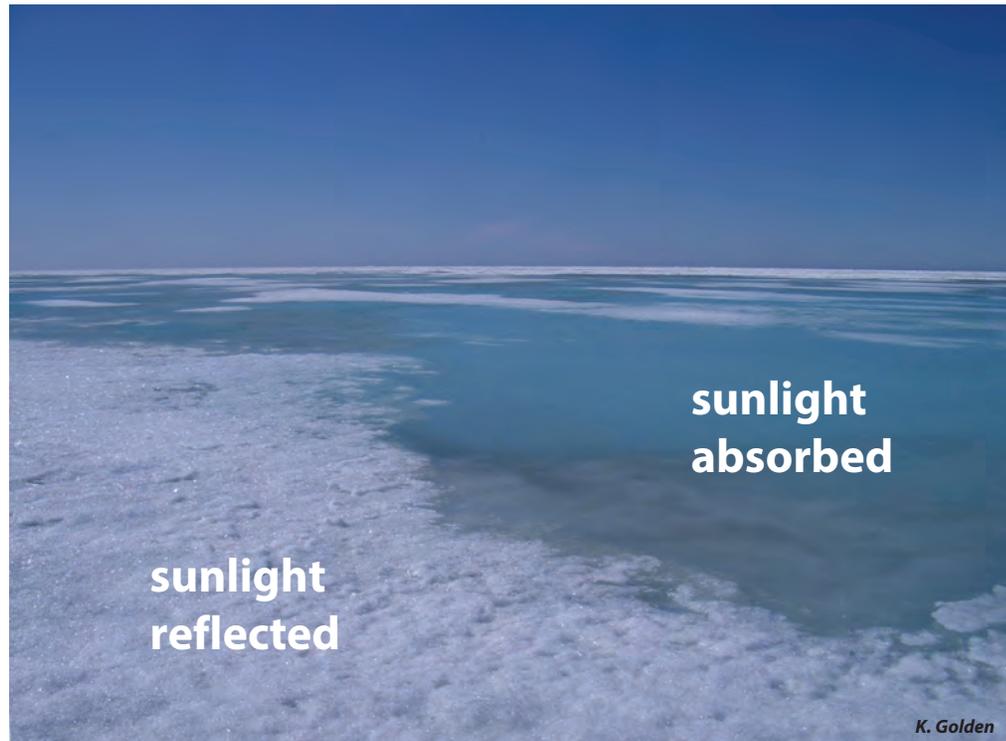
horizontal section



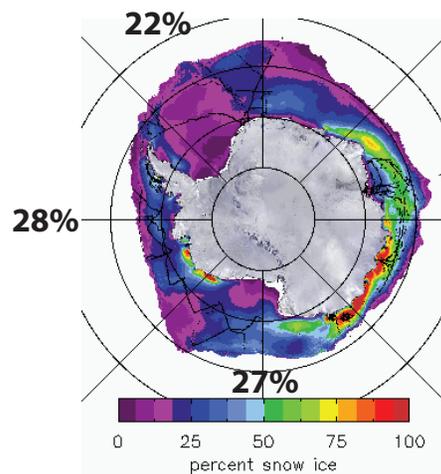
vertical section

# 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***



T. Maksym and T. Markus, 2008

***Antarctic surface flooding and snow-ice formation***

**September snow-ice estimates**

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

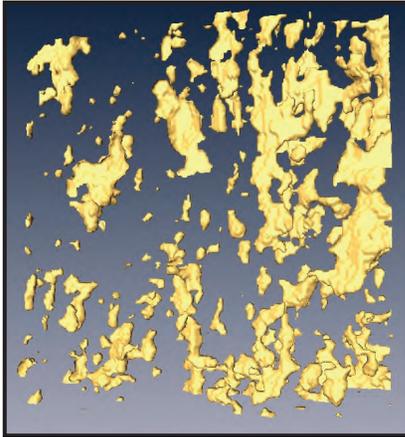
# Sea Ice is a Multiscale Composite Material

## *microscale*

brine inclusions

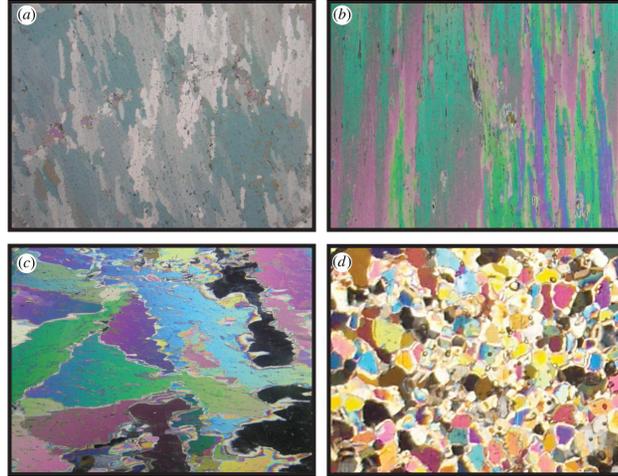


Weeks & Assur 1969



H. Eicken  
Golden et al. GRL 2007

polycrystals

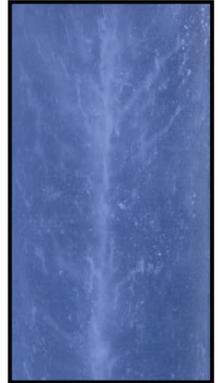


Gully et al. Proc. Roy. Soc. A 2015

brine channels



D. Cole



K. Golden

**millimeters**

**centimeters**

## *mesoscale*

Arctic melt ponds



K. Frey

Antarctic pressure ridges



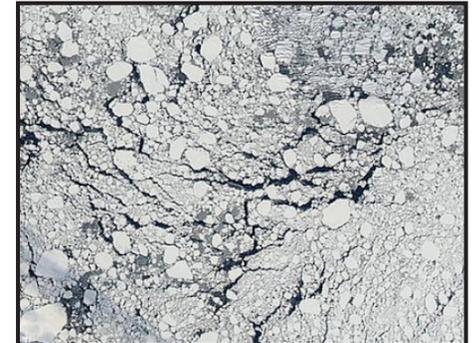
K. Golden

sea ice floes



J. Weller

sea ice pack



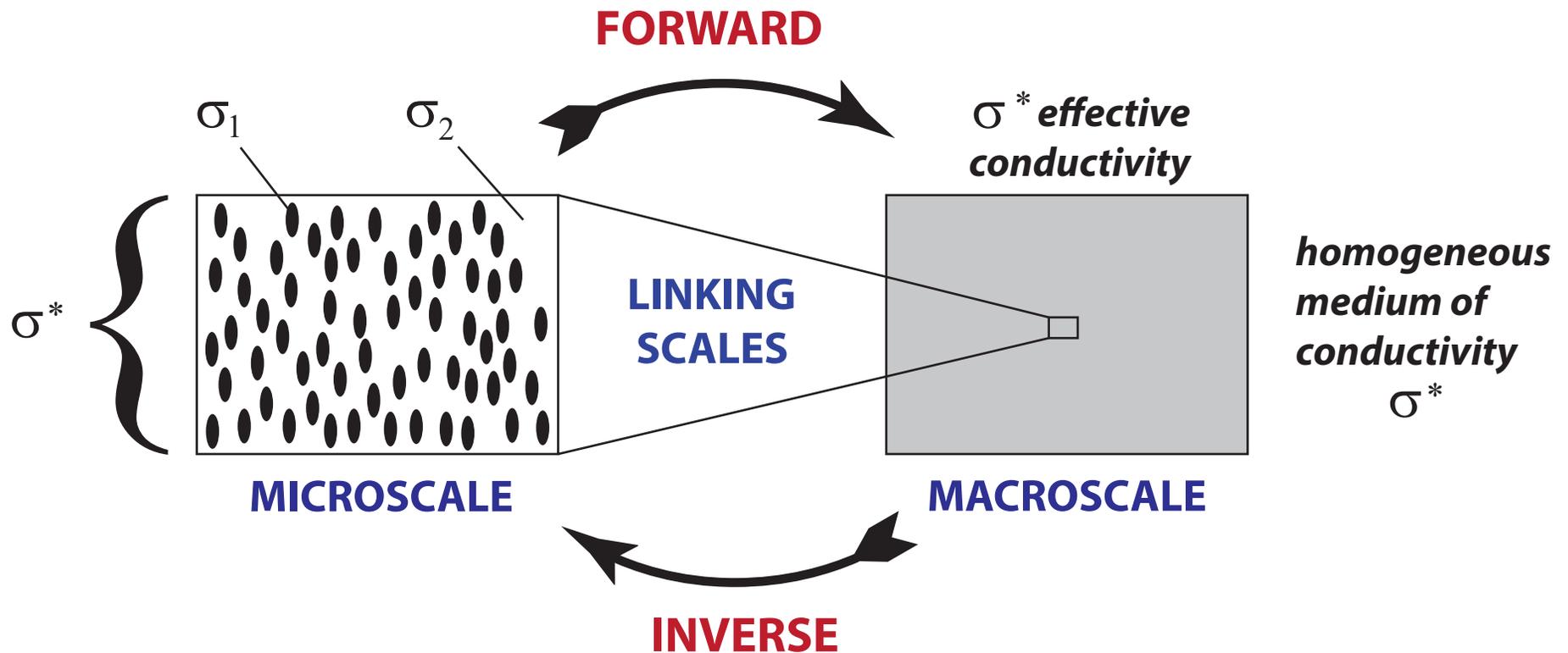
NASA

**meters**

**kilometers**

## *macroscale*

# ***HOMOGENIZATION for Composite Materials***



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

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

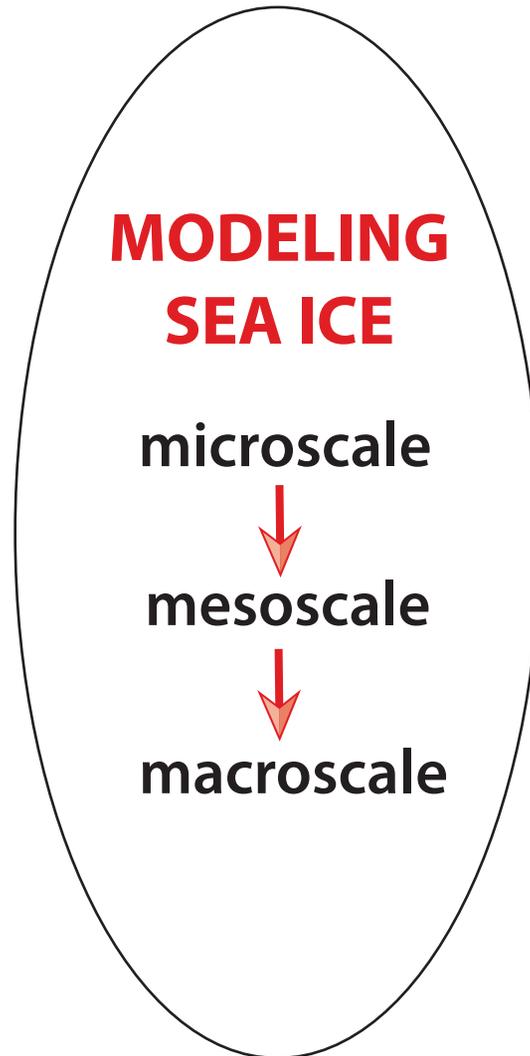
*Wiener 1912 : arithmetic and harmonic mean **bounds** on effective conductivity*

*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

# What is this talk about?

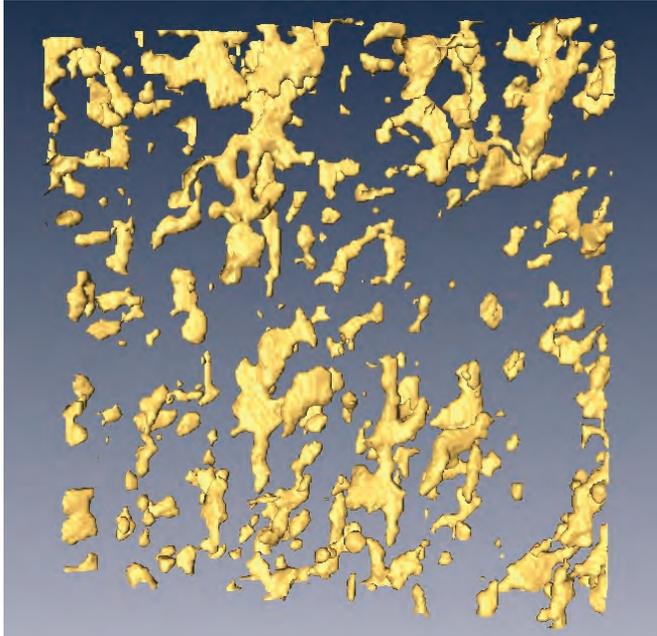
Using methods of **homogenization and statistical physics** to model sea ice effective behavior and advance representation of sea ice in climate models, process studies, ...



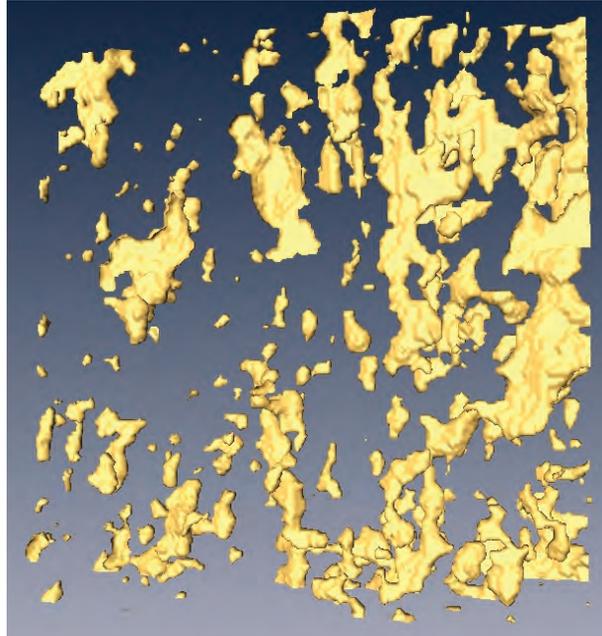
**A tour of key sea ice processes on micro, meso, and macro scales.**

**microscale**

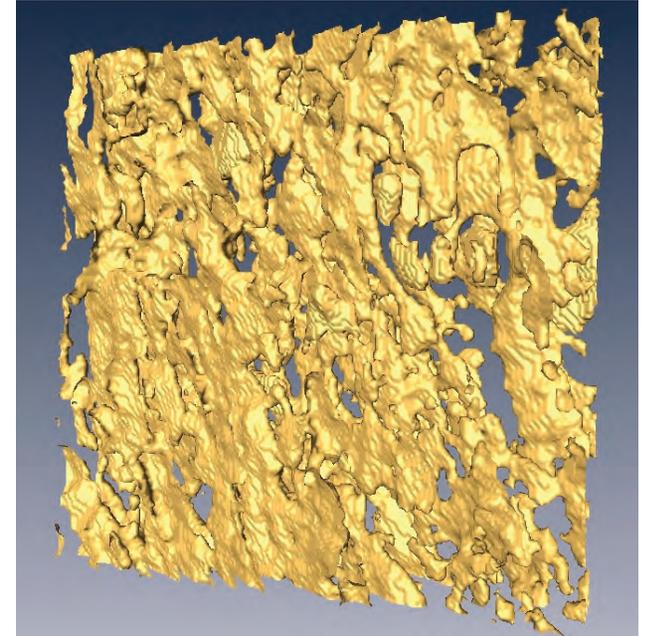
brine volume fraction and **connectivity** increase with temperature



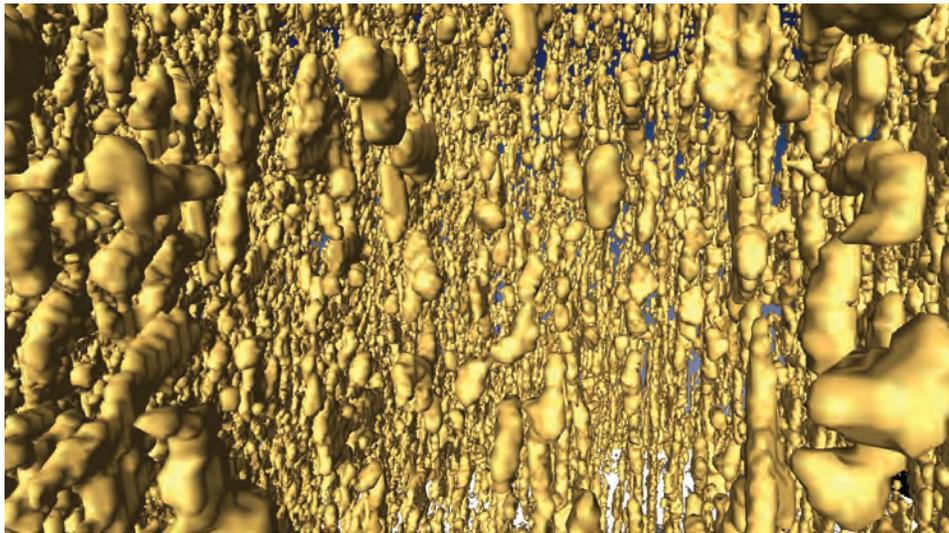
$T = -15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}, \phi = 0.033$



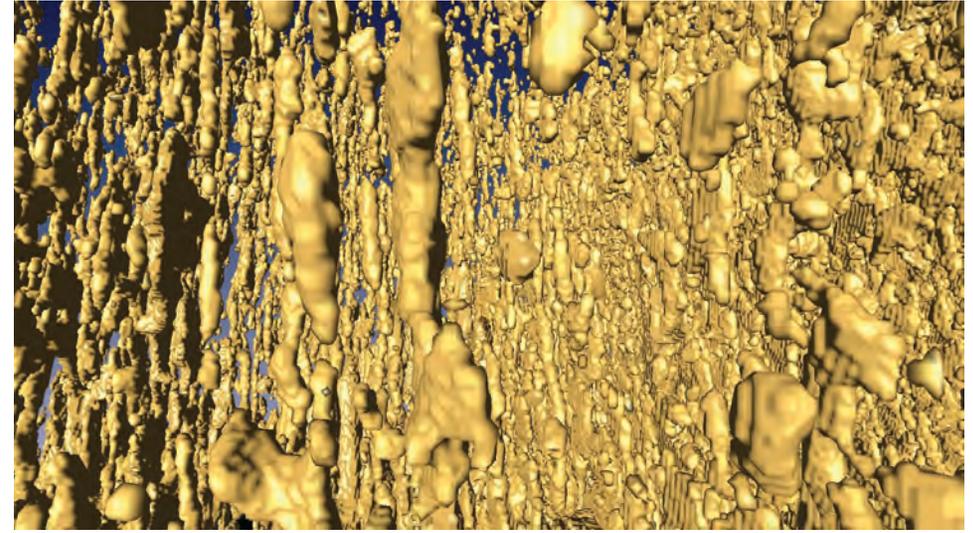
$T = -6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}, \phi = 0.075$



$T = -3\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}, \phi = 0.143$



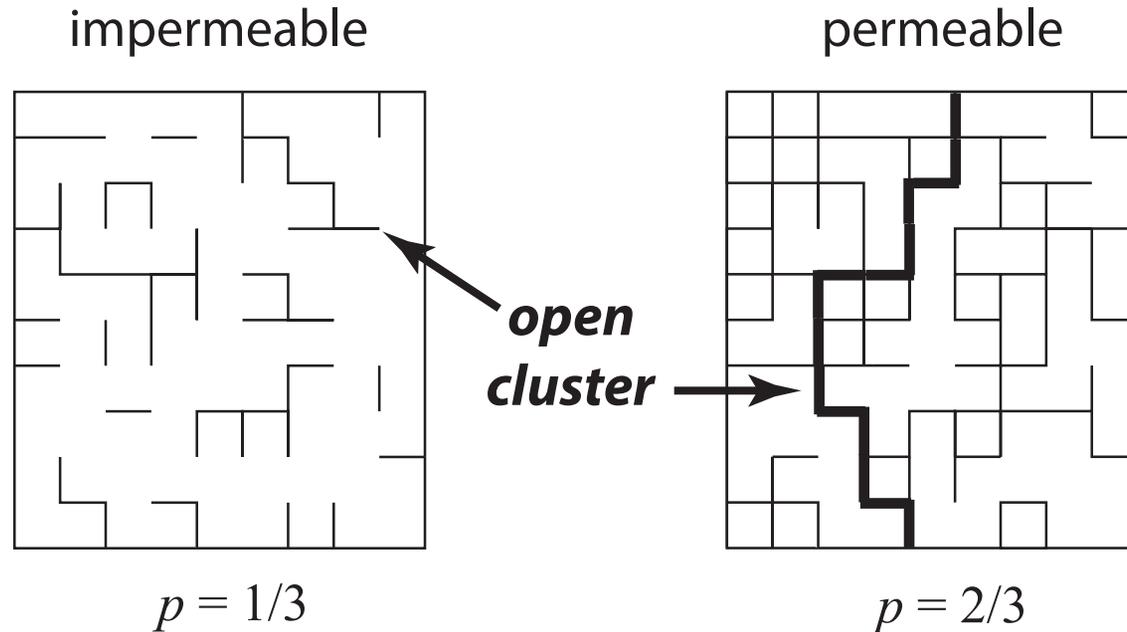
$T = -8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}, \phi = 0.057$



$T = -4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}, \phi = 0.113$

# percolation theory

*probabilistic theory of connectedness*



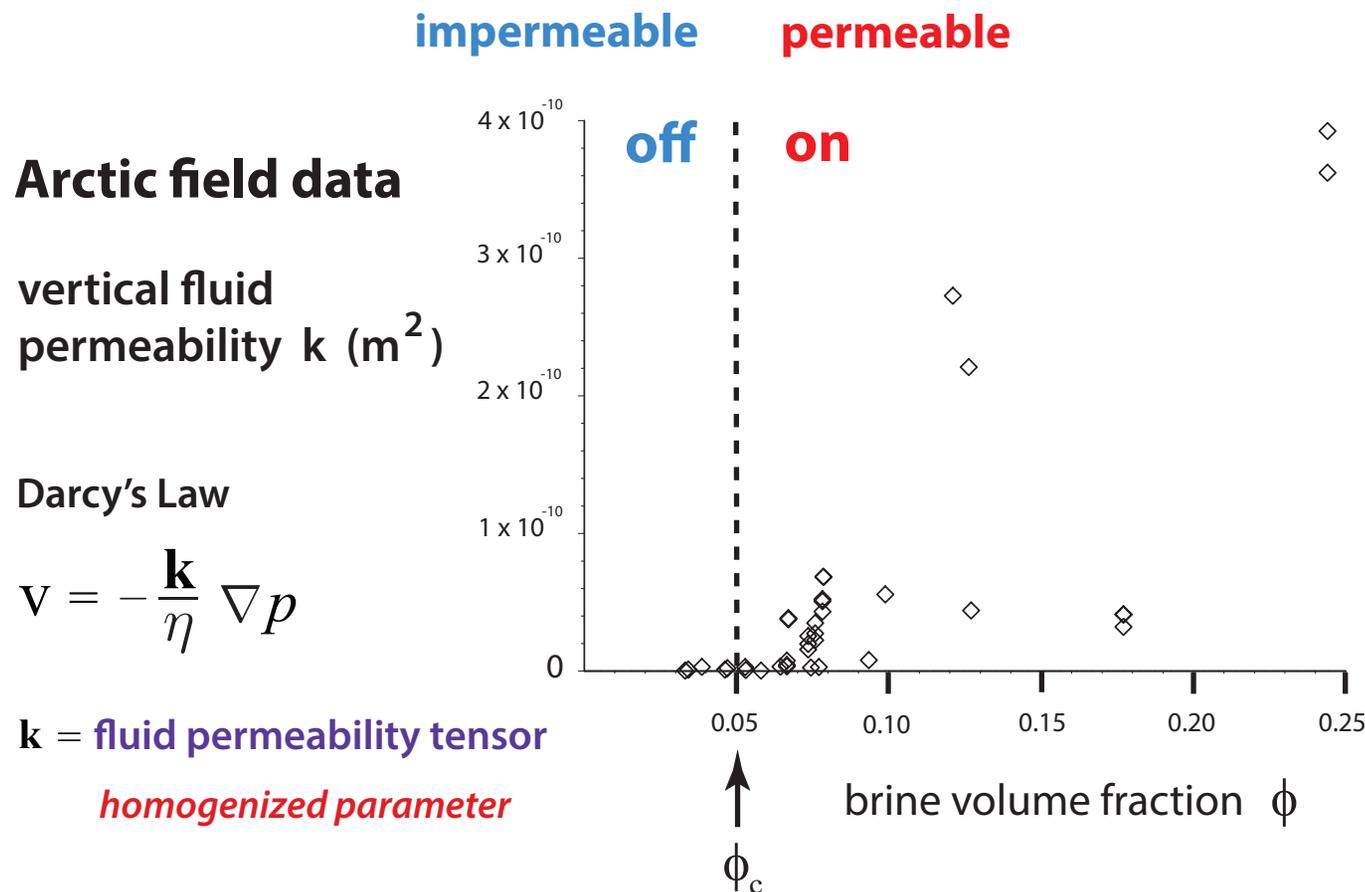
bond  $\longrightarrow$  *open* with probability  $p$   
*closed* with probability  $1-p$

**percolation threshold**

$$p_c = 1/2 \quad \text{for } d = 2$$

smallest  $p$  for which there is an infinite open cluster

# Critical behavior of fluid transport in sea ice



**“on - off” switch  
for fluid flow**

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 GRL 2007*

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

**sea ice ~ compressed powder in stealthy composites**



# sea ice algal communities

D. Thomas 2004

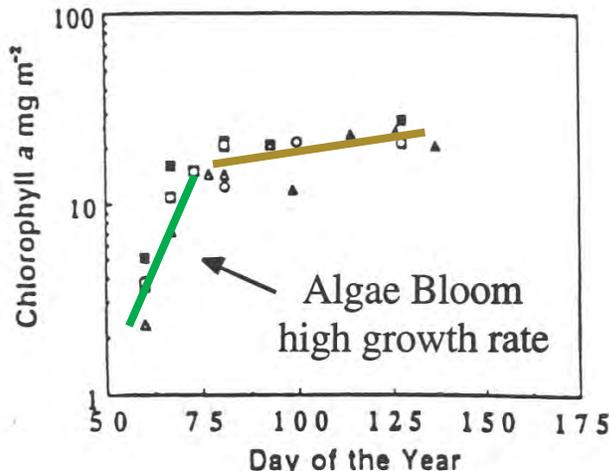
nutrient replenishment controlled by ice permeability

biological activity turns on or off according to **rule of fives**

*Golden, Ackley, Lytle Science 1998*

*Fritsen, Lytle, Ackley, Sullivan Science 1994*

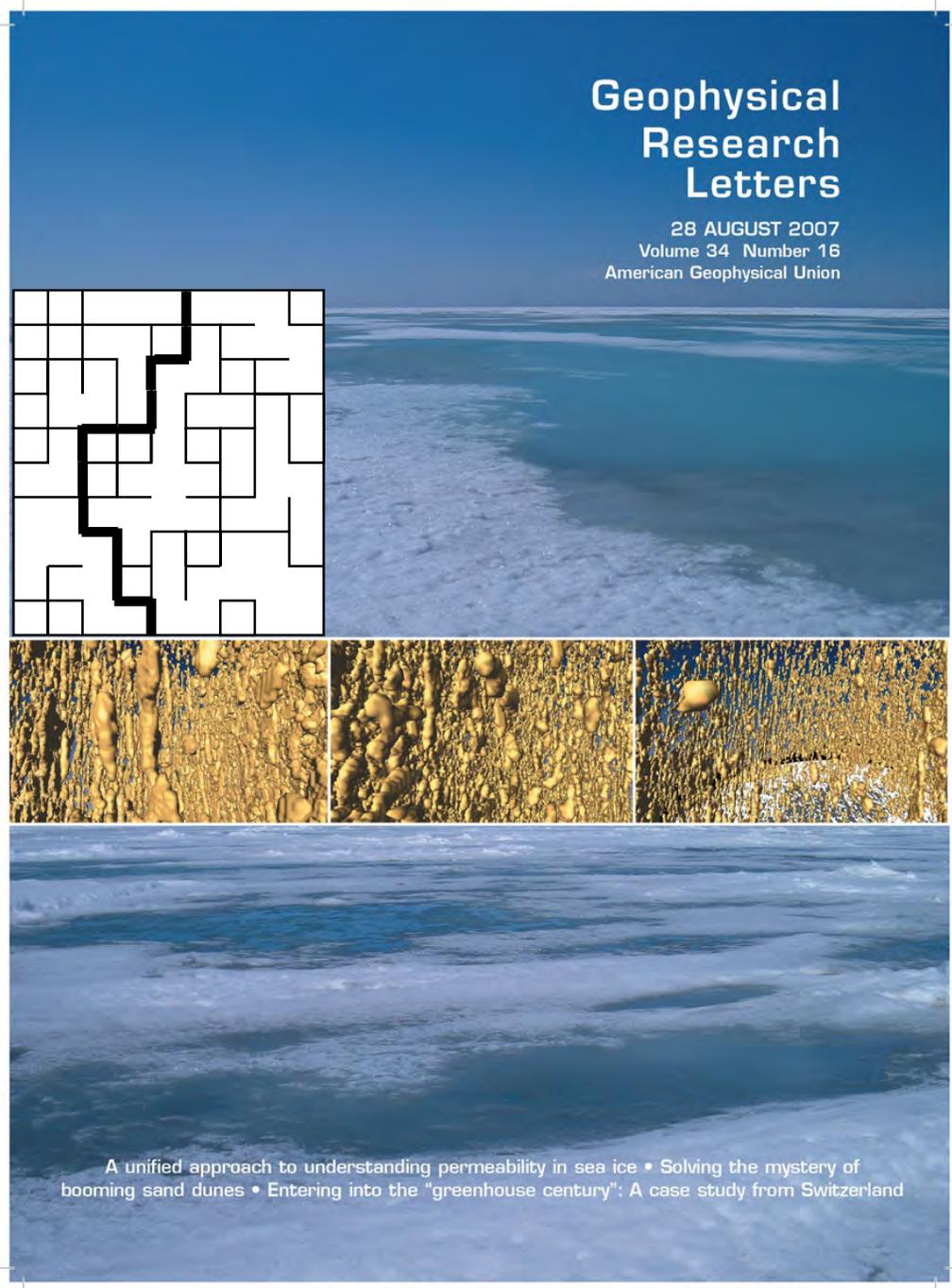
## critical behavior of microbial activity



Convection-fueled algae bloom  
Ice Station Weddell

# Thermal evolution of permeability and microstructure in sea ice

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



## percolation theory for fluid permeability

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

critical exponent  $t$

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

from critical path analysis  
in hopping conduction

hierarchical model  
rock physics  
network model  
rigorous bounds

X-ray tomography for  
brine inclusions

**confirms rule of fives**

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

theories agree closely  
with field data

microscale  
governs

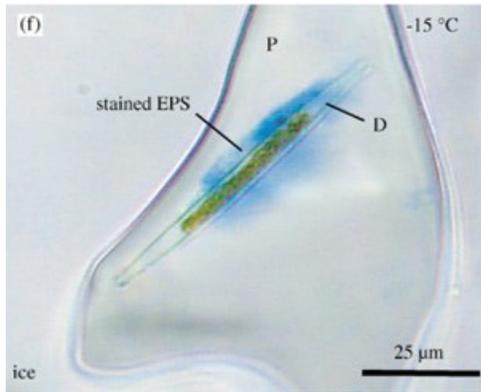
mesoscale  
processes

**melt pond  
evolution**

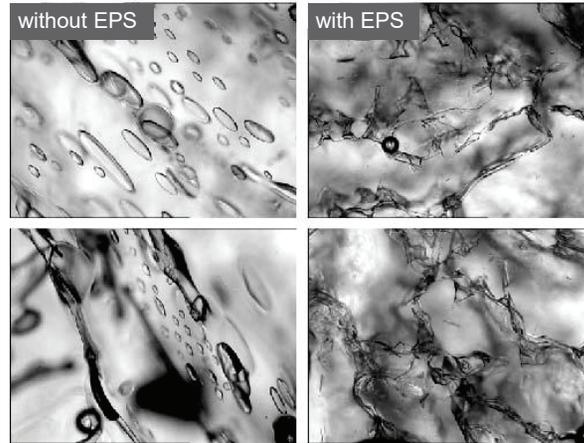
A unified approach to understanding permeability in sea ice • Solving the mystery of booming sand dunes • Entering into the "greenhouse century": A case study from Switzerland

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

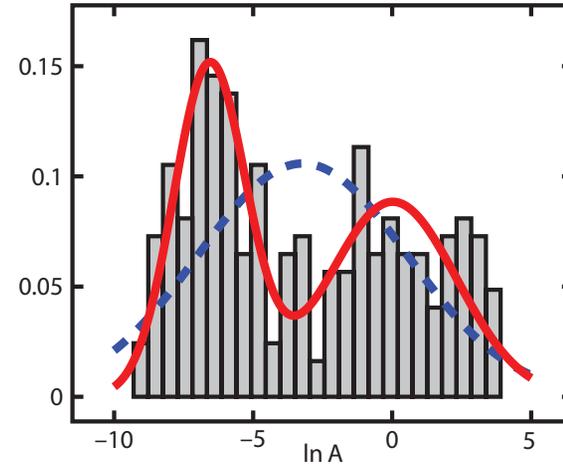
How does EPS affect fluid transport? **How does the biology affect the physics?**



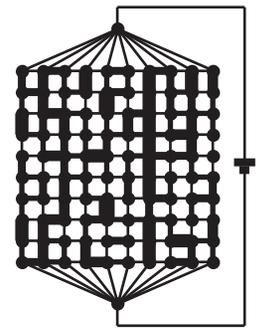
Krembs



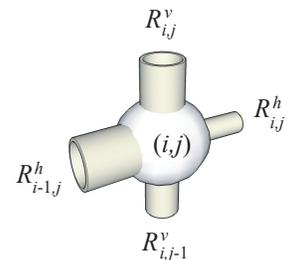
Krembs, Eicken, Deming, PNAS 2011



**RANDOM  
PIPE  
MODEL**



- 2D random pipe model with bimodal distribution of pipe radii
- Rigorous bound on permeability  $k$ ; results predict observed drop in  $k$

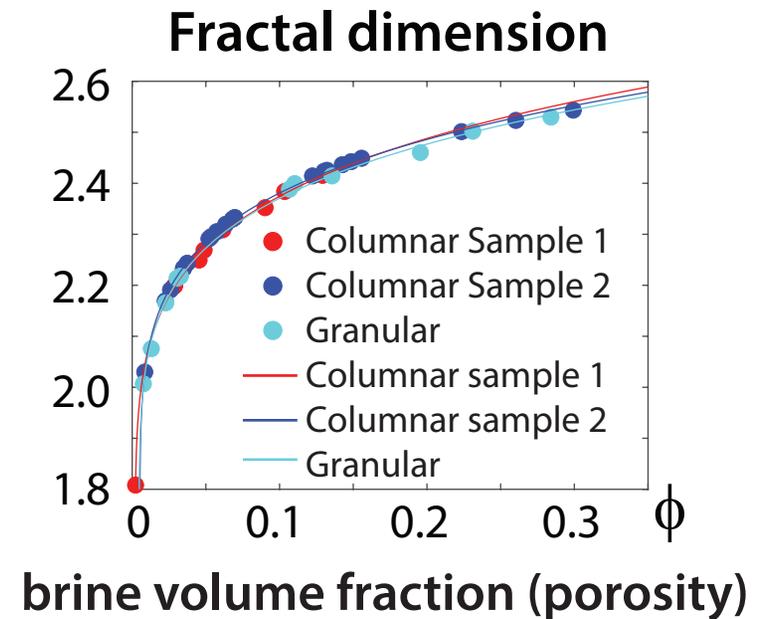
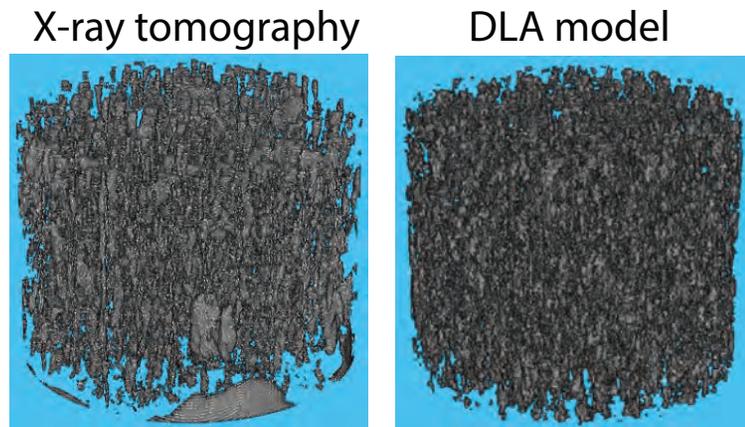
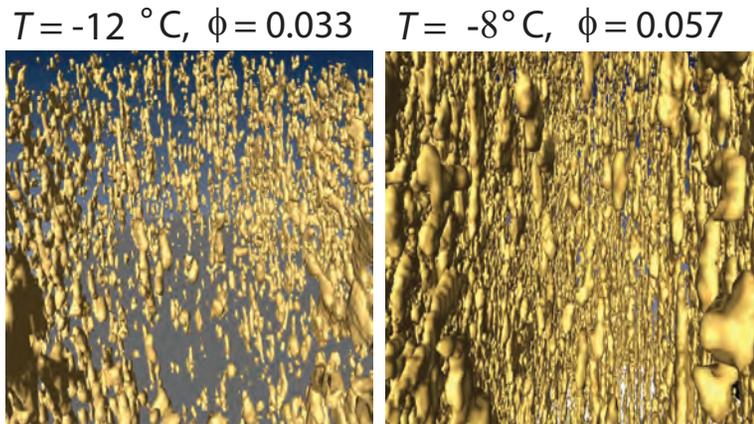


Steffen, Epshteyn, Zhu, Bowler, Deming, Golden  
*Multiscale Modeling and Simulation*, 2018

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

# Thermal evolution of the fractal geometry of the brine microstructure in sea ice

N. Ward, D. Hallman, J. Reimer, H. Eicken, M. Oggier and K. M. Golden, 2022



theory of porosity as a  
function of fractal dimension

invert

excellent correspondence with data

+ implications for brine phase as a habitat

Katz and Thompson, *PRL*, 1985

# 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:

<b>2007</b>	<b>Antarctic</b>	<b>SIPEX</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>Antarctic</b>	<b>McMurdo Sound</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>Arctic</b>	<b>Barrow AK</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Arctic</b>	<b>Barrow AK</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>Antarctic</b>	<b>SIPEX II</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>Arctic</b>	<b>Barrow AK</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Arctic</b>	<b>Chukchi Sea</b>



# Notices

of the American Mathematical Society

May 2009

Volume 56, Number 5

Climate Change and the Mathematics of Transport in Sea Ice

page 562

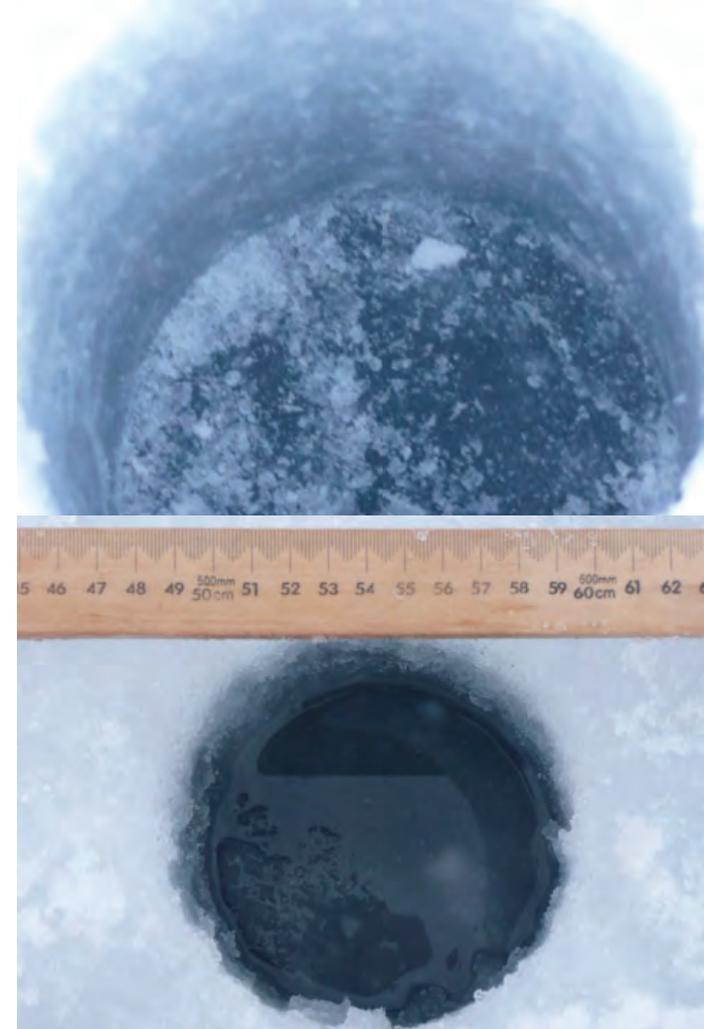
Mathematics and the Internet: A Source of Enormous Confusion and Great Potential

page 586



photo by Jan Lieser

Real analysis in polar coordinates (see page 613)



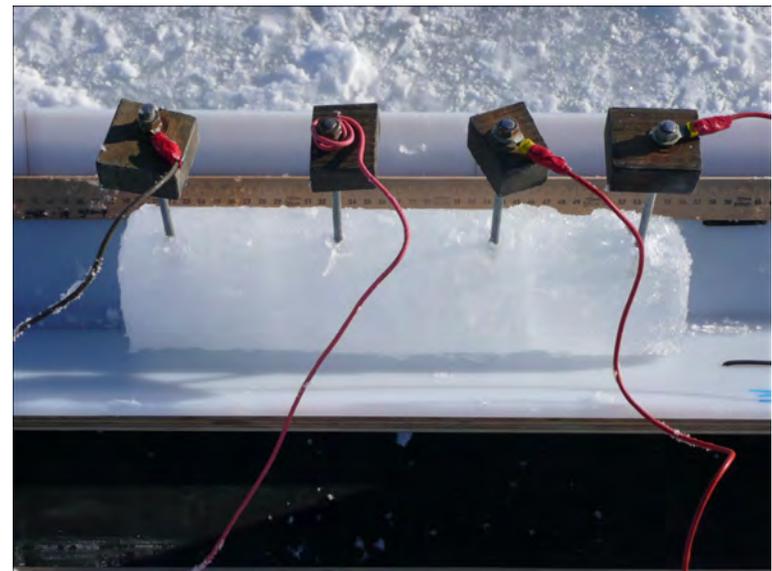
**measuring  
fluid permeability  
of Antarctic sea ice**

**SIPEX 2007**

## electrical measurements



## Wenner array



## vertical conductivity

Zhu, Golden, Gully, Sampson *Physica B* 2010

Sampson, Golden, Gully, Worby *Deep Sea Research* 2011

# ***cross borehole tomography***



***Ingham, Jones, Buchanan  
Victoria University, Wellington, NZ***

# Measuring sea ice thickness





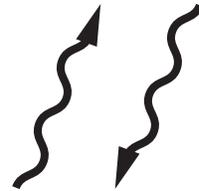
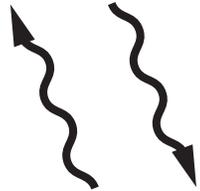
# Remote sensing of sea ice

## **INVERSE PROBLEM**

Recover sea ice properties from electromagnetic (EM) data

$$\epsilon^*$$

effective complex permittivity  
(dielectric constant, conductivity)

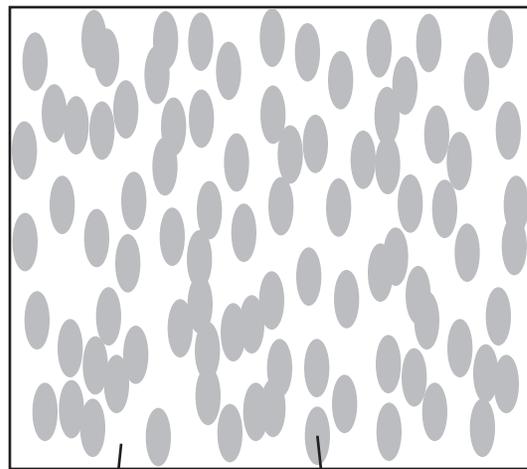


**sea ice thickness**  
**ice concentration**



**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

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

**What are the effective propagation characteristics  
of an EM wave (radar, microwaves) in the medium?**

# Analytic Continuation Method for Homogenization

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

## Stieltjes integral representation for homogenized parameter

*separates geometry from parameters*

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

$s = \frac{1}{1 - \epsilon_1 / \epsilon_2}$

← geometry  
← material 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

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

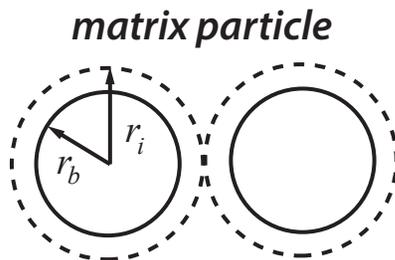
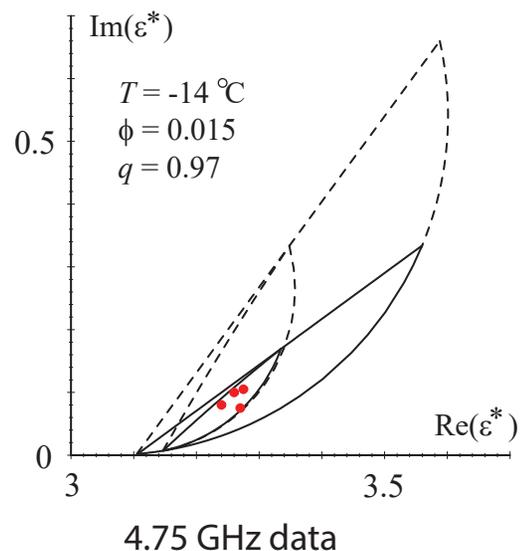
$\Gamma\chi$  : microscale  $\rightarrow$  macroscale

$\Gamma\chi$  *links scales*

**This representation distills the complexities of mixture geometry into the spectral properties of an operator like the Hamiltonian in physics.**

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

## forward bounds

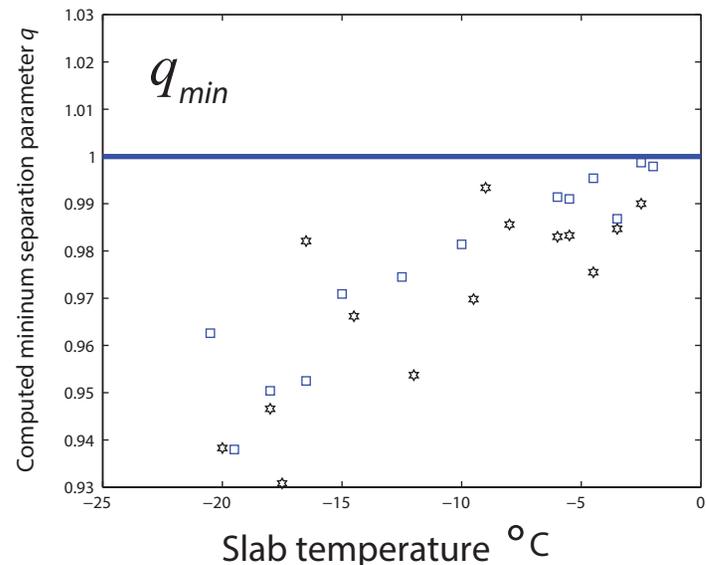


$$q = r_b / r_i$$

$$0 < q < 1$$

**Golden 1995, 1997**

## inverse bounds



## Inverse Homogenization

Cherkaev and Golden (1998), Day and Thorpe (1999), Cherkaev (2001), McPhedran, McKenzie, Milton (1982), *Theory of Composites*, Milton (2002)



## 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**

## SEA ICE

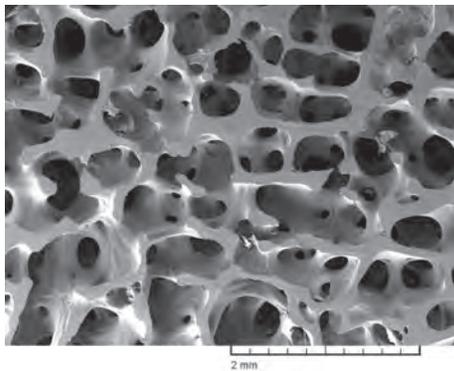


## HUMAN BONE

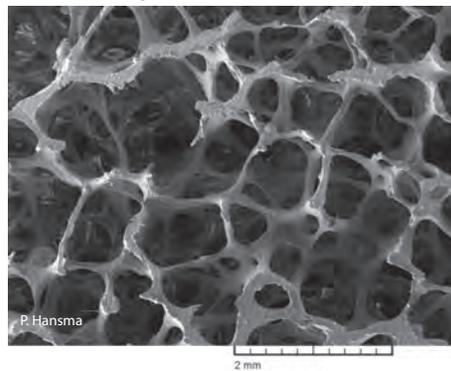


*spectral characterization  
of porous microstructures  
in human bone*

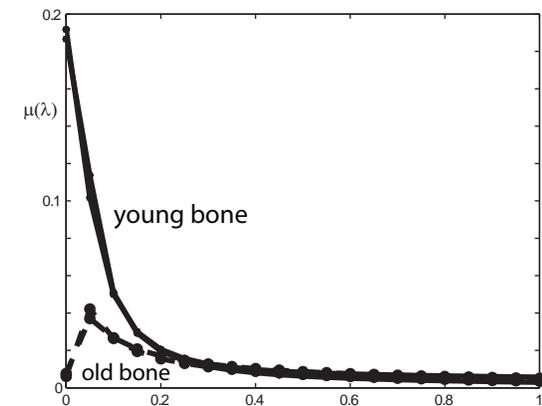
young healthy trabecular bone



old osteoporotic trabecular bone



reconstruct spectral measures  
from complex permittivity data



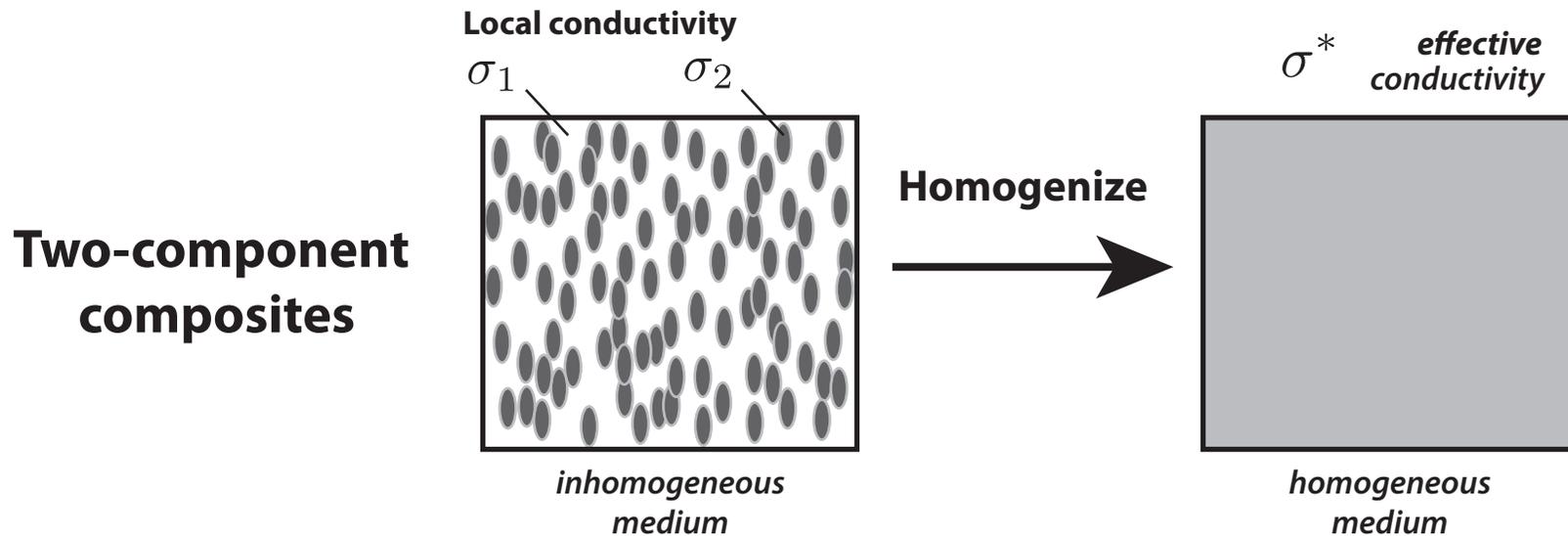
*use regularized inversion scheme*

*apply spectral measure analysis of brine connectivity and  
spectral inversion to electromagnetic monitoring of osteoporosis*

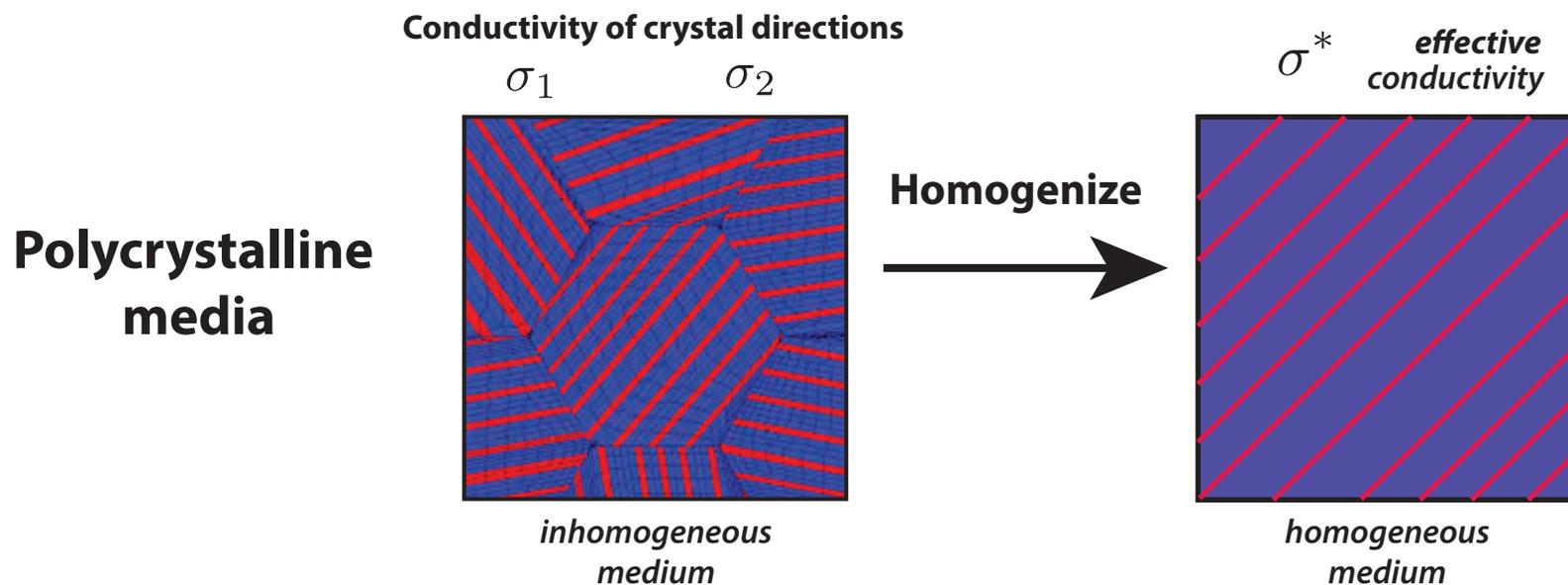
*Golden, Murphy, Cherkaev, J. Biomechanics 2011*

*the math doesn't care if it's sea ice or bone!*

# Homogenization for polycrystalline materials



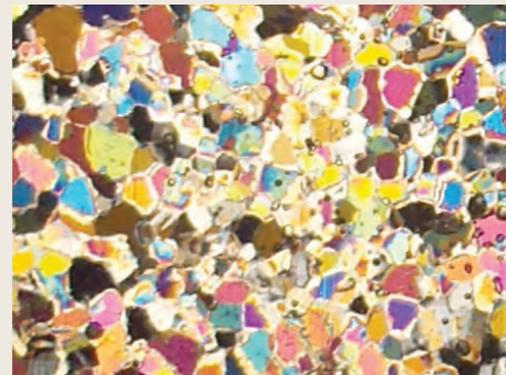
**Find the homogeneous medium which behaves macroscopically the same as the inhomogeneous medium**



# 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**  
*orientation statistics*
- **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

# higher threshold for fluid flow in granular sea ice

*microscale details impact “mesoscale” processes*

nutrient fluxes for microbes  
melt pond drainage  
snow-ice formation

columnar

granular

**5%**



**10%**



Golden, Sampson, Gully, Lubbers, Tison 2022

**electromagnetically distinguishing ice types**  
Kitsel Lusted, Elena Cherkaev, Ken Golden

# wave propagation in the marginal ice zone (MIZ)

Stieltjes integral representation and bounds for the complex viscoelasticity of the ice - ocean layer

Sampson, Murphy, Cherkaev, Golden 2022

first theory of key parameter in wave-ice interactions only fitted to wave data before

Keller, 1998

Mosig, Montiel, Squire, 2015

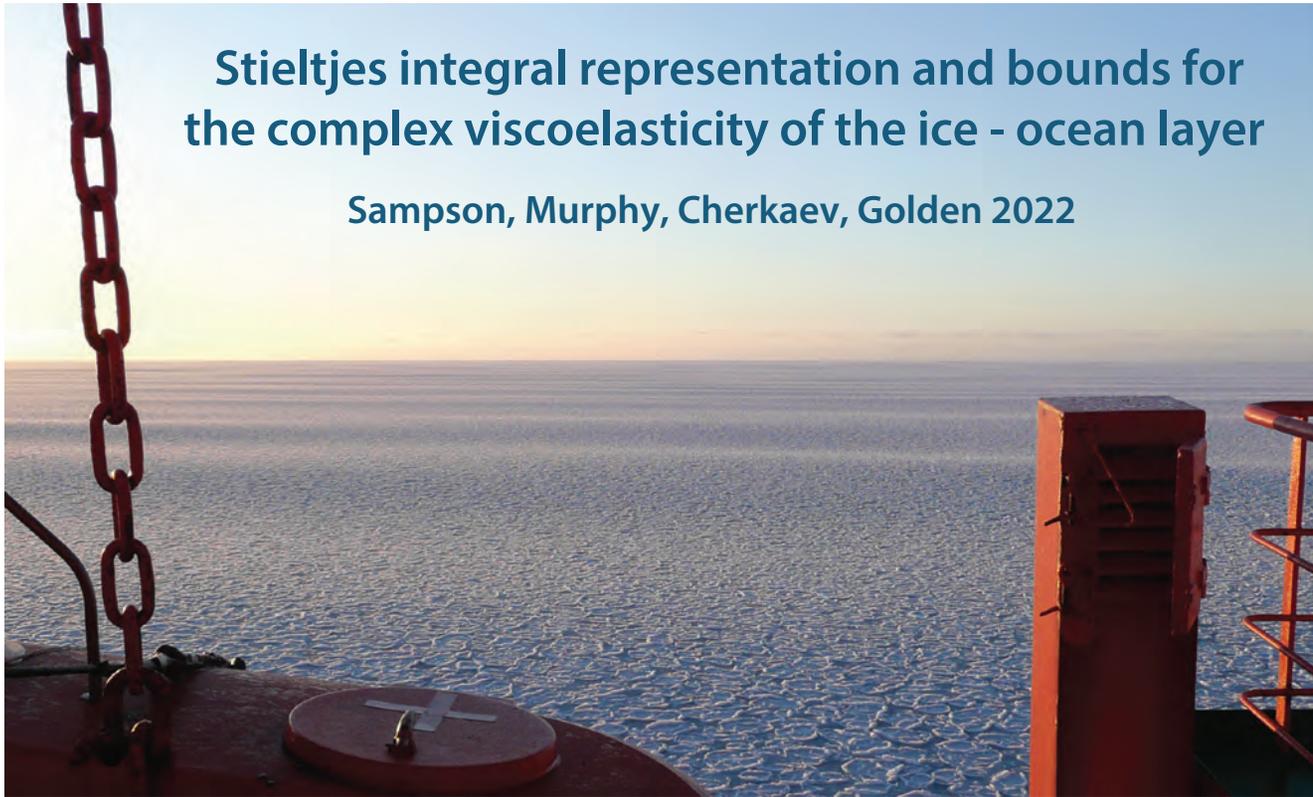
Wang, Shen, 2012

**Analytic Continuation Method**

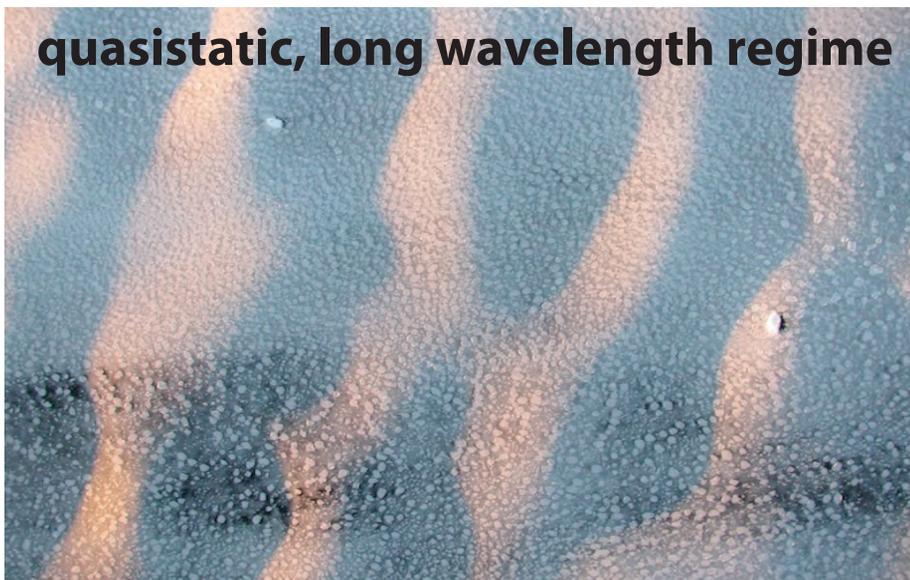
Bergman (78) - Milton (79)  
integral representation for  $\epsilon^*$

Golden and Papanicolaou (83)

Milton, *Theory of Composites* (02)



quasistatic, long wavelength regime



homogenized parameter depends on sea ice concentration and ice floe geometry

like EM waves



# direct calculation of spectral measures

Murphy, Hohenegger, Cherkaev, Golden, *Comm. Math. Sci.* 2015

- depends only on the composite geometry
- discretization of microstructural image gives binary network
- fundamental operator becomes a random matrix
- spectral measure computed from eigenvalues and eigenvectors

**once we have the spectral measure  $\mu$  it can be used in Stieltjes integrals for other transport coefficients:**

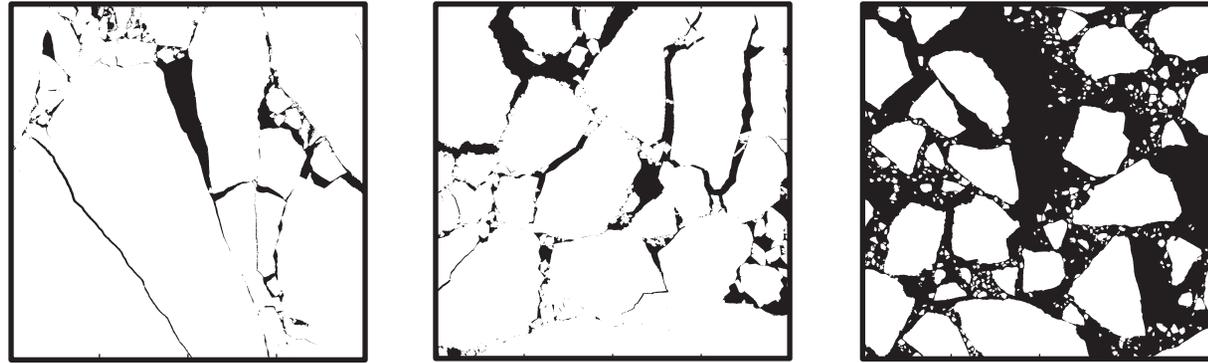
***electrical and thermal conductivity, complex permittivity, magnetic permeability, diffusion, fluid flow properties***

earlier studies of spectral measures

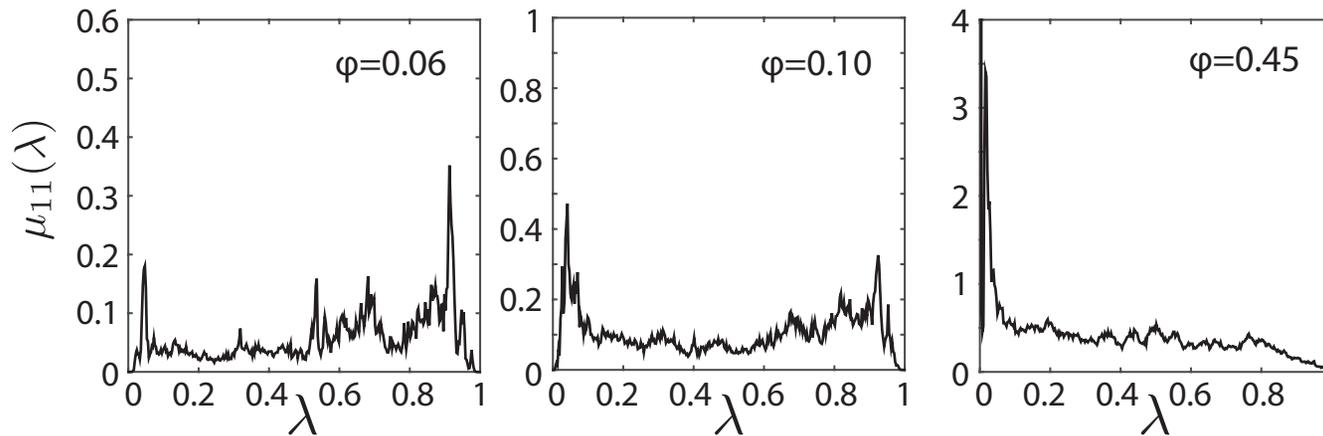
Day and Thorpe 1996

Helsing, McPhedran, Milton 2011

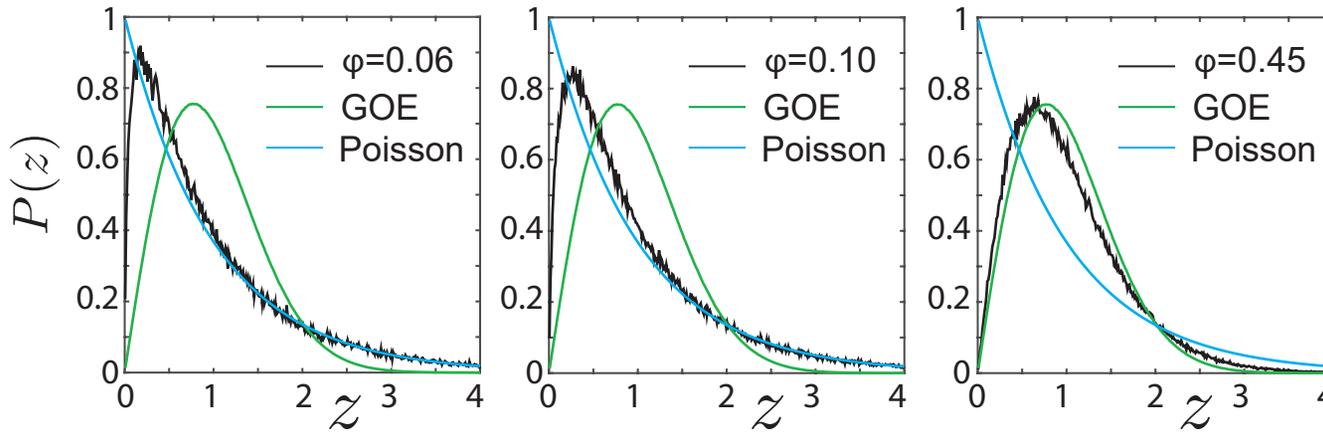
# Spectral computations for sea ice floe configurations



spectral  
measures



eigenvalue  
spacing  
distributions



uncorrelated



level repulsion

**UNIVERSAL**  
**Wigner-Dyson**  
**distribution**

# Eigenvalue Statistics of Random Matrix Theory

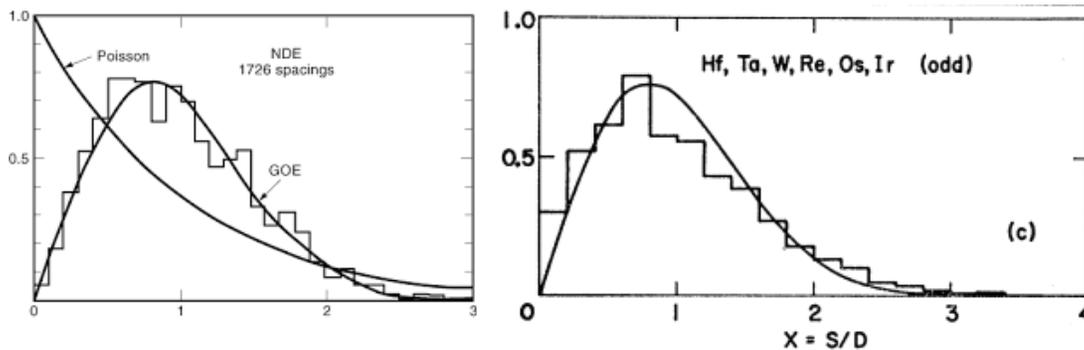
*Wigner (1951) and Dyson (1953) first used random matrix theory (RMT) to describe quantized energy levels of heavy atomic nuclei.*

$[\mathbf{N}]_{ij} \sim N(0,1), \quad \mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{N} + \mathbf{N}^T)/2 \quad \text{Gaussian orthogonal ensemble (GOE)}$

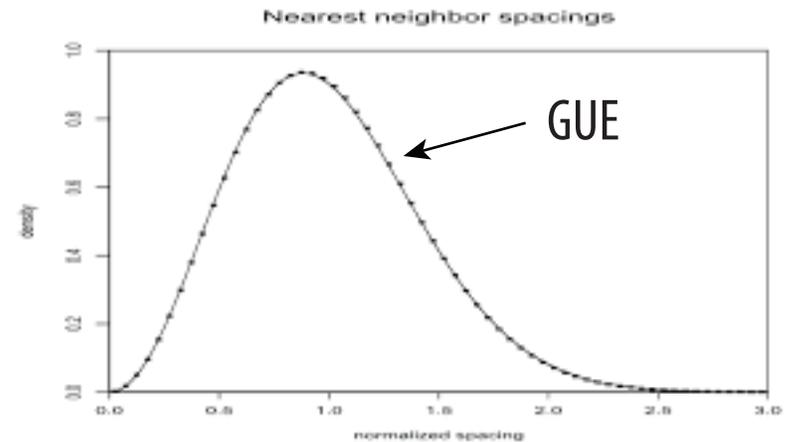
$[\mathbf{N}]_{ij} \sim N(0,1) + iN(0,1), \quad \mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{N} + \mathbf{N}^\dagger)/2 \quad \text{Gaussian unitary ensemble (GUE)}$

*Short range and long range correlations of eigenvalues are measured by various eigenvalue statistics.*

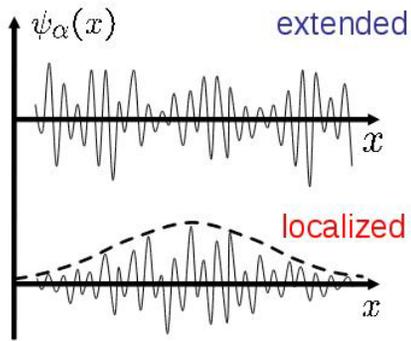
Spacing distributions of energy levels for heavy atomic nuclei



**Spacing distributions of the first billion zeros of the Riemann zeta function**



**Universal eigenvalue statistics arise in a broad range of “unrelated” problems!**



electronic transport in semiconductors

metal / insulator transition

**localization**

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

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

from analysis of spectral measures for brine, melt ponds, ice floes

we find percolation-driven

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

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

**PERCOLATION  
 TRANSITION**



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

**-- but with NO wave interference or scattering effects ! --**

local conductivity in 1D inhomogeneous material

$$\sigma(x) = 3 + \cos x + \cos kx$$

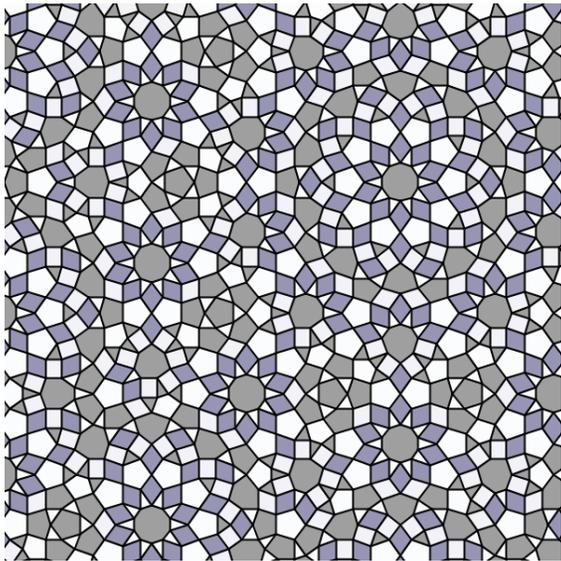
**effective conductivity**

$$\sigma^*(k) = \begin{cases} \text{constant} & k \text{ irrational} & \text{quasiperiodic} \\ f(k) & k \text{ rational} & \text{periodic} \end{cases}$$

Golden, Goldstein, Lebowitz, Phys. Rev. Lett. 1985

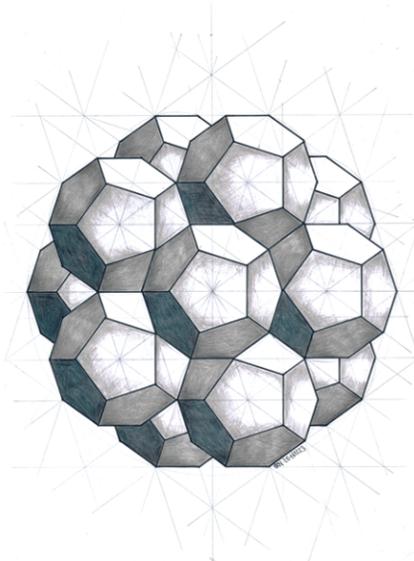
# Order to Disorder in Quasiperiodic Composites

D. Morison (Physics), N. B. Murphy, E. Cherkhev, K. M. Golden, *Communications Physics* 2022



quasiperiodic checkerboard

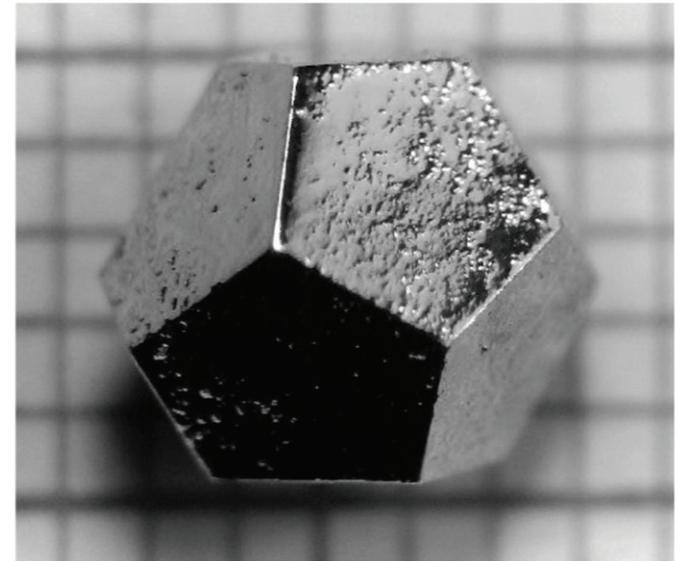
Stampfli, 2013



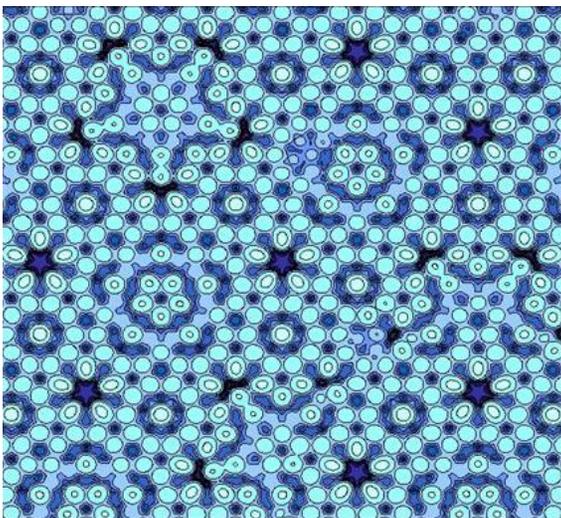
dense packing of dodecahedra

3D Penrose tiling

Tripkovic, 2019



Holmium-magnesium-zinc quasicrystal



energy surface Al-Pd-Mn quasicrystal

Unal et al., 2007

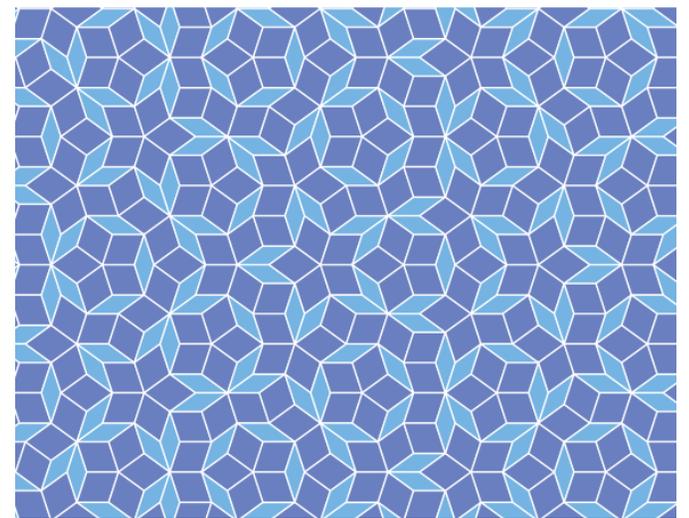
quasiperiodic crystal  
*quasicrystal*

ordered but aperiodic

lacks translational symmetry

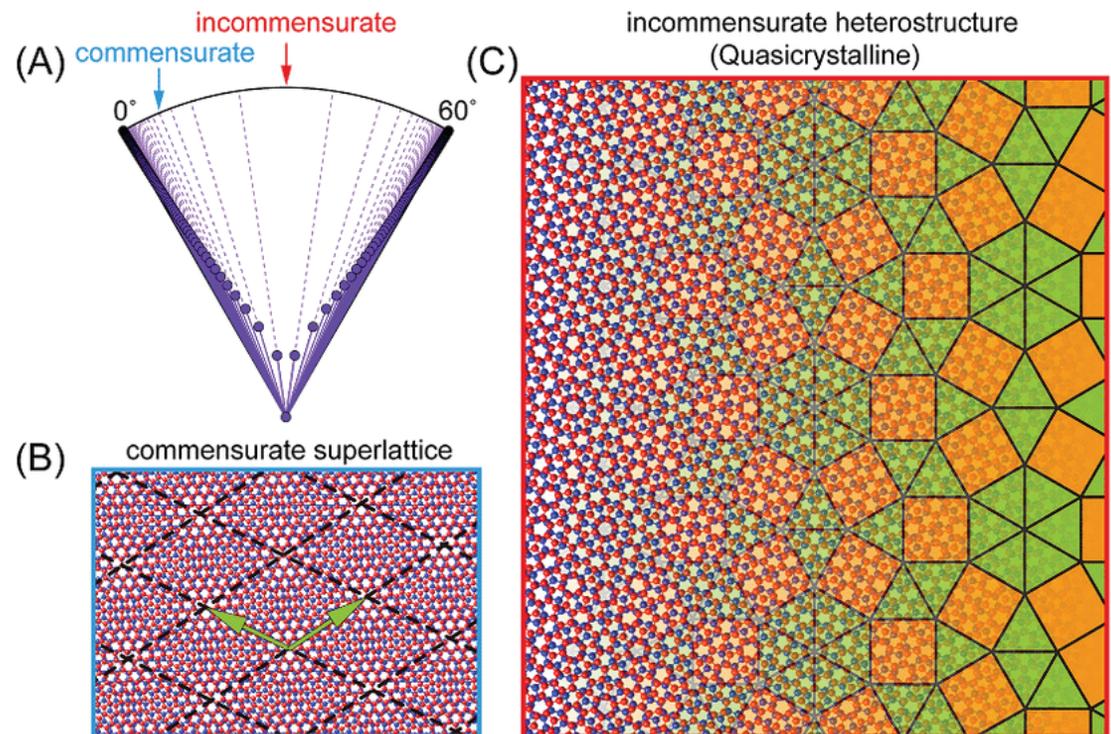
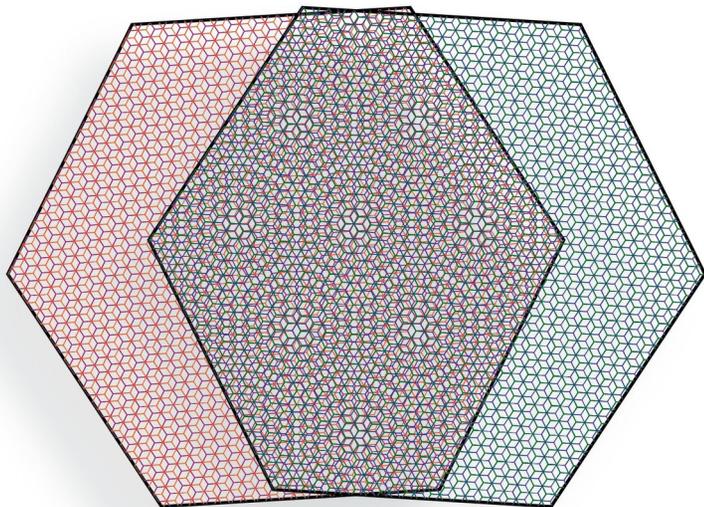
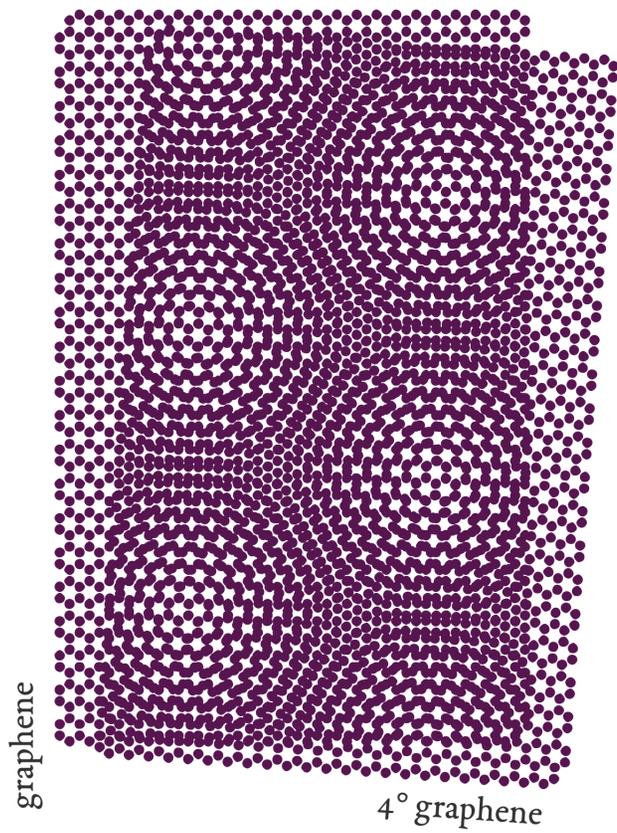
Schechtman et al., 1984

Levine & Steinhardt, 1984

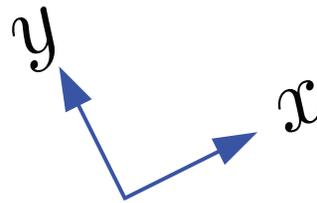
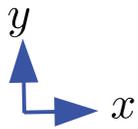


aperiodic tiling of the plane - R. Penrose 1970s

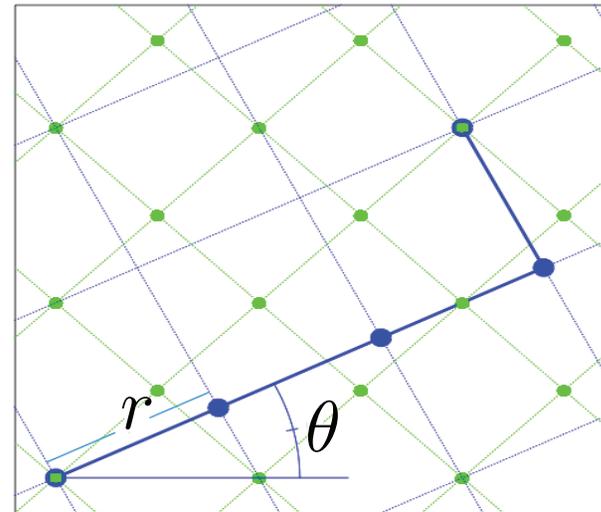
# twisted bilayer graphene



# Moiré patterns generate two component composites



$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ y' \end{pmatrix} = r \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\psi(x', y') = \cos 2\pi x' \cos 2\pi y'$$

$$\chi = \begin{cases} 1, & \psi \geq 0 \\ 0, & \psi < 0 \end{cases}$$

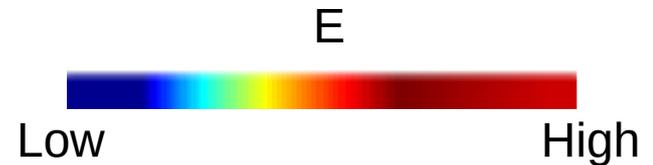
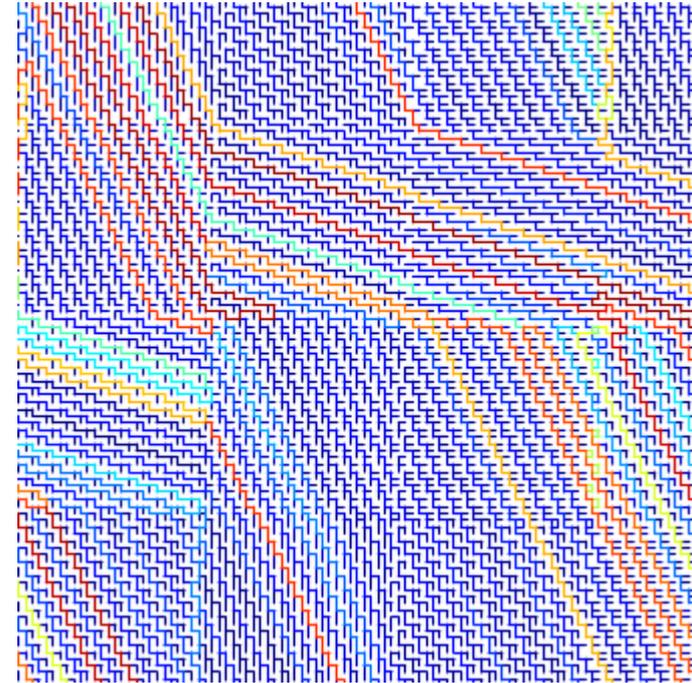
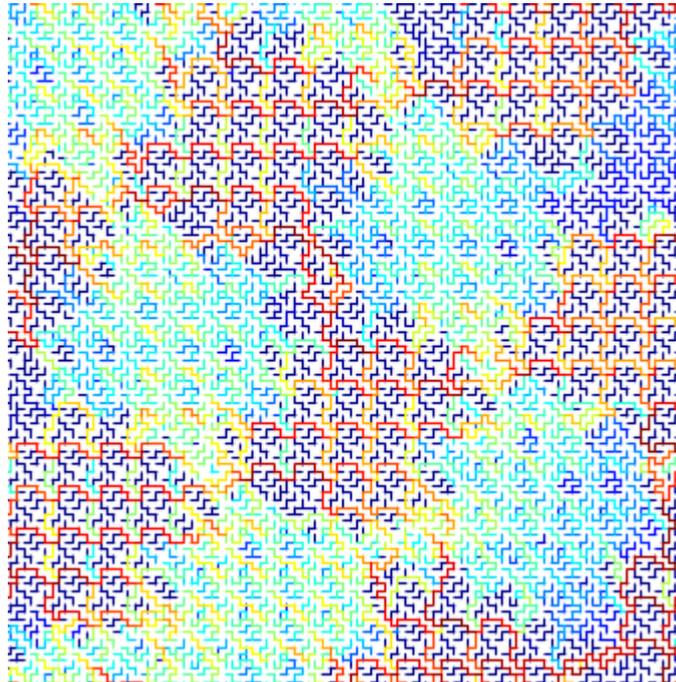
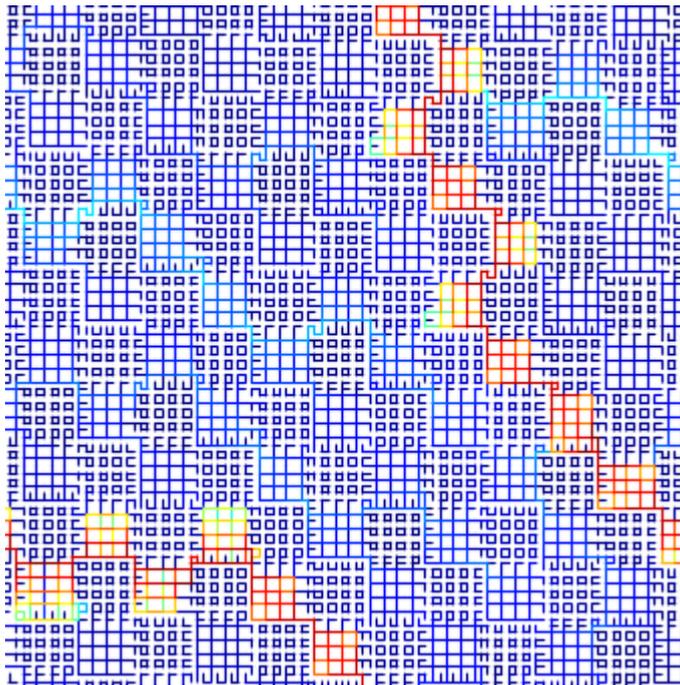
rotation and dilation

Small Difference in Moiré Parameters

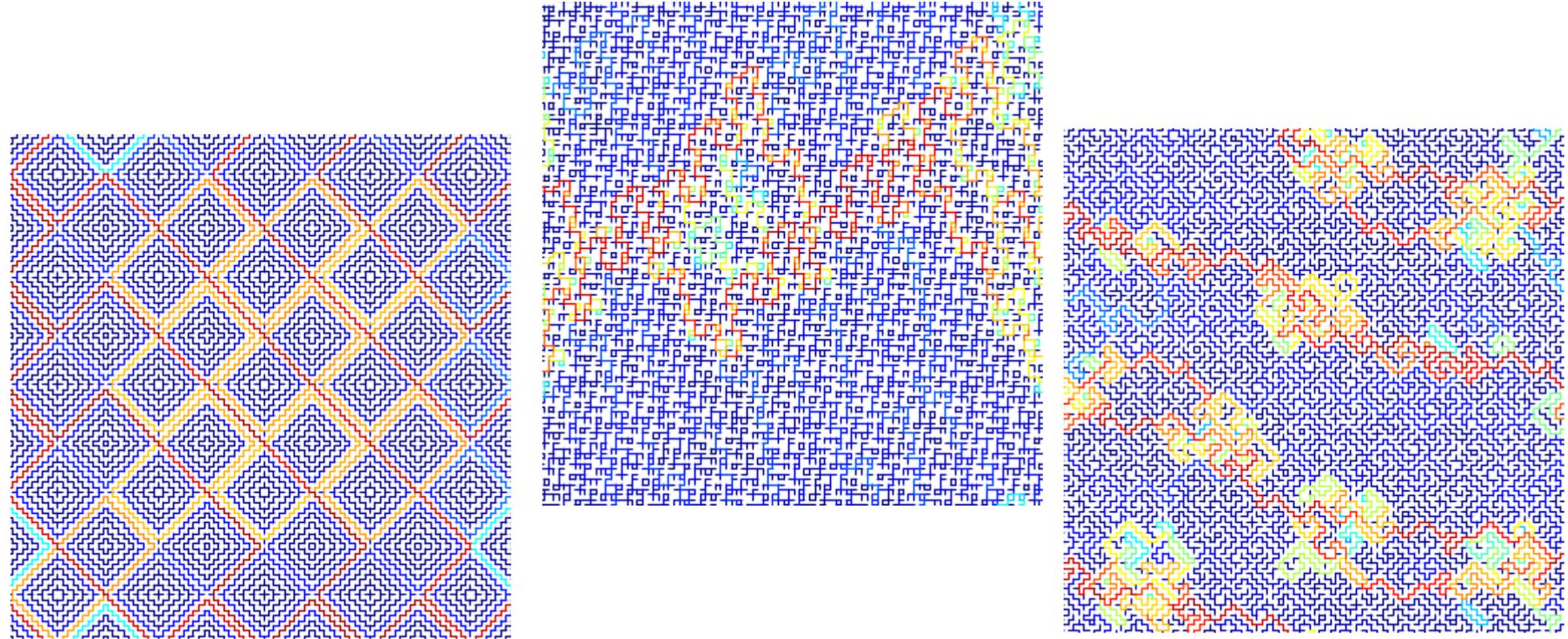


Big Difference in Material Properties

# Wide Variety of Microgeometries



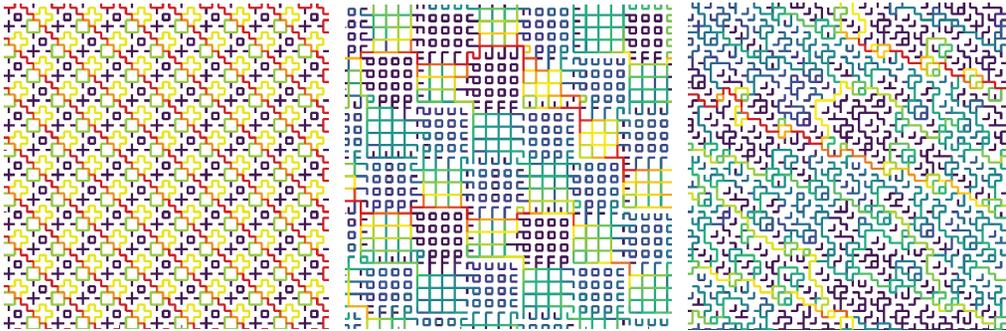
# Wide Variety of Microgeometries



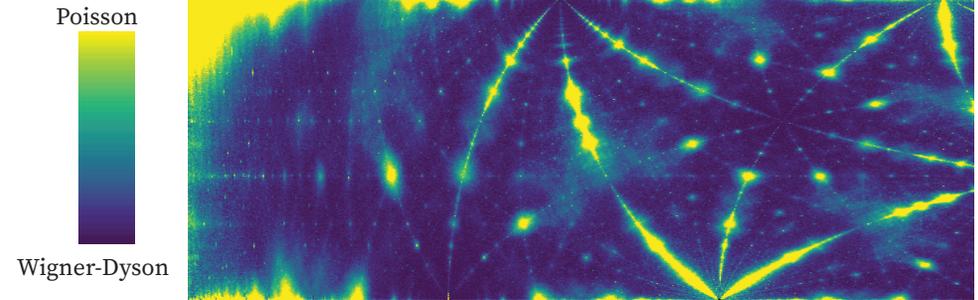
# Order to disorder in quasiperiodic composites

Morison, Murphy, Cherkhev, Golden, *Commun. Phys.* 2022

Parameterized Moiré Pattern Creates Tunable Microgeometry



constellation of periodic systems in a sea of randomness



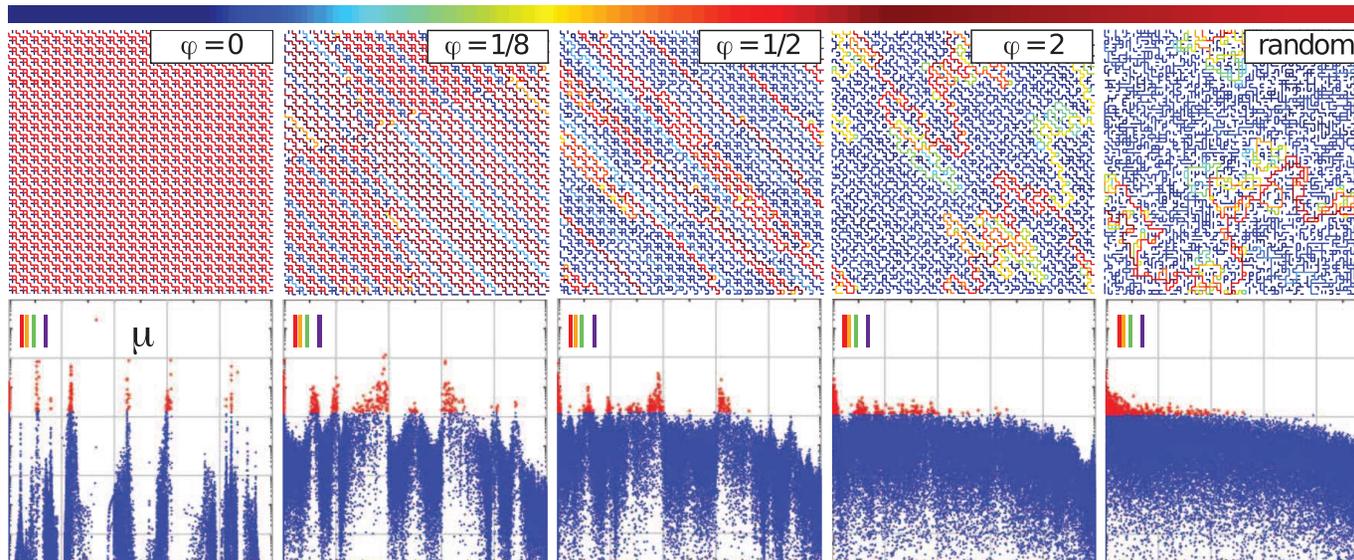
parameter space

periodic



quasiperiodic

electric field strength

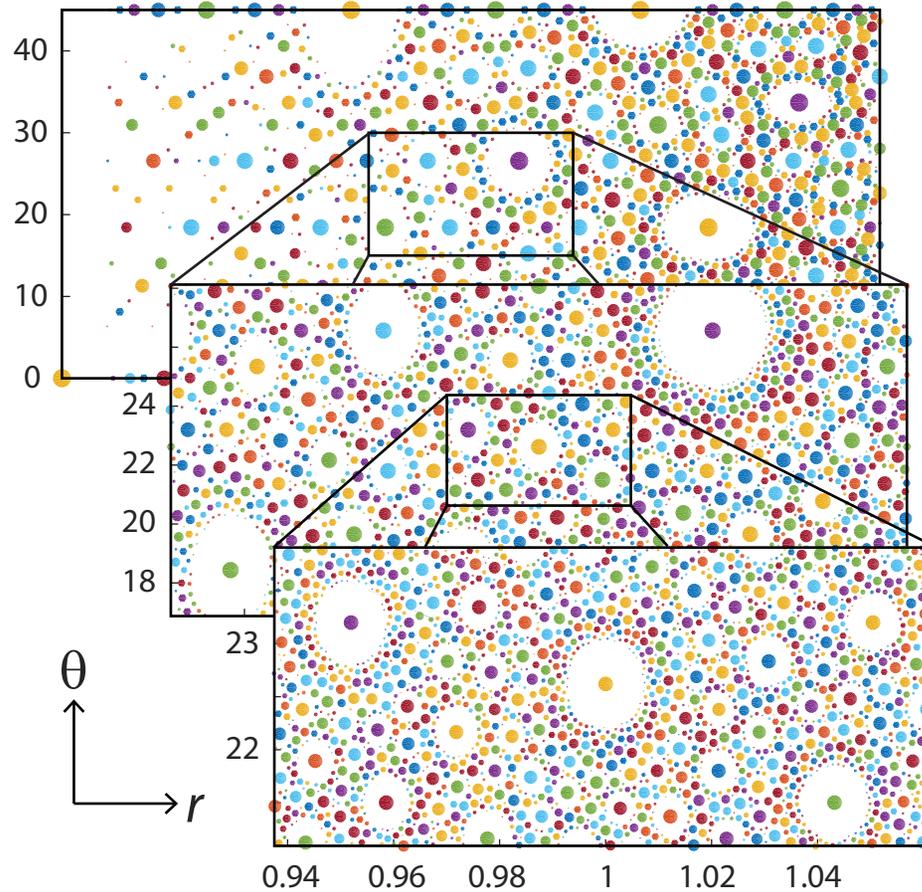


RRN at percolation threshold

we bring the framework of solid state physics of electronic transport and band gaps in semiconductors to classical transport in periodic and quasiperiodic composites

photonic crystals and quasicrystals

# Fractal arrangement of periodic systems



Sequential insets zooming into smaller regions of parameter space.

size of the dots  $\sim$  length of period

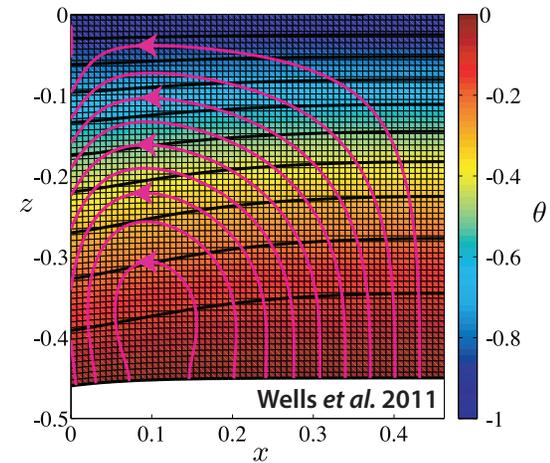
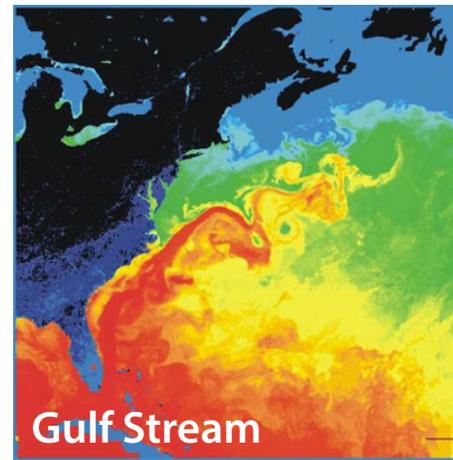
(large dot  $\sim$  small period; small dot  $\sim$  large period; white space  $\sim$  "infinite" period)

**mesoscale**

# advection enhanced diffusion

## effective diffusivity

- nutrient and salt transport in sea ice
- heat transport in sea ice with convection
- sea ice floes in winds and ocean currents
- tracers, buoys diffusing in ocean eddies
- diffusion of pollutants in atmosphere



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

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

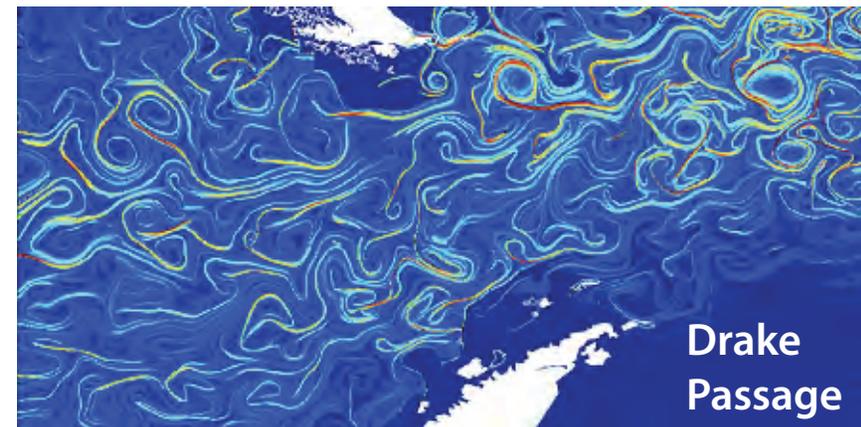
$\kappa^*$  effective diffusivity

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

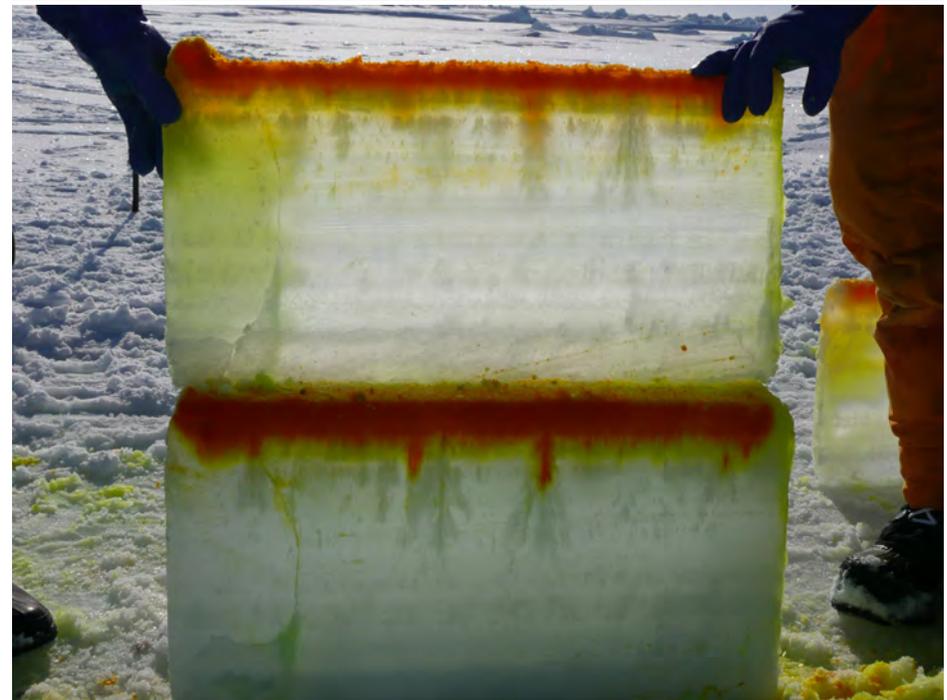
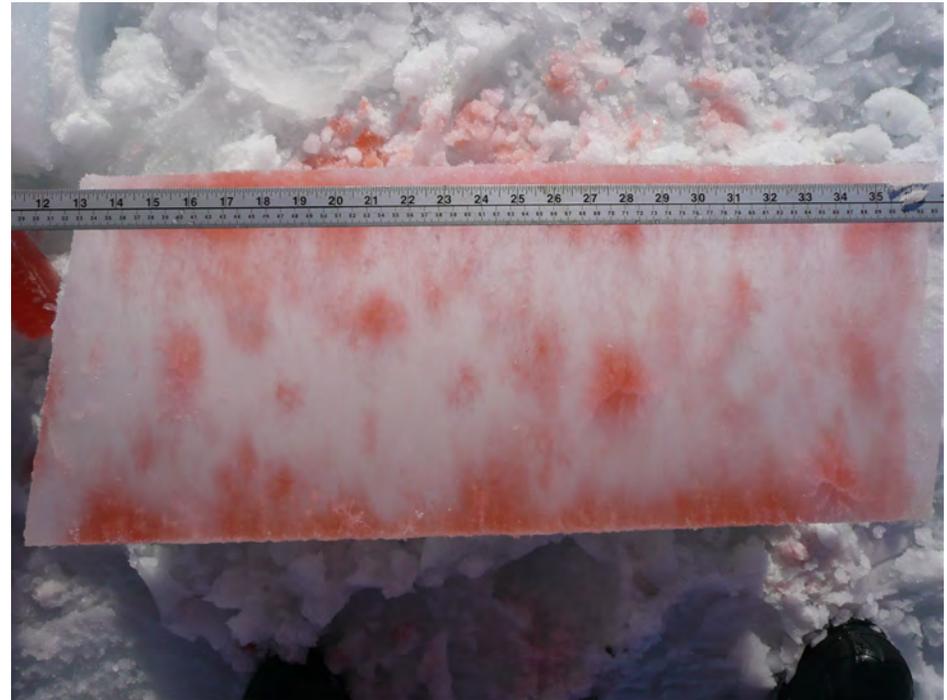
Avellaneda and Majda, PRL 89, CMP 91

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

Murphy, Cherkaev, Zhu, Xin, Golden, J. Math. Phys. 2020



# tracers flowing through inverted sea ice blocks



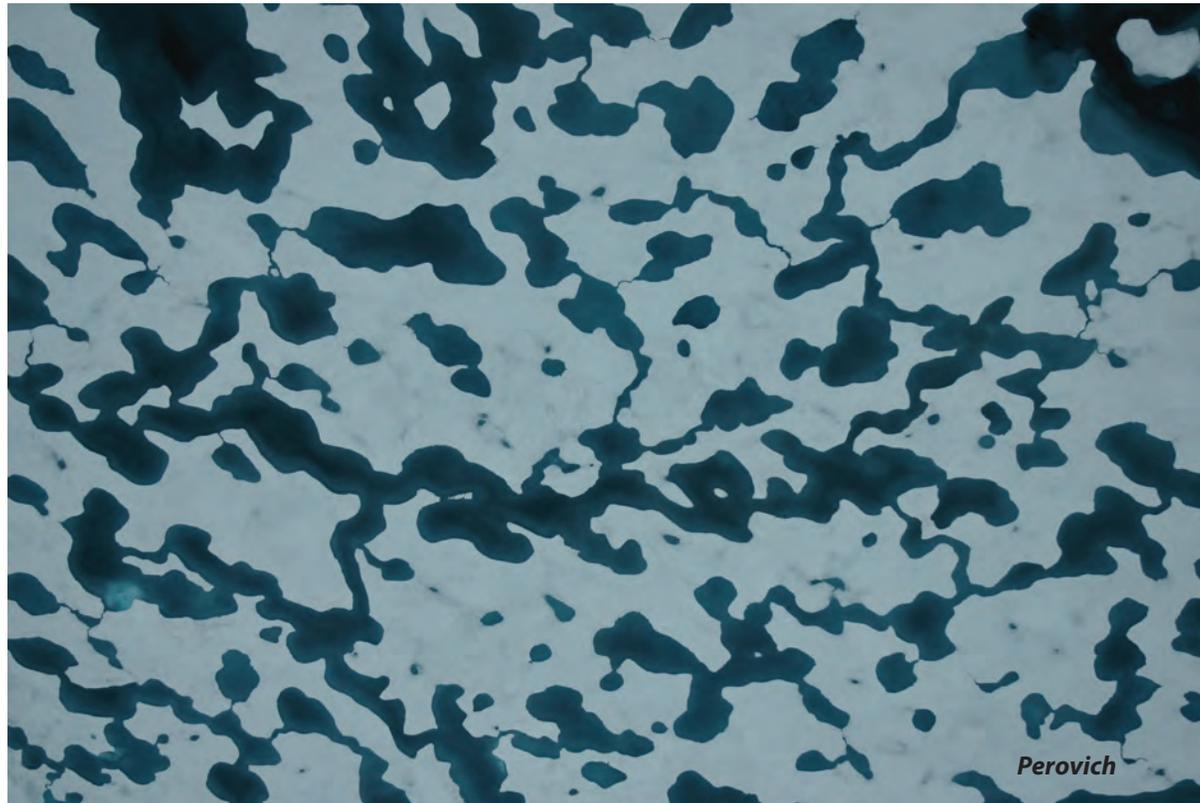
# *melt pond formation and albedo evolution:*

- *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



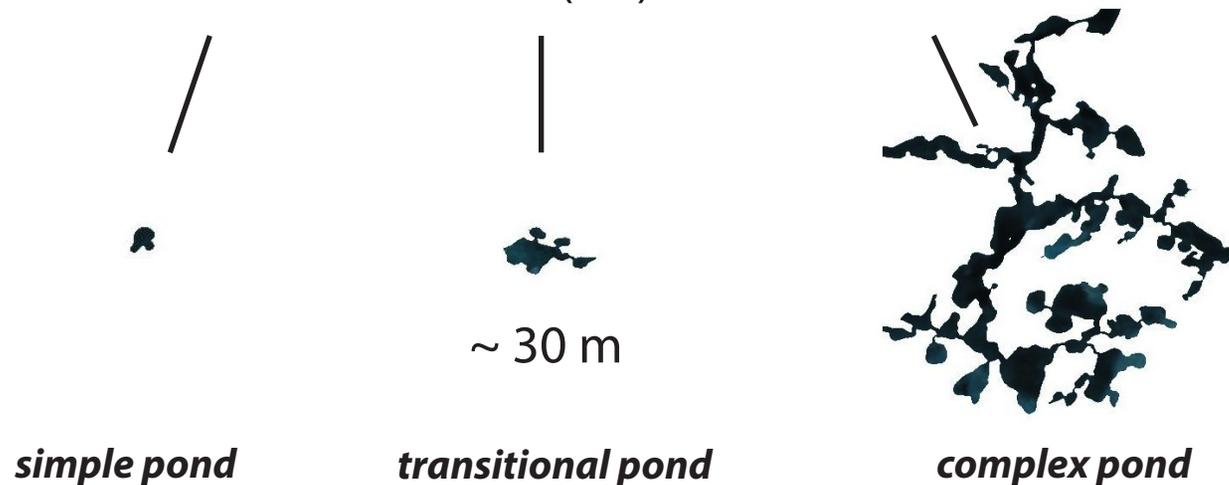
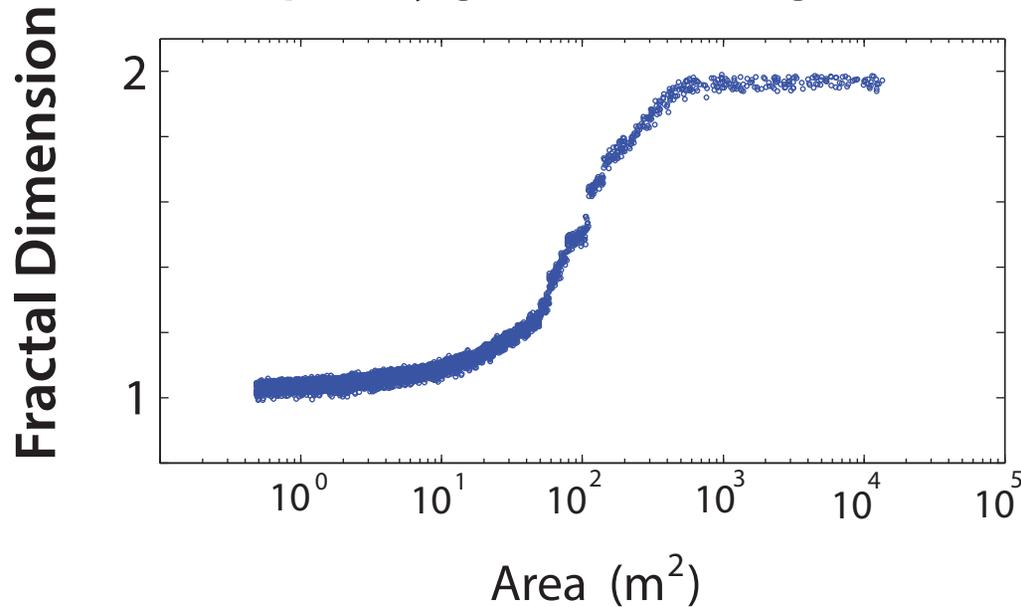
**Are there universal features of the evolution similar to phase transitions in statistical physics?**

# Transition in the fractal geometry of Arctic melt ponds

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

*The Cryosphere, 2012*

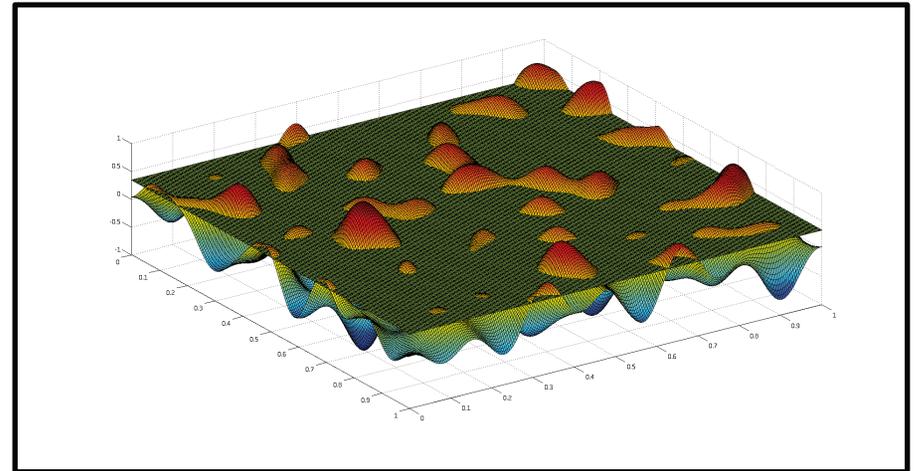
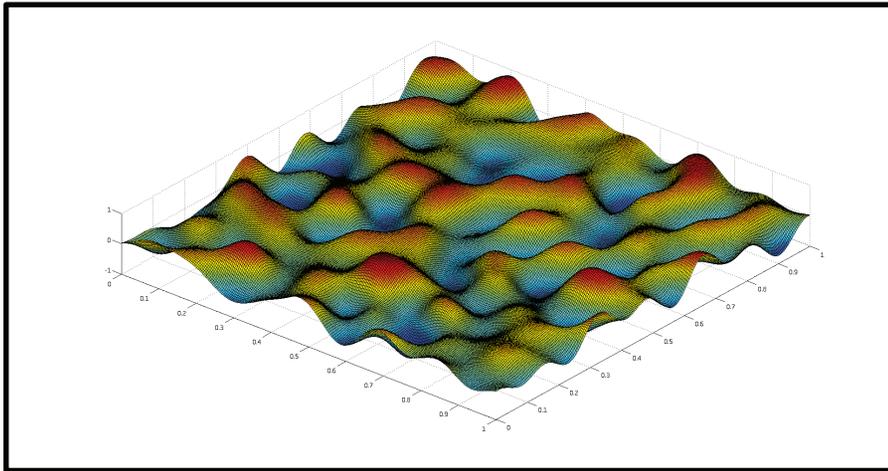
complexity grows with length scale



# Continuum percolation model for melt pond evolution

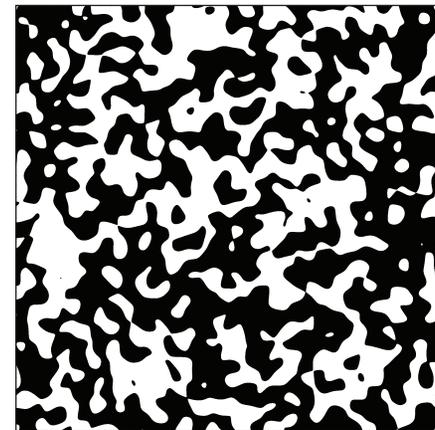
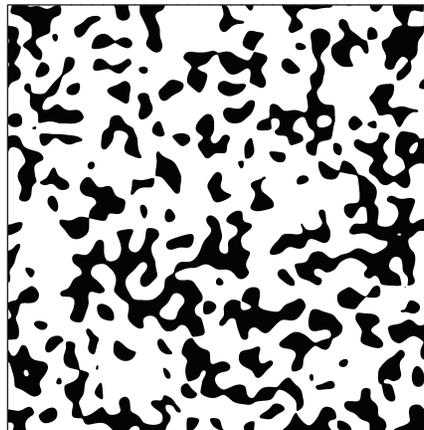
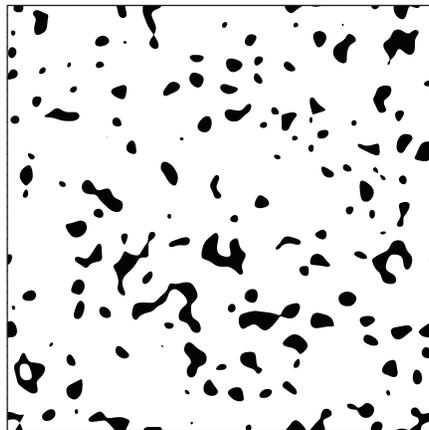
## *level sets of random surfaces*

*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

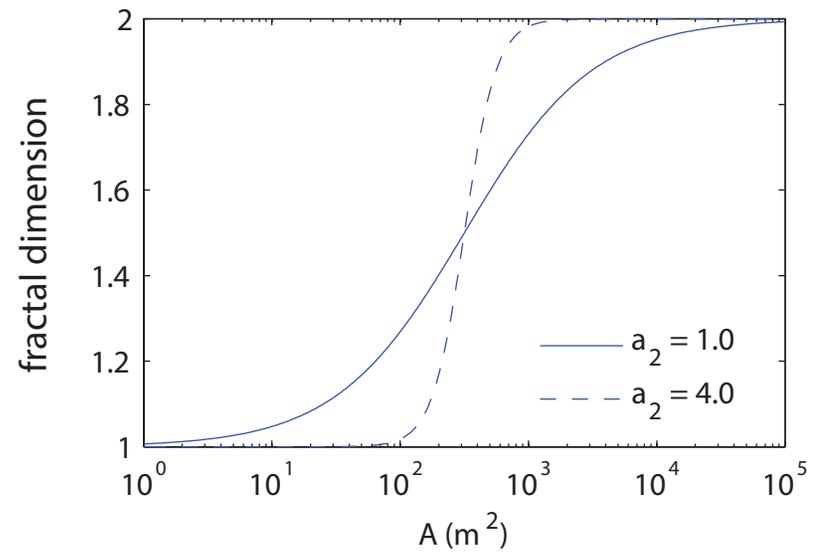
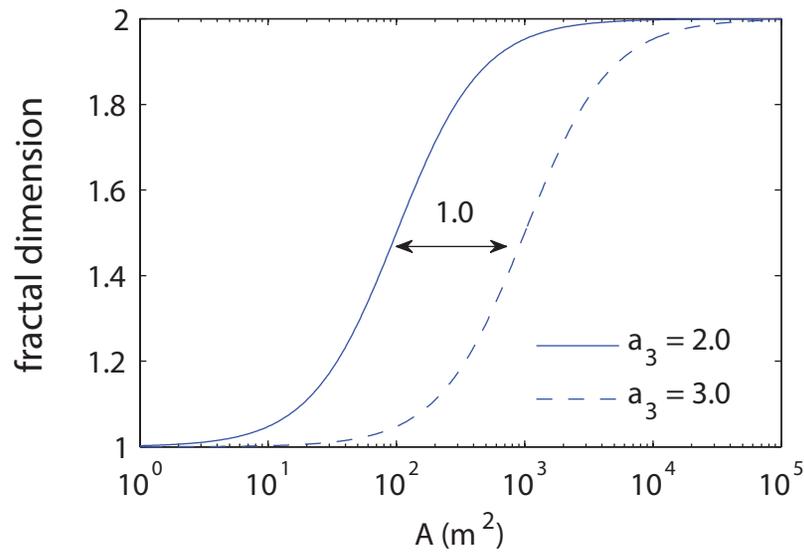


*electronic transport in disordered media*

*diffusion in turbulent plasmas*

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

# fractal dimension curves depend on statistical parameters defining random surface



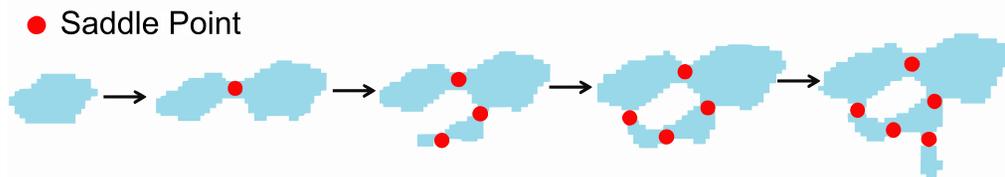
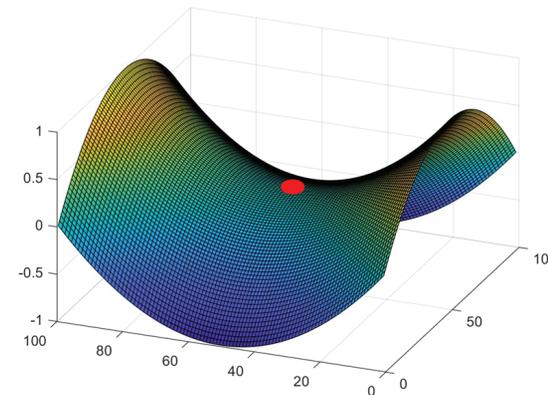
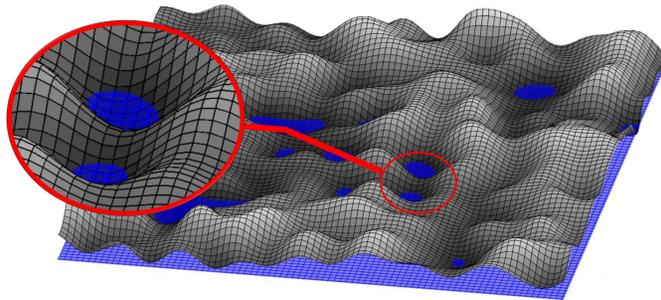
# Topology of the sea ice surface and the fractal geometry of Arctic melt ponds

*Physical Review Research* (invited, under revision)

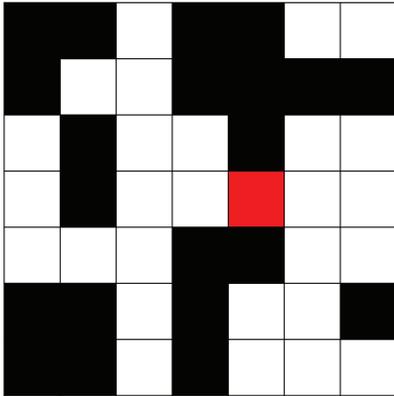
Ryleigh Moore, Jacob Jones, Dane Gollero,  
Court Strong, Ken Golden

Several models replicate the transition in fractal dimension, but none explain how it arises.

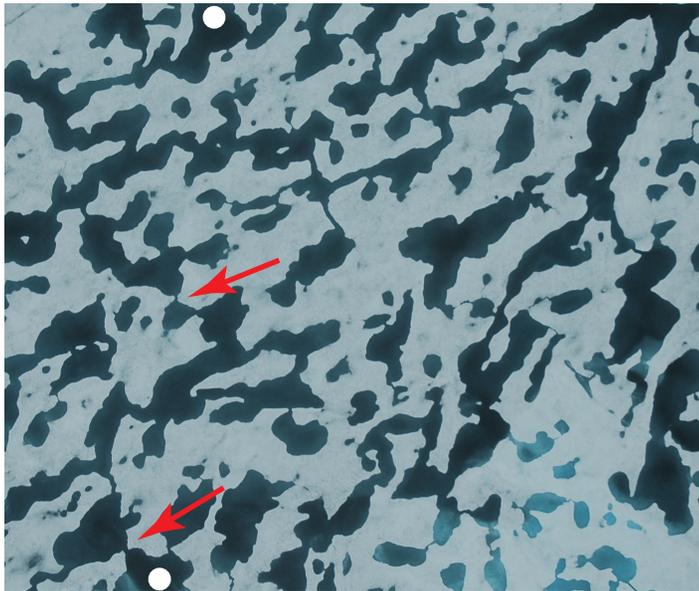
We use Morse theory applied to the random surface model to show that **saddle points** play the critical role in the fractal transition.



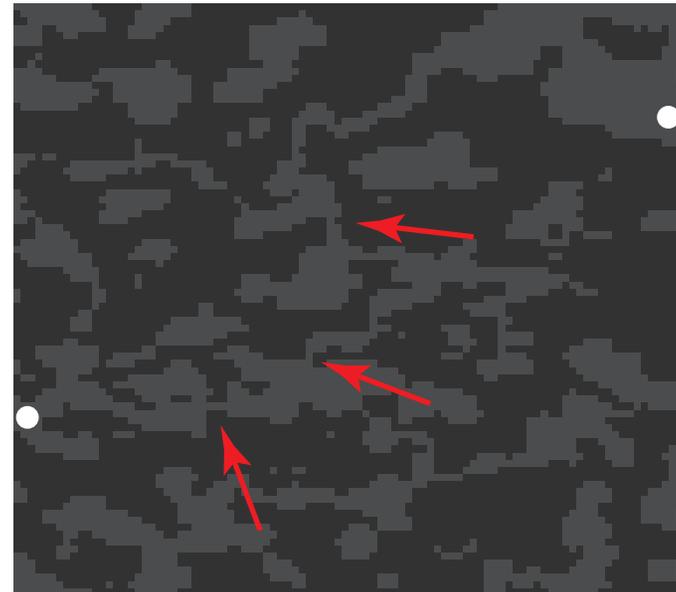
ponds coalesce  
(change topology) and  
complexify at saddle points



- Ponds connect through saddle points (Morse Theory).
- Red bonds in lattice percolation theory ~ saddle points.



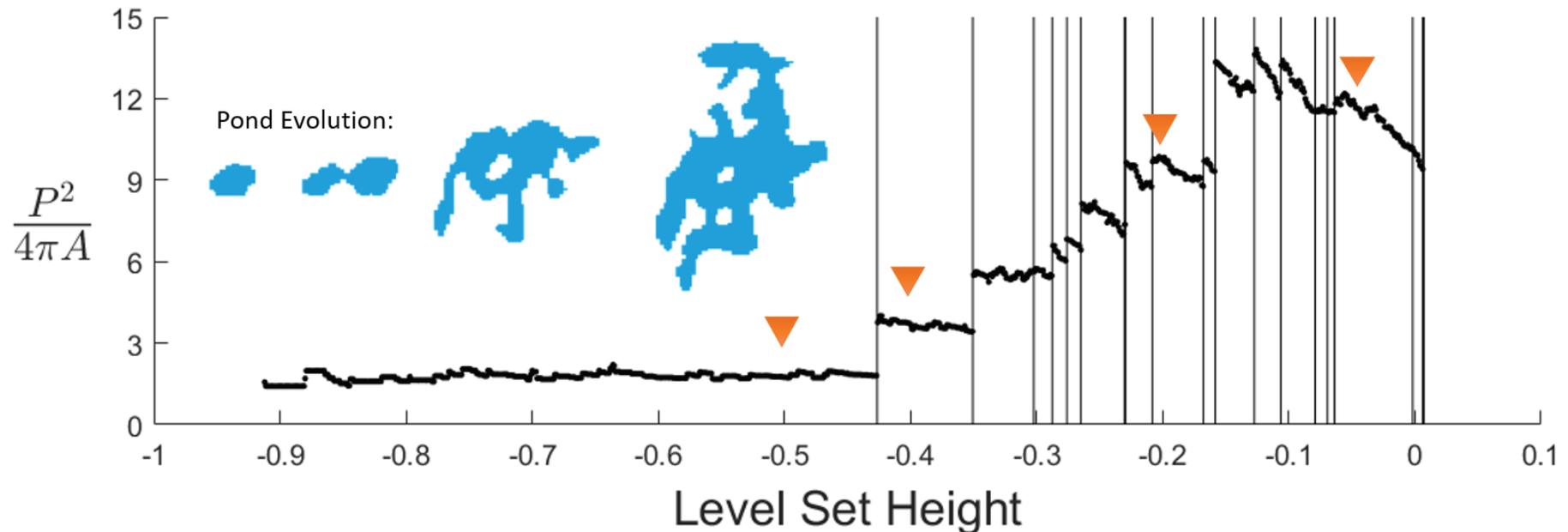
saddles



"red squares"

## Main results

Isoperimetric quotient - as a proxy for fractal dimension - increases in discrete jumps when ponds coalesce at saddle points.



Horizontal fluid permeability "controlled" by saddles ~ electronic transport in 2D random potential.

drainage processes, seal holes

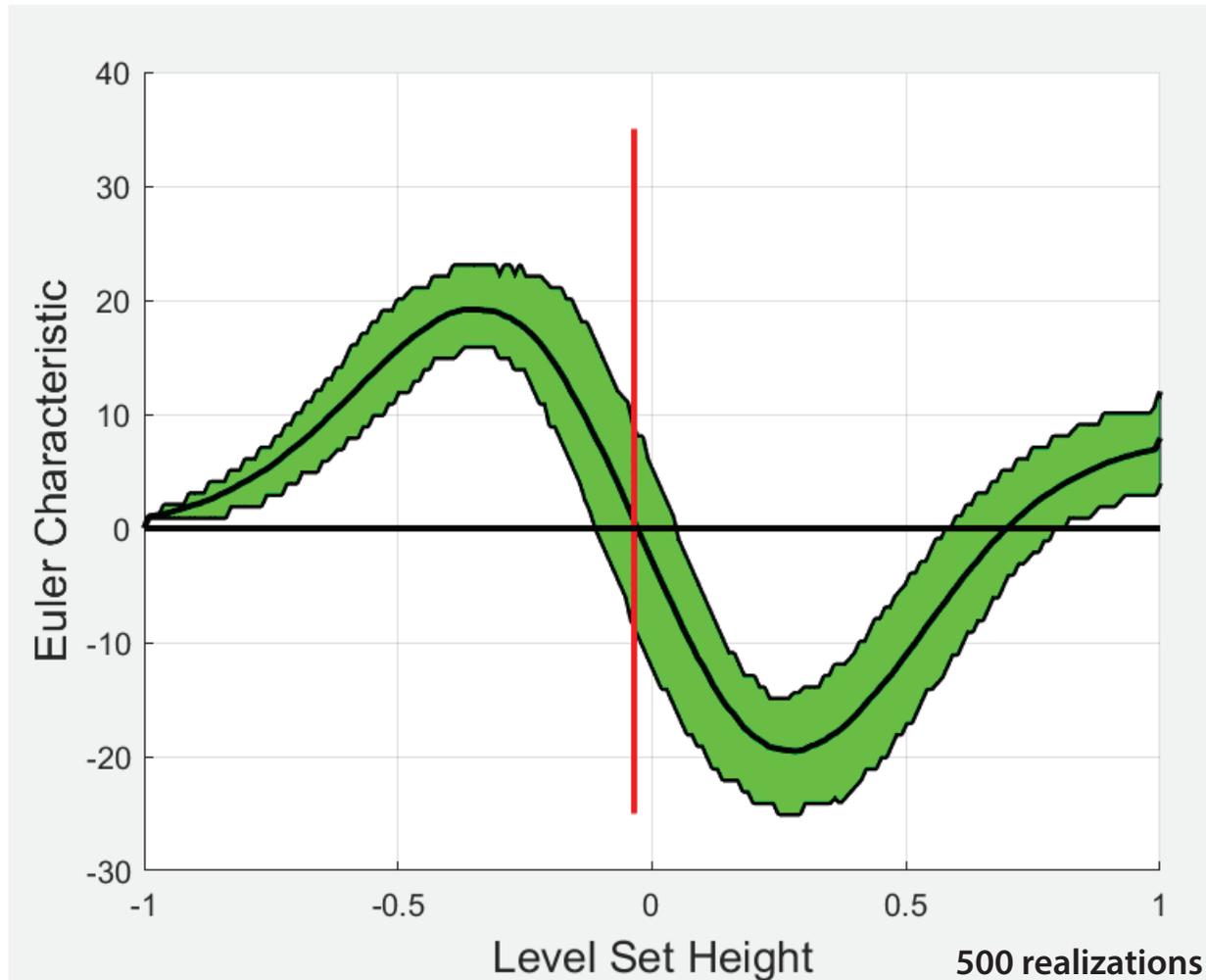
# Topological Data Analysis

Euler characteristic = # maxima + # minima - # saddles

topological invariant

persistent homology

filtration - sequence of nested topological spaces, indexed by water level



Expected  
Euler Characteristic Curve (ECC)

tracks the evolution of the EC of  
the flooded surface as water rises

**zero of ECC ~ percolation**

percolation on a torus  
creates a giant cycle

Bobrowski &  
Skraba, 2020

Carlsson, 2009

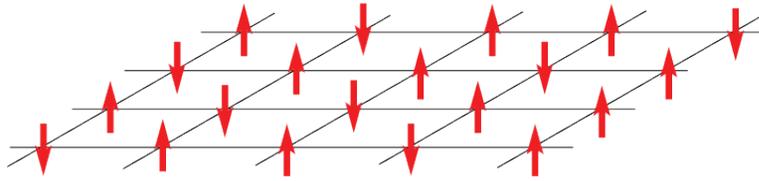
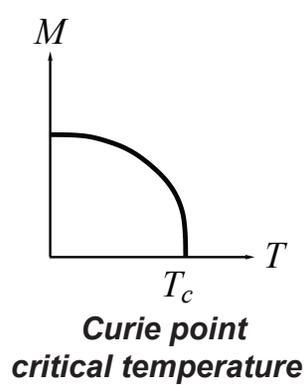
Vogel, 2002 GRF

porous media  
cosmology  
brain activity

# **melt pond donuts**



# Ising Model for a Ferromagnet



applied  
magnetic  
field



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

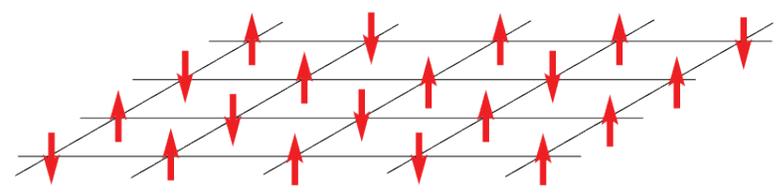
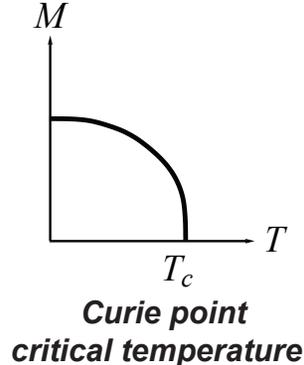
$$\mathcal{H} = -H \sum_i s_i - J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} s_i s_j$$

**nearest neighbor Ising Hamiltonian**

$$M(T, H) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_j s_j \right\rangle$$

**effective magnetization**

# Ising Model for a Ferromagnet



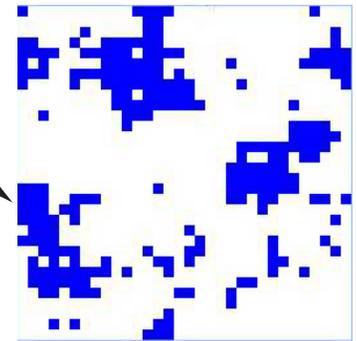
$$s_i = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{spin up} & \text{blue} \\ -1 & \text{spin down} & \text{white} \end{cases}$$

applied magnetic field  $\uparrow H$

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

nearest neighbor Ising Hamiltonian

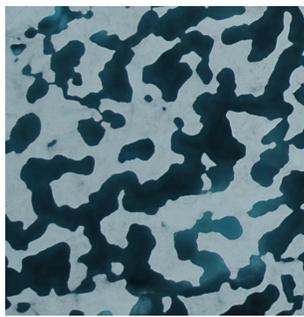
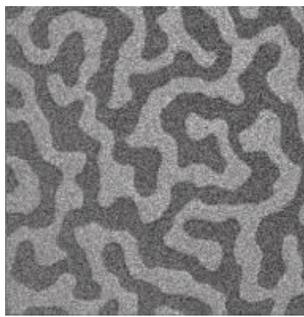
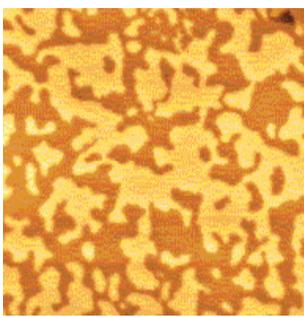
islands of like spins



$$M(T, H) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_j s_j \right\rangle$$

effective magnetization

energy is lowered when nearby spins align with each other, forming **magnetic domains**



magnetic domains in cobalt

melt ponds (Perovch)

magnetic domains in cobalt-iron-boron

melt ponds (Perovch)

# Ising model for ferromagnets $\longrightarrow$ Ising model for melt ponds

Ma, Sudakov, Strong, Golden, *New J. Phys.*, 2019

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_i^N H_i s_i - J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle}^N s_i s_j \quad s_i = \begin{cases} \uparrow & +1 \text{ water (spin up)} \\ \downarrow & -1 \text{ ice (spin down)} \end{cases}$$

random magnetic field  
represents snow topography

magnetization  $M$       pond area fraction  $F = \frac{(M+1)}{2}$       only nearest neighbor patches interact  
*~ albedo*

Starting with random initial configurations, as Hamiltonian energy is minimized by Glauber spin flip dynamics, system “flows” toward metastable equilibria.

*Order from Disorder*

# Ising model for ferromagnets $\longrightarrow$ Ising model for melt ponds

Ma, Sudakov, Strong, Golden, *New J. Phys.*, 2019

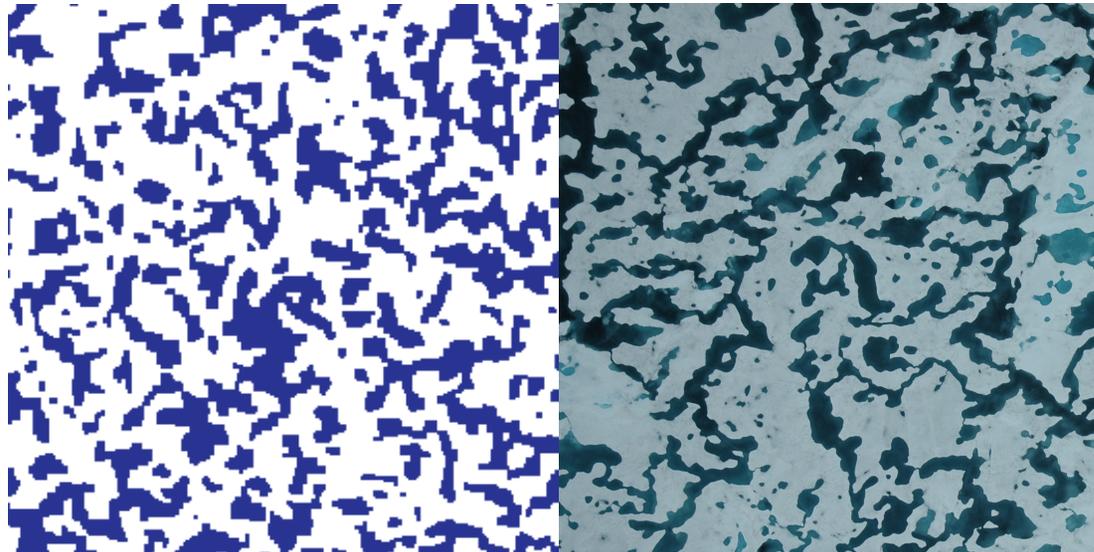
$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_i^N H_i s_i - J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle}^N s_i s_j \quad s_i = \begin{cases} \uparrow & +1 \text{ water (spin up)} \\ \downarrow & -1 \text{ ice (spin down)} \end{cases}$$

random magnetic field  
represents snow topography

magnetization  $M$       pond area fraction  $F = \frac{(M+1)}{2}$       only nearest neighbor patches interact  
*~ albedo*

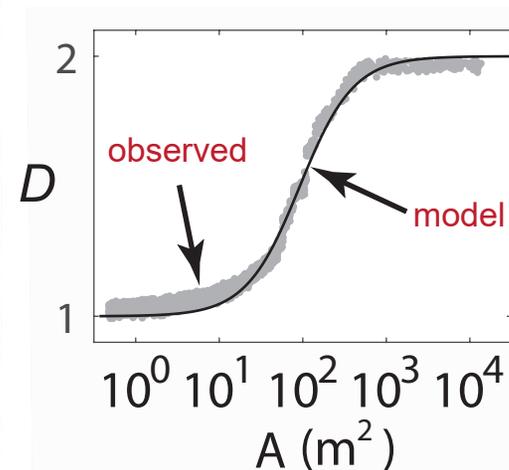
Starting with random initial configurations, as Hamiltonian energy is minimized by Glauber spin flip dynamics, system “flows” toward metastable equilibria.

## Order from Disorder



Ising  
model

melt pond  
photo (Perovich)



pond size  
distribution exponent

observed -1.5

(Perovich, et al. 2002)

model -1.58

*Scientific American  
EOS, PhysicsWorld, ...*

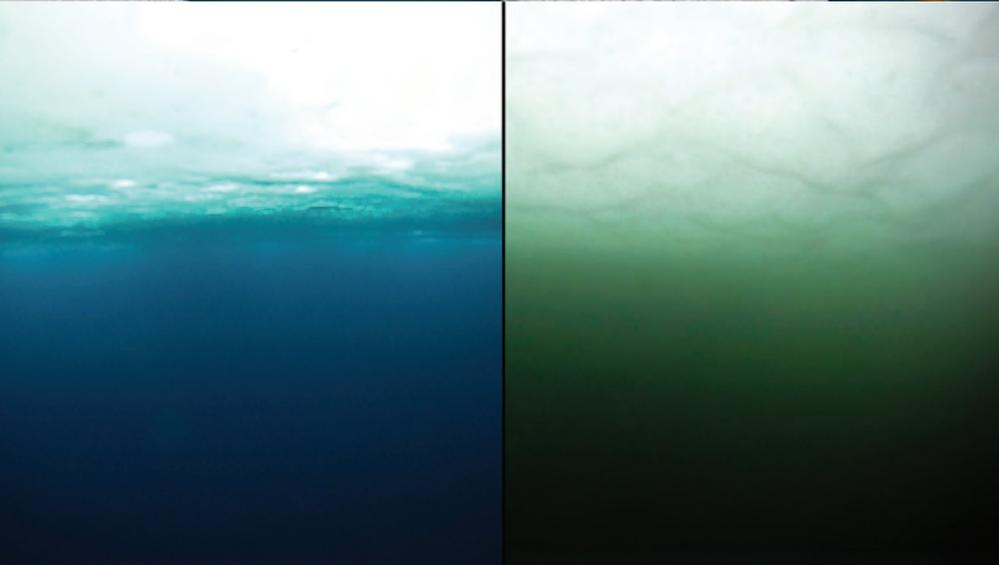
**ONLY MEASURED INPUT = LENGTH SCALE (GRID SIZE) from snow topography data**



Perovich

Melt ponds control transmittance of solar energy through sea ice, impacting upper ocean ecology.

## *WINDOWS*



no bloom

bloom

massive under-ice **algal bloom**

Arrigo et al., *Science* 2012

*Have we crossed into a new ecological regime?*

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

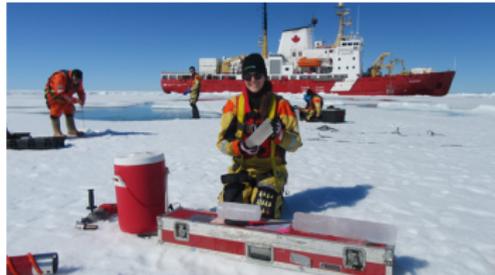
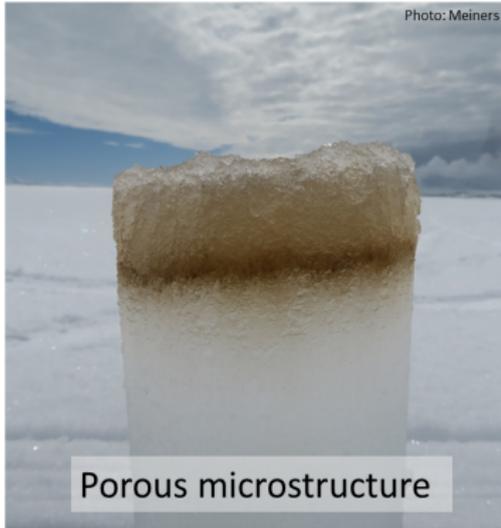
Horvat, Rees Jones, Iams, Schroeder, Flocco, Feltham, *Science Advances* 2017

The effect of melt pond geometry on the distribution of solar energy under first year sea ice

Horvat, Flocco, Rees Jones, Roach, Golden  
*Geophys. Res. Lett.* 2019

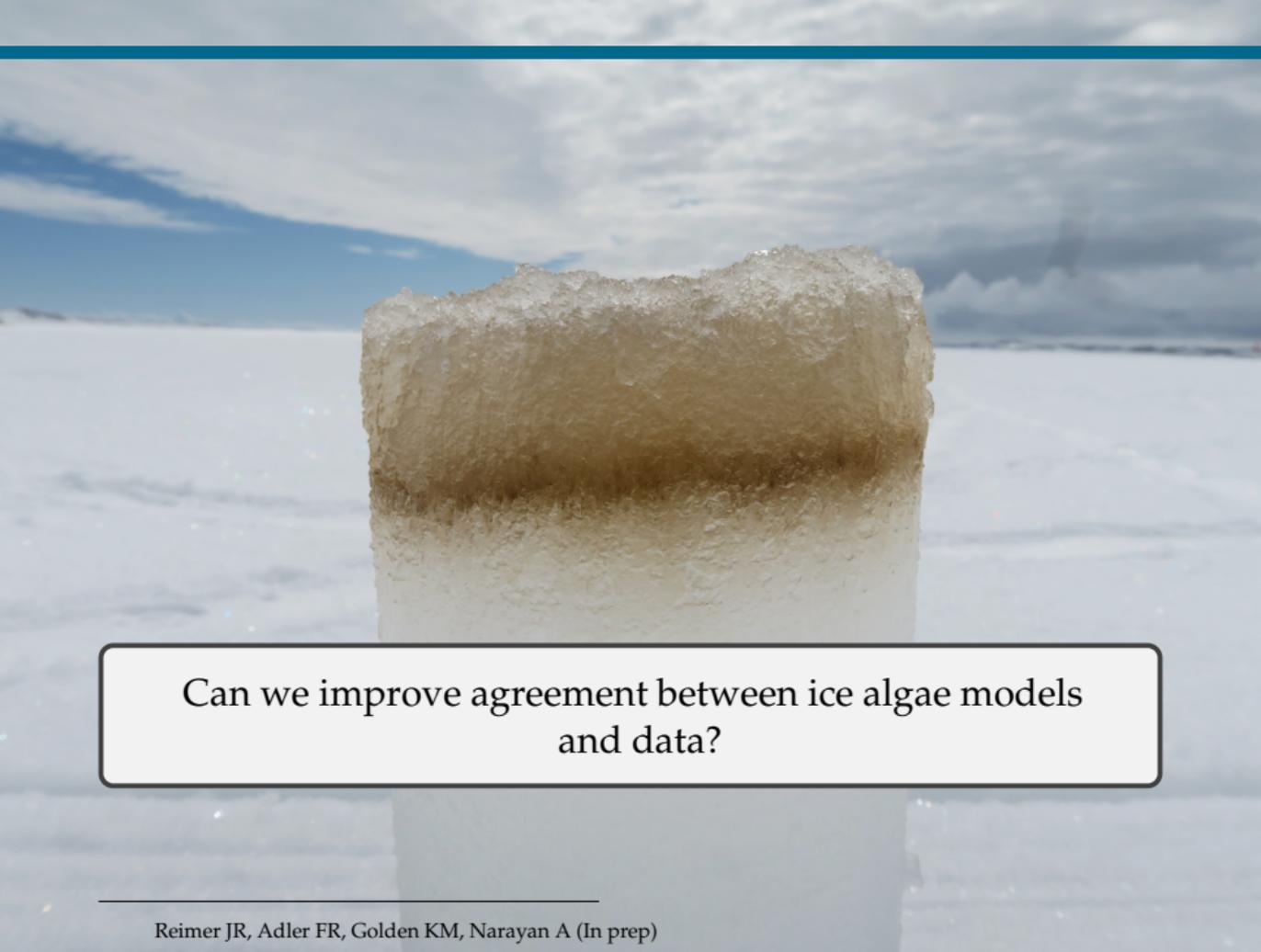
(2015 AMS MRC)

# SEA ICE ALGAE



80% of polar bear diet can be traced to ice algae\*.

\* Brown TA, et al. (2018). *PLoS one*, 13(1), e0191631



Can we improve agreement between ice algae models  
and data?

# ALGAL BLOOM MODEL\*

$$\text{nutrients: } \frac{dN}{dt} = \underbrace{\alpha}_{\text{input}} - \underbrace{\beta NP}_{\text{uptake}} - \underbrace{\eta N}_{\text{loss}}$$

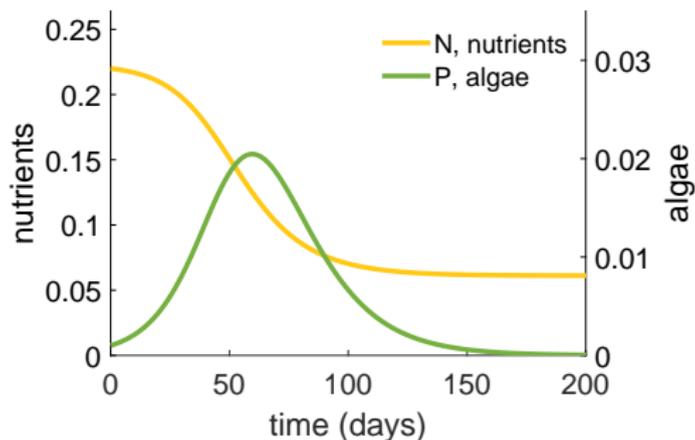
$$\text{algae: } \frac{dP}{dt} = \underbrace{\gamma \beta NP}_{\text{growth}} - \underbrace{\delta P}_{\text{death}},$$

$$N(0) = n_0, \quad P(0) = p_0$$

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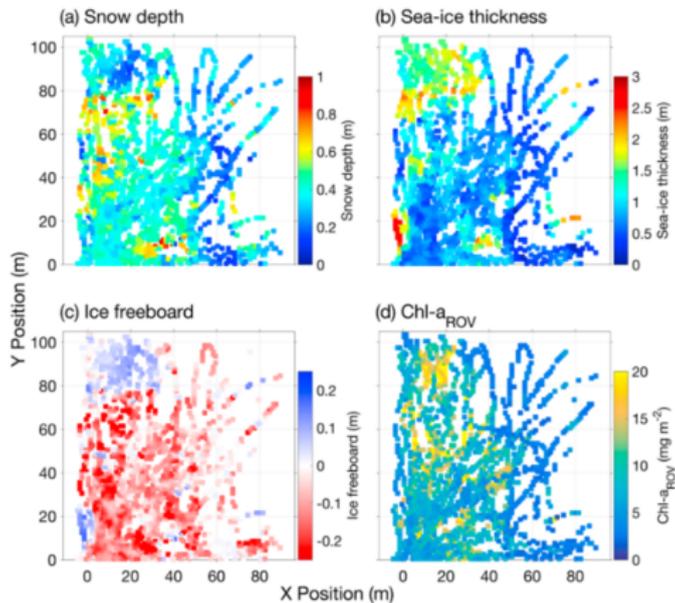
\* Huppert, A., et al. (2002). *American Naturalist*, 159(2), 156-171

# ALGAL BLOOM MODEL



- poor agreement with data
- poor agreement between models

# HETEROGENEITY



# HETEROGENEITY IN INITIAL CONDITIONS

At each location within a larger region, we could consider

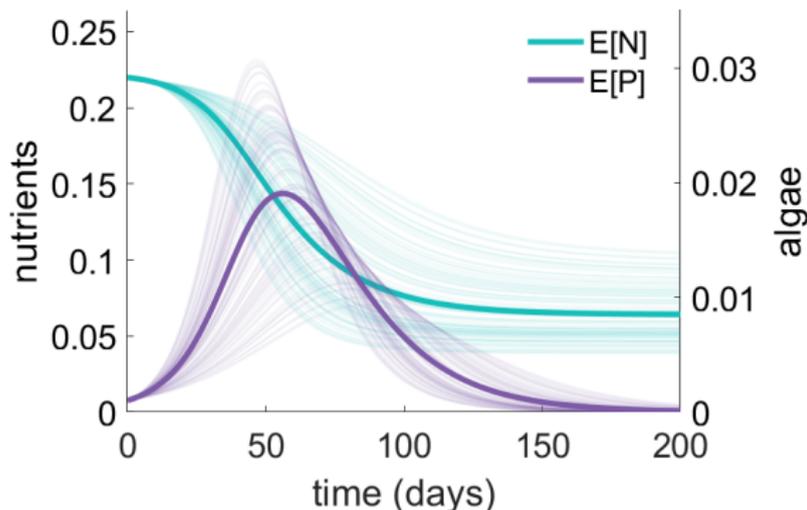
$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dN}{dt} &= \alpha - BNP - \eta N \\ \frac{dP}{dt} &= \gamma BNP - \delta P\end{aligned}$$

$$N(0) = N_0, \quad P(0) = P_0$$



# HOW DO WE ANALYZE THIS MODEL?

Monte Carlo simulations?



Too slow! Full algae model takes **8 hours** (cloud computing).

**Uncertainty quantification and ecological dynamics  
in a model of a sea ice algae bloom, in prep. 2022**

**Jody Reimer, Fred Adler, Ken Golden, and Akil Narayan**

# POLYNOMIAL CHAOS EXPANSIONS

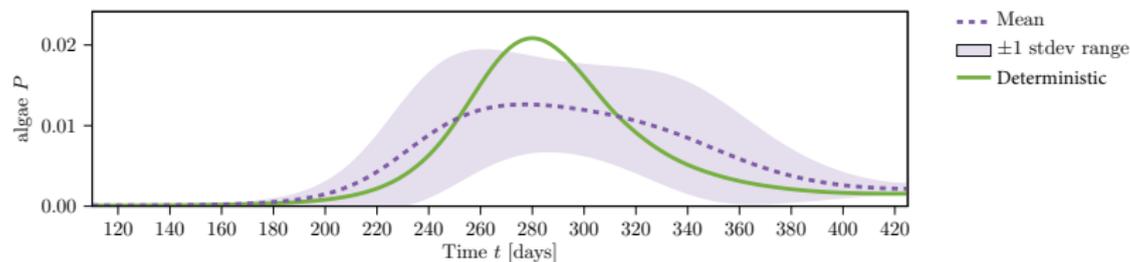
$$N(t; B, P_0, N_0) \approx N_V(t; B, P_0, N_0) := \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{N}_j(t) \phi_j(B, P_0, N_0),$$

$$P(t; B, P_0, N_0) \approx P_V(t; B, P_0, N_0) := \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{P}_j(t) \phi_j(B, P_0, N_0),$$

where

- $V := \text{span}\{\phi_j\}_{j=1}^n$
- $\phi_j$  are orthogonal polynomials that form a basis for  $V$
- $(\tilde{N}_j, \tilde{P}_j)$  need to be computed

# ECOLOGICAL INSIGHTS



- lower peak bloom intensity
- longer bloom duration
- able to compare variance to data

**macroscale**

# Anomalous diffusion in sea ice dynamics

*Ice floe diffusion in winds and currents*

observations from GPS data:

Jennifer Lukovich, Jennifer Hutchings, David Barber, *Ann. Glac.* 2015

- On short time scales floes observed (buoy data) to exhibit Brownian-like behavior, but they are also being advected by winds and currents.
- Effective behavior is purely diffusive, sub-diffusive or super-diffusive depending on ice pack and advective conditions - **Hurst exponent**.

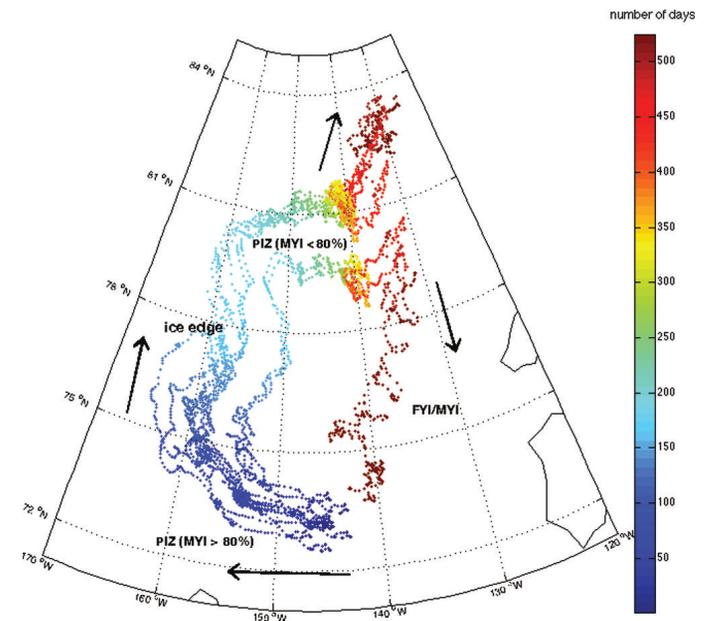
modeling:

Huy Dinh, Ben Murphy, Elena Cherkaev, Court Strong, Ken Golden 2022

floe scale model to analyze transport regimes in terms of ice pack crowding, advective conditions

Delaney Mosier, Jennifer Hutchings, Jennifer Lukovich, Marta D'Elia, George Karniadakis, Ken Golden 2022

learning fractional PDE governing diffusion from data



# Floe Scale Model of Anomalous Diffusion in Sea Ice Dynamics

Huy Dinh, Ben Murphy, Elena Cherkaev, Court Strong, Ken Golden 2022

$$\langle | \mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}(0) - \langle \mathbf{x}(t) - \mathbf{x}(0) \rangle |^2 \rangle \sim t^\alpha$$

$\alpha =$  Hurst exponent

- diffusive**  $\alpha = 1$
- sub-diffusive**  $\alpha < 1$
- super-diffusive**  $\alpha > 1$

## Model Approximations

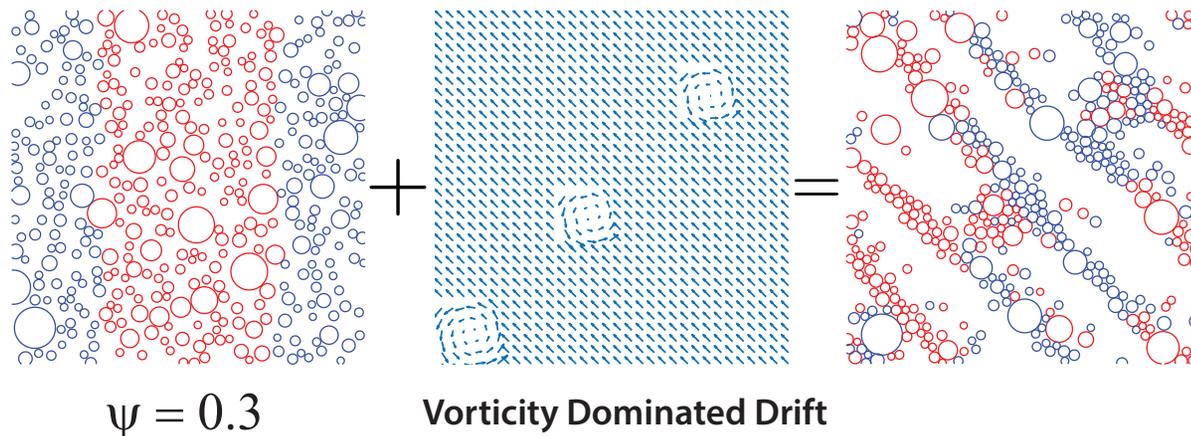
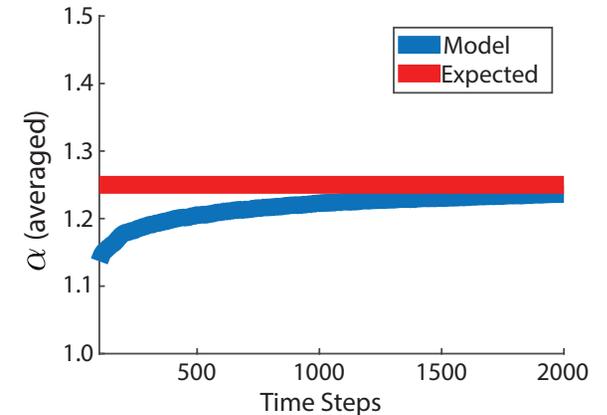
Power Law Size Distribution:  $N(D) \sim D^{-k}$

D. A. Rothrock and A. S. Thorndike Journal of Geophysical Research 1984

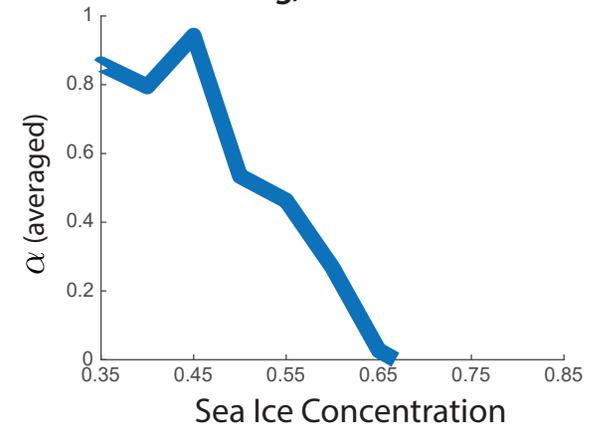
Floe-Floe Interactions: Linear Elastic Collisions

Advective Forcing: Passive, Linear Drag Law

Sparse Packing, Shear Dominated Drift



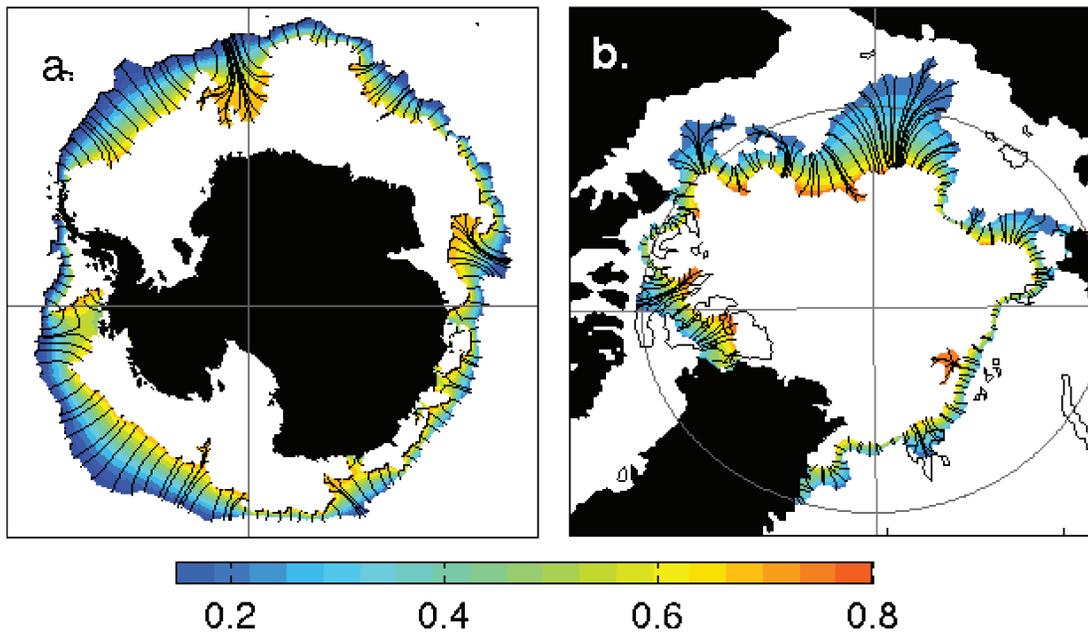
Crowding, Diffusive Drift



# Marginal Ice Zone

## MIZ

- biologically active region
- intense ocean-sea ice-atmosphere interactions
- region of significant wave-ice interactions



**MIZ WIDTH**  
fundamental length scale of  
ecological and climate dynamics

Strong, *Climate Dynamics* 2012  
Strong and Rigor, *GRL* 2013

transitional region between  
dense interior pack ( $c > 80\%$ )  
sparse outer fringes ( $c < 15\%$ )

**How to objectively  
measure the “width”  
of this complex,  
non-convex region?**

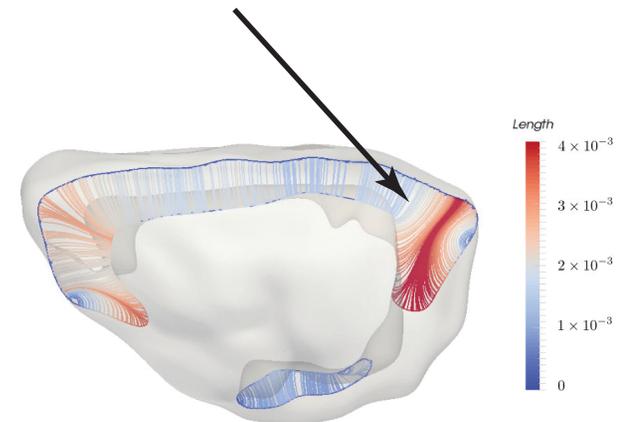
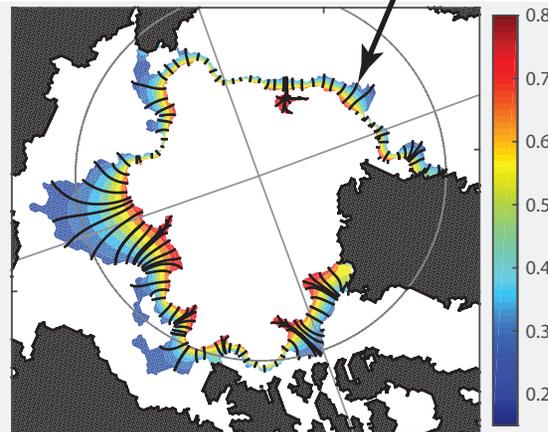
# Objective method for measuring MIZ width motivated by medical imaging and diagnostics

Strong, *Climate Dynamics* 2012  
Strong and Rigor, *GRL* 2013

**39% widening**  
**1979 - 2012**

**“average” lengths of streamlines**

streamlines of a solution  
to Laplace’s equation



**Arctic Marginal Ice Zone**

**cross-section of the  
cerebral cortex of a rodent brain**

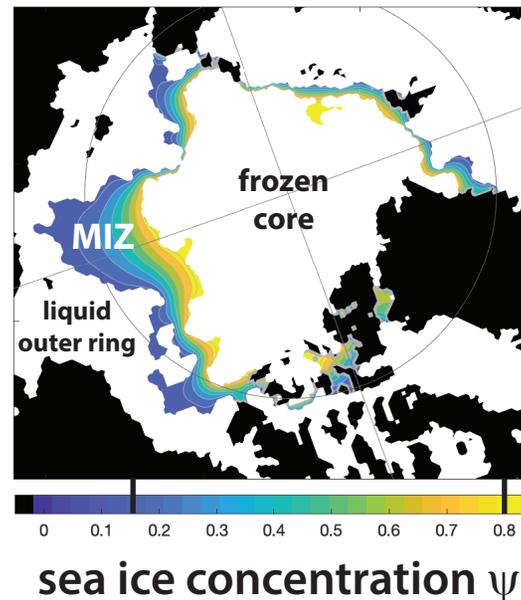
## ***analysis of different MIZ WIDTH definitions***

Strong, Foster, Cherkaev, Eisenman, Golden  
*J. Atmos. Oceanic Tech.* 2017

Strong and Golden  
*Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics News*, April 2017

Model larger scale effective behavior  
with partial differential equations that  
*homogenize* complex local structure and dynamics.

## Arctic MIZ



Predict MIZ width and location with basin-scale phase change model.  
dynamic transitional region - mushy layer - separating two “pure” phases

seasonal and long term trends

C. Strong, E. Cherkaev, and K. M. Golden,  
Annual cycle of Arctic marginal ice zone location  
and width explained by phase change front model, 2022

# Learning the velocity field in an advection diffusion model for sea ice concentration

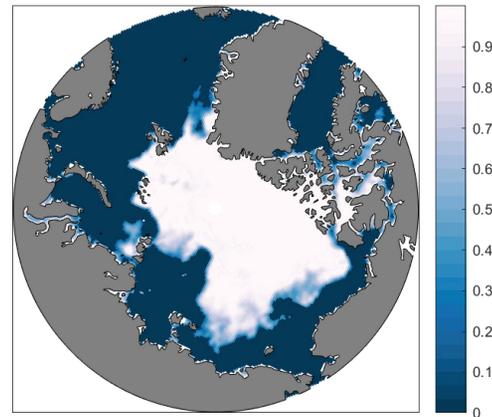
Eric Brown, Delaney Mosier, Bao Wang, Ken Golden, 2022

Goal: Develop PDE model to describe evolution of sea ice concentration field.

**advection diffusion model for sea ice concentration:**

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = -\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla \psi + k \Delta \psi$$

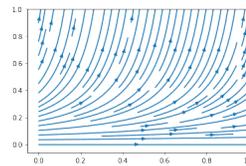
Use two-layer neural network to **infer advective fields** based on satellite imagery



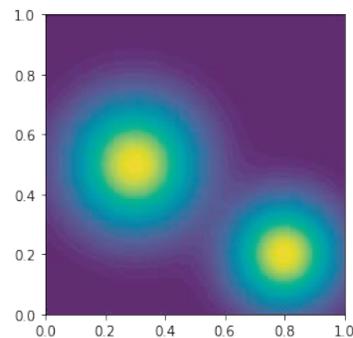
National Snow and Ice Data Center

**discretized satellite concentration data**

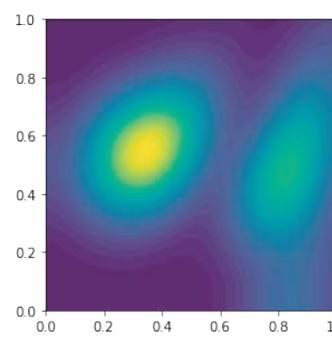
Figure 1. Arctic sea ice concentration in early August 2012.



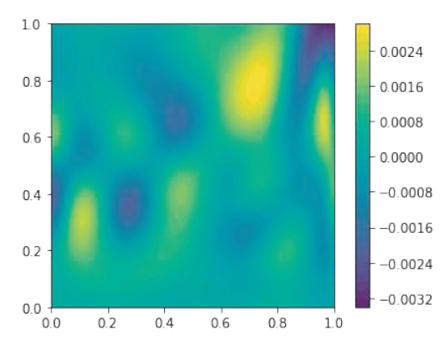
learned velocity



initial test concentration



predicted concentration



error

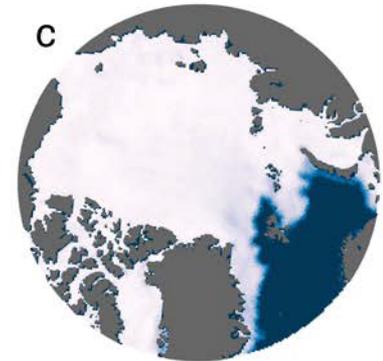
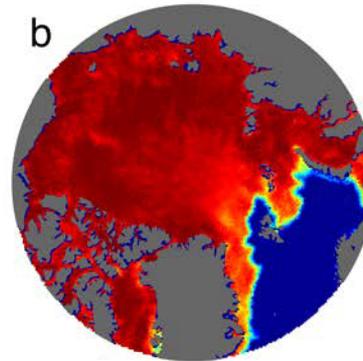
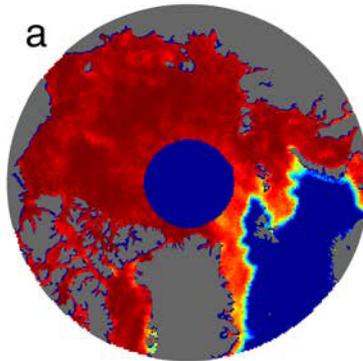
**2.5% absolute error** in preliminary study

# Filling the polar data gap with partial differential equations

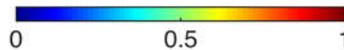
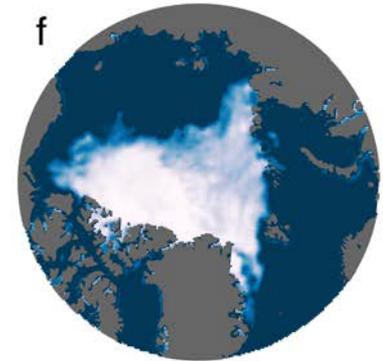
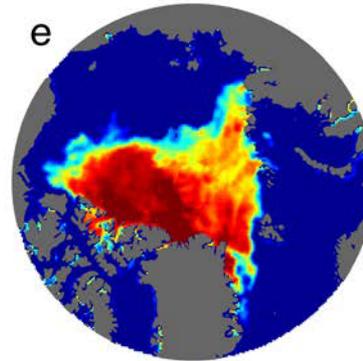
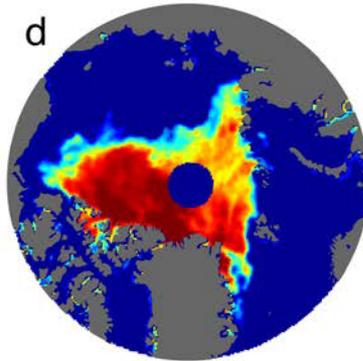
hole in satellite coverage  
of sea ice concentration field

previously assumed  
ice covered

Gap radius: 611 km  
06 January 1985



Gap radius: 311 km  
30 August 2007



$$\Delta\psi=0$$

fill = harmonic function with  
learned stochastic term

Strong and Golden, *Remote Sensing* 2016  
Strong and Golden, *SIAM News* 2017

**NOAA/NSIDC Sea Ice Concentration CDR  
product update will use our PDE method.**

# 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 theories of composites and inverse problems in science and engineering.
3. **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.
4. **Inverse problems of many types** arise naturally in studying sea ice and the impact of climate change in Earth's polar regions.
5. Field experiments are essential to developing relevant mathematics.
6. Our research is helping to **improve projections of climate change**, the fate of Earth's sea ice packs, and the ecosystems they support.

# University of Utah Sea Ice Modeling Group (2017-2021)

**Senior Personnel:** Ken Golden, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics  
Elena Cherkaev, Professor of Mathematics  
Court Strong, Associate Professor of Atmospheric Sciences  
Ben Murphy, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Mathematics

**Postdoctoral Researchers:** Noa Kraitzman (now at ANU), Jody Reimer

**Graduate Students:** Kyle Steffen (now at UT Austin with Clint Dawson)  
Christian Sampson (now at UNC Chapel Hill with Chris Jones)  
Huy Dinh (now a sea ice MURI Postdoc at NYU/Courant)  
Rebecca Hardenbrook  
David Morison (Physics Department)  
Ryleigh Moore  
Delaney Mosier  
Daniel Hallman

**Undergraduate Students:** Kenzie McLean, Jacqueline Cinella Rich,  
Dane Gollero, Samir Suthar, Anna Hyde,  
Kitsel Lusted, Ruby Bowers, Kimball Johnston,  
Jerry Zhang, Nash Ward, David Gluckman

**High School Students:** Jeremiah Chapman, Titus Quah, Dylan Webb

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**Sea Ice Ecology Group** Postdoc Jody Reimer, Grad Student Julie Sherman,  
Undergraduates Kayla Stewart, Nicole Forrester

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# Notices

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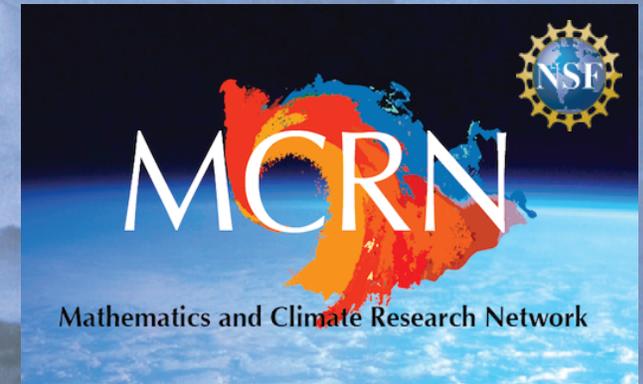
# THANK YOU

## Office of Naval Research

Applied and Computational Analysis Program  
Arctic and Global Prediction Program

## National Science Foundation

Division of Mathematical Sciences  
Division of Polar Programs



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