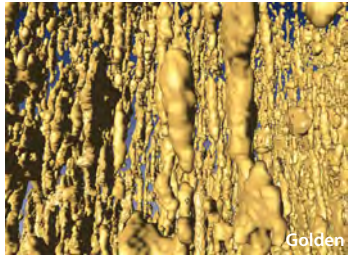
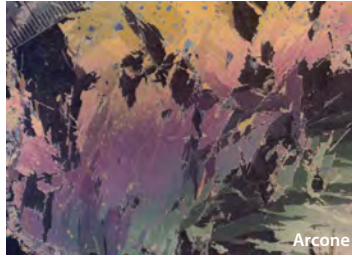


millimeters



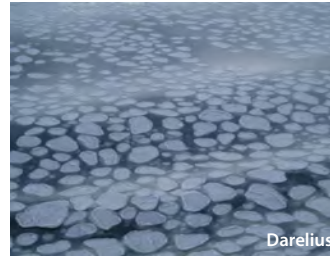
Golden

centimeters



Arcone

meters



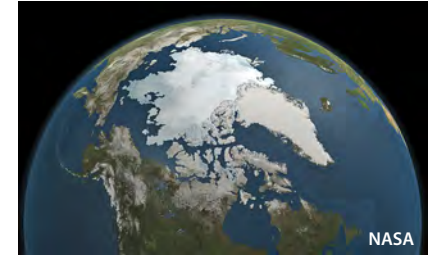
Darelius

kilometers



NASA

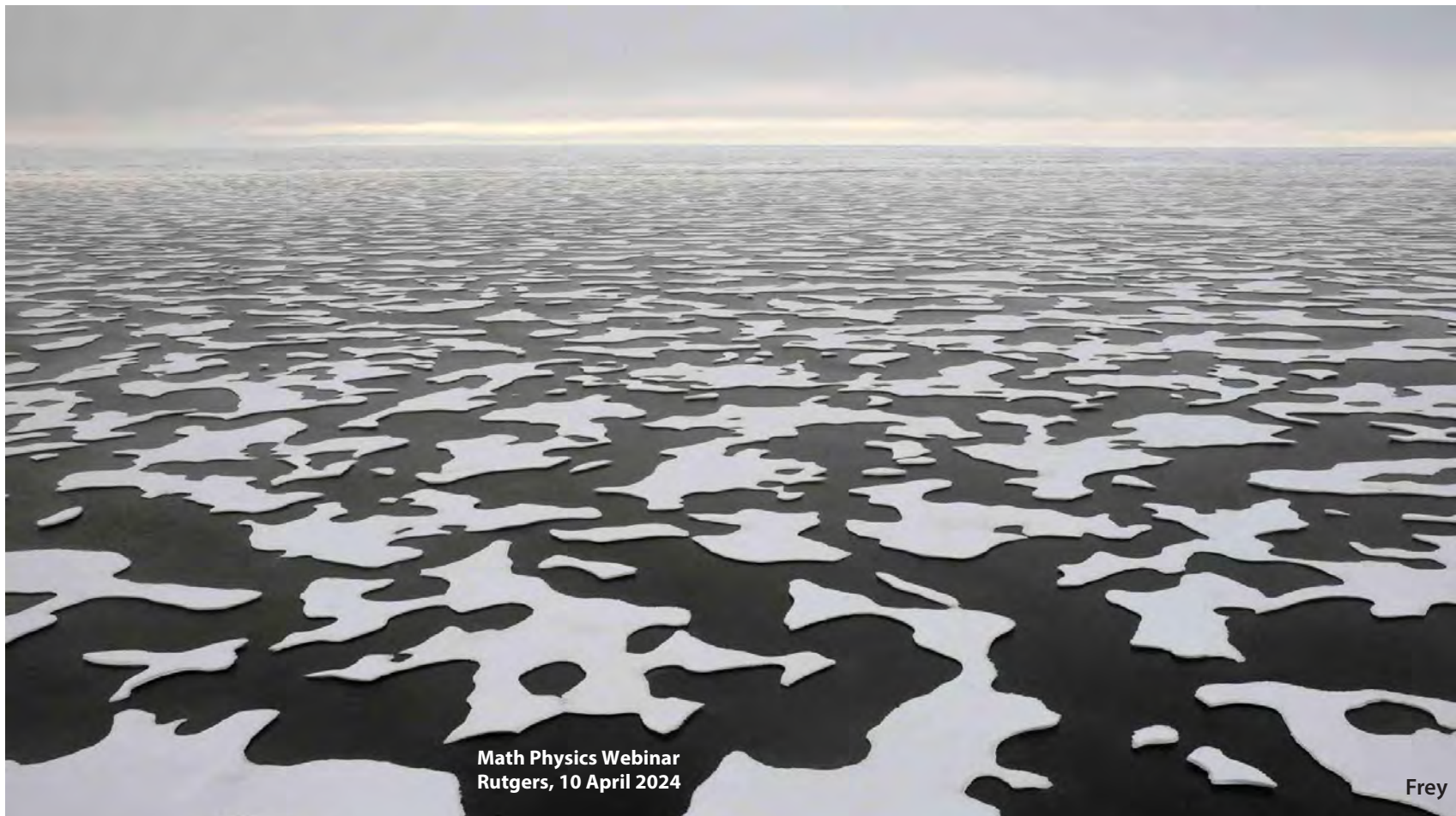
$10^3$  kilometers



NASA

# From Micro to Macro in the Physics and Biology of Sea Ice

Ken Golden, University of Utah



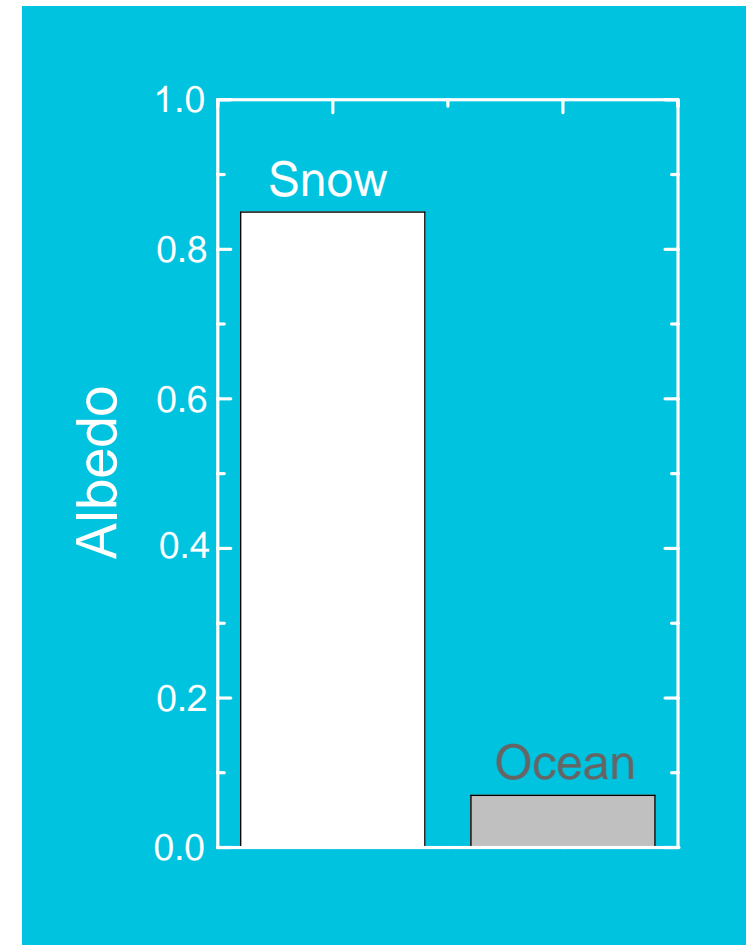
Math Physics Webinar  
Rutgers, 10 April 2024

Frey

# polar ice caps critical to global climate in reflecting incoming solar radiation



white snow and ice  
reflect



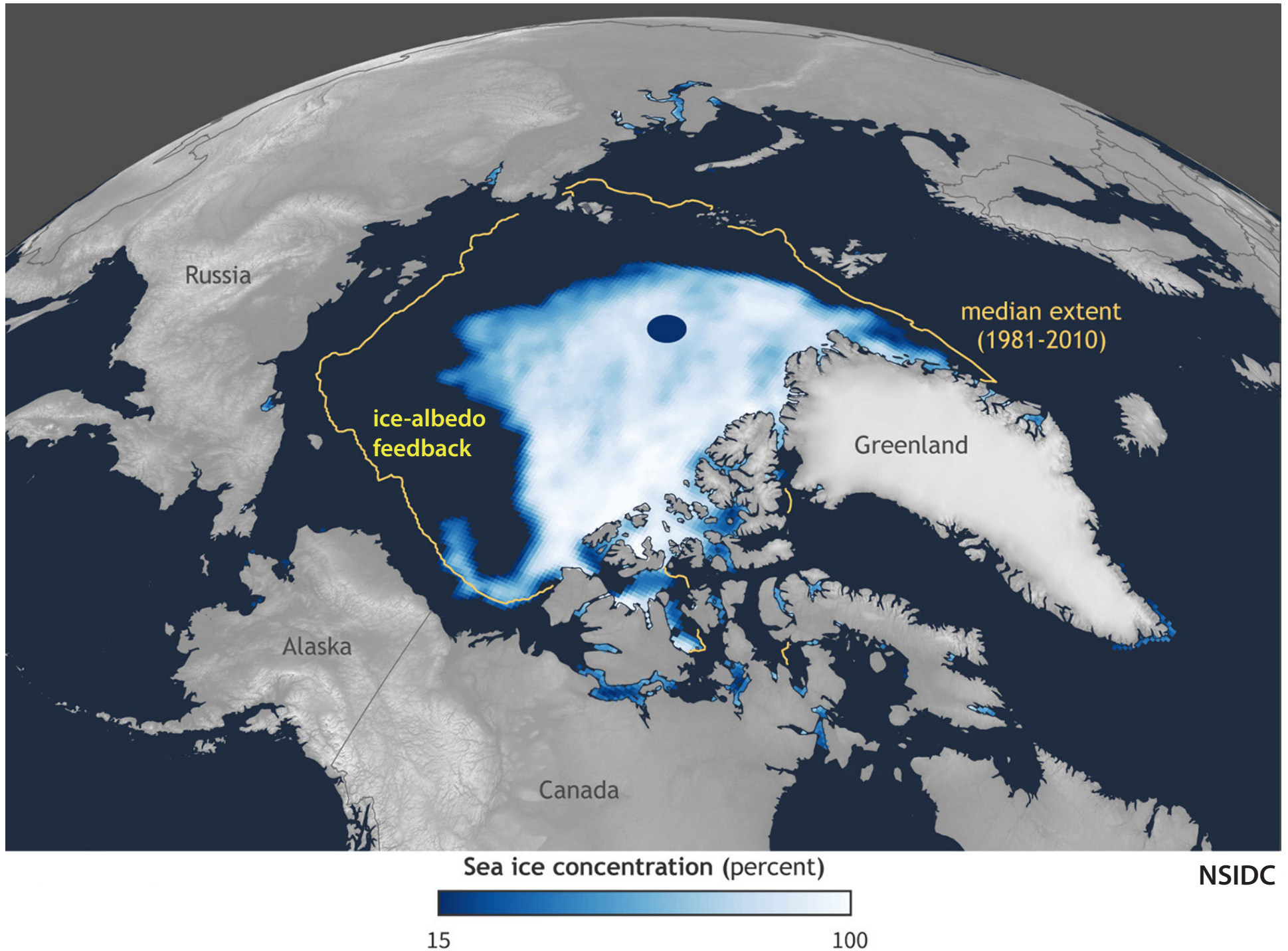
dark water and land  
absorb

$$\text{albedo } \alpha = \frac{\text{reflected sunlight}}{\text{incident sunlight}}$$



# Arctic sea ice extent

September 15, 2020





*recent losses  
in comparison to  
the United States*



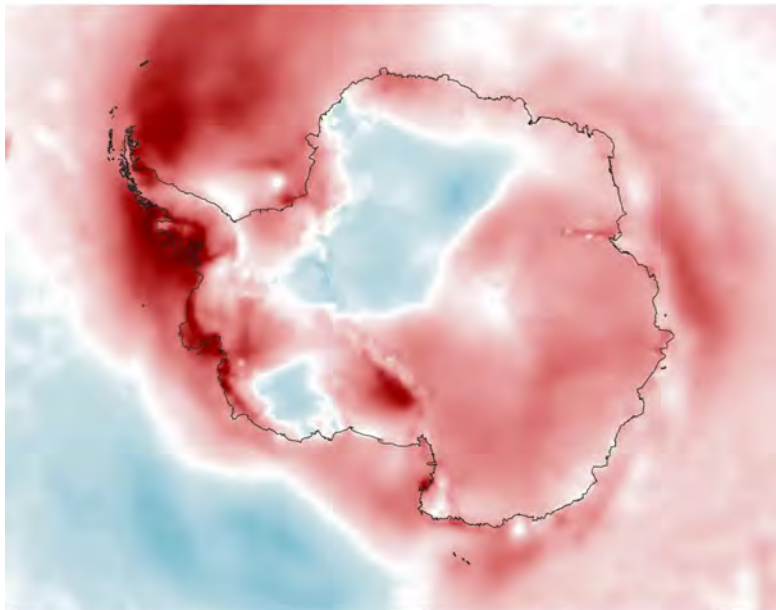


# New Record Low for Antarctic Sea Ice

February 13, 2023

**Much of Antarctica  
warmer than average**

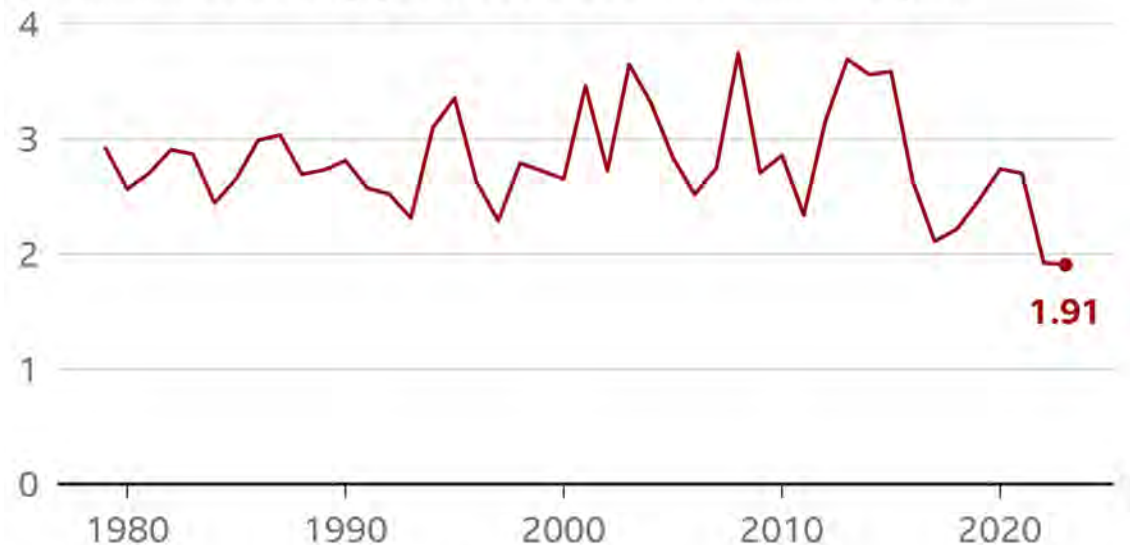
Mean 2022 surface air temp  
compared with 1991-2022 ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



Source: ECMWF ERA5

BBC

**Minimum extent 1979-2023  
(million sq km)**

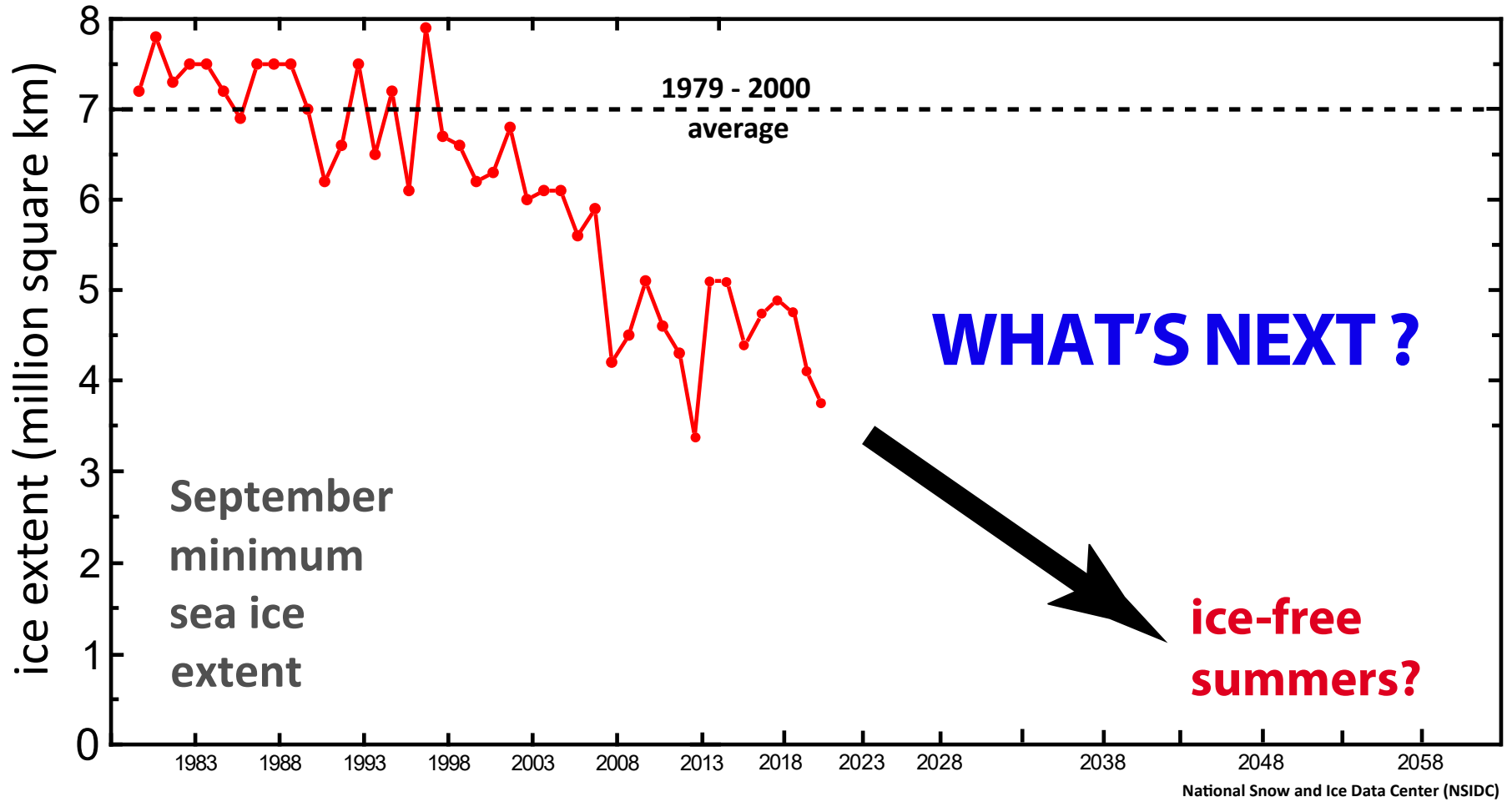


Five-day rolling average of sea-ice extent

Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC)

BBC

# ARCTIC summer sea ice loss



predictions require lots of math modeling



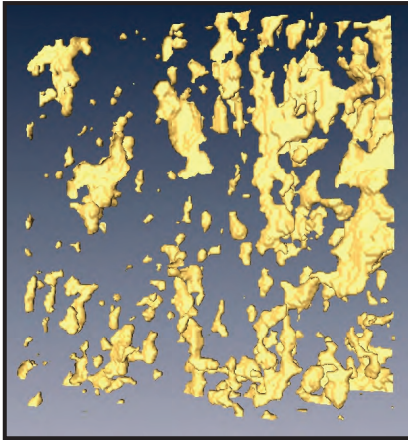
# Sea Ice is a Multiscale Composite Material

## *microscale*

brine inclusions

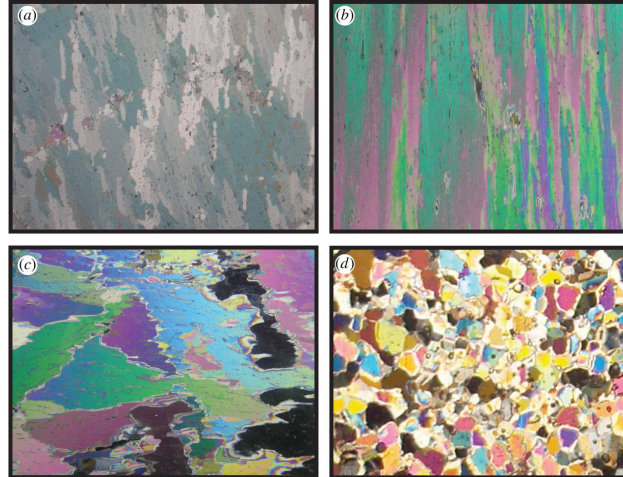


Weeks & Assur 1969



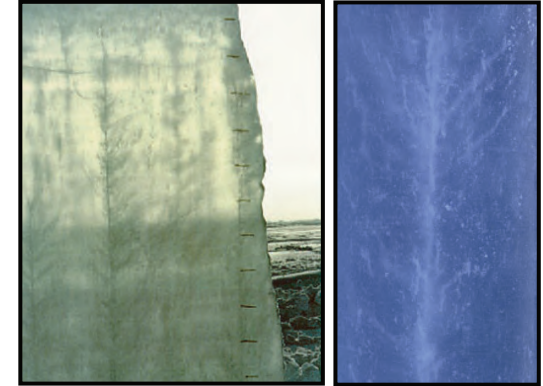
H. Eicken  
Golden et al. GRL 2007

polycrystals



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

brine channels



D. Cole

K. Golden

**millimeters**

**centimeters**

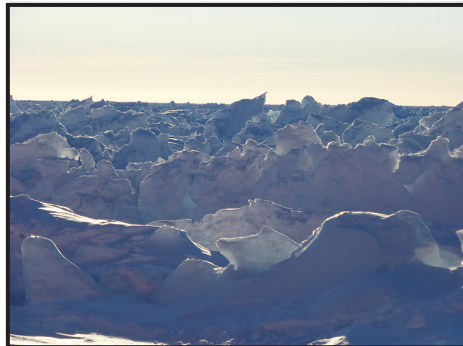
## *mesoscale*

Arctic melt ponds



K. Frey

Antarctic pressure ridges



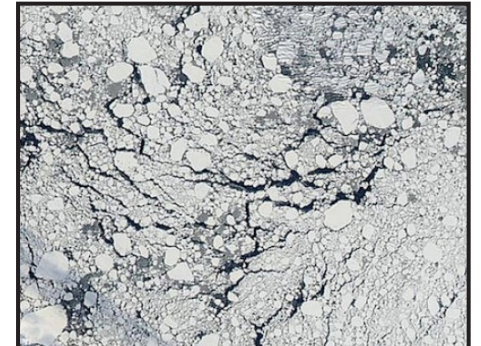
K. Golden

sea ice floes



J. Weller

sea ice pack



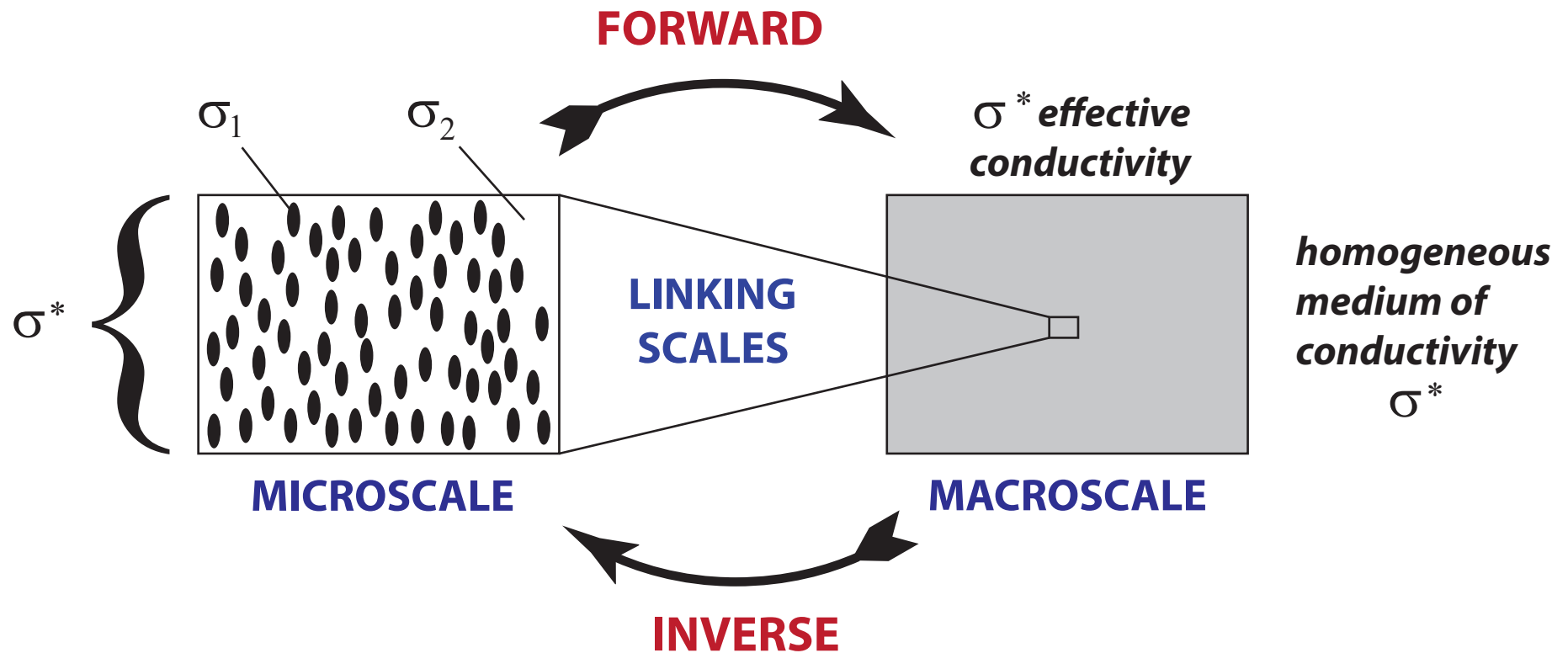
NASA

**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*

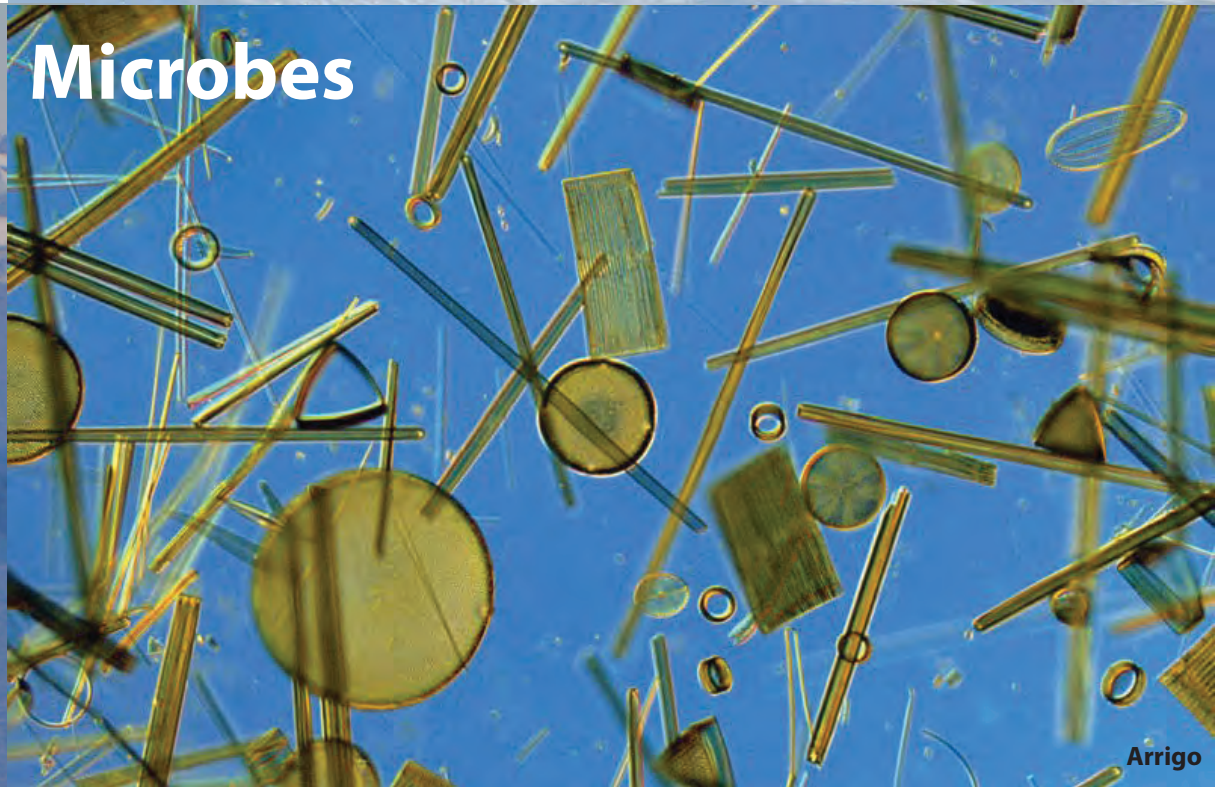
widespread use of composites in late 20th century due in large part to advances in mathematically predicting their effective properties



# Polar Ecology and the Physics of Sea Ice

How do sea ice properties affect the life it hosts?

How does life in and on sea ice affect its physical properties?



# What is this talk about?

A tour of recent results on multiscale modeling of physical and biological processes in the sea ice system.

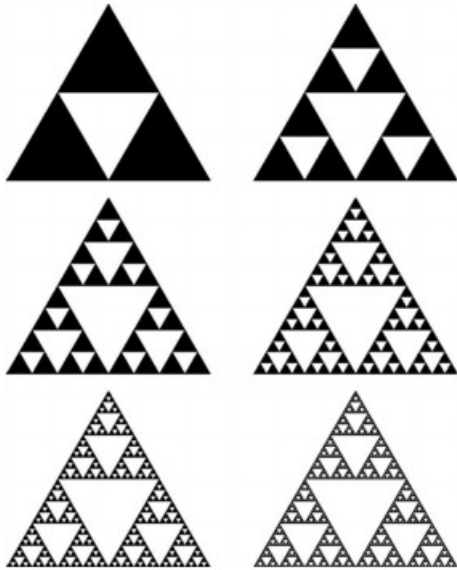
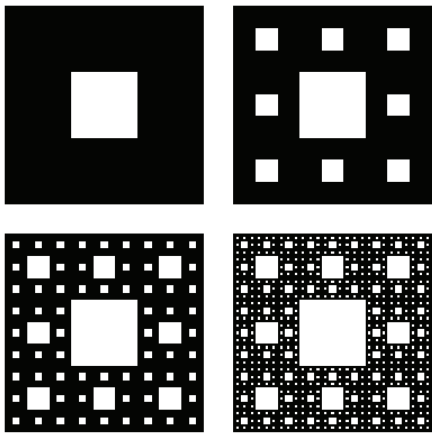
**microscale**

**mesoscale**

**macroscale**

**through the lens of fractal geometry  
and other areas of mathematics**

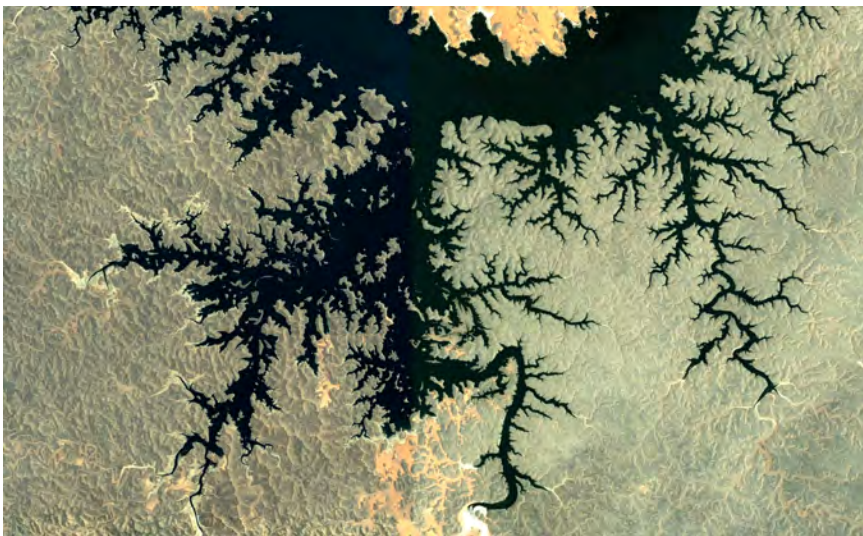




# fractals

self-similar structure  
non-integer dimension

$$D = \frac{\log 3}{\log 2} = 1.585...$$

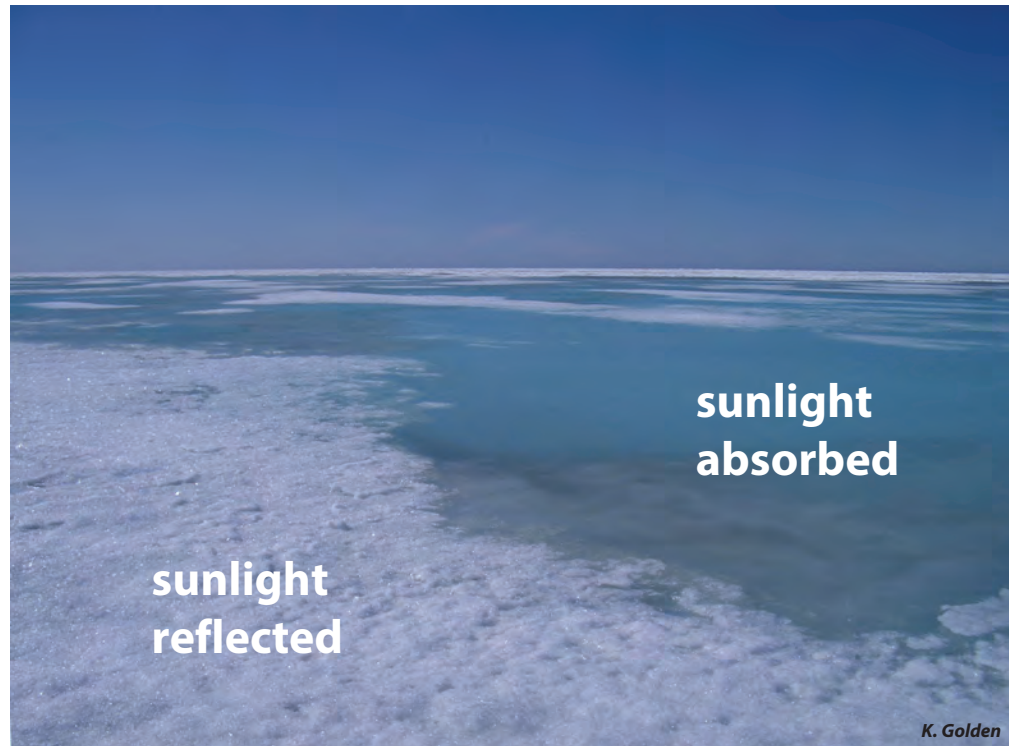


**microscale**



# 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***



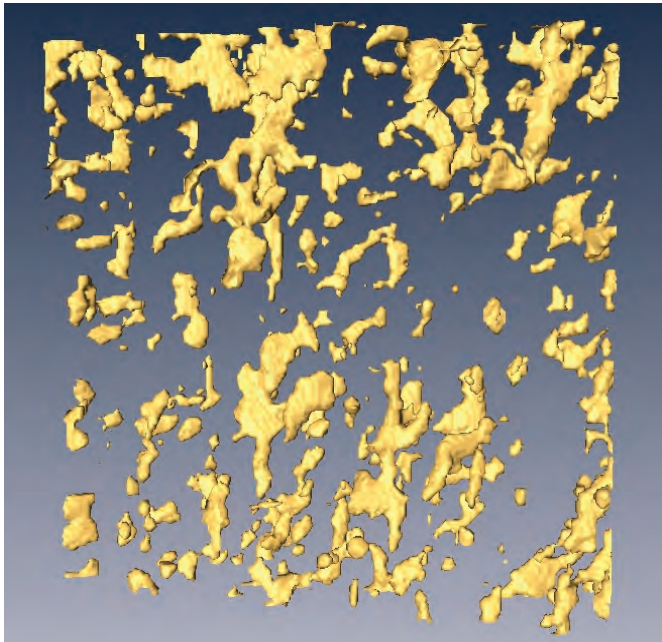
***Antarctic surface flooding  
and snow-ice formation***

September  
snow-ice  
estimates

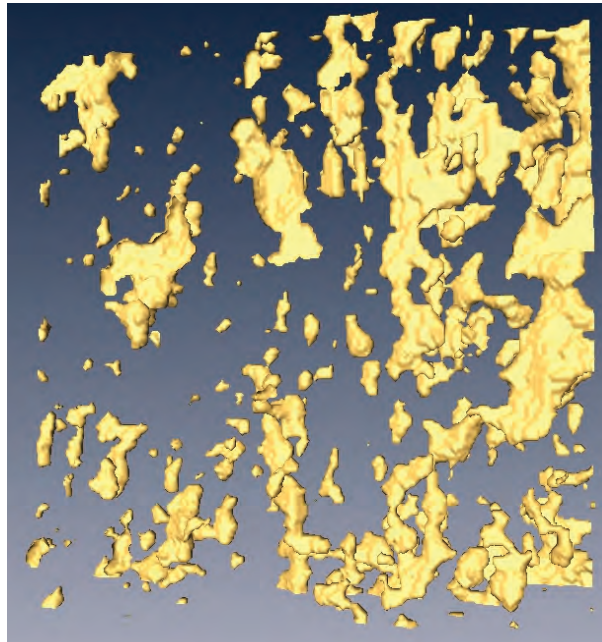
- *evolution of salinity profiles*
- *ocean-ice-air exchanges of heat, CO<sub>2</sub>*



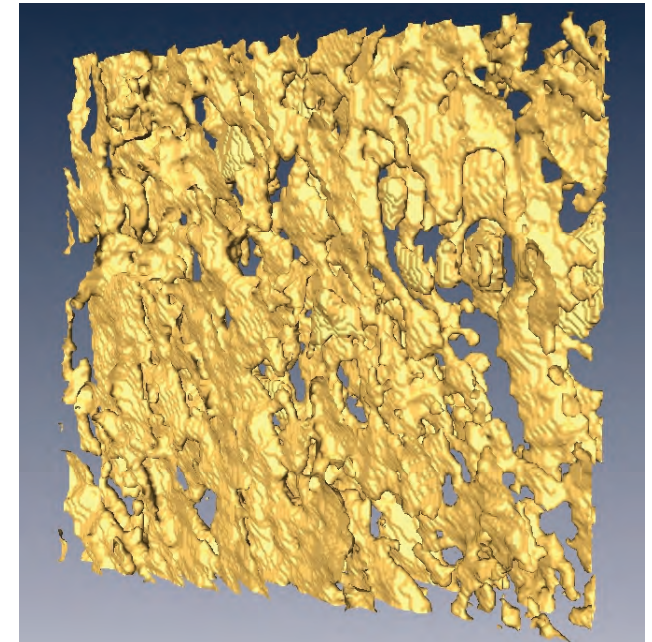
brine volume fraction and **connectivity** increase with temperature



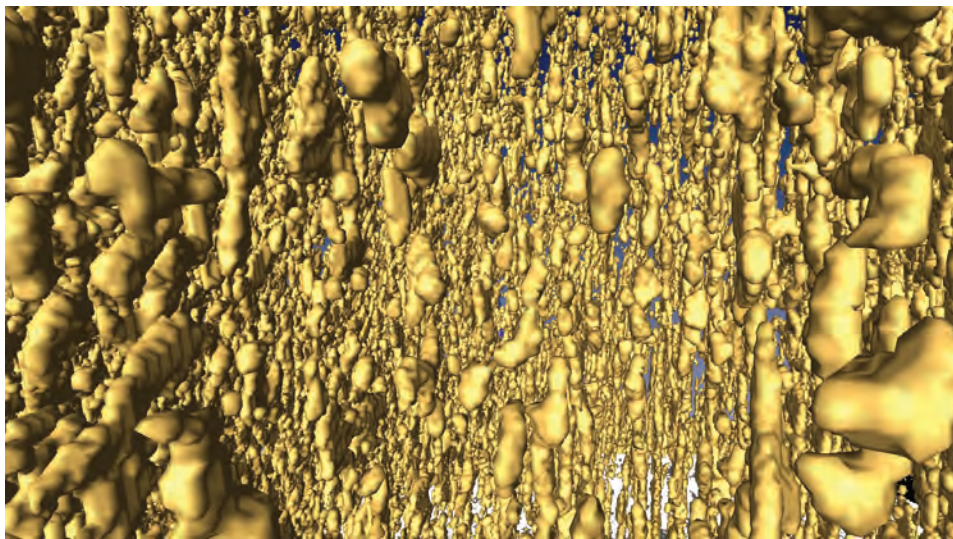
$T = -15\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\phi = 0.033$



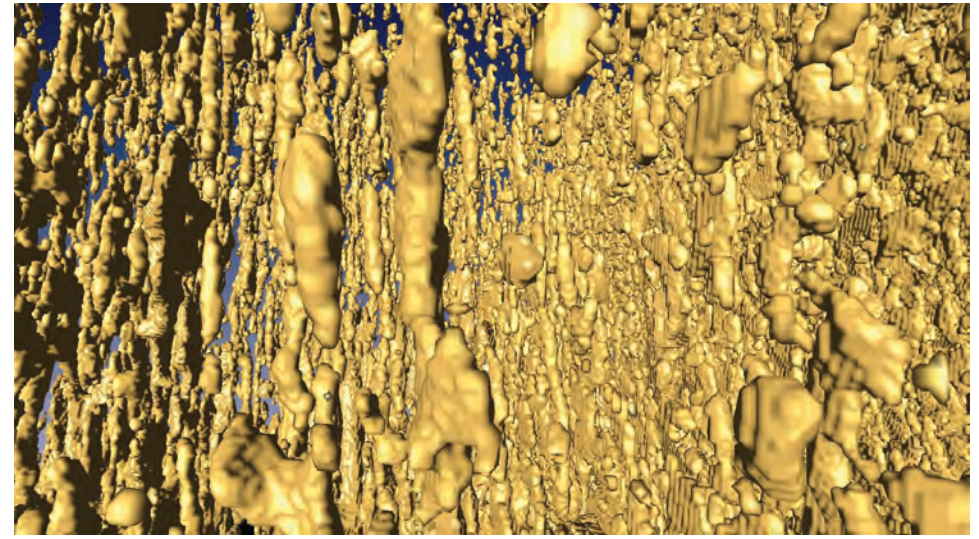
$T = -6\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\phi = 0.075$



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



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



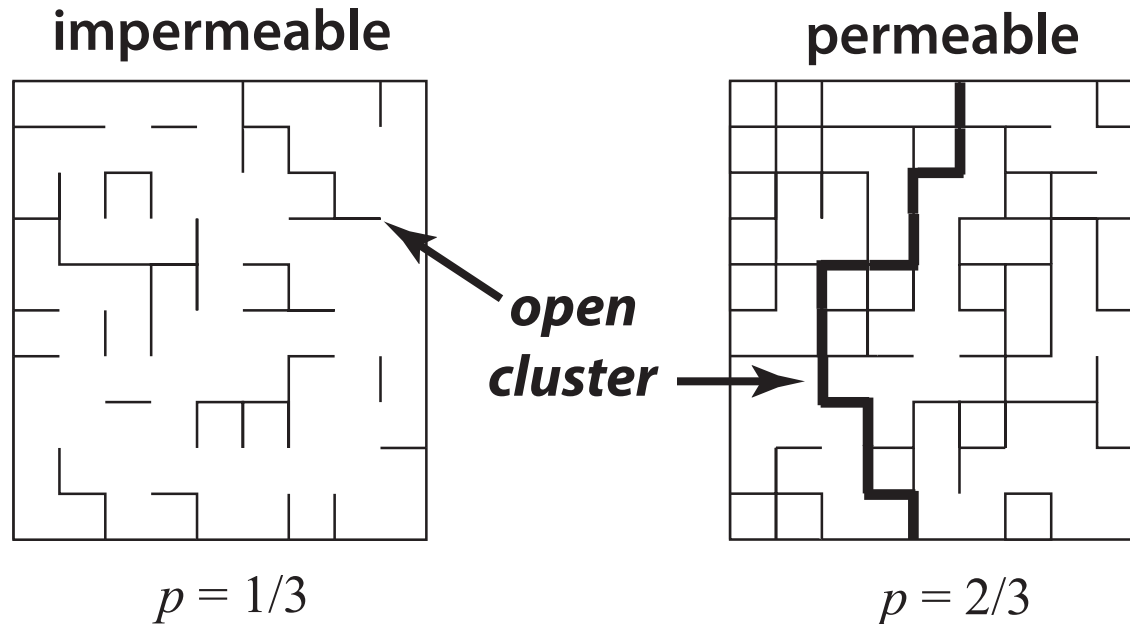
$T = -4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\phi = 0.113$

***X-ray tomography for brine in sea ice***

Golden et al., *Geophysical Research Letters*, 2007

# percolation theory

*probabilistic theory of connectedness*



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

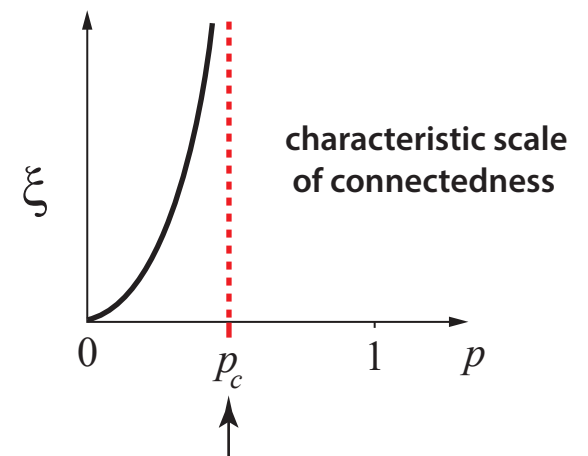
**percolation threshold**

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

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

**correlation length**

*development of long range order*



$$\xi(p) \sim |p - p_c|^{-\nu} \quad p \rightarrow p_c$$

$\nu$  universal: depends only on  $d$

$p_c$  depends on type of lattice and  $d$



# Critical behavior of fluid transport in sea ice

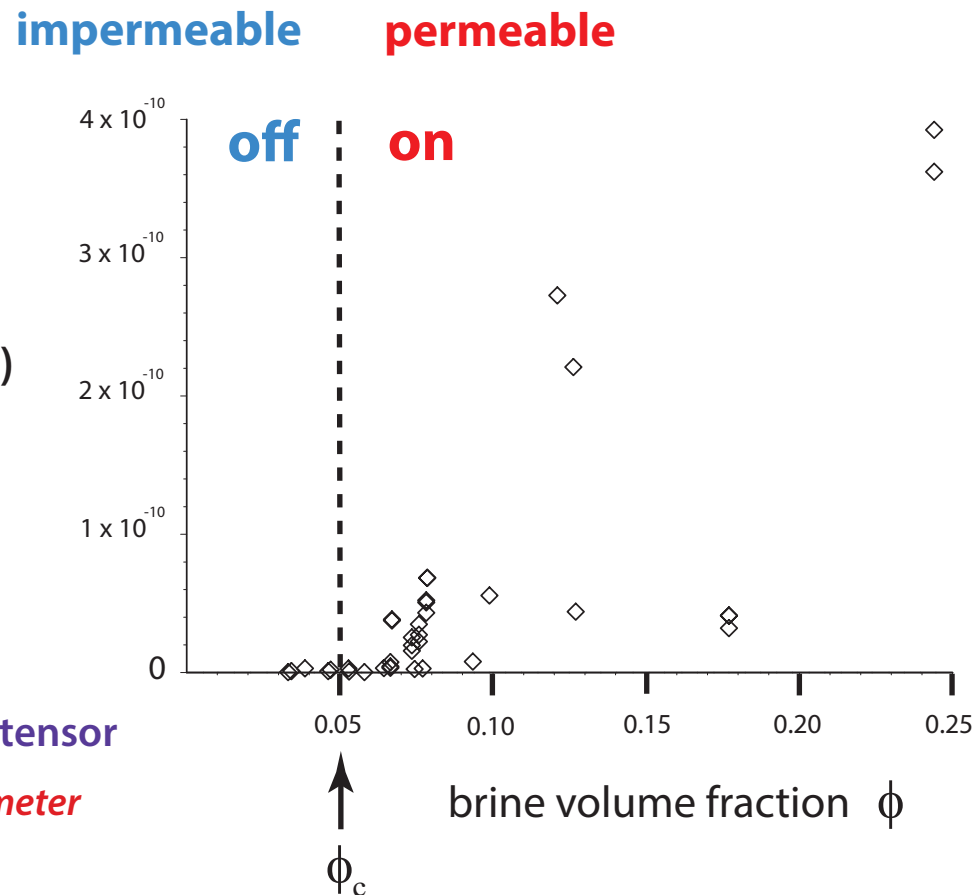
## Arctic field data

vertical fluid permeability  $k$  ( $\text{m}^2$ )

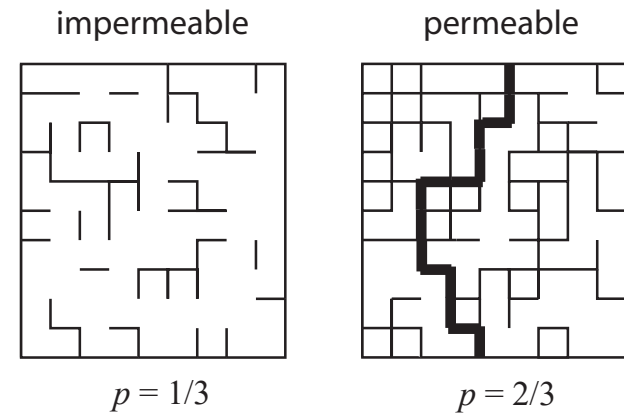
Darcy's Law

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

$\mathbf{k}$  = fluid permeability tensor  
homogenized parameter



“on - off” switch  
for bulk fluid flow



lattice percolation

**FRACTAL**  
percolation clusters

**PERCOLATION THRESHOLD**  $\phi_c \approx 5\% \longleftrightarrow T_c \approx -5^\circ \text{C}, S \approx 5 \text{ ppt}$

**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 algal communities

D. Thomas 2004

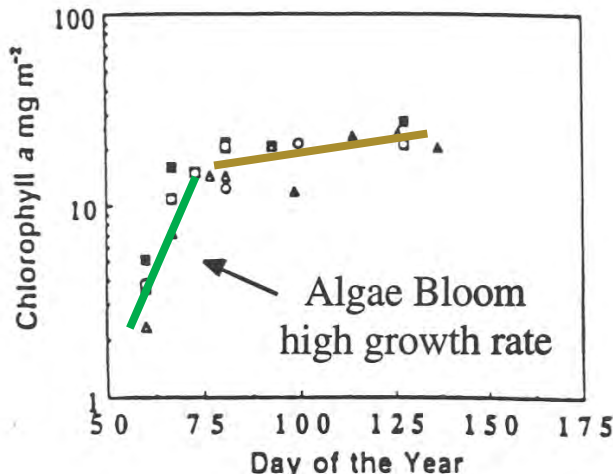
nutrient replenishment  
controlled by ice permeability

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

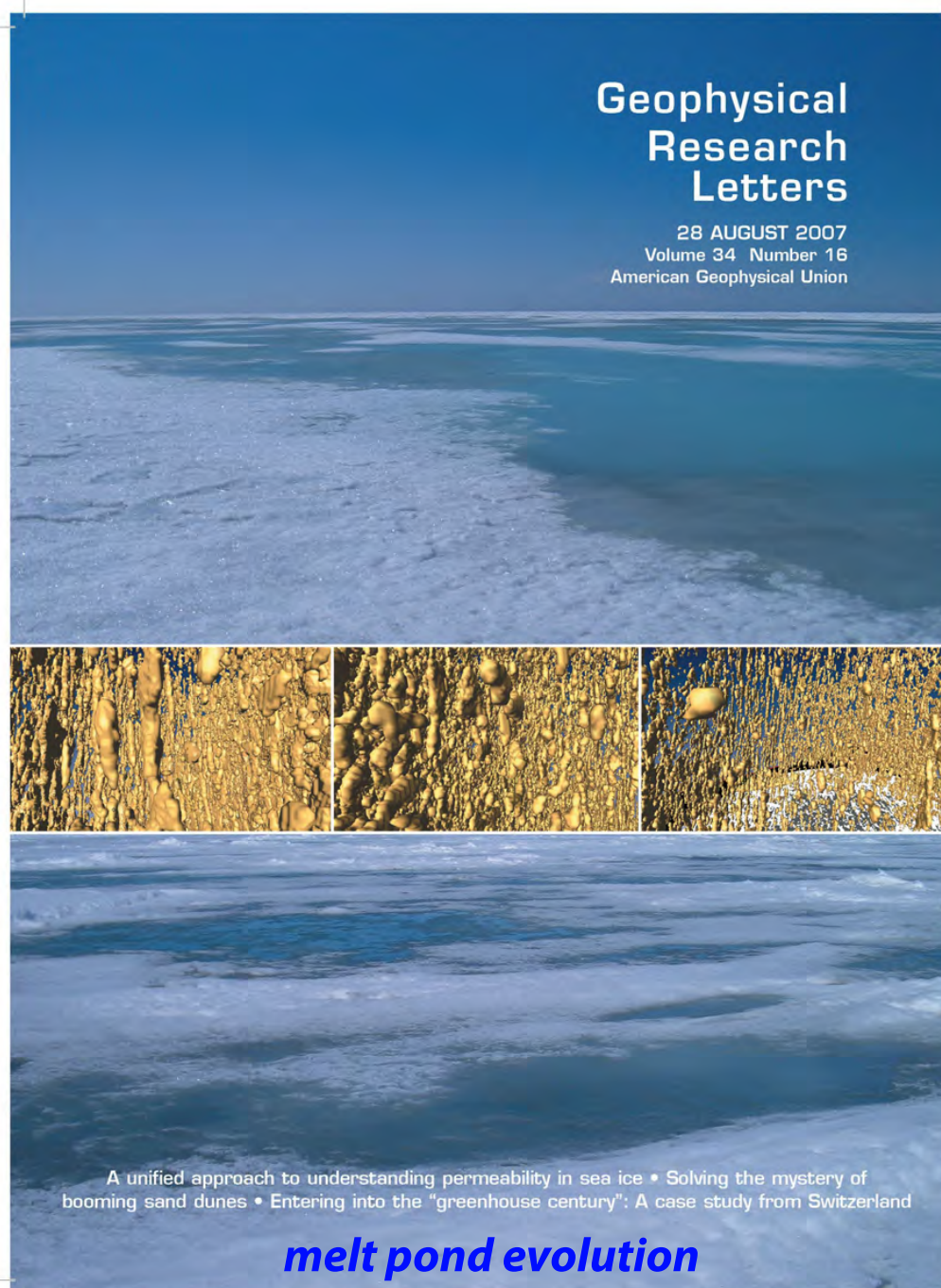


Convection-fueled algae bloom  
Ice Station Weddell



# 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*

brine percolation threshold  
of  $\phi = 5\%$  for bulk fluid flow

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

theories agree closely  
with field data

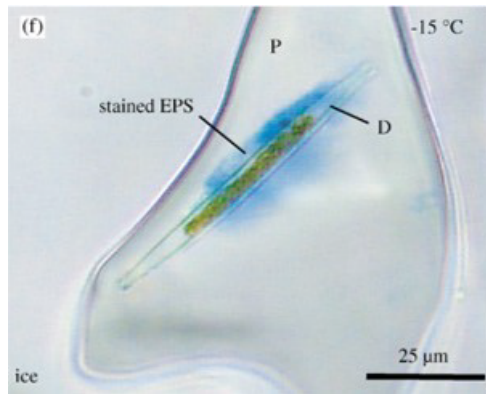
microscale  
governs  
mesoscale  
processes

*melt pond evolution*

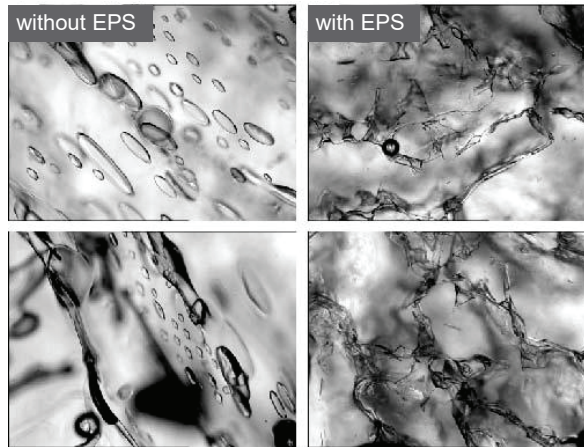
# Sea ice algae secrete exopolymeric substances (EPS) affecting evolution of brine microstructure.

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

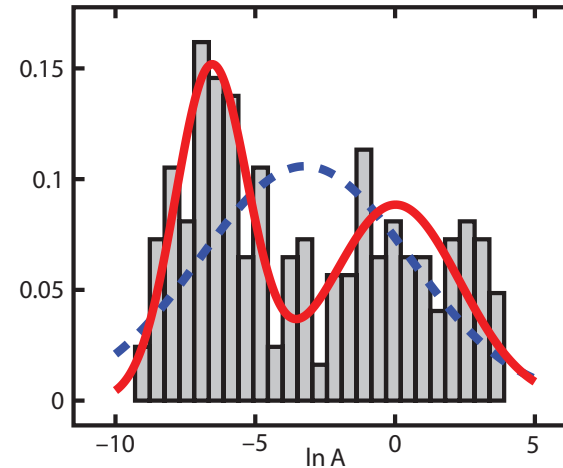
## FRACTAL



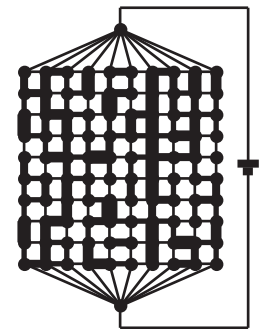
Krembs



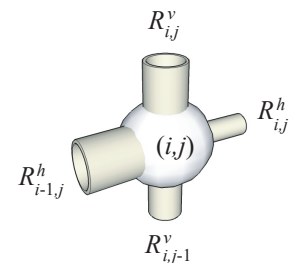
Krembs, Eicken, Deming, PNAS 2011



## 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

EPS - Algae Model Jajeh, Reimer, Golden, 2024



# Notices

of the American Mathematical Society

May 2009

Volume 56, Number 5

Climate Change and  
the Mathematics of  
Transport in Sea Ice

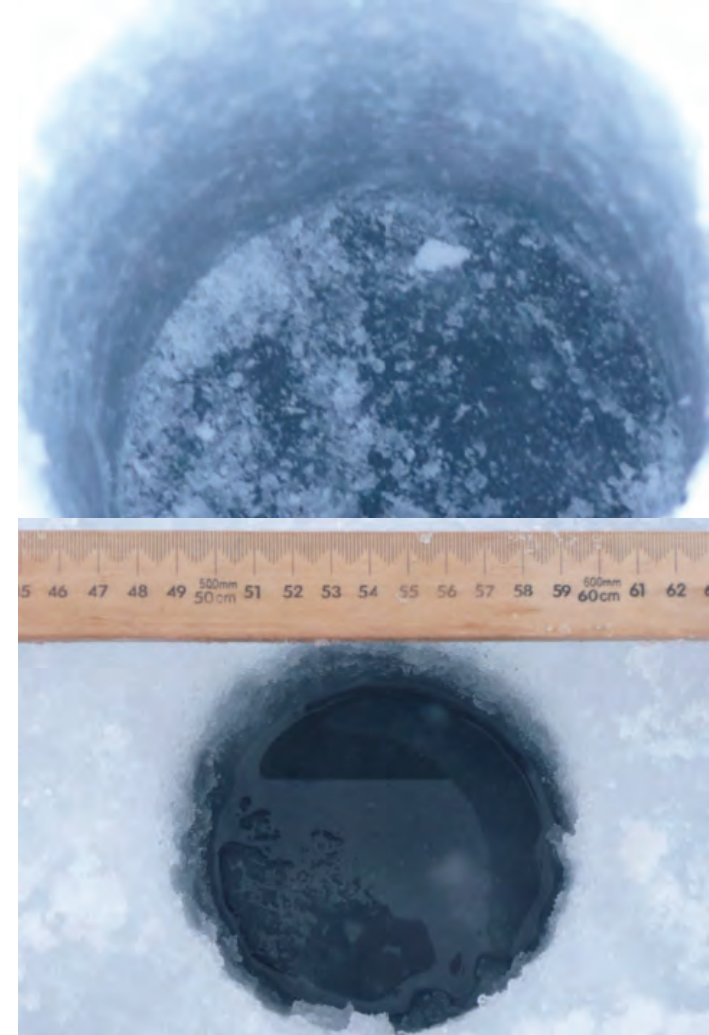
page 562

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)*

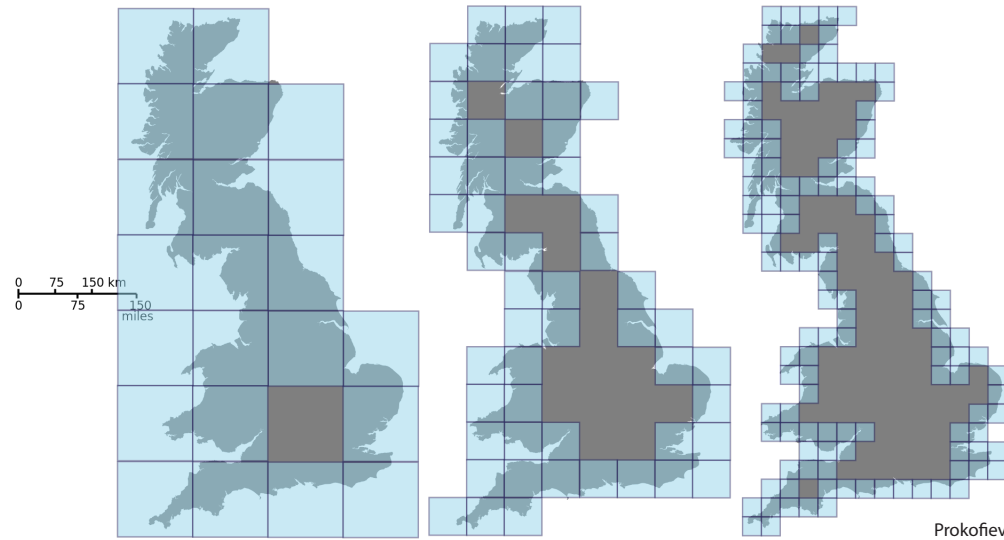


***measuring  
fluid permeability  
of Antarctic sea ice***

***SIPEX 2007***

# Thermal Evolution of Brine Fractal Geometry in Sea Ice

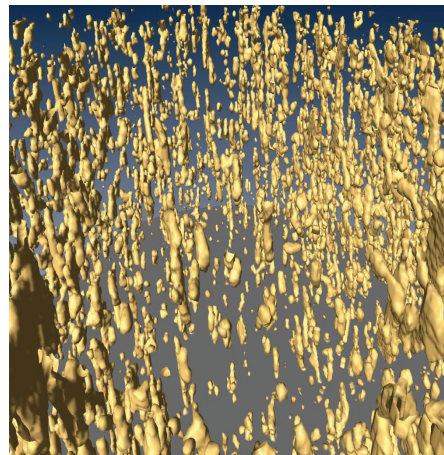
Nash Ward, Daniel Hallman, Benjamin Murphy, Jody Reimer,  
Marc Oggier, Megan O'Sadnick, Elena Cherkaev and Kenneth Golden, 2024



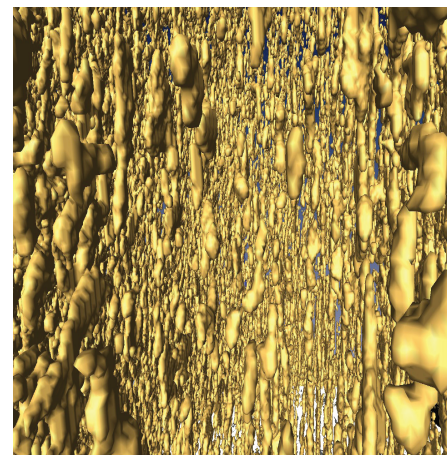
fractal dimension of the  
coastline of Great Britain  
by box counting

$$N(\epsilon) \sim \epsilon^{-D}$$

$T = -12^{\circ} \text{C}$ ,  $\phi = 0.033$



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



brine channels and  
inclusions “look”  
like fractals  
(from 30 yrs ago)

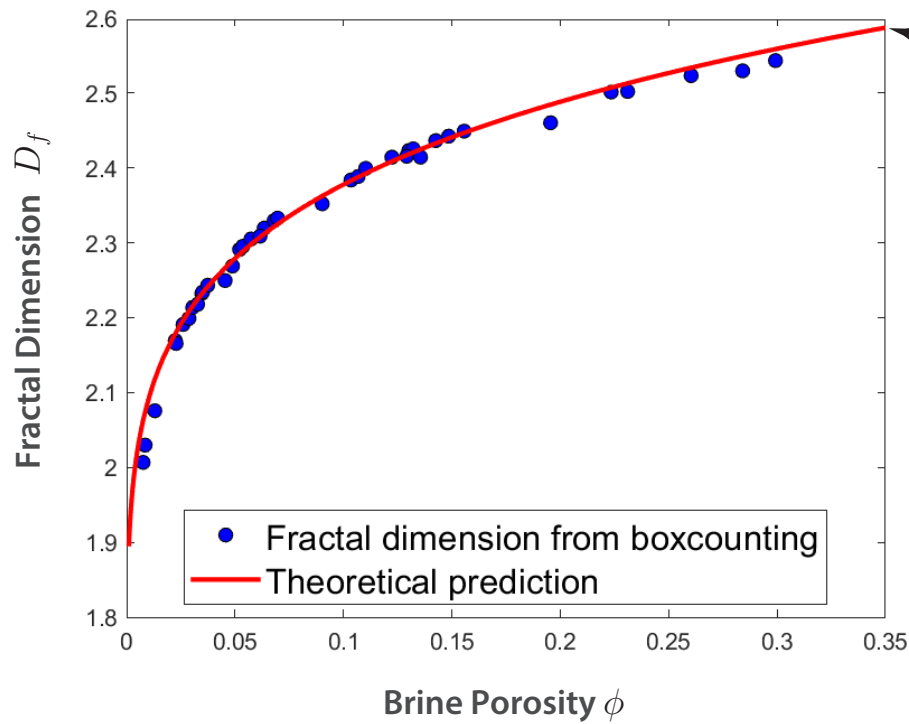
X-ray computed  
tomography of  
brine in sea ice

columnar and granular

Golden, Eicken, et al. *GRL*, 2007



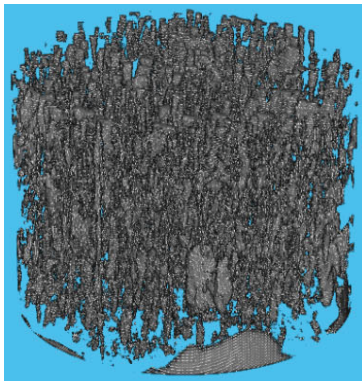
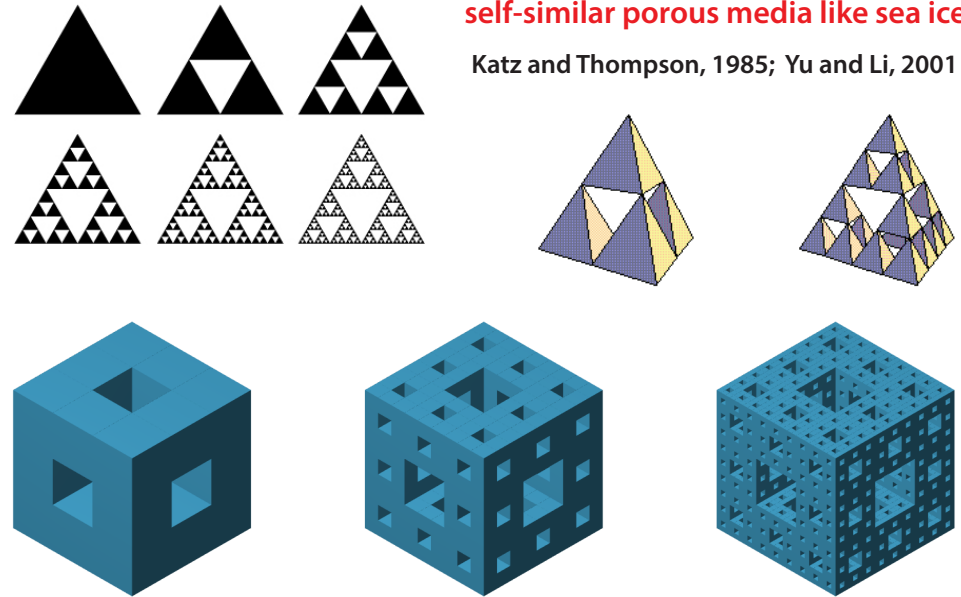
# The first comprehensive, quantitative study of the fractal dimension of brine in sea ice and its strong dependence on temperature and porosity.



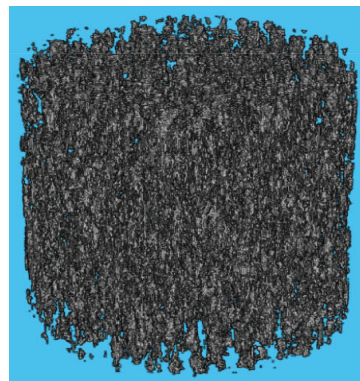
$$D_f = 3 - \frac{\ln \phi}{\ln(\lambda_{min}/\lambda_{max})}$$

The red curve is exact for the Sierpinski pyramid (an exactly self-similar geometry); discovered for sandstones - statistically self-similar porous media like sea ice.

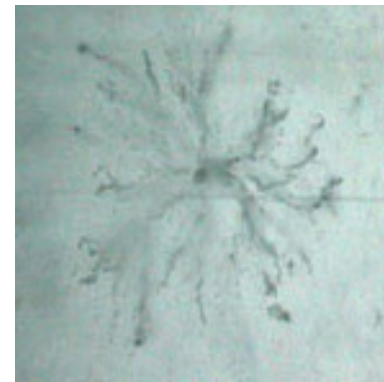
Katz and Thompson, 1985; Yu and Li, 2001



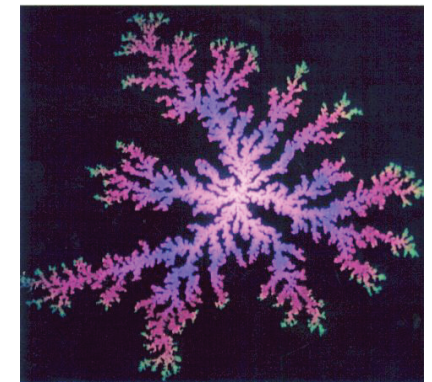
X-ray tomography



DLA model

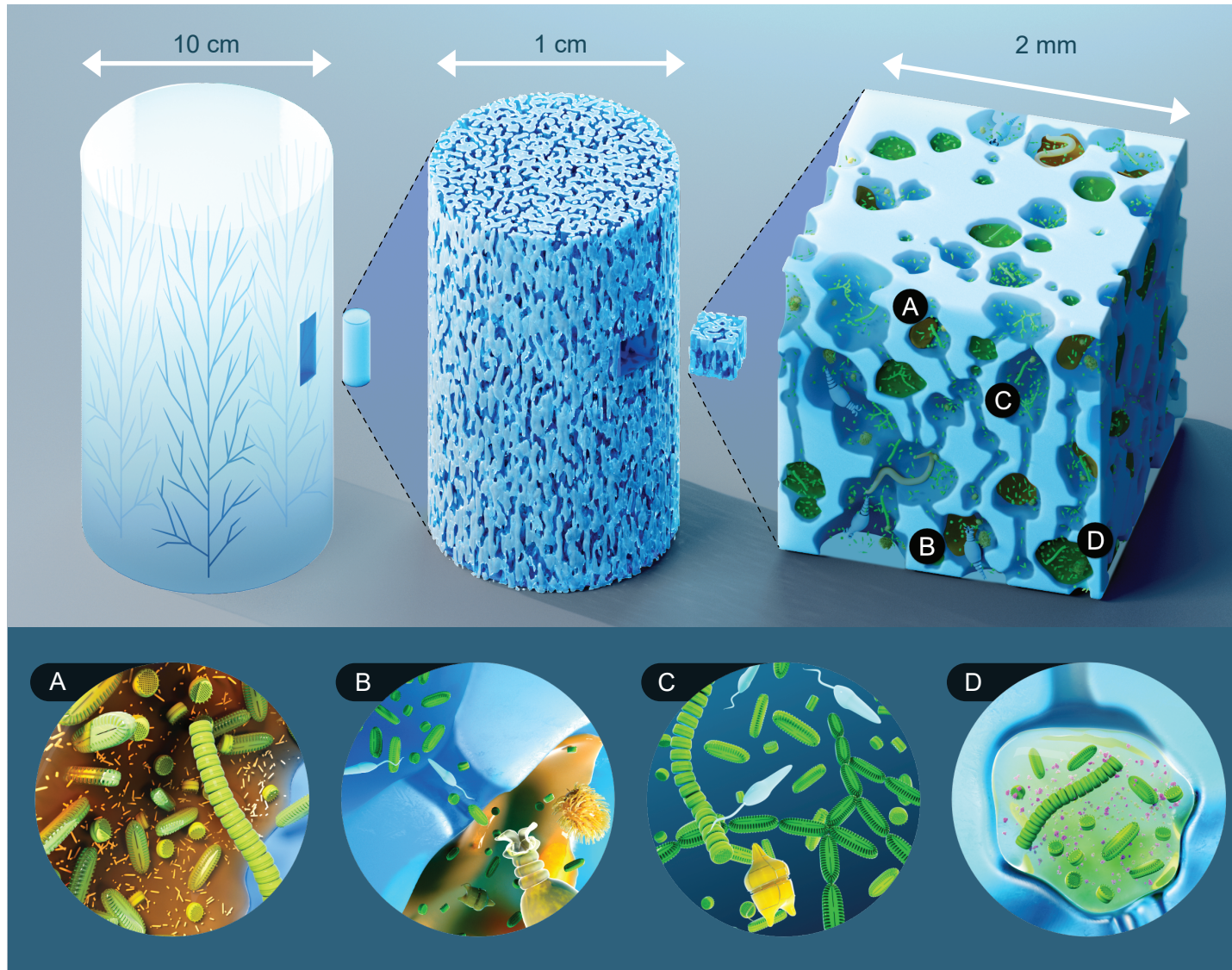


brine channel  
in sea ice



diffusion limited  
aggregation

# Implications of brine fractal geometry on sea ice ecology and biogeochemistry



Brine inclusions are home to ice endemic organisms, e.g., bacteria, diatoms, flagellates, rotifers, nematodes.

The habitability of sea ice for these organisms is inextricably linked to its complex brine geometry.

- (A) Many sea ice organisms attach themselves to inclusion walls; inclusions with a higher fractal dimension have greater surface area for colonization.
- (B) Narrow channels prevent the passage of larger organisms, leading to refuges where smaller organisms can multiply without being grazed, as in (C).
- (D) Ice algae secrete extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) which alter inclusion geometry and may further increase the fractal dimension.







# Remote sensing of sea ice



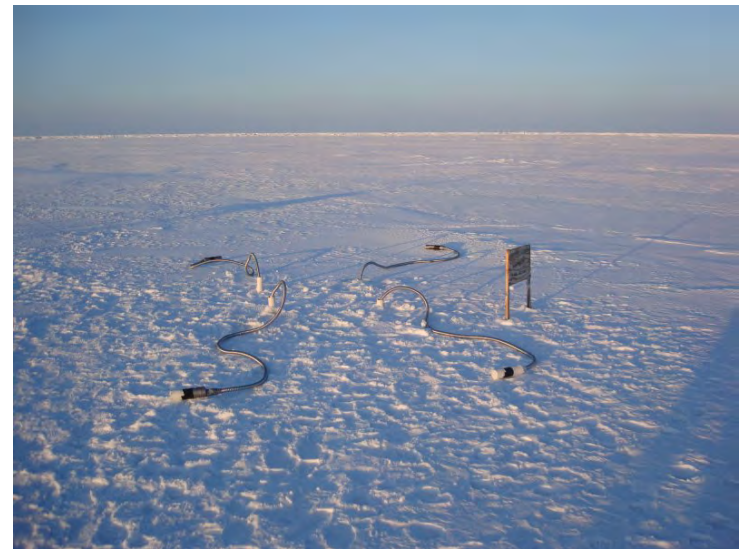
*sea ice thickness*  
*ice concentration*

## **INVERSE PROBLEM**

Recover sea ice  
properties from  
electromagnetic  
(EM) data

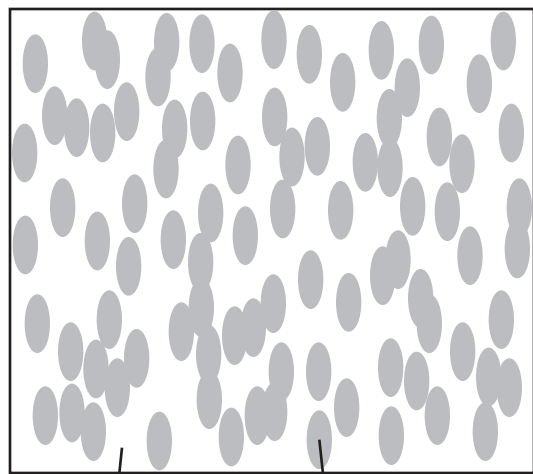
$$\epsilon^*$$

effective complex permittivity  
(dielectric constant, conductivity)



*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*

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

← geometry

← material parameters

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

$\mu$

- 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

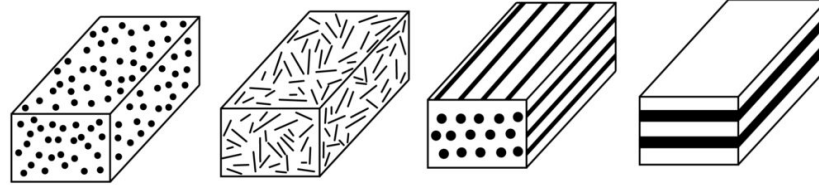
$$E = s (s + \Gamma\chi)^{-1} e_k$$

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

$\Gamma\chi$  *links scales*



# complexities of mixture geometry



Particles

Short fibers or whiskers

Continuous fibers

Sheet laminates

Bartleby.com

distilled

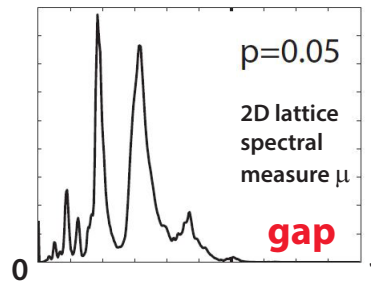
distilled



## Analytic Continuation Method

Stieltjes Integral Representations  
for Homogenized Parameters

Bergman 1978, Milton 1979  
Golden & Papanicolaou 1983



spectral properties of operator (matrix)  
~ quantum states, energy levels for atoms

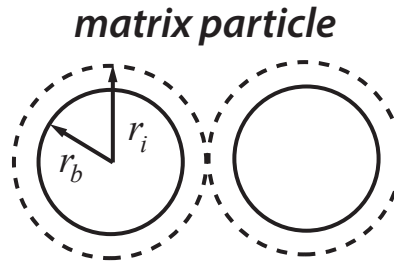
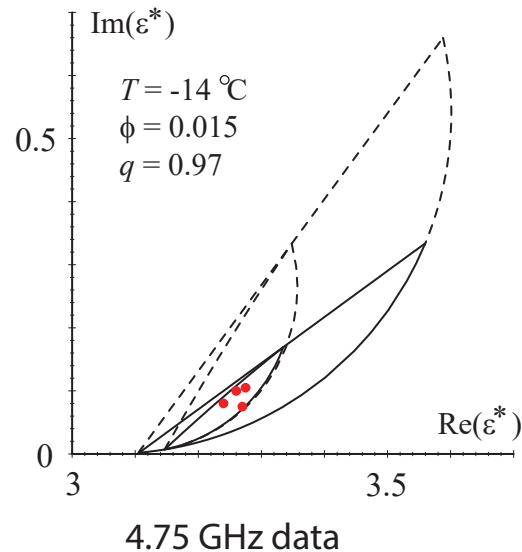
eigenvectors

eigenvalues

**EXTEND to:** polycrystals, advection diffusion, waves through ice pack

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

## forward bounds

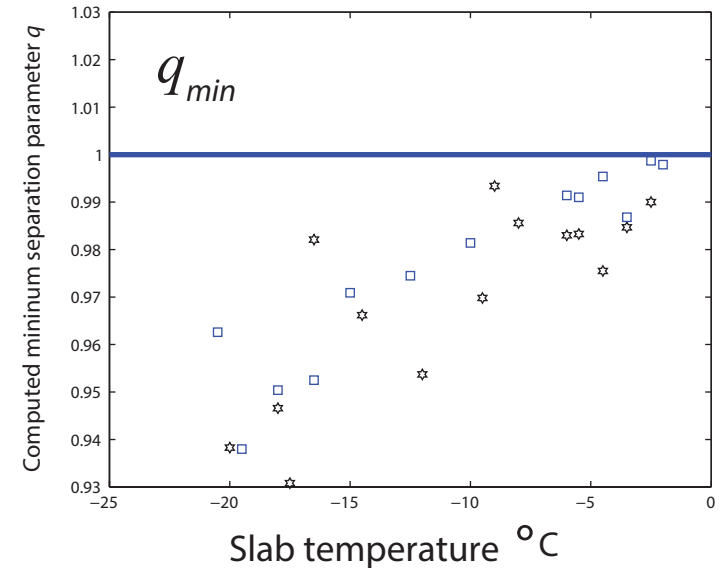


$$q = r_b / r_i$$

$$0 < q < 1$$

**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

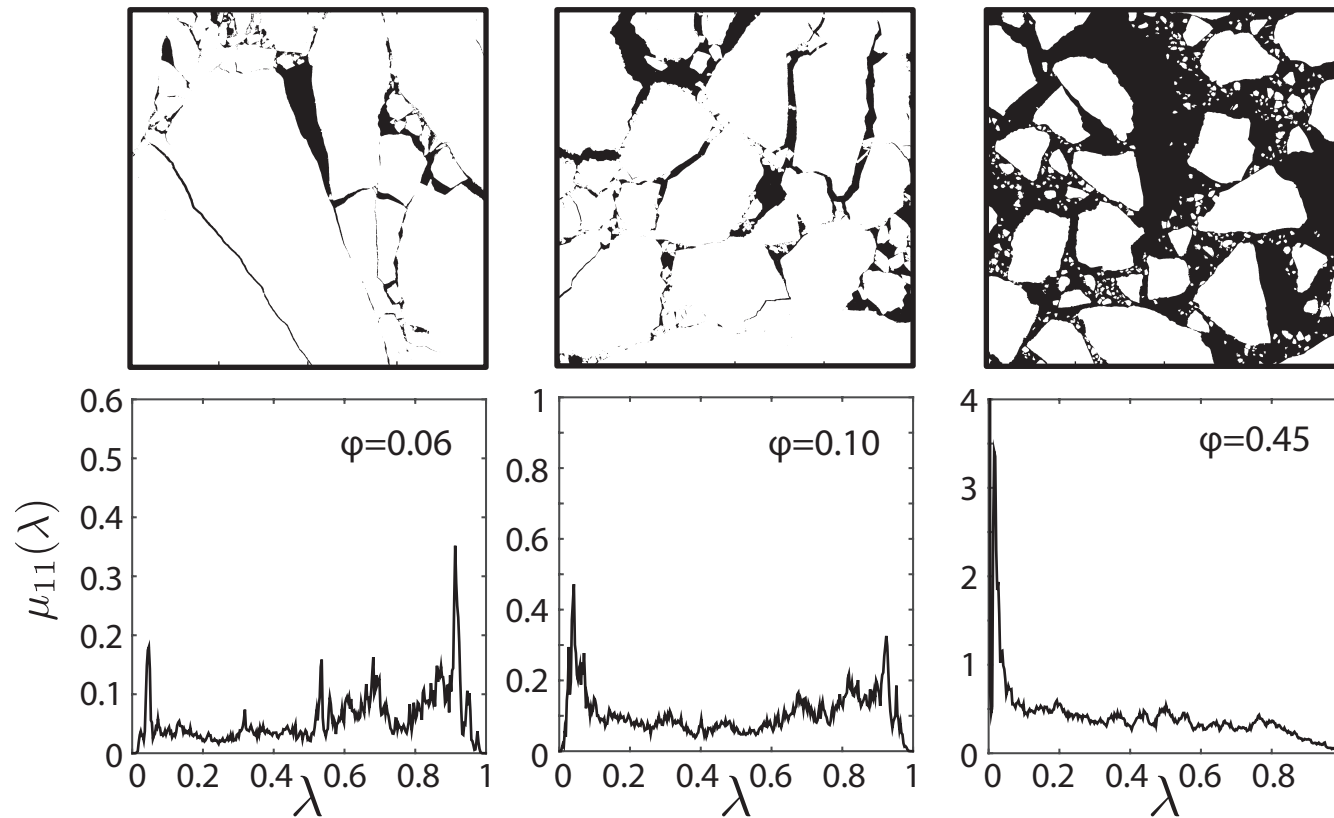
construct algebraic curves which bound admissible region in  $(p, q)$ -space

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

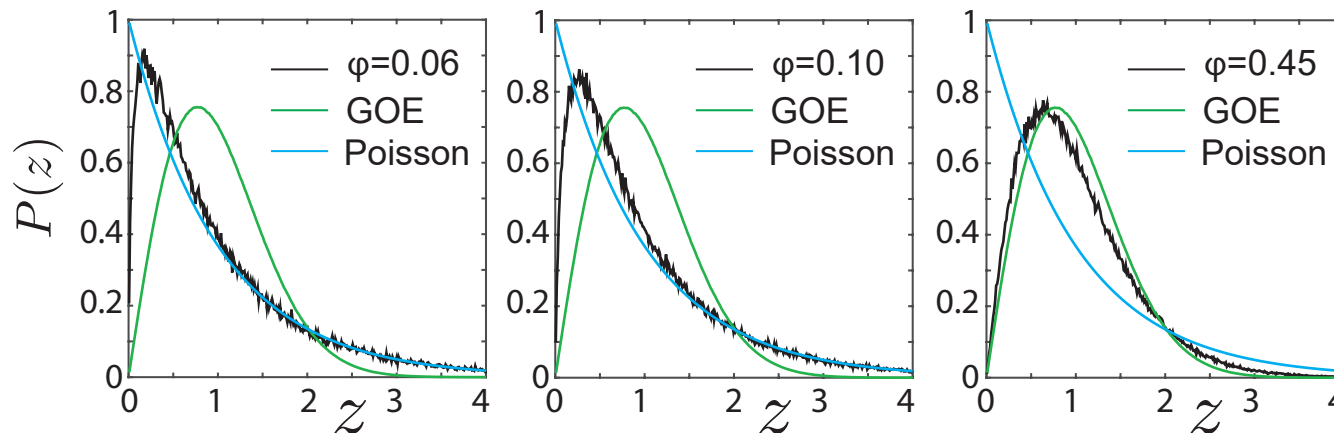


# Spectral computations for sea ice floe configurations

spectral  
measures



eigenvalue  
spacing  
distributions



uncorrelated



level repulsion

**UNIVERSAL  
Wigner-Dyson  
distribution**

# Eigenvalue Statistics of Random Matrix Theory

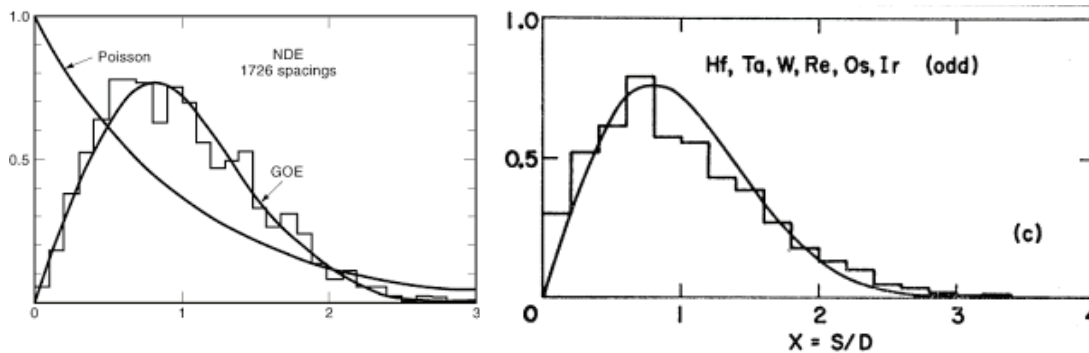
*Wigner (1951) and Dyson (1953) first used random matrix theory (RMT) to describe quantized energy levels of heavy atomic nuclei.*

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

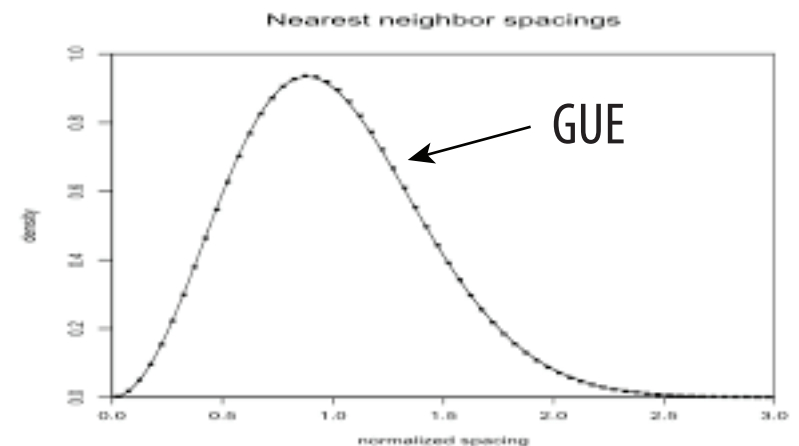
$[N]_{ij} \sim N(0,1) + iN(0,1), \quad A = (N + N^\dagger)/2 \quad \text{Gaussian unitary ensemble (GUE)}$

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

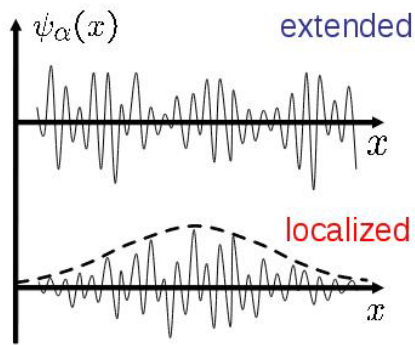
Spacing distributions of energy levels for heavy atomic nuclei



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



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



# Anderson localization

## *disorder-driven*

### metal / insulator transition

Anderson 1958  
Mott 1949  
Evangelou 1992  
Shklovshii et al 1993

**propagation vs. localization in wave physics:**  
quantum, optics, acoustics, water waves

Wave equations

Laplace + Diffusion  
equations

*we find percolation-driven*

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

mobility edges, localization, universal spectral statistics

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

**but no wave interference or scattering effects at play!**



**Given these findings in random systems, what class of media might we look at to design new materials with exciting properties?**

local conductivity in 1D inhomogeneous material

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

**effective conductivity**

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

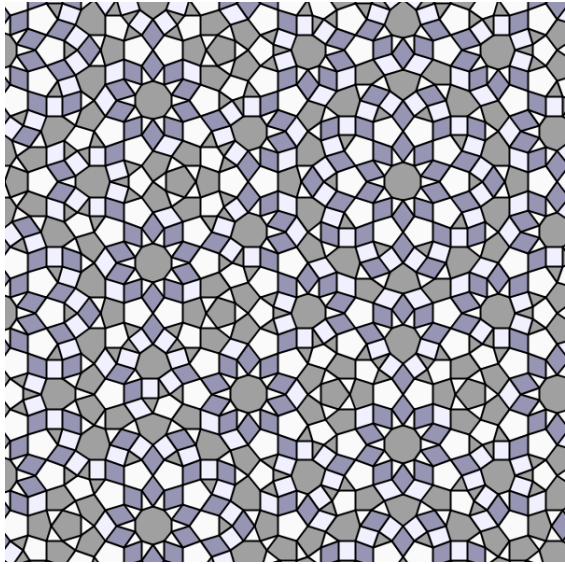
Golden, Goldstein, Lebowitz, Phys. Rev. Lett. 1985

# Order to Disorder in Quasiperiodic Composites

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

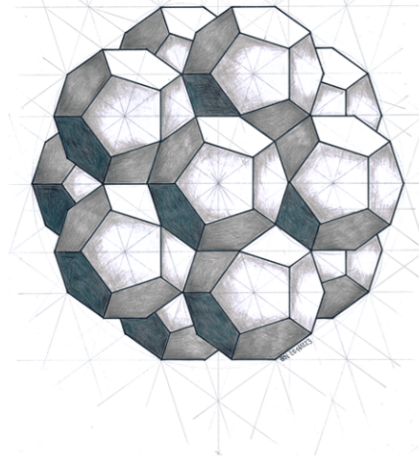
quasiperiodic crystal

**quasicrystal**



quasiperiodic checkerboard

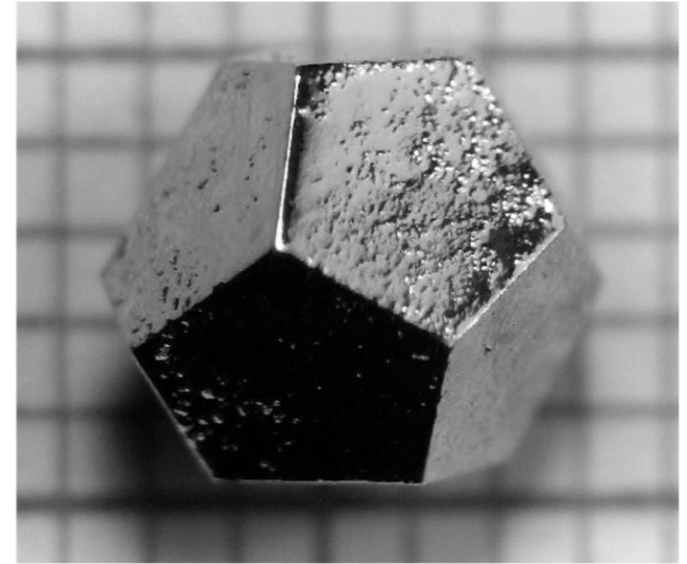
Stampfli, 2013



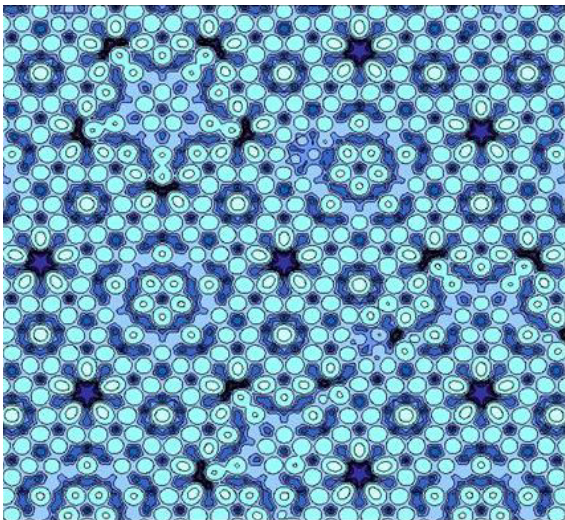
dense packing of dodecahedra

3D Penrose tiling

Tripkovic, 2019



Holmium-magnesium-zinc quasicrystal



energy surface Al-Pd-Mn quasicrystal

Unal et al., 2007

**ordered but aperiodic**

lacks translational symmetry

Shechtman et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 1984

Levine & Steinhardt, *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 1984

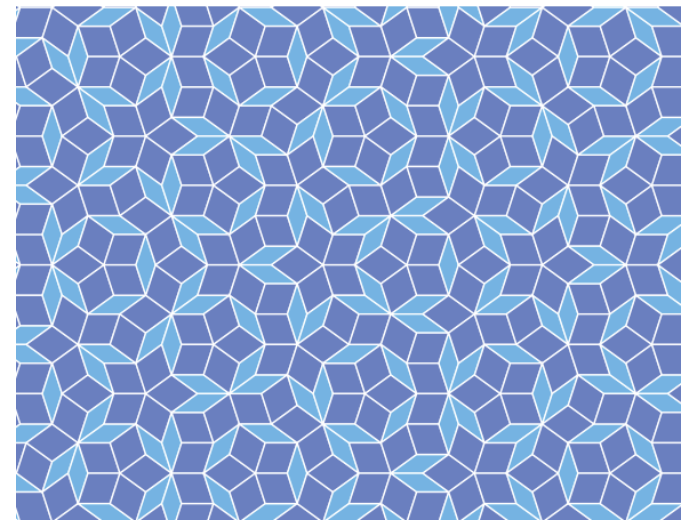
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**classical transport in  
quasiperiodic media**

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

Golden, Goldstein & Lebowitz, *J. Stat. Phys.*, 1990

⋮



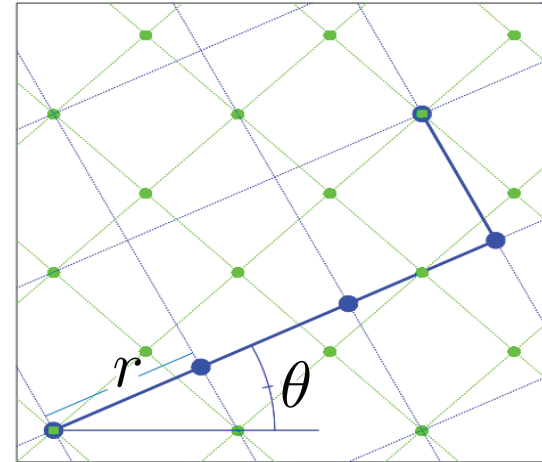
aperiodic tiling of the plane - R. Penrose 1970s



# Moiré patterns generate two component composites on any scale

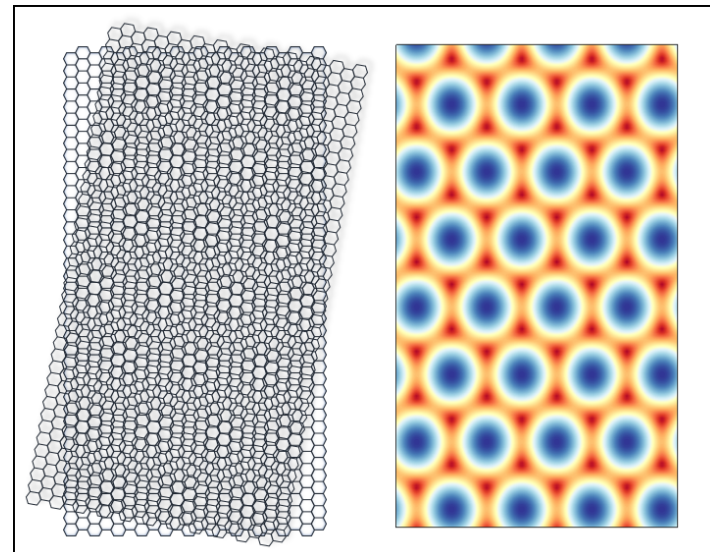
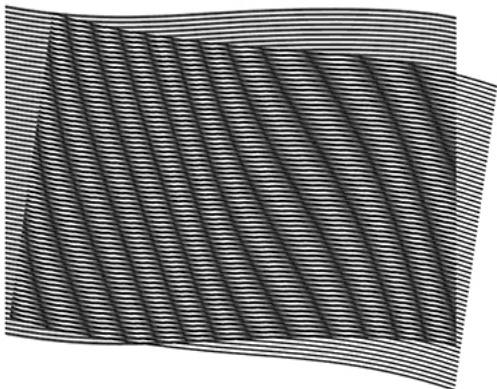
rotation  
dilation

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



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

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



quantum dots  
artificial atoms

Tran et al.  
Nature 2019

# Order to disorder in quasiperiodic composites

Morison, Murphy, Cherkaev, Golden, Comm. Phys. 2022

## sea ice inspired - twisted bilayer composites

tunable quasiperiodic composites with exotic properties

(optical, electrical, thermal) Anderson localization; our Moiré patterned geometries are similar to **twisted bilayer graphene**

increasing twist angle between two lattices

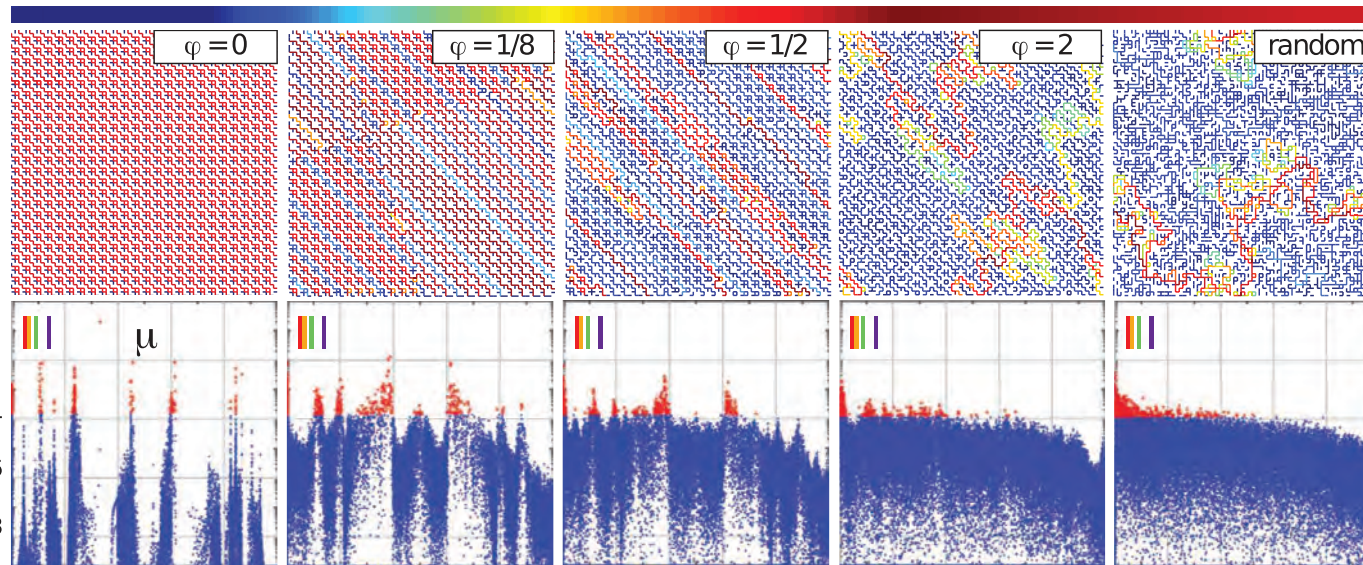
periodic

quasiperiodic

electric field strength

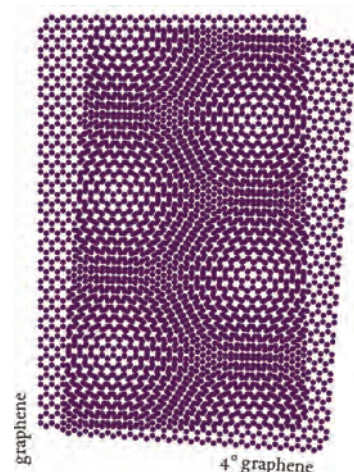
spectral measure

$10^{-4}$   
 $10^{-6}$   
 $10^{-8}$



twisted bilayer graphene

superconducting magic twist angle



communications physics

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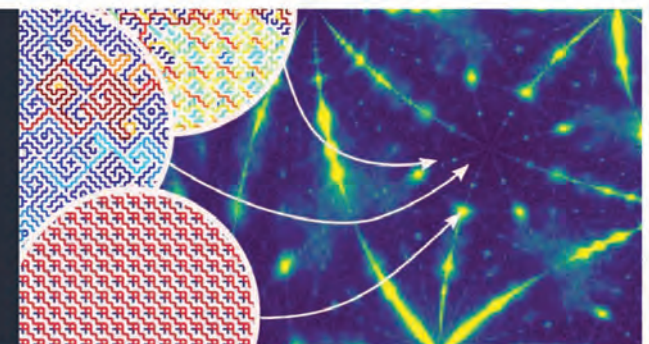
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[nature](#) > communications physics

### Order to disorder in quasiperiodic composites

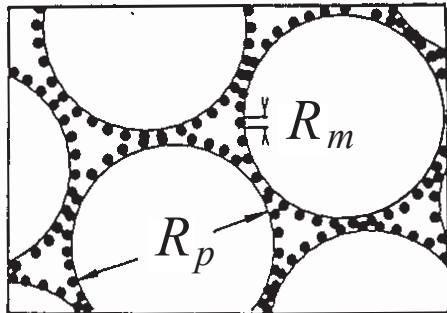
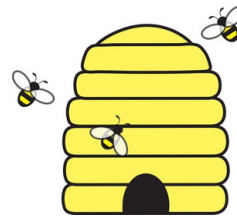
David Morison, N. Benjamin Murphy ... Kenneth M. Golden  
Article | 14 June 2022



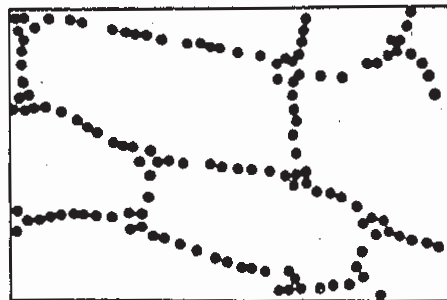
constellation of periodic systems in a sea of randomness



# cross pollination



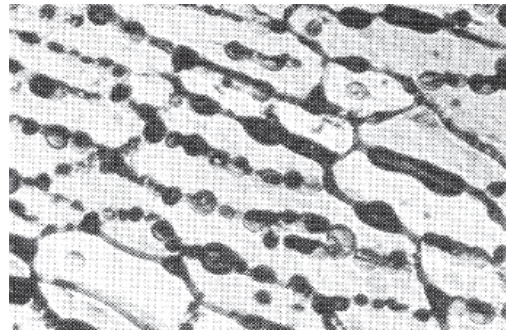
compressed powder



radar absorbing coating



Kusy & Turner  
Nature 1971



sea ice

Golden, Ackley, Lytle  
Science 1998

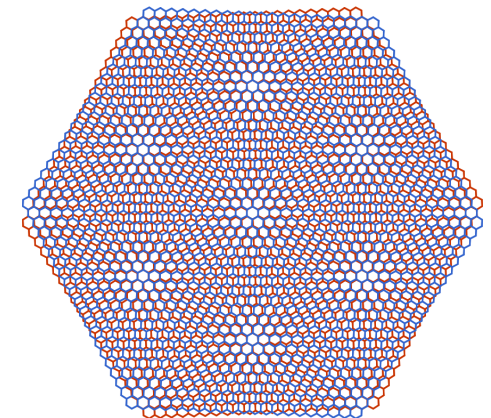
Rule of Fives  
fluid flow



human bone

Golden, Murphy, Cherkaev  
J. Biomechanics 2011

spectral analysis & RMT



twisted bilayer materials

Morison, Murphy, Cherkaev, Golden  
Communications Physics 2022

stealth technology, climate science, medical imaging, twistrionics



# 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**



## 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



# higher threshold for fluid flow in granular sea ice

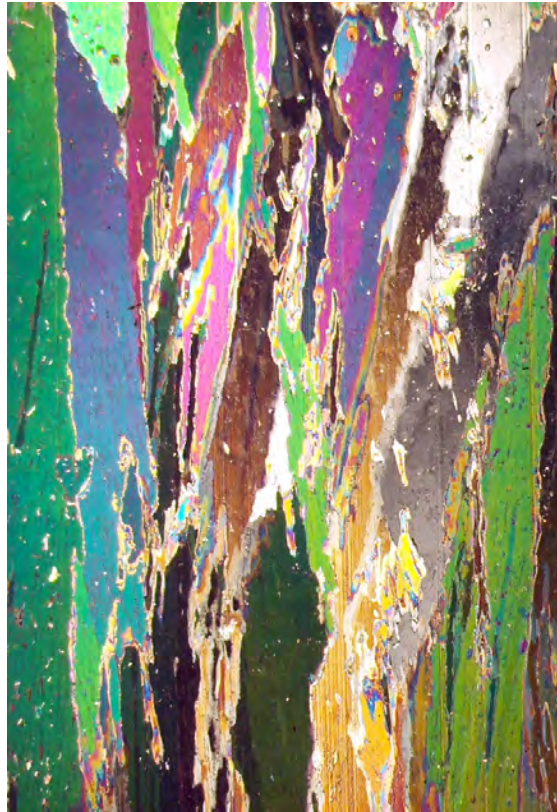
*microscale details impact “mesoscale” processes*

nutrient fluxes for microbes  
melt pond drainage  
snow-ice formation

columnar

granular

**5%**



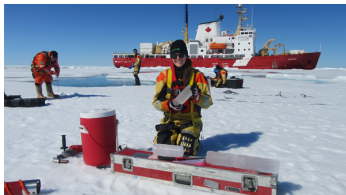
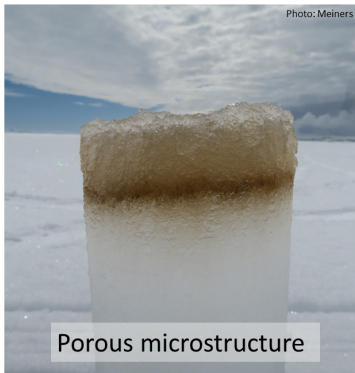
**10%**



Golden, Sampson, Gully, Lubbers, Mosier, Tison 2024

electromagnetically distinguish ice types  
inverse homogenization for polycrystals

# SEA ICE ALGAE



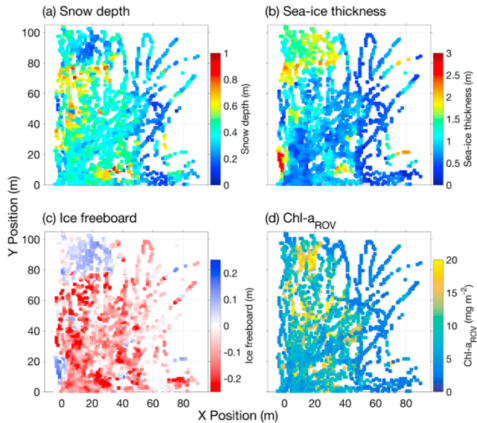
Can we improve agreement between algae models and data?

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

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



# HETEROGENEITY

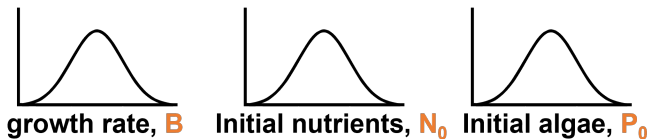


# HETEROGENEITY IN INITIAL CONDITIONS

At each location within a larger region, we could consider

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dN}{dt} &= \alpha - \textcolor{brown}{B}NP - \eta N \\ \frac{dP}{dt} &= \gamma \textcolor{brown}{B}NP - \delta P\end{aligned}\quad \text{treating parameters as random variables}$$

$$N(0) = \textcolor{brown}{N}_0, \quad P(0) = \textcolor{brown}{P}_0$$



But, Monte Carlo for Full Algae Model: 8 hours X 10,000

**METHOD**

# Uncertainty quantification for ecological models with random parameters

Jody R. Reimer<sup>1,2</sup>  | Frederick R. Adler<sup>1,2</sup>  | Kenneth M. Golden<sup>1</sup>  | Akil Narayan<sup>1,3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

<sup>2</sup>School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

<sup>3</sup>Scientific Computing and Imaging Institute, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

**Correspondences**

Jody R. Reimer, Department of Mathematics and School of Biological Sciences, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Email: [reimer@math.utah.edu](mailto:reimer@math.utah.edu)

**Abstract**

There is often considerable uncertainty in parameters in ecological models. This uncertainty can be incorporated into models by treating parameters as random variables with distributions, rather than fixed quantities. Recent advances in uncertainty quantification methods, such as polynomial chaos approaches, allow for the analysis of models with random parameters. We introduce these methods with a motivating case study of sea ice algal blooms in heterogeneous environments. We compare Monte Carlo methods with polynomial chaos techniques to help understand the dynamics of an algal bloom model with random parameters.

**Introduce polynomial chaos approach to widely used ecological ODE models, but with random parameters.**



# POLYNOMIAL CHAOS EXPANSIONS

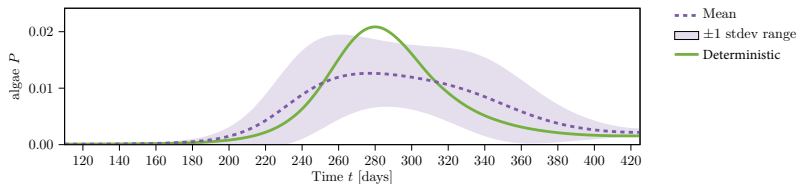
$$N(t; B, P_0, N_0) \approx N_V(t; B, P_0, N_0) := \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{N}_j(t) \phi_j(B, P_0, N_0),$$

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

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

**Inverse Problem:** given algal and nutrient data, recover growth rate distribution  
Anthony Lee, Jody Reimer, Akil Narayan, Ken Golden 2024

**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

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

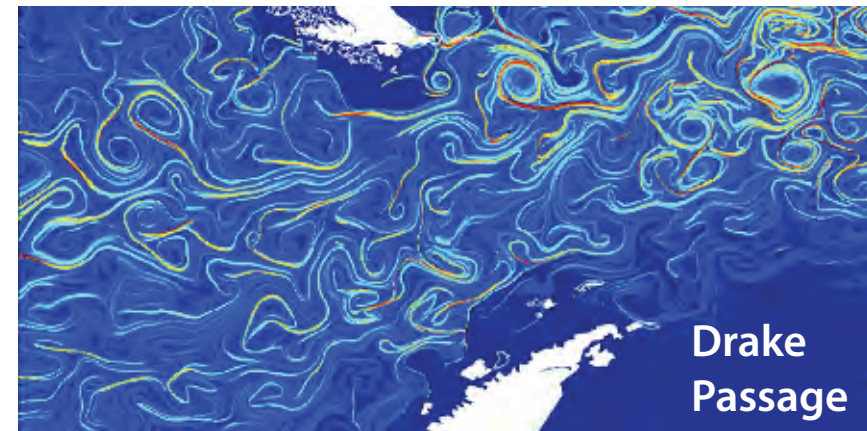
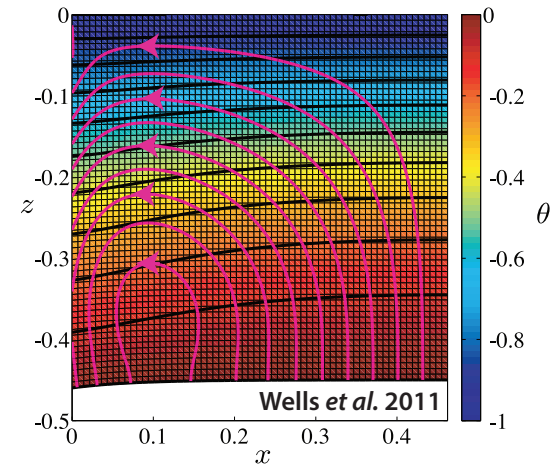
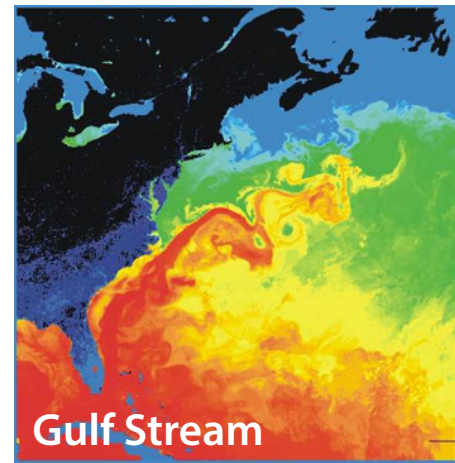
$\kappa^*$  effective diffusivity

**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



# Stieltjes Integral Representation for Advection Diffusion

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

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

- $\mu$  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
- $\Gamma := -\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1}\nabla$  ,  $\Delta$  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

**rigorous framework for numerical computations of spectral measures and effective diffusivity for model flows**

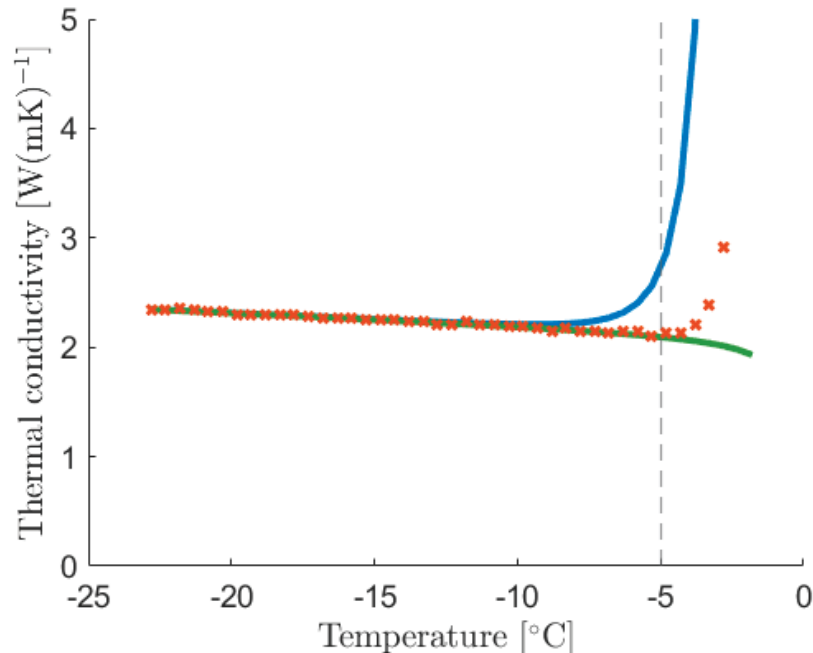
**new integral representations, theory of moment calculations**

**separation of material properties and flow field**



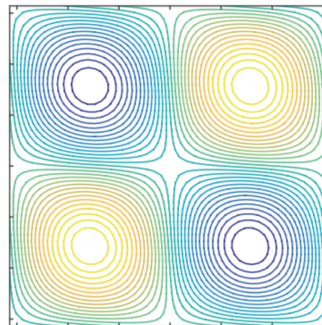
# Bounds on Convection Enhanced Thermal Transport

**simulations**



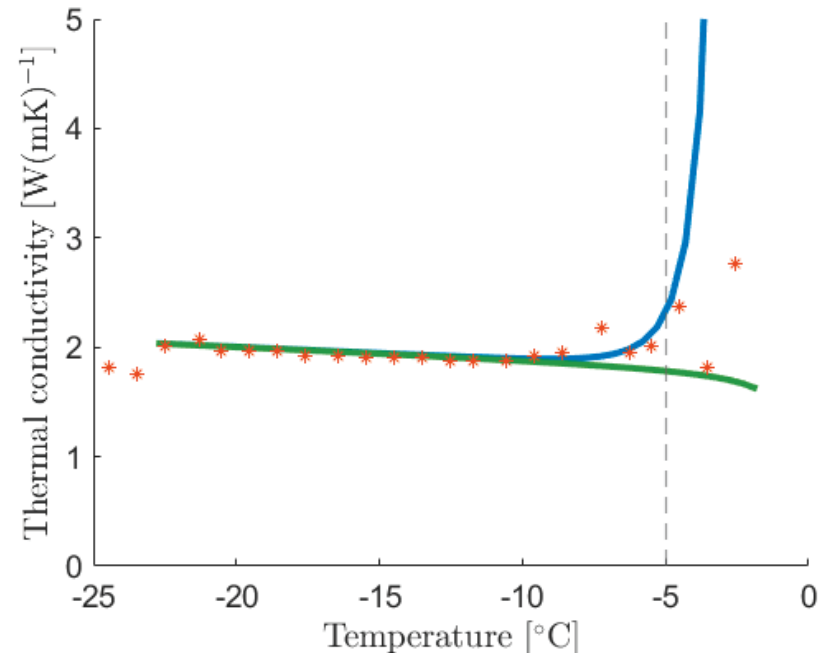
**Monte-Carlo simulations of SDE with temperature dependent Péclet number  $P$**

strength of advection  $B = \kappa P / 2\pi$   
Euler-Maruyama and subsampling  
methods for SDE



**cat's eye flow model for  
brine convective flow**

**data** [Trodahl et al., 2001]



**Rigorous Padé approximant bounds in terms of  $P$  using Stieltjes integral + analytic continuation method for the measure**

Darcy velocity  $v = 0.5$  [m/s]

# wave propagation in the marginal ice zone (MIZ)

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

Sampson, Murphy, Hallman, Cherkaev, Golden 2024

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  $\epsilon^*$

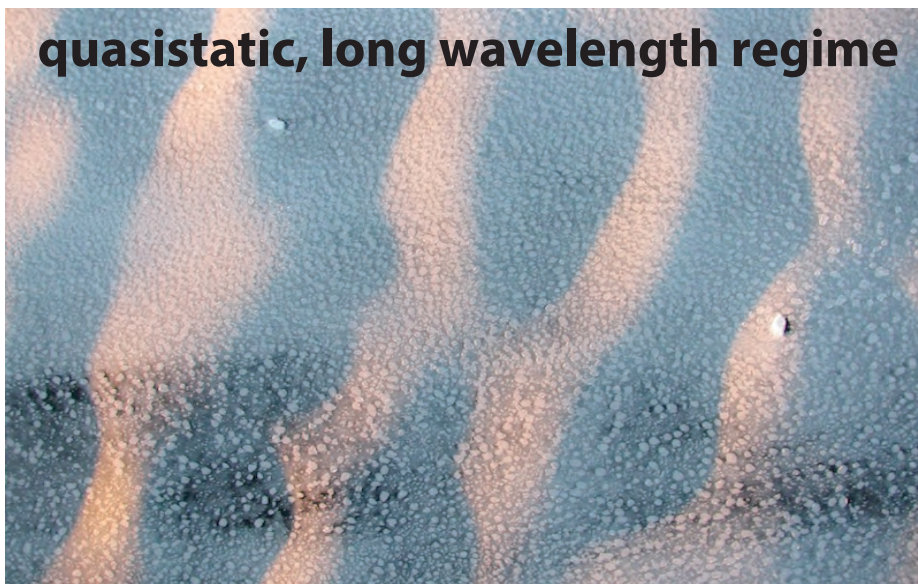
Golden and Papanicolaou (83)

Milton, *Theory of Composites* (02)

quasistatic, long wavelength regime

homogenized parameter depends on sea ice concentration and ice floe geometry

like EM waves

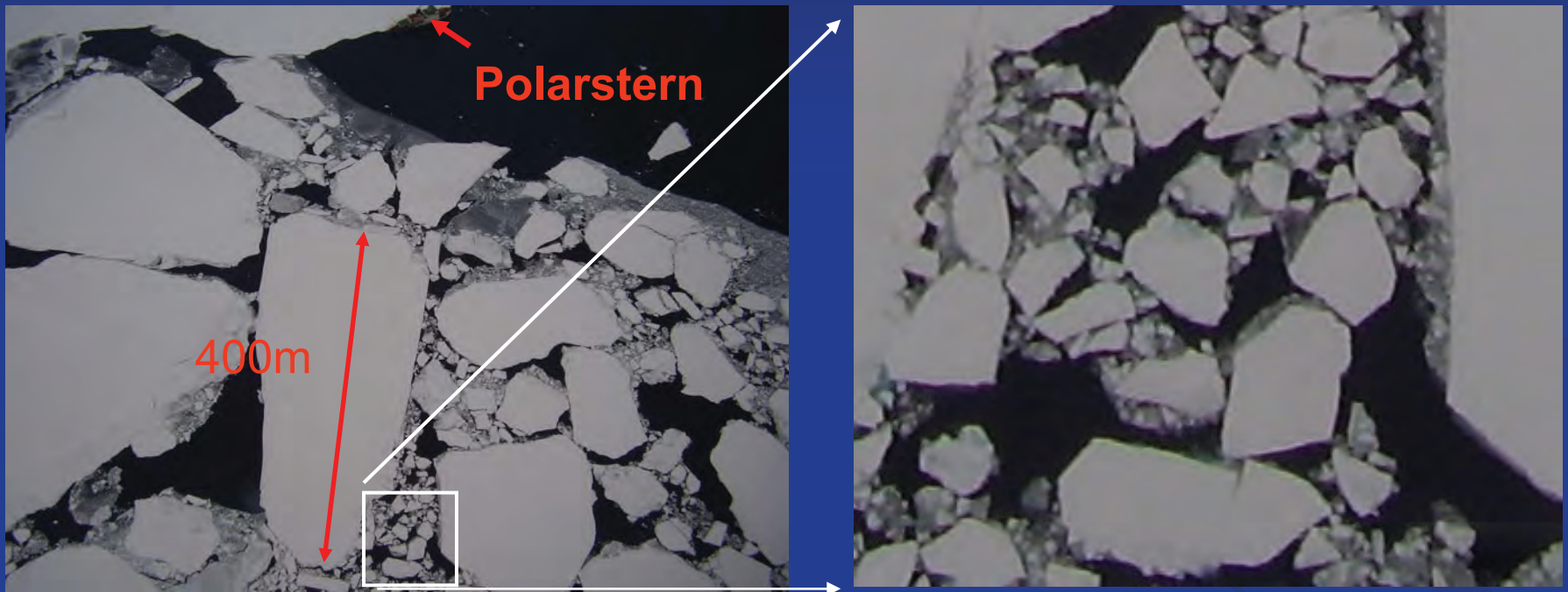




# The sea ice pack has fractal structure.

## Self-similarity of sea ice floes

Weddell Sea, Antarctica



***fractal dimensions of Okhotsk Sea ice pack  
smaller scales  $D \sim 1.2$ , larger scales  $D \sim 1.9$***

**fractal dim. vs. floe size exponent**

Adam Dorsky, Nash Ward, Ken Golden 2024

Toyota, et al. *Geophys. Res. Lett.* 2006

Rothrock and Thorndike, *J. Geophys. Res.* 1984



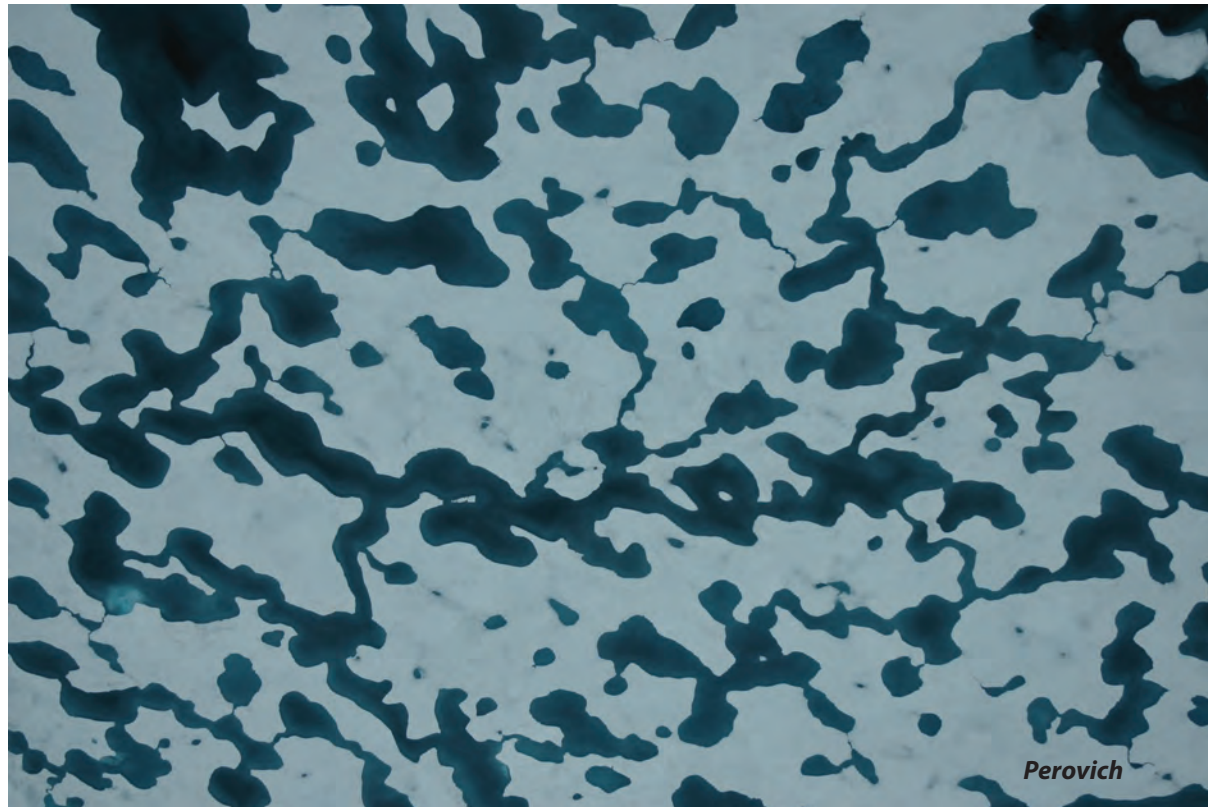
# *melt pond formation and albedo evolution:*

- *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



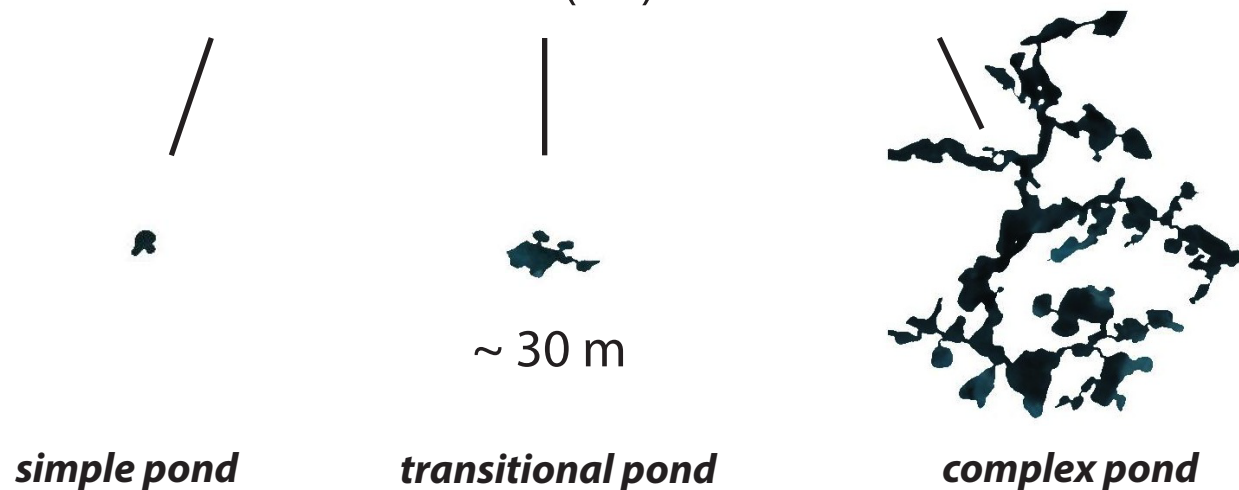
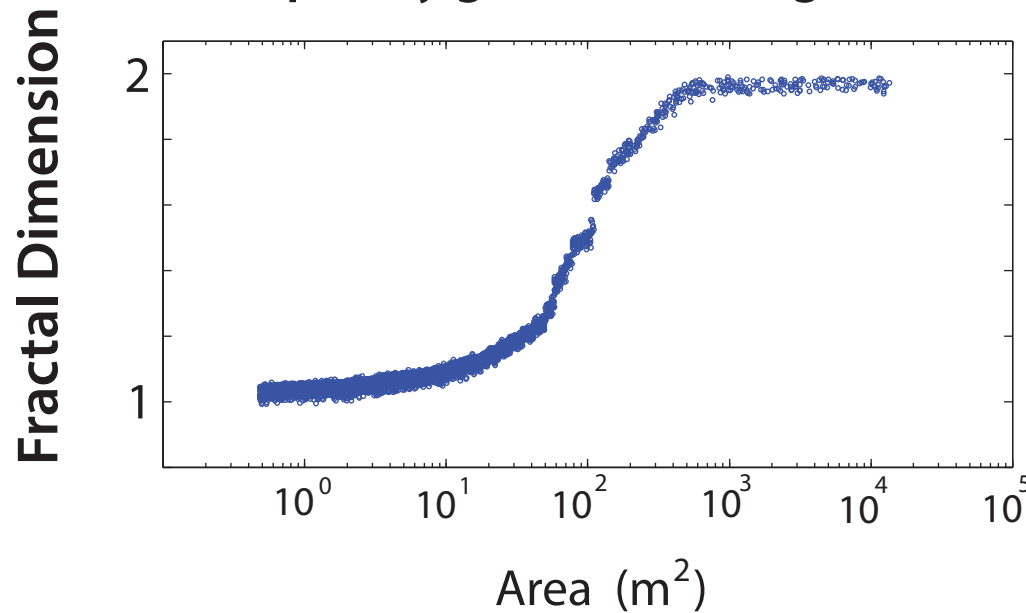
**Are there universal features of the evolution similar to phase transitions in statistical physics?**

# *Transition in the fractal geometry of Arctic melt ponds*

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

*The Cryosphere, 2012*

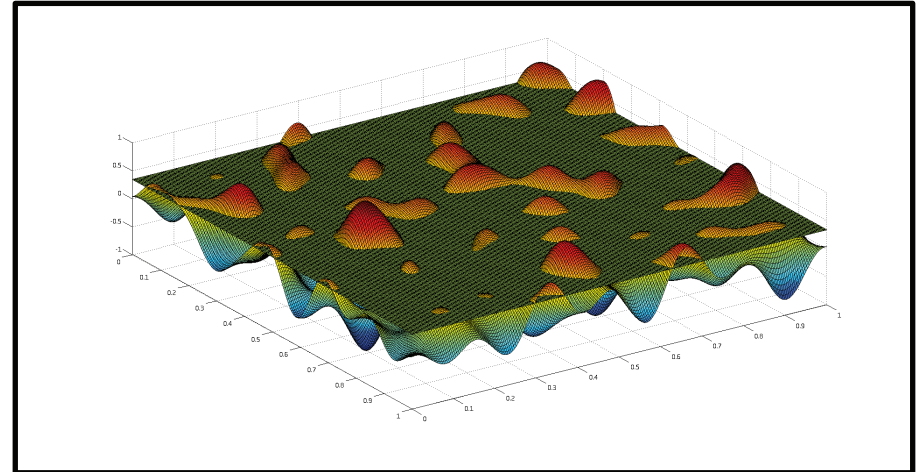
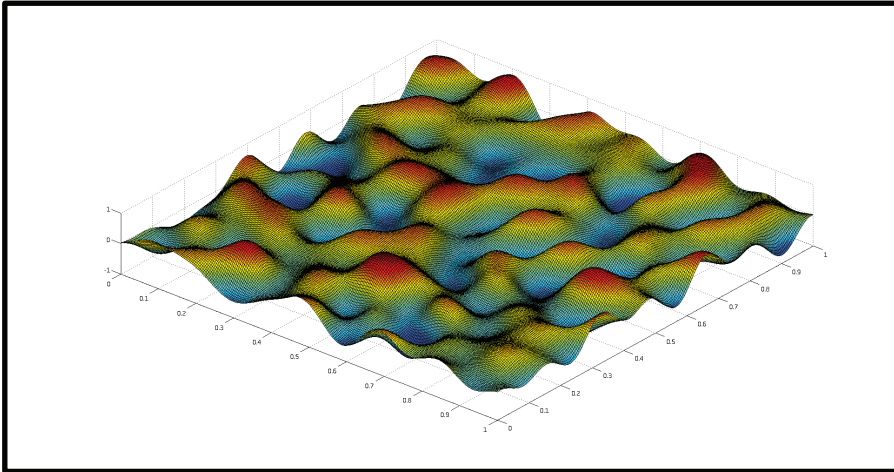
complexity grows with length scale



# Continuum percolation model for melt pond evolution

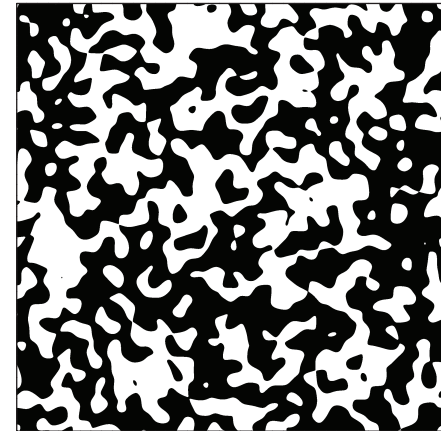
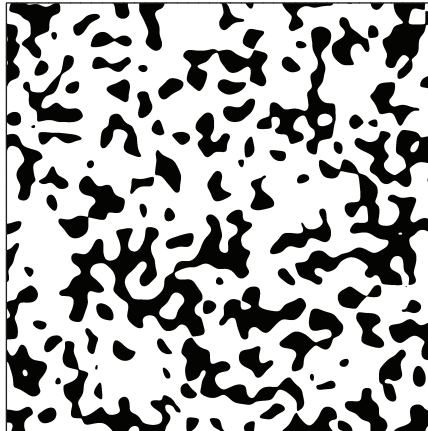
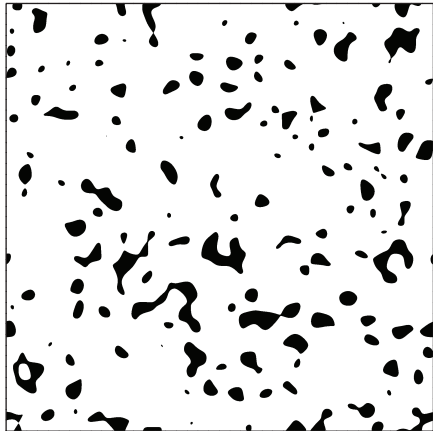
## *level sets of random surfaces*

*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*



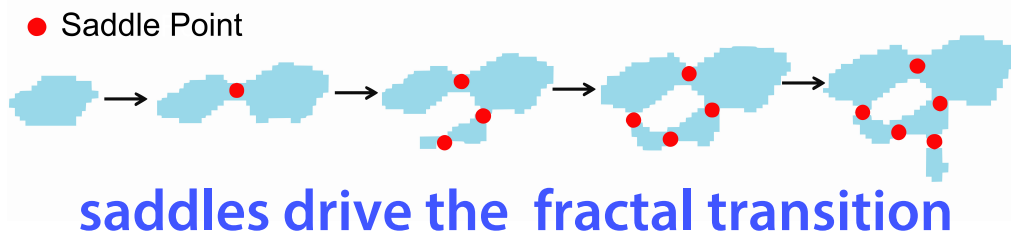
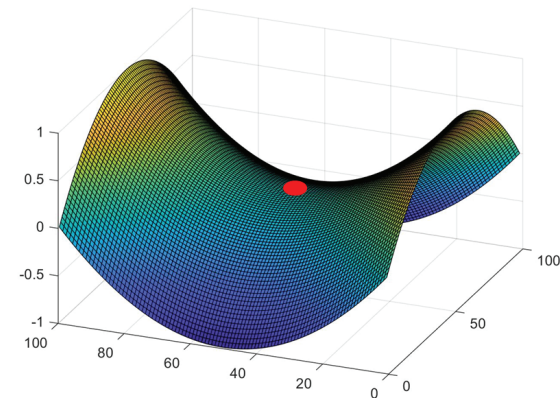
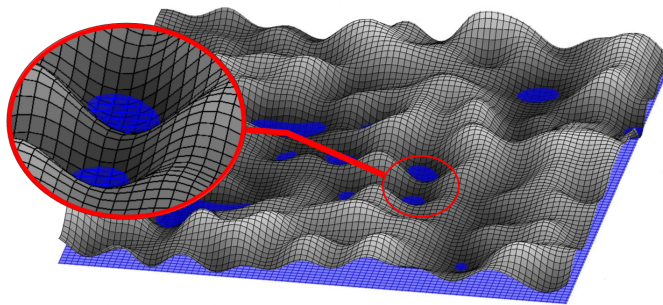
# Topology of the sea ice surface and the fractal geometry of Arctic melt ponds

*Physical Review Research* (invited, under revision)

Ryleigh Moore, Jacob Jones, Dane Gollero,  
Rebecca Hardenbrook, 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

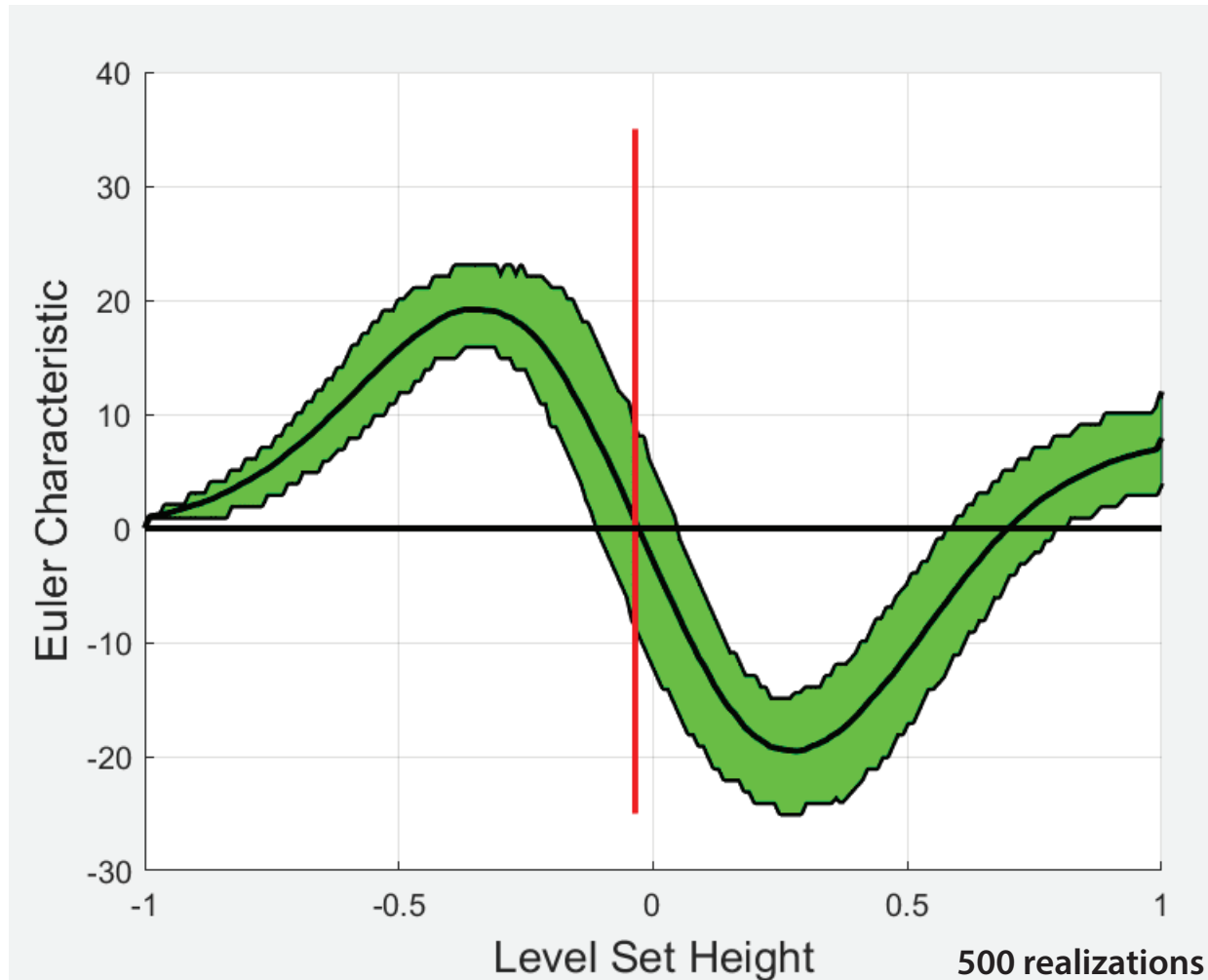
# Topological Data Analysis

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

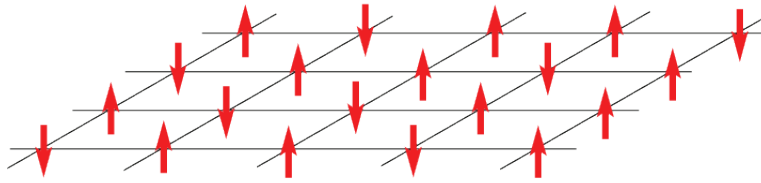
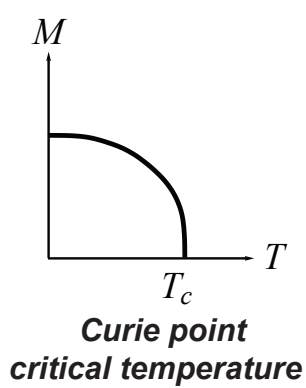
Bobrowski &  
Skraba, 2020

Carlsson, 2009

Vogel, 2002 GRF

image analysis  
porous media  
cosmology  
brain activity

# Ising Model for a Ferromagnet



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

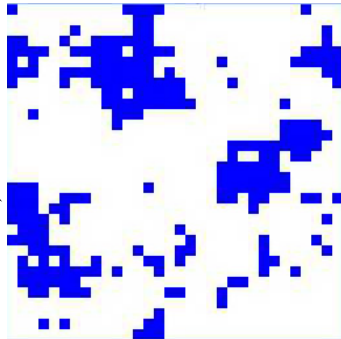
$$\mathcal{H} = -H \sum_i s_i - J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} s_i s_j$$

nearest neighbor Ising Hamiltonian

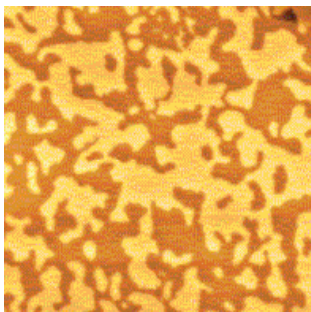
$$M(T, H) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left\langle \sum_j s_j \right\rangle$$

effective magnetization

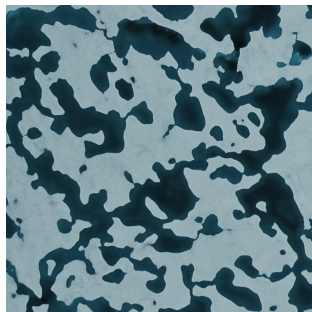
islands of like spins



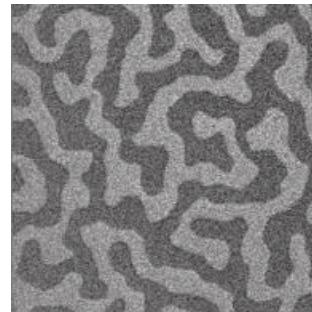
energy is lowered when nearby spins align with each other, forming **magnetic domains**



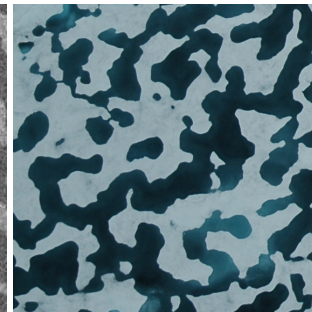
magnetic domains in cobalt



melt ponds (Perovich)



magnetic domains in cobalt-iron-boron



melt ponds (Perovich)



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

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

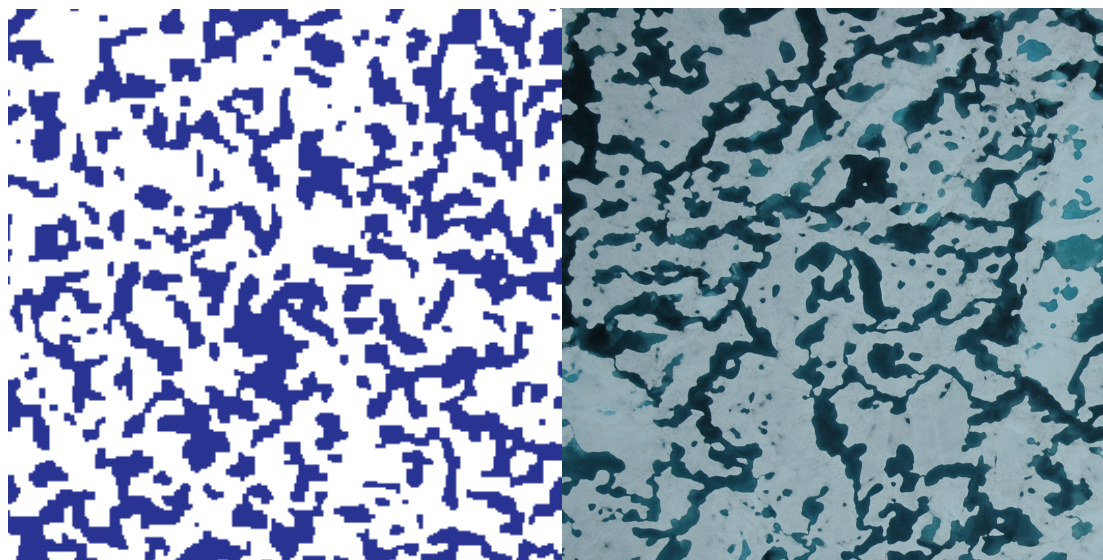
$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_i^N H_i s_i - J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle}^N s_i s_j \quad s_i = \begin{cases} \uparrow & +1 \text{ water (spin up)} \\ \downarrow & -1 \text{ ice (spin down)} \end{cases}$$

random magnetic field  
represents snow topography

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

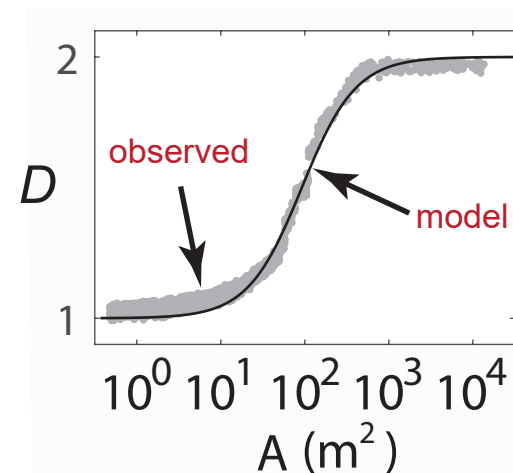
Starting with random initial configurations, as Hamiltonian energy is minimized by Glauber spin flip dynamics, system “flows” toward metastable equilibria.

## *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, ...*

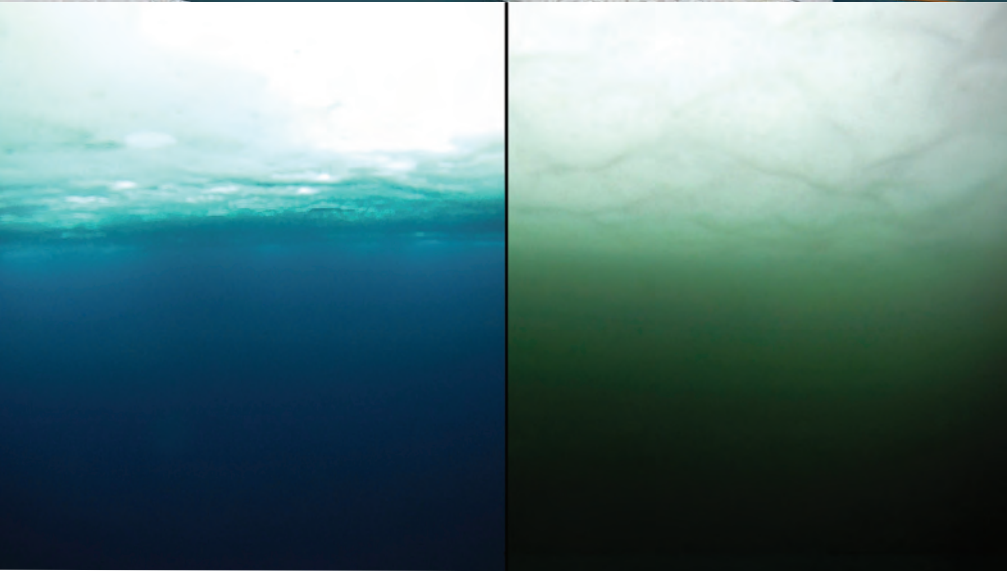
**ONLY MEASURED INPUT = LENGTH SCALE (GRID SIZE) from snow topography data**



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

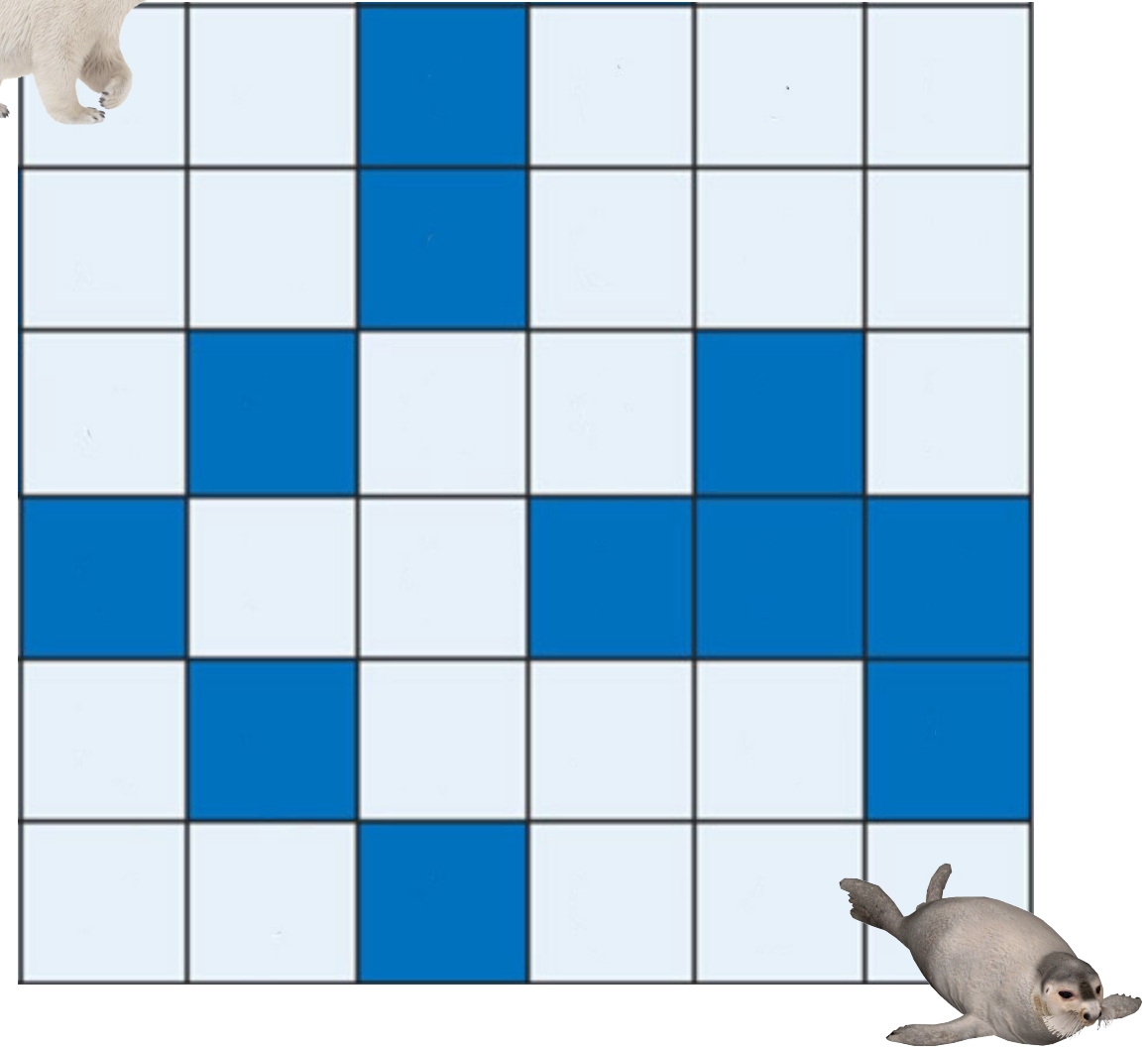
(2015 AMS MRC)

# Optimal Movement of a Polar Bear in a Heterogenous Icescape

Nicole Forrester, Jody Reimer, Ken Golden 2024

Polar bears expend 5X more energy swimming than walking on sea ice.

**As sea ice is lost, how do polar bears optimize their movement to save energy and survive?**

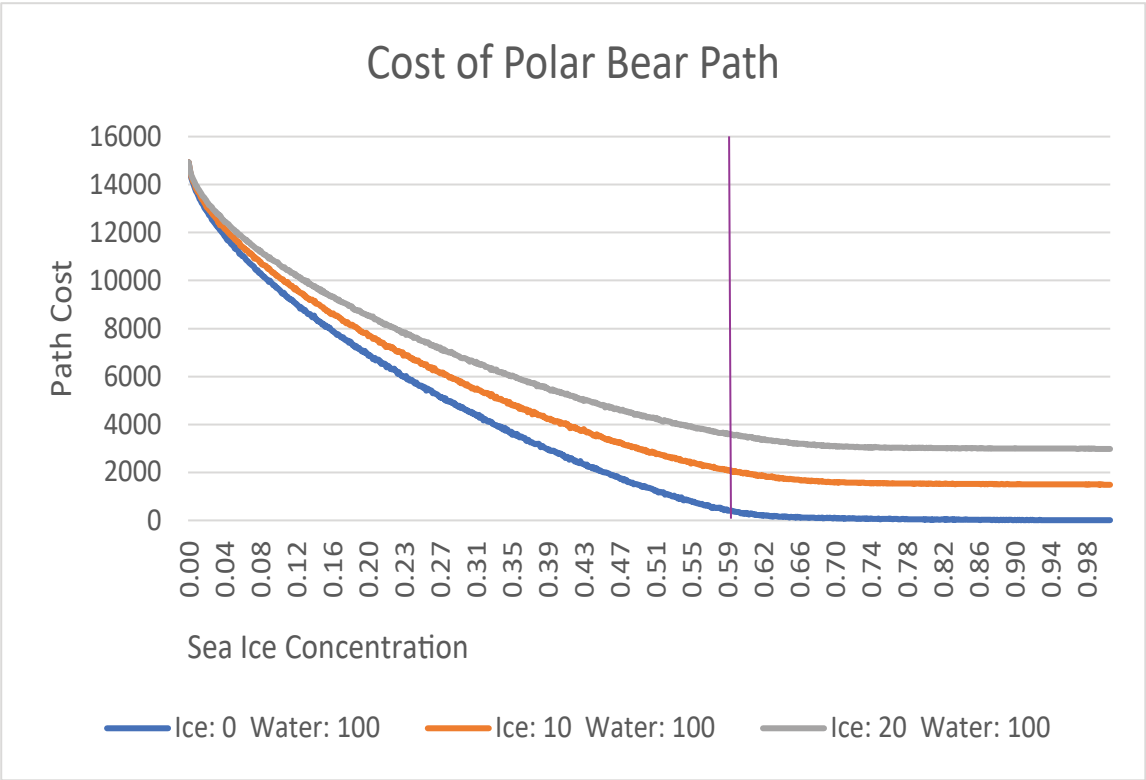




# Polar Bear Percolation

To study the importance of ice connectedness, we exaggerate the data by setting the cost of walking on ice to 0 with the cost of swimming still at 5.

$C(p)$



$$h = \frac{C_i}{C_w}$$

ratio of local  
“conductivities”

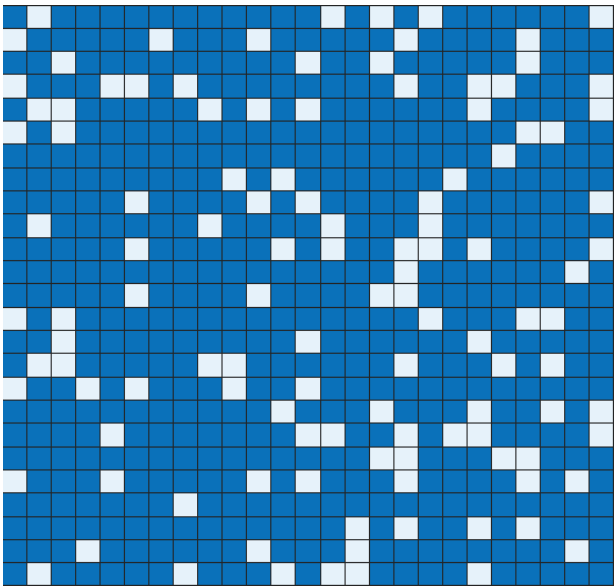
- ←  $h = 0.2$
- ←  $h = 0.1$
- ←  $h = 0$

site percolation  
threshold

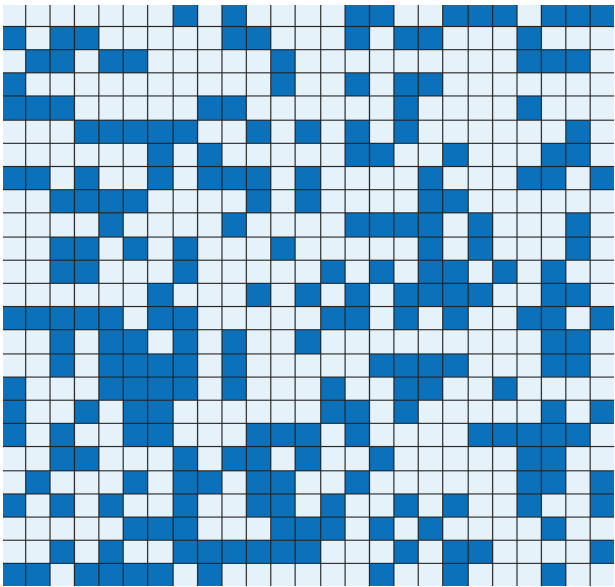
$p_c = 0.59$  for  $d = 2$

Polar Bear  
Critical  
Exponent

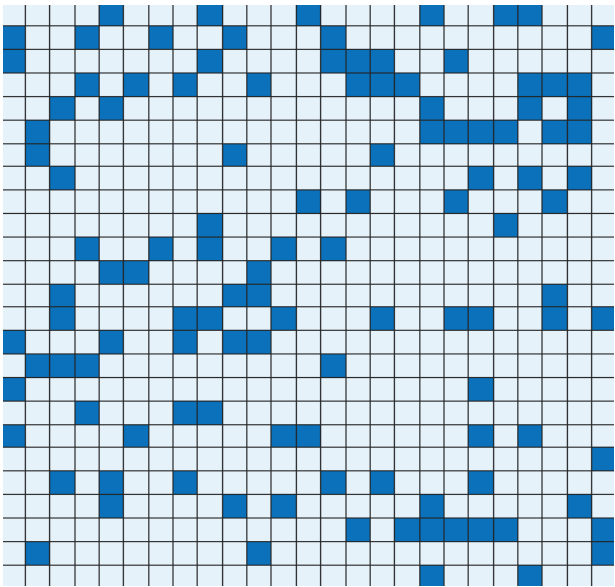
- ←  $h = 0$



20% Ice

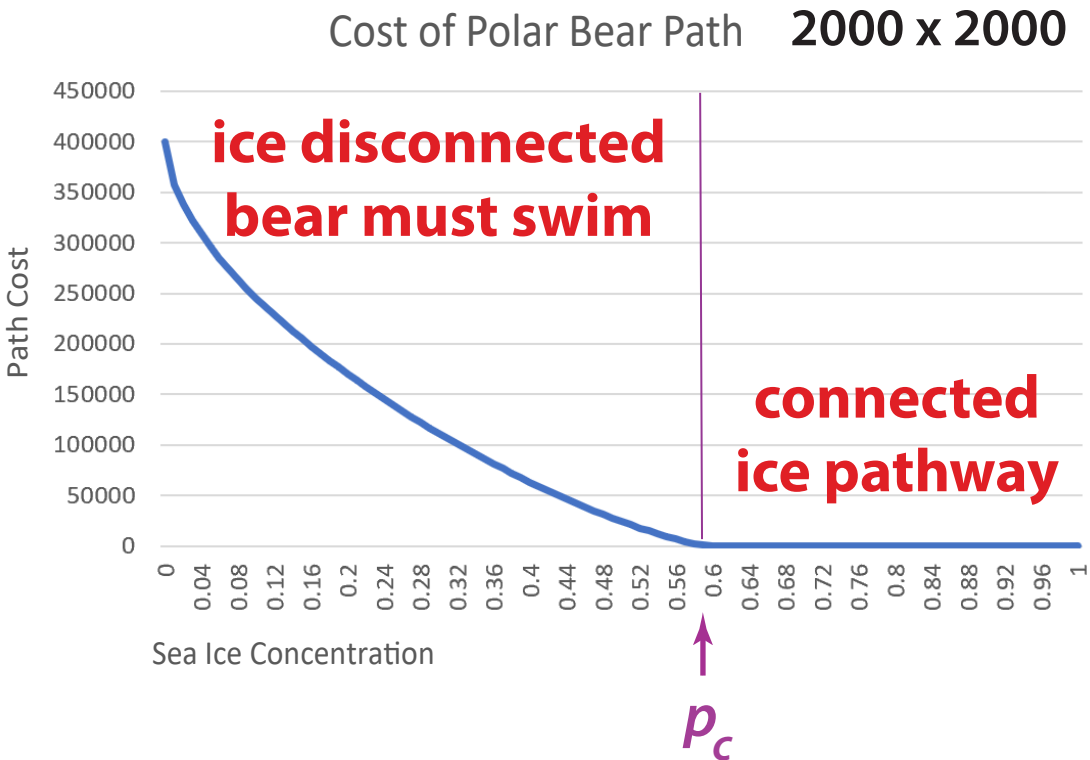


60% Ice



80% Ice

$C(p)$

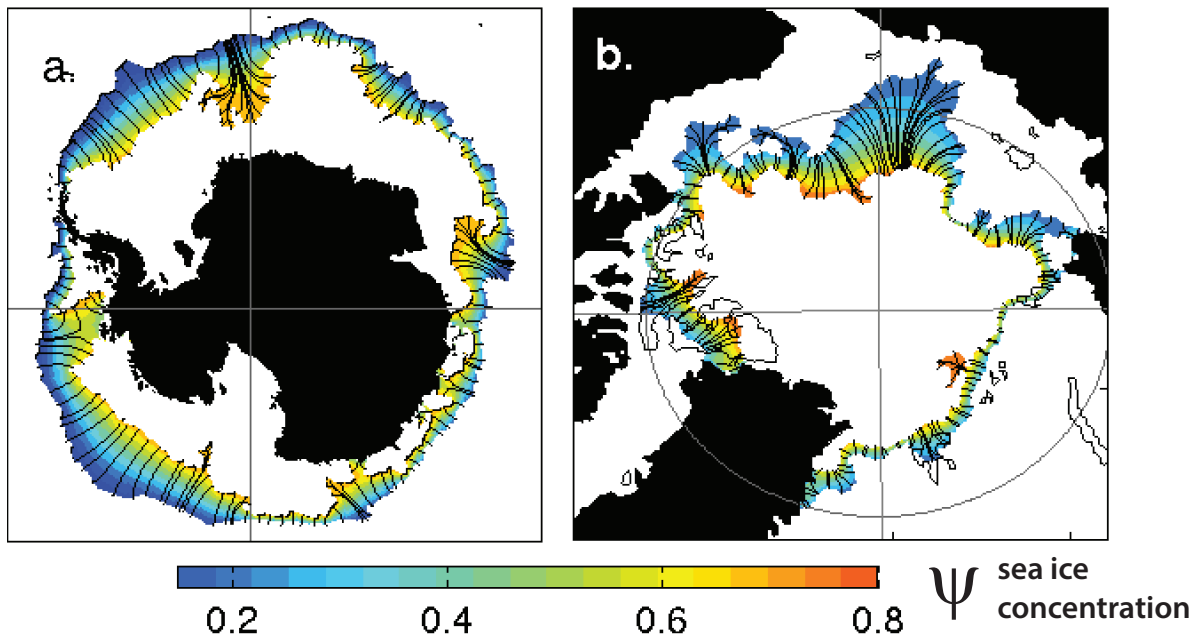


**macroscale**

# Marginal Ice Zone

## MIZ

- biologically active region
- intense ocean-sea ice-atmosphere interactions
- region of significant wave-ice interactions
- dramatic seasonal cycle, 40% widening



### MIZ WIDTH

fundamental length scale of  
ecological and climate dynamics

Strong, *Climate Dynamics* 2012

Strong and Rigor, *GRL* 2013

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

transitional region between  
dense pack ice ( $c > 80\%$ )  
open ocean ( $c < 15\%$ )

How to objectively  
measure the width of  
this complex region?

$$\nabla^2 \psi = 0$$

rat brain

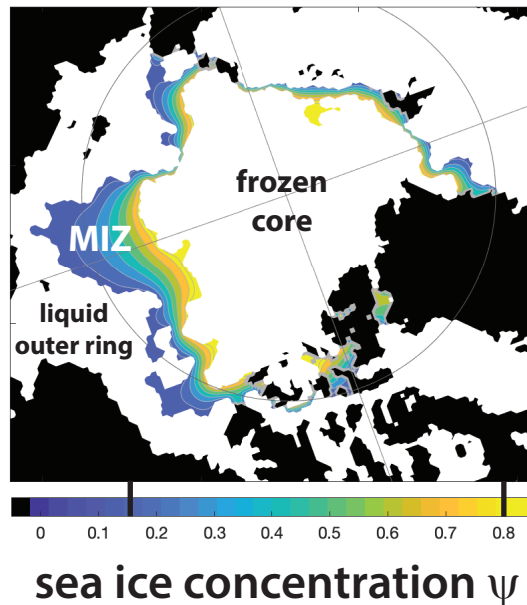


$$\nabla \cdot (\sigma \nabla \psi) = 0$$



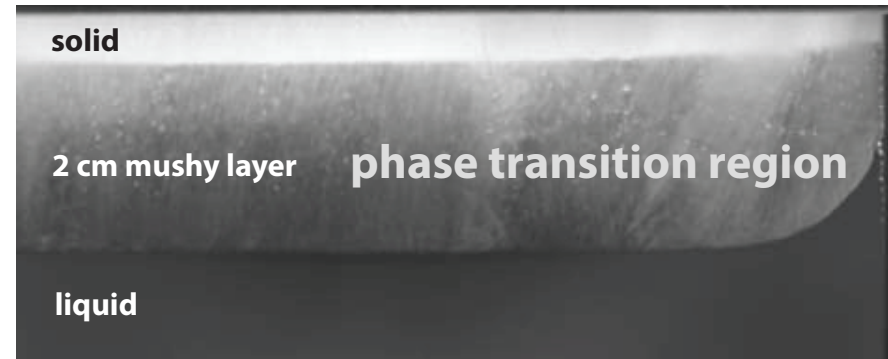
Model larger scale effective behavior  
with partial differential equations that  
*homogenize* complex local structure and dynamics.

## Arctic MIZ



Predict MIZ width and location with  
basin-scale phase change model.

seasonal and long term trends



NaCl-H<sub>2</sub>O in lab  
(Peppin et al., 2007; J. Fluid Mech.)

Partial differential equation models  
and deep learning for the sea ice  
concentration field, 2024

Delaney Mosier, Eric Brown, Court Strong,  
Jingyi Zhu, Bao Wang, Ken Golden

advection diffusion model

Arctic marginal ice zone annual cycle explained by  
ocean-scale mushy layer model, 2024

C. Strong, E. Cherkaev, and K. M. Golden

northward 1600 km & widens by factor of 4

# MIZ as a moving phase transition region

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) + S$$

$$S = [\rho(c_l - c_s)T + \rho L] \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t}$$

$$\psi = 1 - \left( \frac{T - T_s}{T_l - T_s} \right)^\alpha$$

$$k_x = \left( \frac{\psi}{k_s} + \frac{1 - \psi}{k_l} \right)^{-1}$$

$$k_z = \psi k_s + (1 - \psi) k_l$$

**homogenization**

$\rho$  effective density

$T$  temperature

$c$  specific heat

$L$  latent heat of fusion

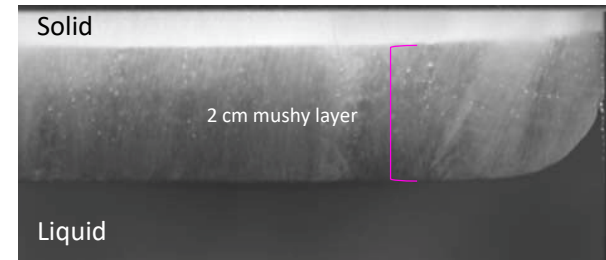
$S$  models nonlinear phase change

$\psi$  sea ice concentration

$k$  effective diffusivity

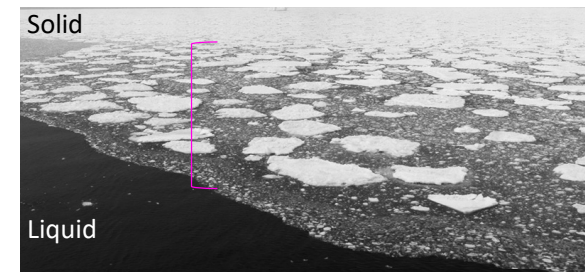
$l$  liquid,  $s$  solid

Classical small-scale application



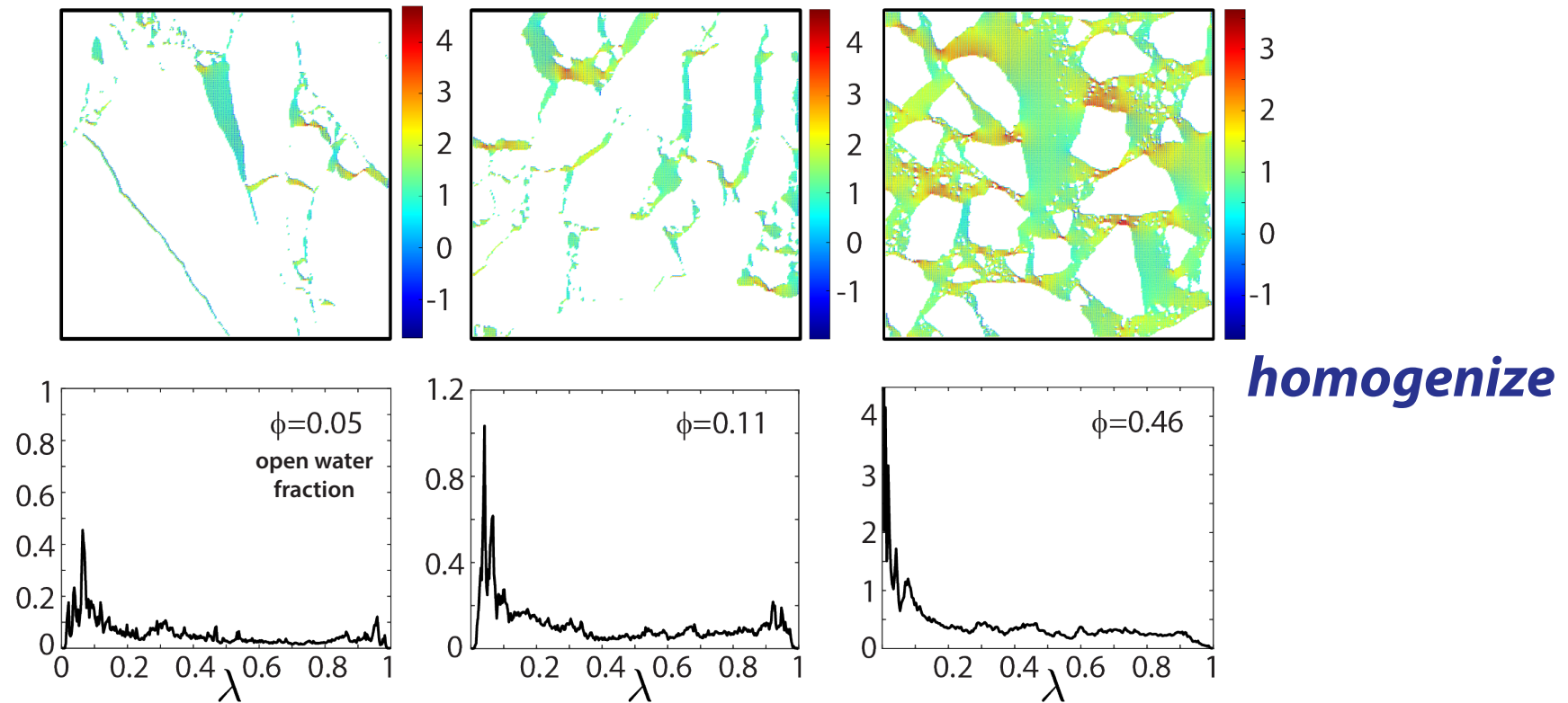
NaCl-H<sub>2</sub>O in lab  
(Peppin et al., 2007; J. Fluid Mech.)

Macroscale application



- Develop multiscale PDE model for simulating phase transition fronts to predict MIZ seasonal cycles and decadal trends
- Model simulates MIZ as a large-scale mushy layer with effective thermal conductivity derived from physics of composite materials

# thermal flow field through the ice cover: multiscale granular composite



spectral measures for 2D  
horizontal thermal conductivity

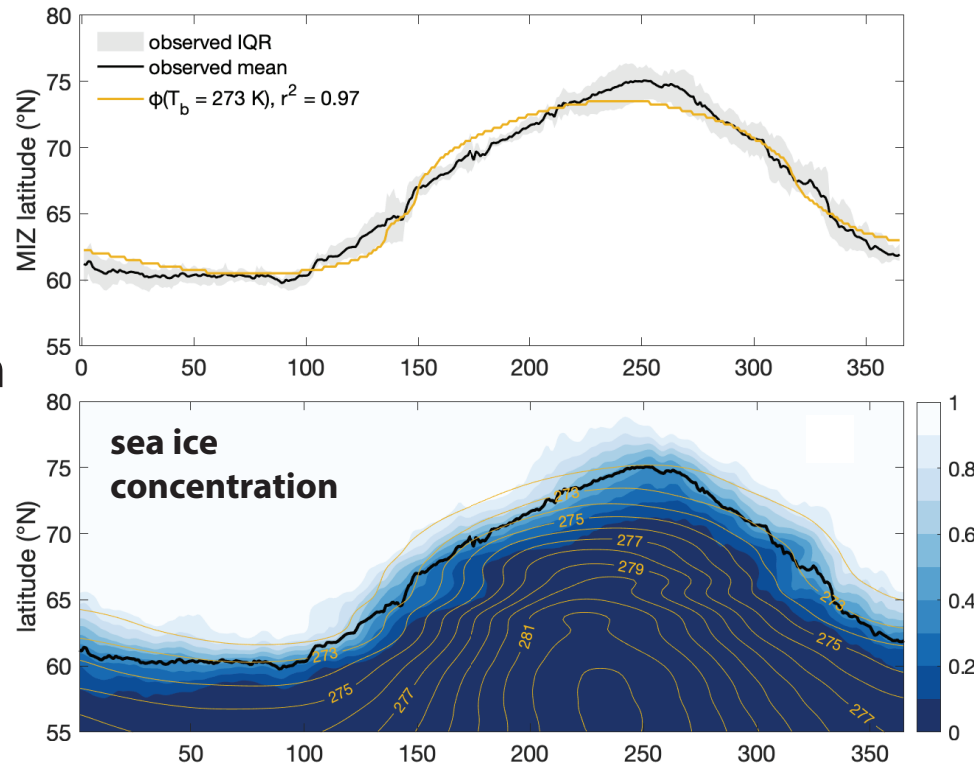
homogenized thermal conductivity is a key parameter in MIZ mushy layer model



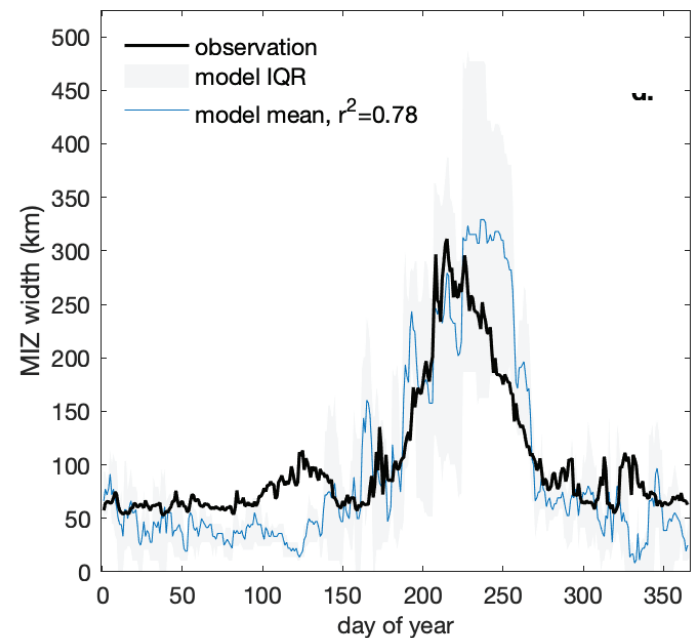
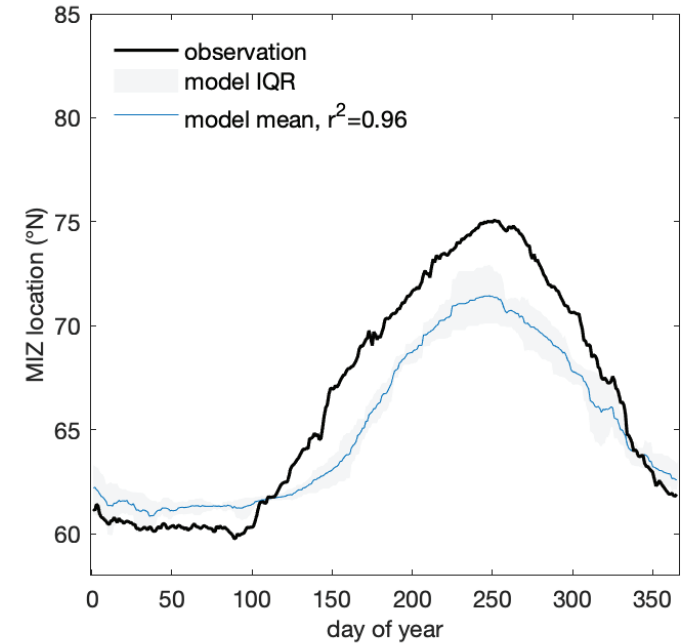
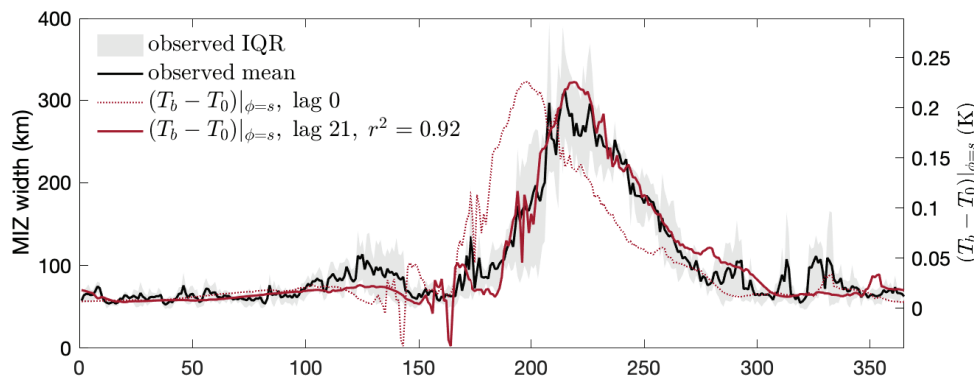
# MIZ observations

# MIZ model vs. observations

location

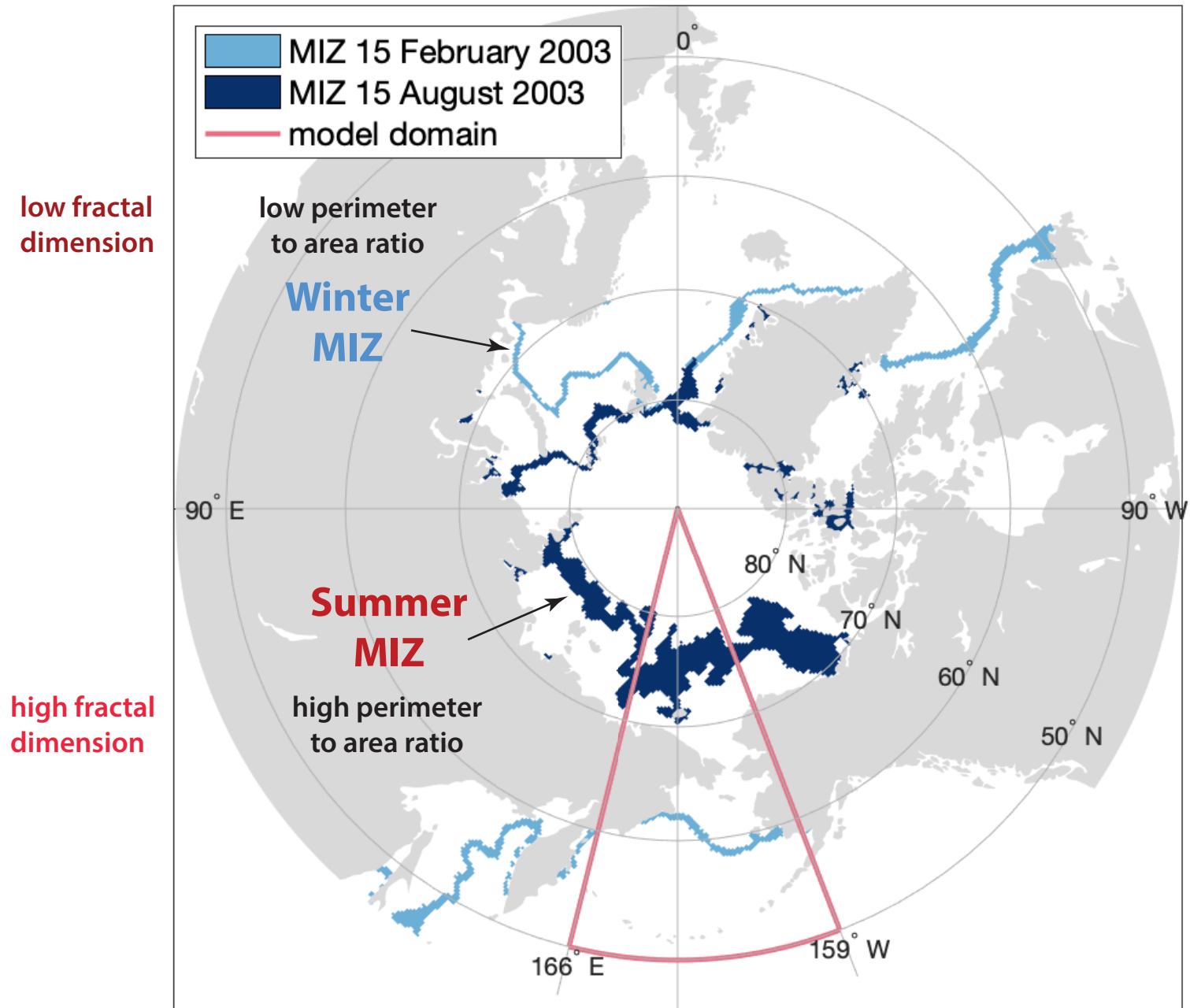


width



**Model captures basic physics of MIZ dynamics.**

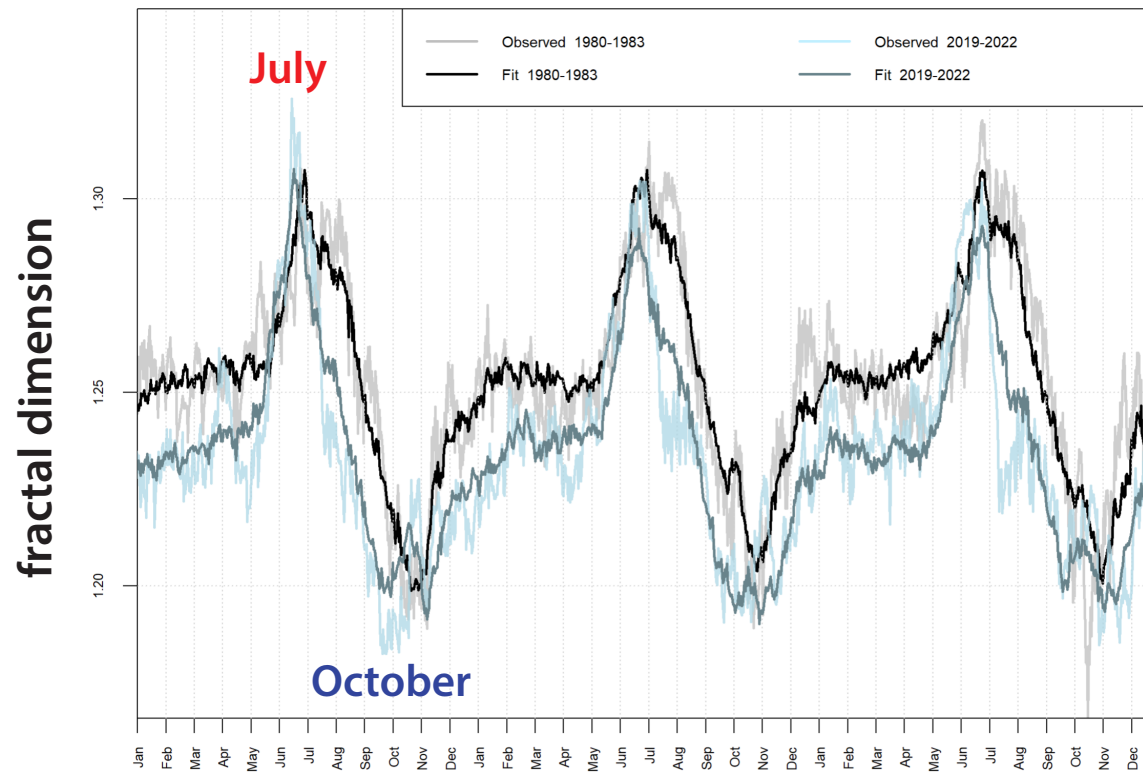
# Observed Arctic MIZ



# Evolution of the Fractal Geometry of the Arctic Marginal Ice Zone

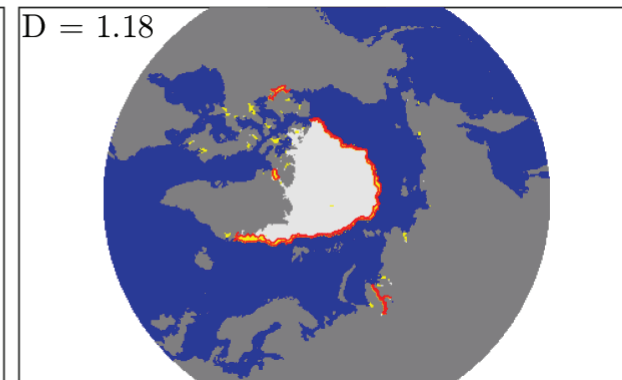
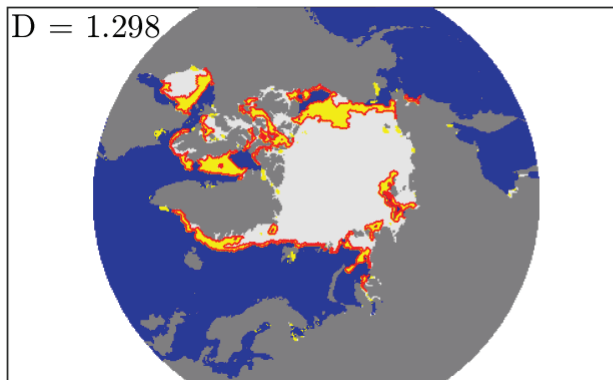
Julie Sherman, Court Strong, Ken Golden 2024

Compute the fractal dimension of the boundary of the Arctic MIZ by boxcounting methods; analyze seasonal cycle and long term trends.



early summer

2012



early autumn

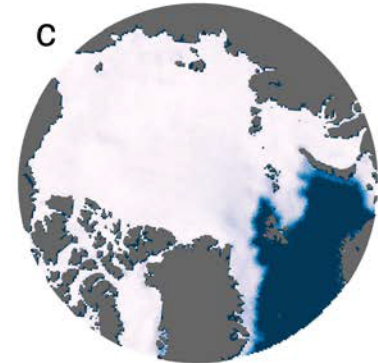
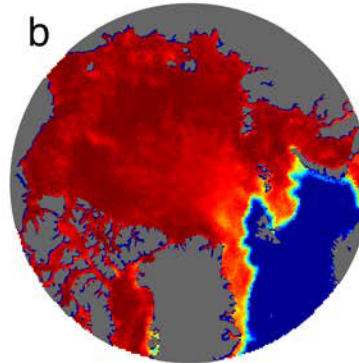
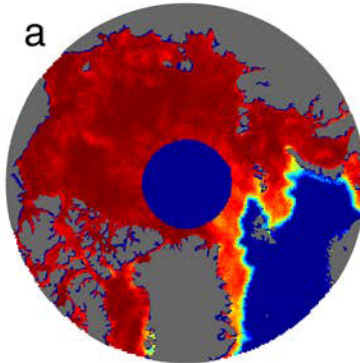


# Filling the polar data gap with partial differential equations

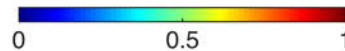
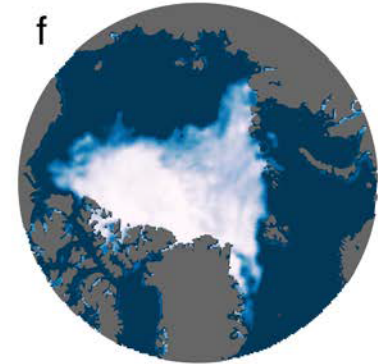
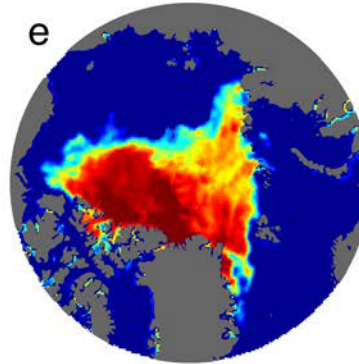
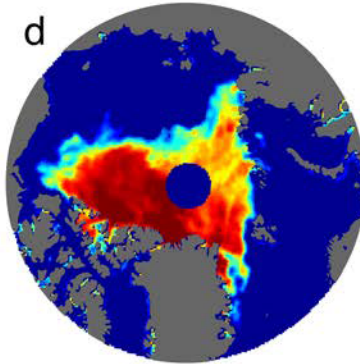
hole in satellite coverage  
of sea ice concentration field

previously assumed  
ice covered

Gap radius: 611 km  
06 January 1985



Gap radius: 311 km  
30 August 2007



$$\Delta\psi=0$$

fill = harmonic function satisfying  
satellite BC's plus learned stochastic term

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

Global Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Records, 2022  
Lavergne, Sorensen, et al., Norwegian Met. Inst., ... OSI SAF

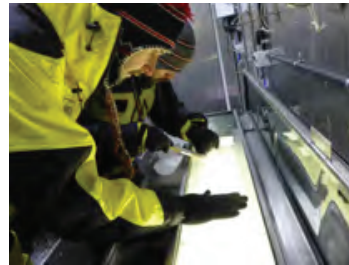
# Conclusions

Our research is helping to improve projections of climate change, the fate of Earth's sea ice packs, and the ecosystems they support.

Mathematics for sea ice advances the theory of composites, inverse problems, and other areas of science and engineering.

**Modeling sea ice leads to unexpected  
areas of math and physics.**

**Thank you to so many postdocs, graduate students, undergraduates, high school students and colleagues who contributed to this work!**



**U. of Utah students in the Arctic and Antarctic (2003-2022): closing the gap between theory and observation - making math models come alive and experiencing climate change firsthand.**





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# Notices

of the American Mathematical Society

November 2020

Volume 67, Number 10





The applied math group at the University of Utah - 15 faculty - has been awarded an NSF Research Training Grant (RTG) on:

## optimization and inverse problems

July 2022 - June 2027

**Overall goal: Build an advanced, competitive U.S. STEM workforce.**

- Strengthen our graduate and postdoctoral programs in applied math to attract top students in the nation, and place them in top jobs.
- Diversify the pipeline with recruiting efforts at the HS and early undergrad levels; broaden participation in research experiences at these levels.
- Provide transformative experiences that draw students into math.

**Arctic Mathpeditions - May 2024 & 2026**

**OPEN POSITIONS:**

**Postdoctoral, Ph.D., Undergraduate**

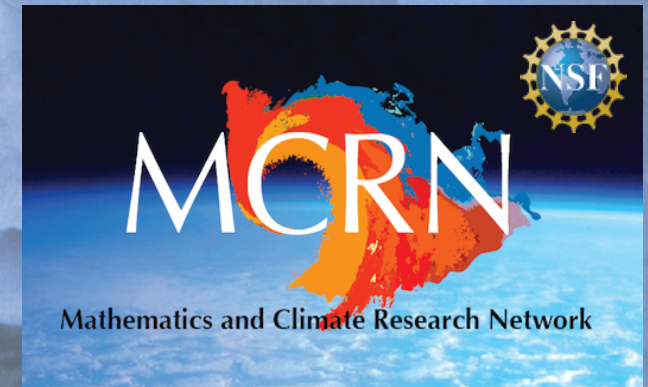
# THANK YOU

## 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***



# Fire endangers Hobart's ice ship

By DAVID CARRIGG

AN engine-room fire has left the Hobart-based Antarctic research ship *Aurora Australis* without power in dangerous sea ice off the Antarctic coast.

None of the 79 people on board was injured in the blaze, which broke out early yesterday morning while the ship was in deep water 185km off the coast.

The extent of the damage is not known.

Australian Antarctic Division director Rex Moncur said the fire was extinguished by flooding the engine room with an inert gas.

The gas had to be cleared before crew wearing breathing apparatus could enter and assess the situation.

He said it could be some time before the extent of damage was known.

The 25 crew and 54 expeditioners, mostly from Hobart, would wear thermal clothing and stay below decks to keep warm.

"There is always a risk of becoming ice-bound in these waters at this time of the year but at this stage we don't expect to launch a rescue mission from Hobart," Mr Moncur said.

The ship was in regular radio contact with the Antarctic Div-



A file photo of the *Aurora Australis* in Antarctica.

ision's Hobart office.

He expected the expeditioners and crew to abandon the pioneering winter voyage and return the ship to Hobart for repairs in about a week.

The Antarctic Division, which hires the ship from P&O Australia, would not be hiring another vessel for the expedition.

"It's a pretty specialist vessel so you couldn't get the sort of research capability that this ship has got readily available," Mr Moncur said.

"We hope the next voyage can still proceed on schedule, which is early September."

The *Aurora Australis* is owned by P&O Australia and chartered by the Antarctic Div-

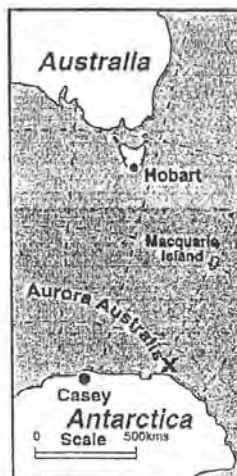
ision for about \$11 million a year.

P&O Australia managing director Richard Hein said yesterday the company was assessing the situation and a number of rescue options were being considered.

It was too early to say whether P&O would be liable for the cost of the aborted mission.

The vessel left Hobart last Wednesday for a seven-week voyage mainly to study a polynya, an area where savage winds break up the sea ice and cause heavy, salt-laden water to sink to the bottom.

The ship was nearing the polynya when the fire broke out.



Oceanographers believe a closer study of the phenomenon will lead to a better understanding of climate change.

CSIRO Marine Research oceanographer Steve Rintoul said the dense bottom water, created only in a few places in Antarctica and to a lesser extent in the North Atlantic, was critical to the chemistry and biology of the world's oceans.

## Fire strands Antarctic ship in sea ice

AN engine room fire has disabled the icebreaker *Aurora Australis* in sea ice, deep in Antarctic waters.

There were no injuries and the ship was not in danger after Tuesday night's fire.

Australian Antarctic Division director Mr Rex Moncur said. But Mr Moncur said he expected it would have to abandon its pioneering mid-winter voyage to the edge of the Ant-

arctic continent and return to Hobart for repairs.

The cause of the fire was not known but the engines have been turned off, with the ship 100 nautical miles from the Antarctic coast.

### THE CANBERRA TIMES

Thursday 23 July 1998

Page 4

## Antarctic voyage stopped by fire

HOBART: An engine room fire has disabled the Australian icebreaker *Aurora Australis* in sea ice, deep in Antarctic waters.

Australian Antarctic Division director Rex Moncur said there were no injuries and the ship was not in danger after Tuesday night's fire.

But Mr Moncur said he expected *Aurora Australis* would have to abandon its pioneering mid-winter voyage to the edge of the Antarctic continent to return to Hobart for repairs.

The fire had been extinguished and the engines were turned off, leaving the ship in sea ice about 100 nautical miles from the Antarctic coast, he said. The weather was good.

Crew had to wear breathing apparatus to enter the engine room and it was likely to be 24 hours before the damage could be fully assessed.

The *Aurora*, with 54 expeditioners and 25 crew, left Hobart last Wednesday for a seven-week voyage which was to have focused on a polynya, an area where savage winds break up the sea ice and cause heavy, salt-laden water to sink to the bottom.

Mr Moncur said, the cause of the fire was not yet known.

2:45 am July 22, 1998

"Please don't be alarmed but we have an uncontrolled fire in the engine room ...."

about 10 minutes later ...

"Please don't be alarmed but we're lowering the lifeboats ...."

*Sydney Morning Herald*  
23 July, 1998

### ICEBREAKER BURNS

A pioneering \$2-million Australian scientific voyage to the mid-winter Antarctic polynya is expected to be scrapped following an engine room fire on the *Aurora Australis* yesterday. The 54 people on board were forced on deck in the

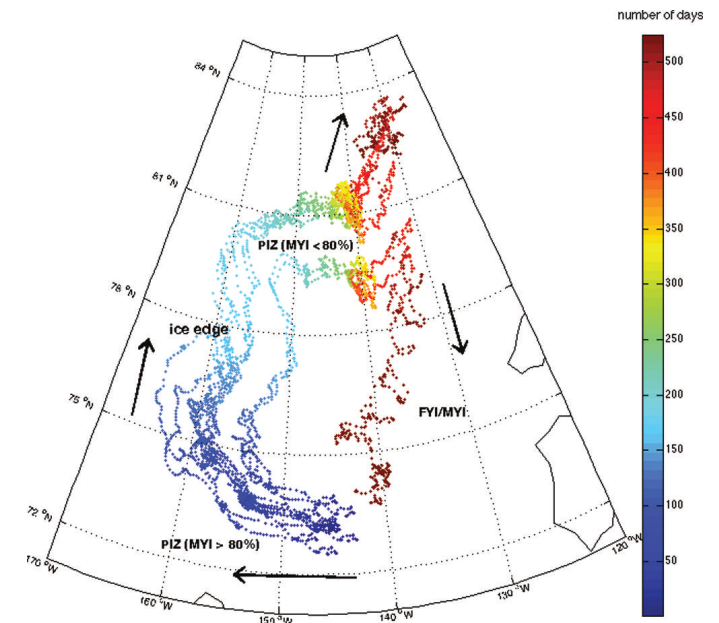


# Anomalous diffusion in sea ice dynamics

## *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