### Modeling Fluid Transport Processes in the Physics and Biology of Sea Ice

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> Gordon Research Conference on Flow and Transport in Permeable Media Les Diablerets, 20 July 2022





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

Golden



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







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

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

### Sea Ice is a Multiscale Composite Material *microscale*

#### brine inclusions



H. Eicken

Golden et al. GRL 2007

Weeks & Assur 1969

### millimeters

polycrystals



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

### centimeters

brine channels



D. Cole

K. Golden

### mesoscale

macroscale

Arctic melt ponds



Antarctic pressure ridges





sea ice floes

sea ice pack





K. Golden

J. Weller

kilometers

NASA

meters

### **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 fluid transport processes in sea ice modeling



Physics of sea ice drives advances in many areas of science and engineering.

### Arctic sea ice extent

### **September 15, 2020**



### microscale

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



### $T = -15 \,^{\circ}\text{C}, \ \phi = 0.033$ $T = -6 \,^{\circ}\text{C}, \ \phi = 0.075$ $T = -3 \,^{\circ}\text{C}, \ \phi = 0.143$



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

X-ray tomography for brine in sea ice



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

Golden et al., Geophysical Research Letters, 2007

### **Critical behavior of fluid transport in sea ice**



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



### percolation theory

### probabilistic theory of connectedness



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

**percolation threshold**  $p_c = 1/2$  for d = 2

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

*Continuum* percolation model for *stealthy* materials applied to sea ice microstructure explains **Rule of Fives** and Antarctic data on ice production and algal growth

 $\phi_c \approx 5\%$  Golden, Ackley, Lytle, *Science*, 1998



sea ice is radar absorbing

### Thermal evolution of permeability and microstructure in sea ice

Golden, Eicken, Heaton<sup>\*</sup>, Miner, Pringle, Zhu, Geophysical Research Letters 2007



from critical path analysis in hopping conduction

critical

exponent

hierarchical model rock physics network model rigorous bounds

X-ray tomography for

### confirms rule of fives

Pringle, Miner, Eicken, Golden

theories agree closely with field data

## 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?



- 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





+ implications for brine phase as a habitat



#### Fractal dimension

brine volume fraction (porosity)

theory of porosity as a function of fractal dimension

#### invert

excellent correspondence with data

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:

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



# Notices Notes Series

#### 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



Section 12

#### Wenner array



#### vertical conductivity

Zhu, Golden, Gully, Sampson *Physica B* 2010 Sampson, Golden, Gully, Worby *Deep Sea Research* 2011

### critical behavior of electrical transport in sea ice electrical signature of the on-off switch for fluid flow

same universal critical exponent as for fluid permeability



Golden, Eicken, Gully, Ingham, Jones, Lin, Reid, Sampson, Worby 2022



### **Remote sensing of sea ice**



### sea ice thickness ice concentration

### **INVERSE PROBLEM**

Recover sea ice properties from electromagnetic (EM) data

**8**\*

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



the components

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

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)



Golden and Papanicolaou, Comm. Math. Phys. 1983

# 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



Golden 1995, 1997

### 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* 

Slab temperature  $\,^{\rm o}{\rm C}$ 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

#### inverse bounds

-15

х́зг

-20

п

-5

0

☆

☆

-10

1.03

1.02

1.01

0.99 0.98

0.97

0.96

0.95

0.94

0.93 ∟ -25

 $q_{min}$ 

Computed mininum separation parameter q

#### SEA ICE



young healthy trabecular bone



**HUMAN BONE** 

old osteoporotic trabecular bone





### spectral characterization of porous microstructures in human 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





Proc. Roy. Soc. A 8 Feb 2015

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### **PROCEEDINGS A**



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



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

granular

### microscale details impact "mesoscale" processes

**5%** 

columnar

nutrient fluxes for microbes melt pond drainage snow-ice formation

10%

Golden, Sampson, Gully, Lubbers, Tison 2022

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

### 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  $ec{u}$ 

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \vec{\nabla} T = \kappa_0 \Delta T$$
$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$
$$homogenize$$
$$\frac{\partial \overline{T}}{\partial t} = \kappa^* \Delta \overline{T}$$

### $\kappa^*$ 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





-0.2

-0.4

-0.6

-0.8

0.4



### 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
- $\Gamma:=abla(-\Delta)^{-1}
  abla\cdot$  ,  $\Delta$  is the Laplace operator
- $i\Gamma H\Gamma$  is bounded for time independent flows
- $F(\kappa)$  is analytic off the spectral interval in the  $\kappa$ -plane

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

#### Rigorous bounds on convection enhanced thermal conductivity of sea ice

Kraitzman, Hardenbrook, Dinh, Murphy, Zhu, Cherkaev, Golden 2022



cat's eye flow model for brine convection cells

similar bounds for shear flows



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

### wave propagation in the marginal ice zone (MIZ)



#### 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)



homogenized parameter depends on sea ice concentration and ice floe geometry

like EM waves



### 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?

### fractal curves in the plane

they wiggle so much that their dimension is >1



### 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 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

High connectivity of melt pond networks allows vast expanses of melt water to drain down seal holes, thaw holes, and into leads.



meted.ucar.edu

#### melt pond evolution depends also on large-scale "pores" in ice cover

drainage vortex

photo courtesy of C. Polashenski and D. Perovich

Melt pond connectivity enables vast expanses of melt water to drain down seal holes, thaw holes, and leads in the ice.

### **Topological Data Analysis**

Euler characteristic = # maxima + # minima - # saddles

topological invariant

persistent homology

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



porous media cosmology brain activity

### melt pond donuts





### From magnets to melt ponds



magnetic domains Arctic melt ponds in cobalt

### 100 year old model for magnetic materials used to explain melt pond geometry



magnetic domains Arctic melt ponds in cobalt-iron-boron





model



#### real ponds (Perovich)

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



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)

### Conclusions

- 1. Sea ice is a fascinating multiscale porous composite with structure similar to many other natural and man-made materials.
- 2. Fluid flow through sea ice mediates melt pond evolution and many processes important to climate change and polar ecosystems.
- 3. Homogenization and statistical physics provide rigorous methods to find effective behavior of sea ice; and advance the theory of composites.
- 4. Field experiments are essential to developing relevant mathematics.
- 5. Our research is advancing how sea ice is represented in climate models, and improving projections of climate change, the fate of Earth's sea ice packs, and the ecosystems they support.



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The cover is based on "Modeling Sea Ice," page 1535.

### **THANK YOU**

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Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources Australian Antarctic Division











Buchanan Bay, Antarctica Mertz Glacier Polynya Experiment July 1999

### 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

Sea Ice Ecology GroupPostdoc Jody Reimer, Grad Student Julie Sherman,<br/>Undergraduates Kayla Stewart, Nicole Forrester

### Measuring sea ice thickness









### 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



UNIVERSAL Wigner-Dyson distribution



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, Cherkaev, Golden Phys. Rev. Lett. 2017



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

### Order to disorder in quasiperiodic composites

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



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