

# How to make the most of a highr resolution DEM (SPIRIT) over an Antarctic outlet glacier, test case of the Astrolabe Glacier, Terre Adélie sector, East Antarctica



Emmanuel Le Meur<sup>1</sup>, Gaël Durand<sup>1</sup>, Etienne Berthier<sup>2</sup>,  
Basile de Fleurian<sup>1</sup> and Anne-Sophie Drouet<sup>1</sup>

(4) L.G.G.E., ST Martin d'Hères, France

(5) LEGOS, Toulouse France

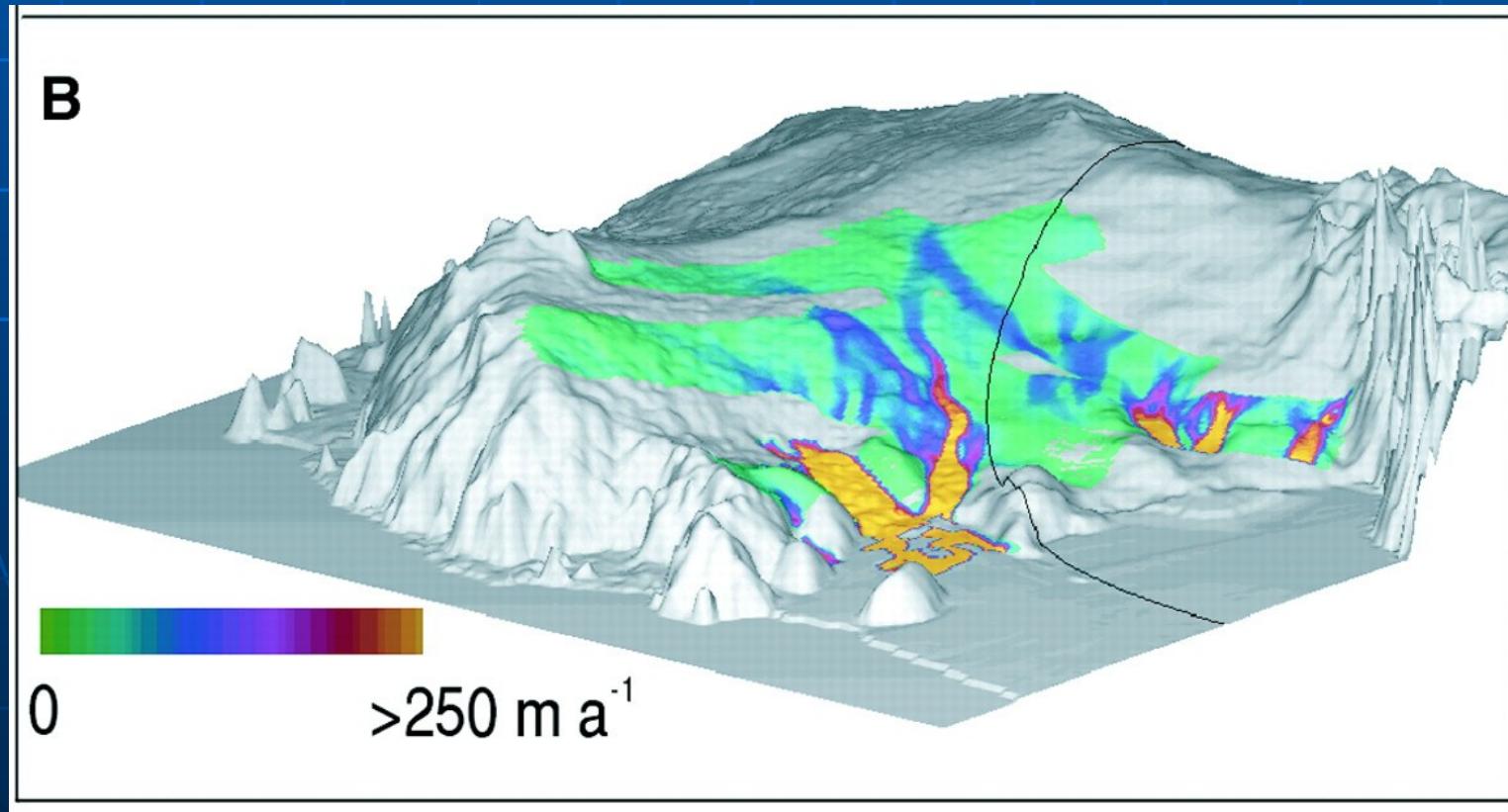
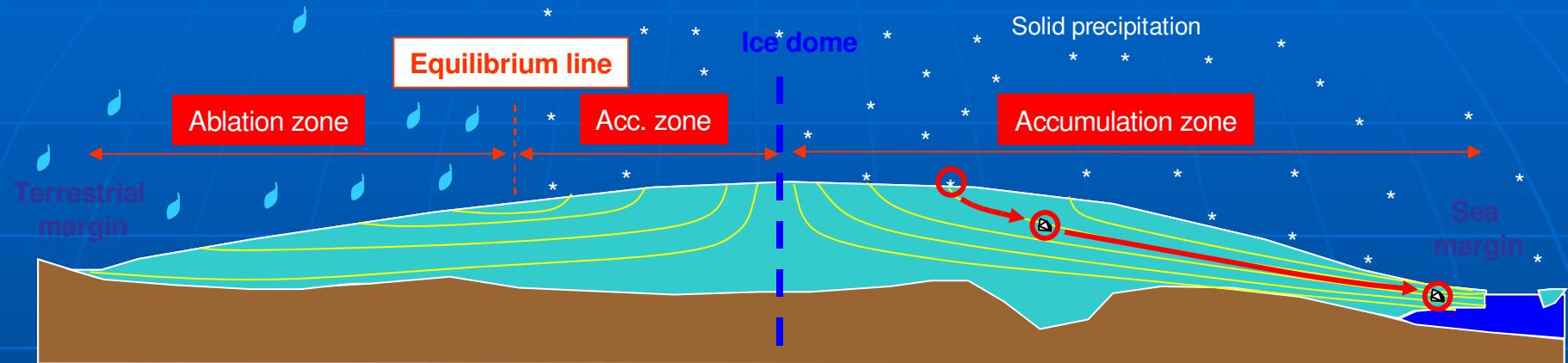


[www-lgge.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr/axes/IPY/dacota](http://www-lgge.obs.ujf-grenoble.fr/axes/IPY/dacota)



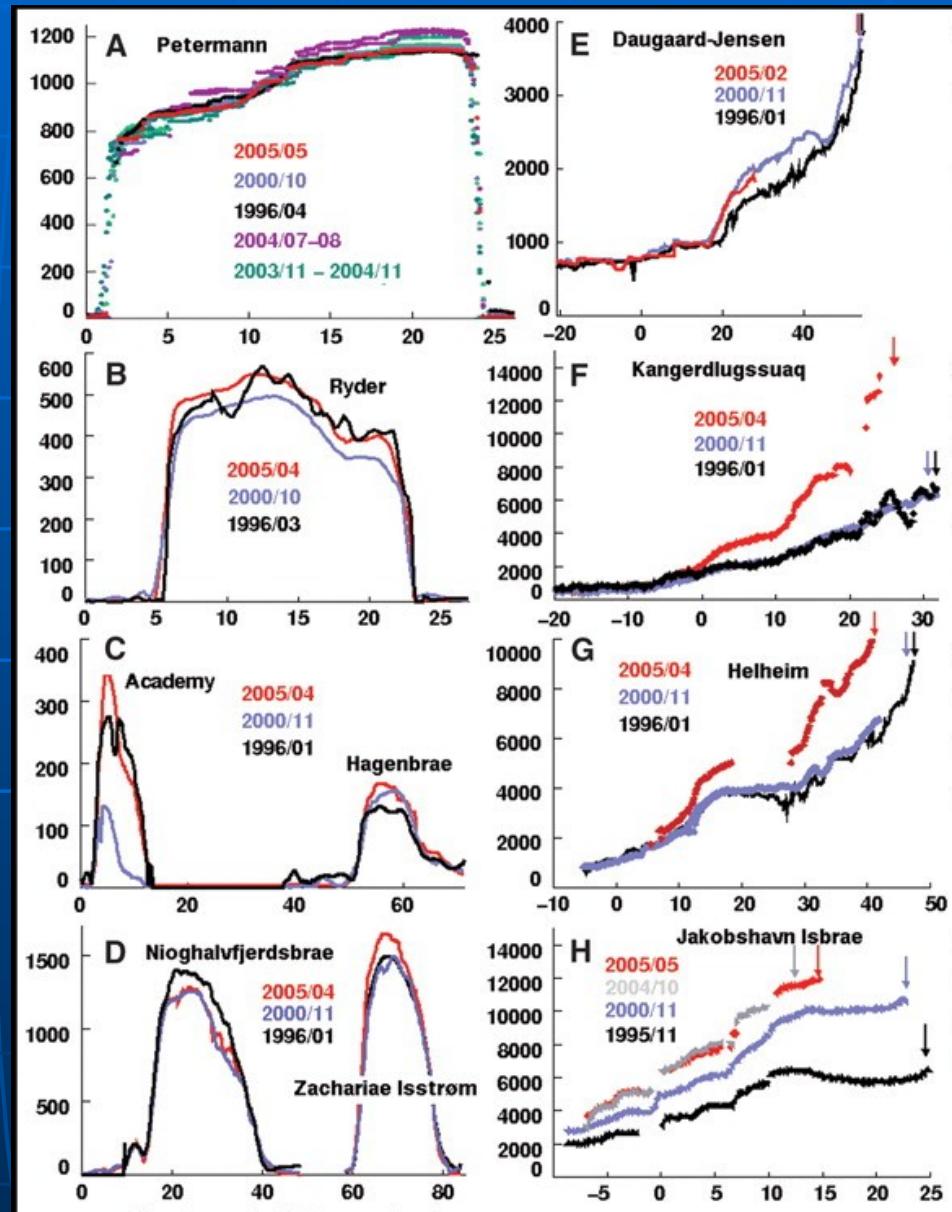
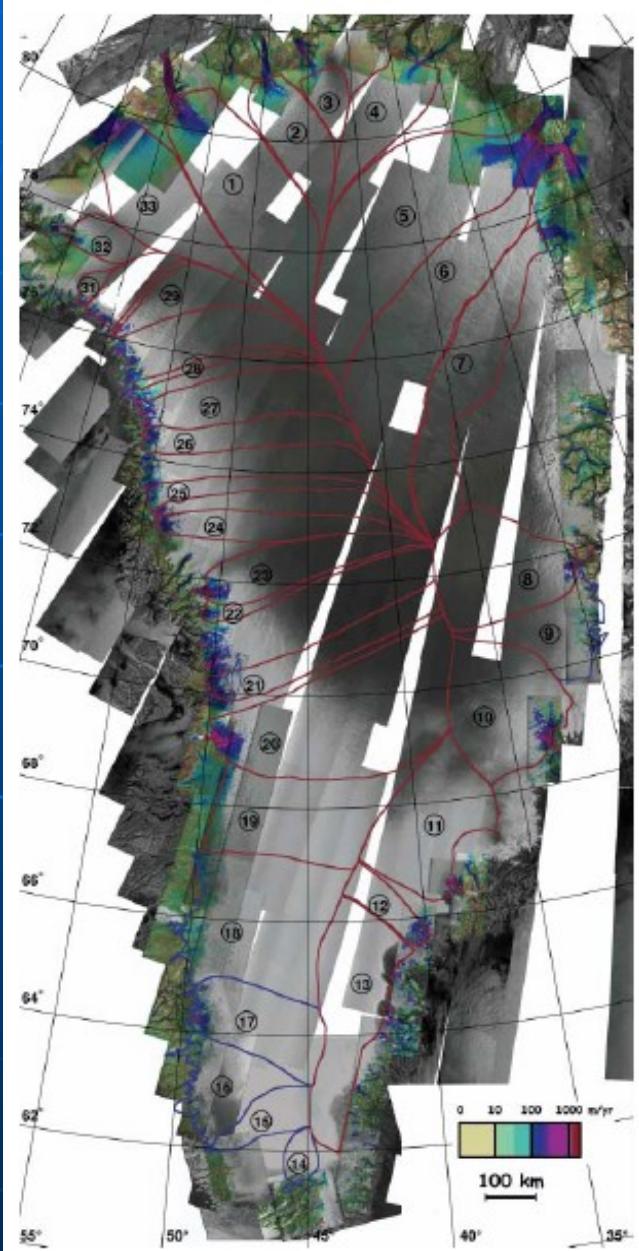
# CONTEXT

## Ice fluxes within the ice-sheet



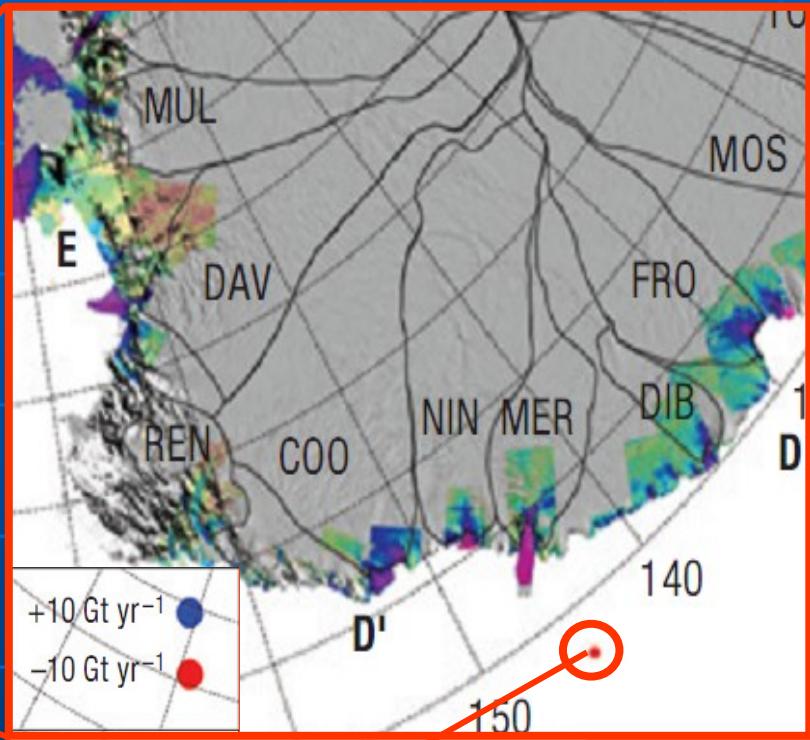
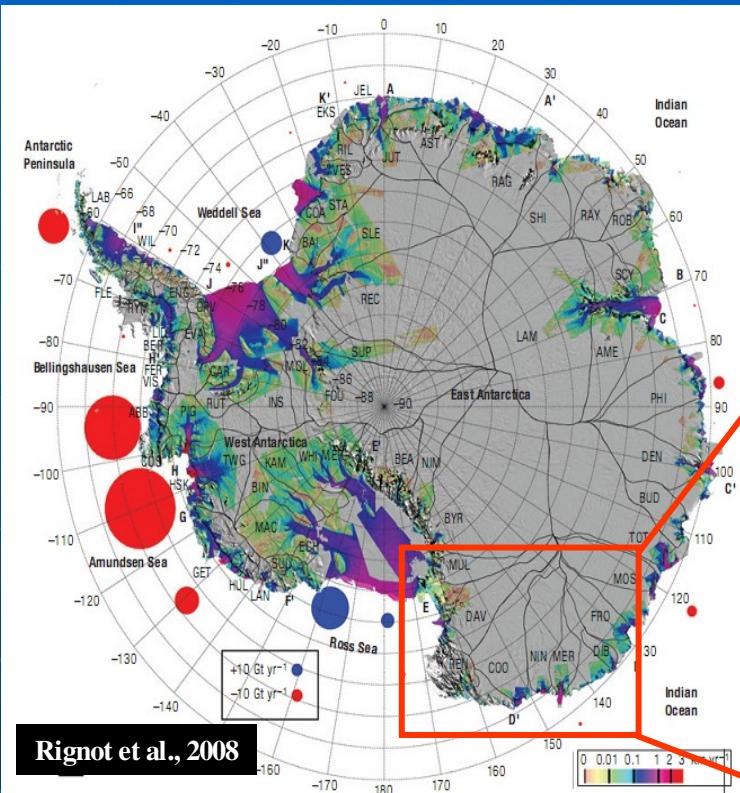
# CONTEXT

These fast-flowing glaciers are speeding up !



Rignot and Kanagaratnam, 2006

# CONTEXT



Large uncertainties in the overall mass balance  
of the East-Antarctic ice sheet (Wilkes sector)

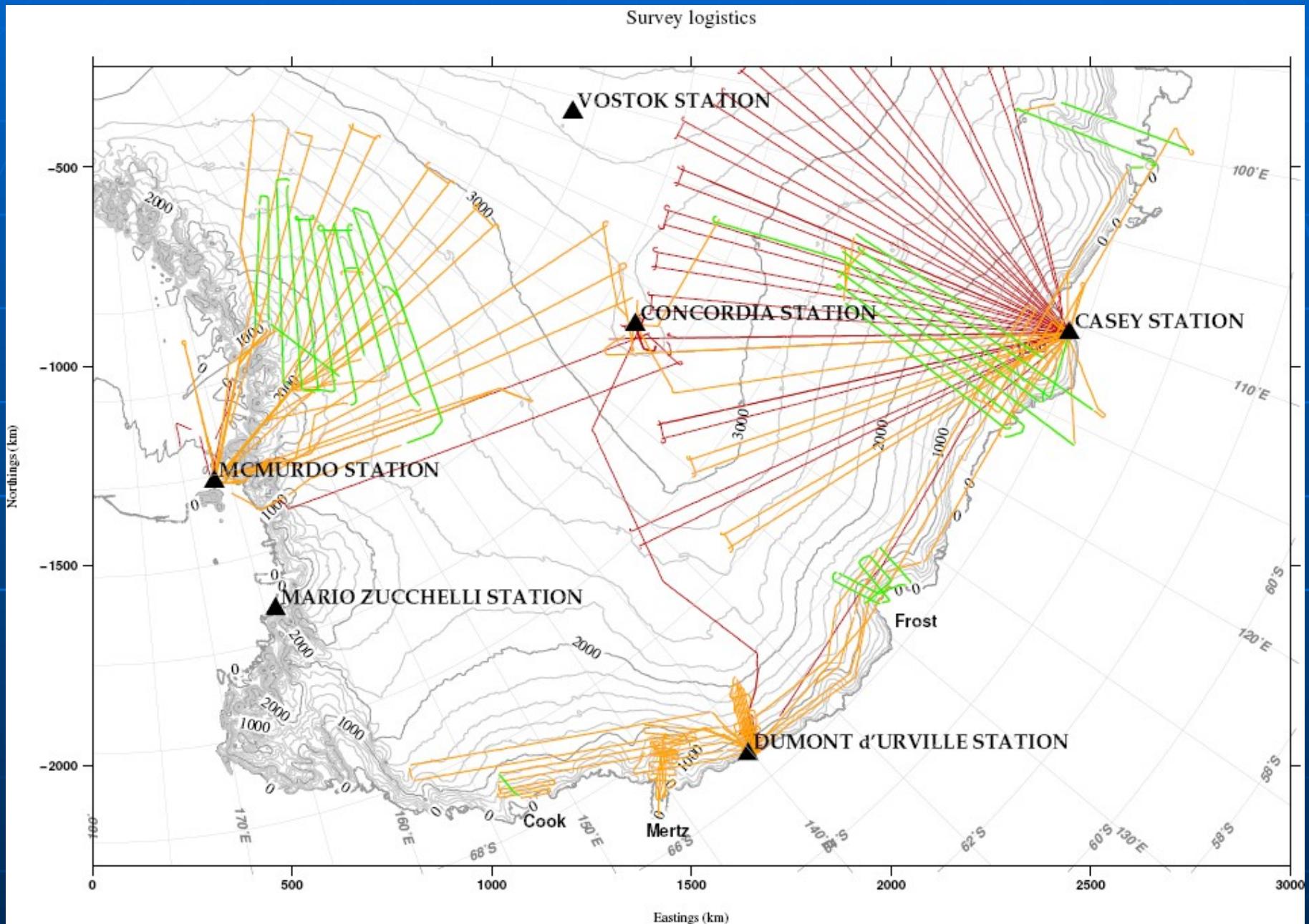
$-2 \pm 19 \text{ Gt /yr}$

Need for a more accurate computation of the total  
ice flux to the sea through outlet glaciers

# CONTEXT

## Airborne radar and Lidar campaign (ICECAP project)

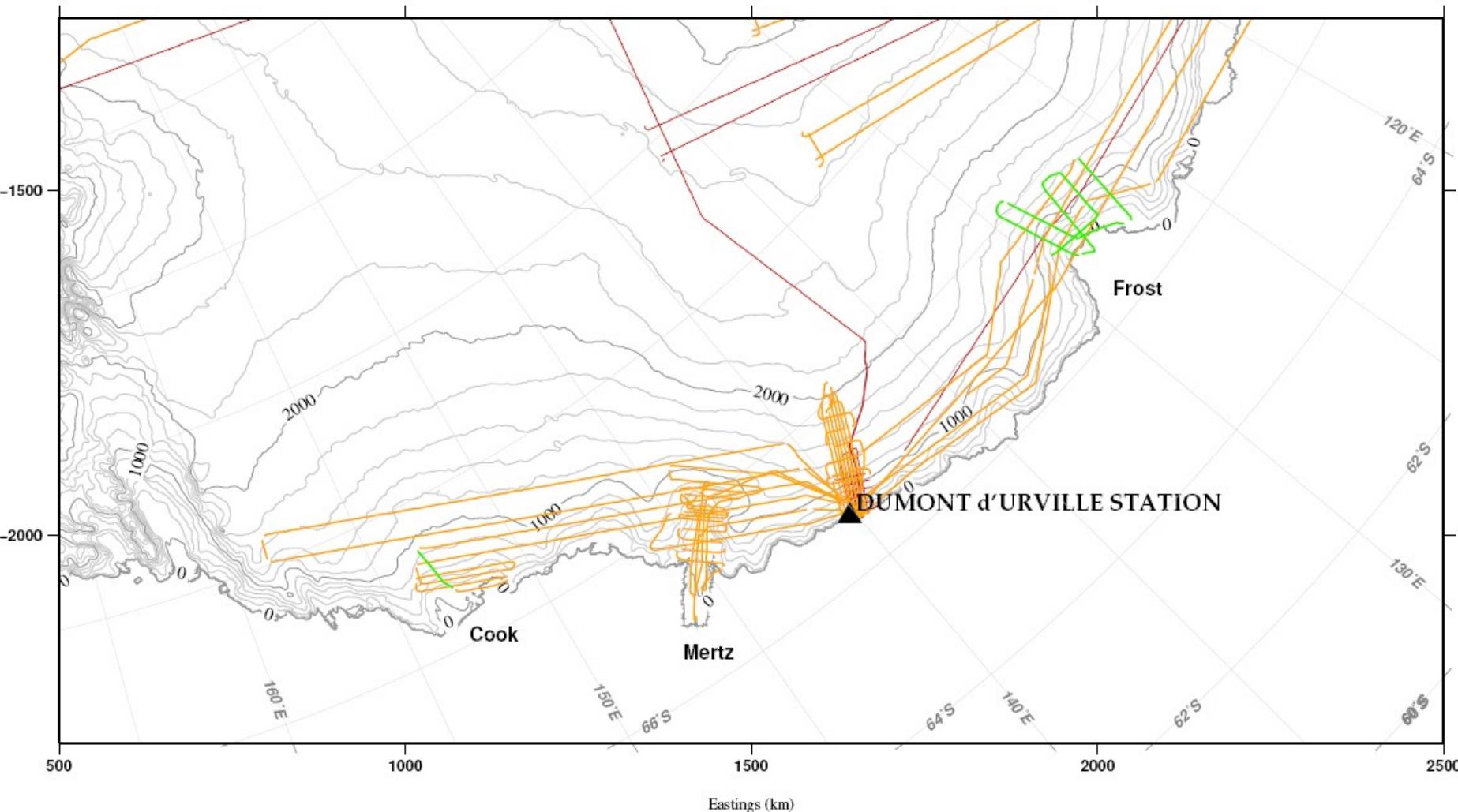
Survey logistics



# CONTEXT

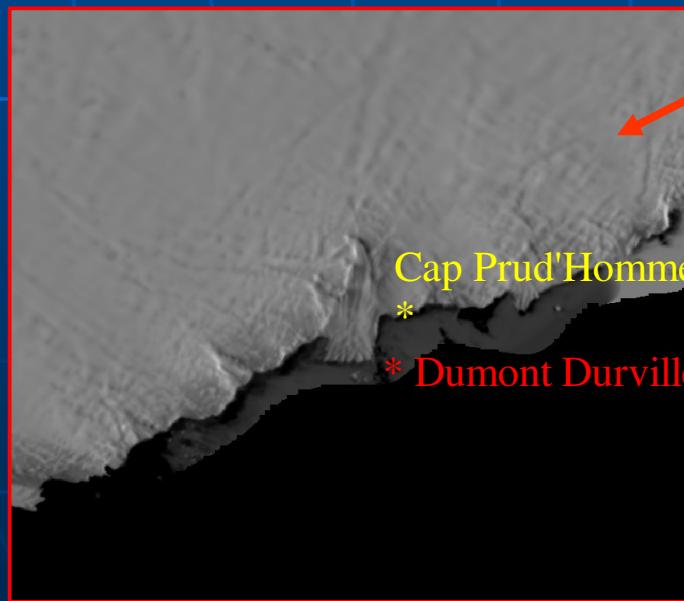
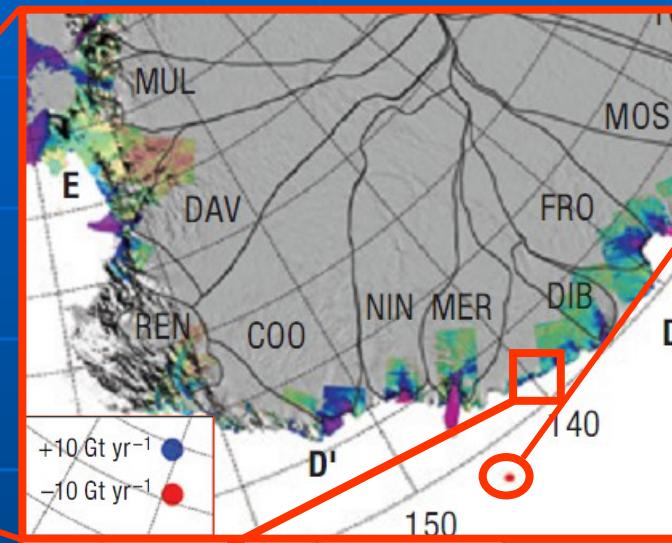
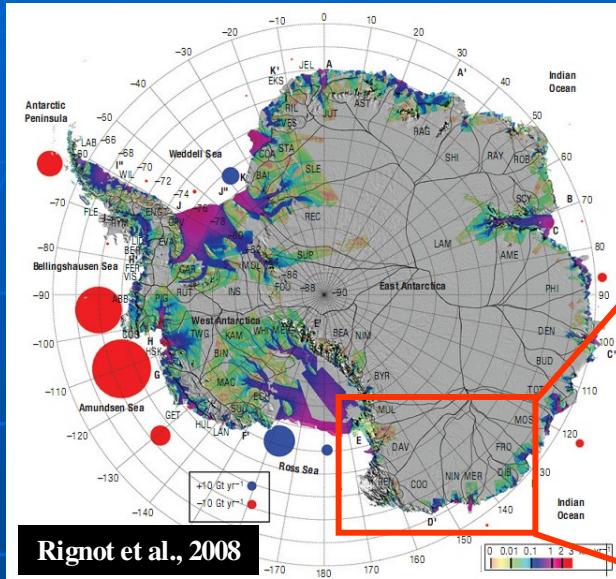
## Focus on the Wilkes-Terre Adélie sector

Survey logistics



# CONTEXT

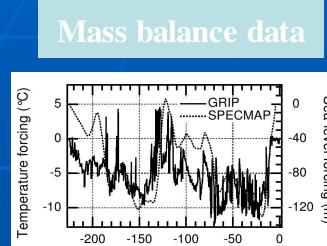
## The Astrolabe glacier as a test zone



# CONTEXT

# Ice flow modelling and necessary field data

## Environnemental forcing



Sea level forcing

## Core of the model

$$\nabla \cdot \tau_i + \rho g_i = 0, \quad i=x,y,z$$

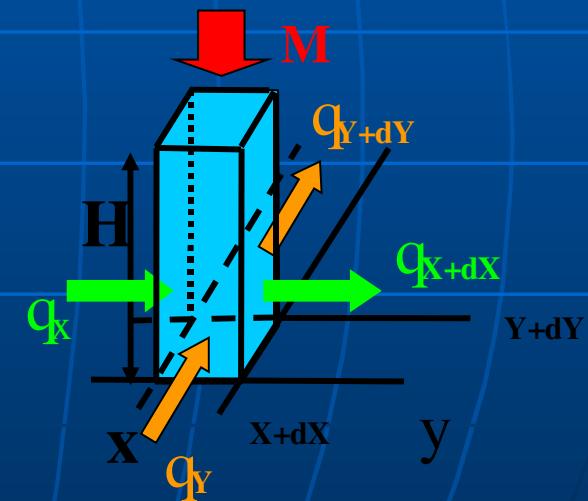
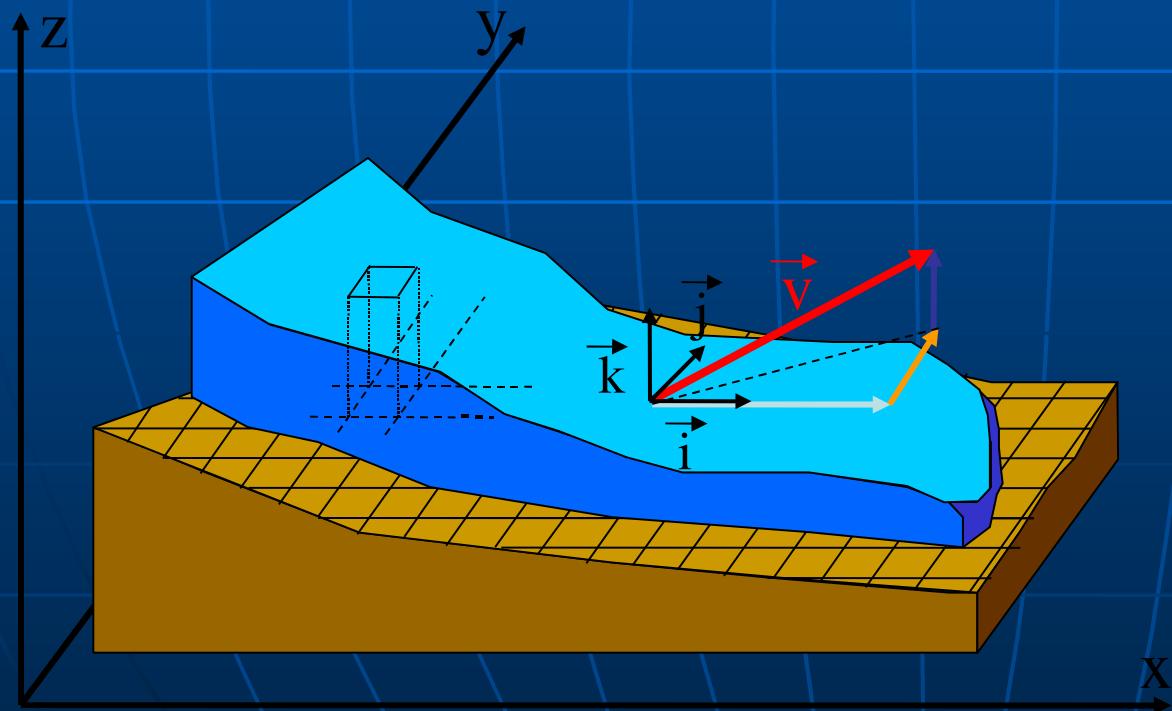
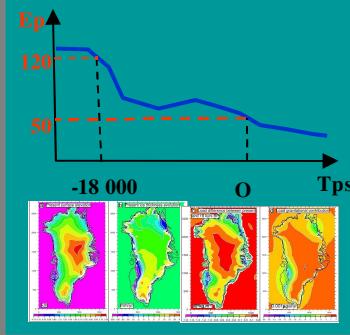
$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = M - \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q} \quad ; \quad \mathbf{q} = \bar{\mathbf{v}}_H H = \int_h^{H+h} \mathbf{v}_H(z) dz$$

$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{\rho C_p} \nabla \cdot (k \nabla T) - \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T + \frac{W}{\rho C_p}$$

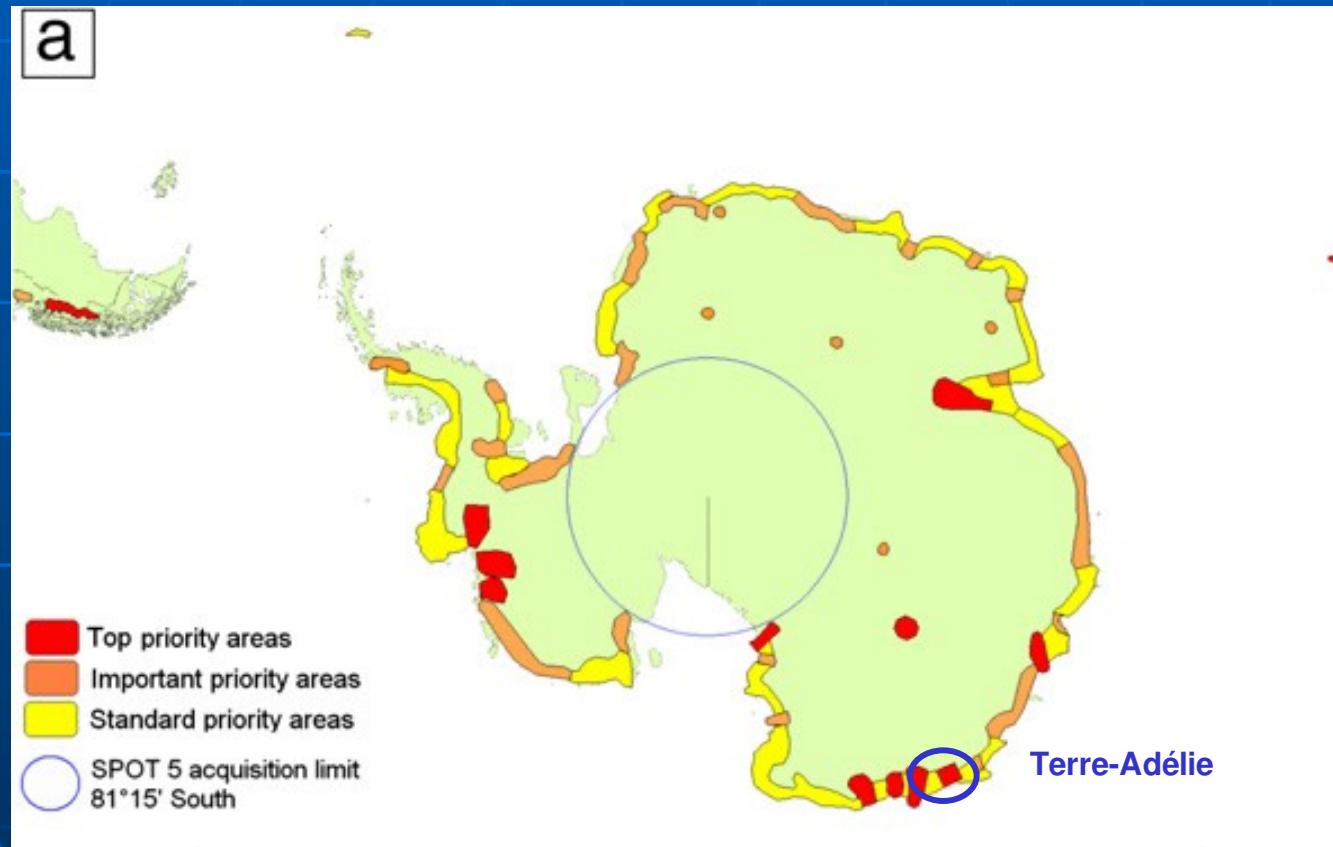
$$\dot{\epsilon}_{i,j} = A(T) \tau^{n-1} \tau'_{i,j} \quad \text{Sliding law}$$

Grounding line dynamics

## Model outputs

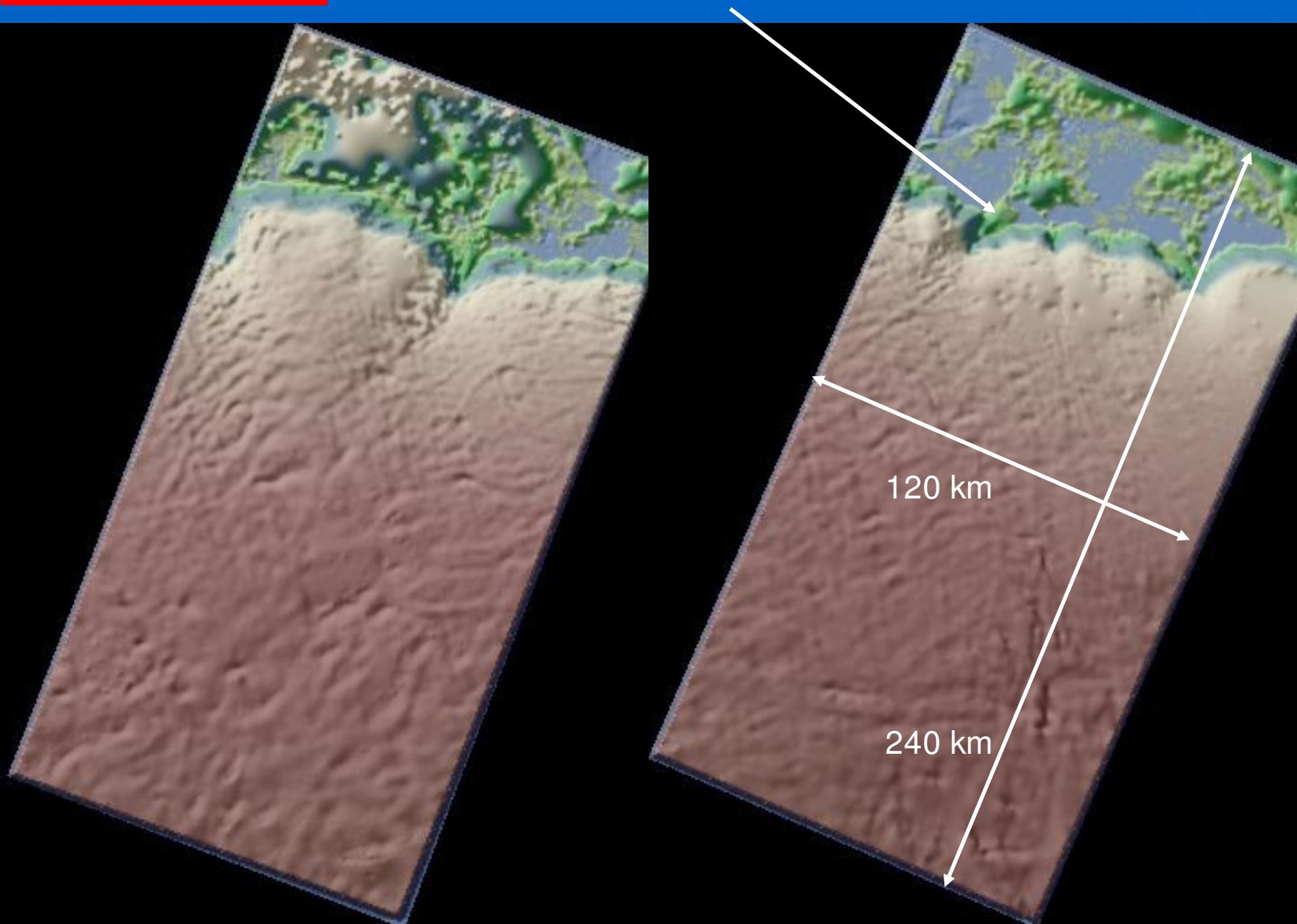


## Areas of interest for the SPIRIT project in the Southern Hemisphere.



SPIRIT DATA SETS

Astrolabe tongue

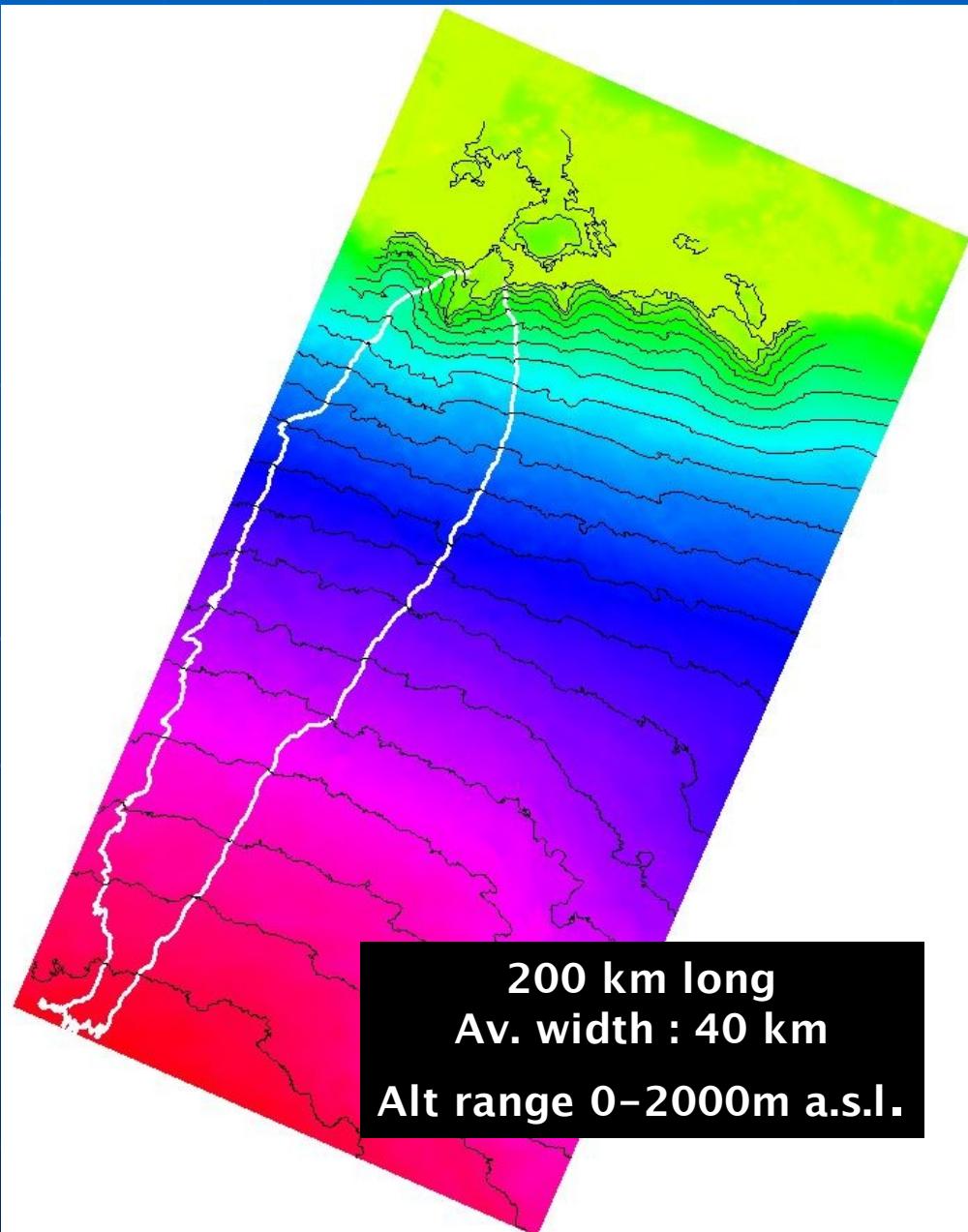
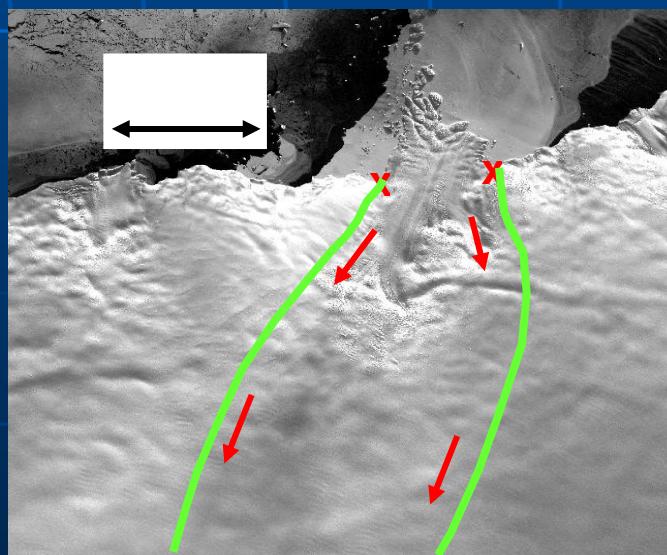
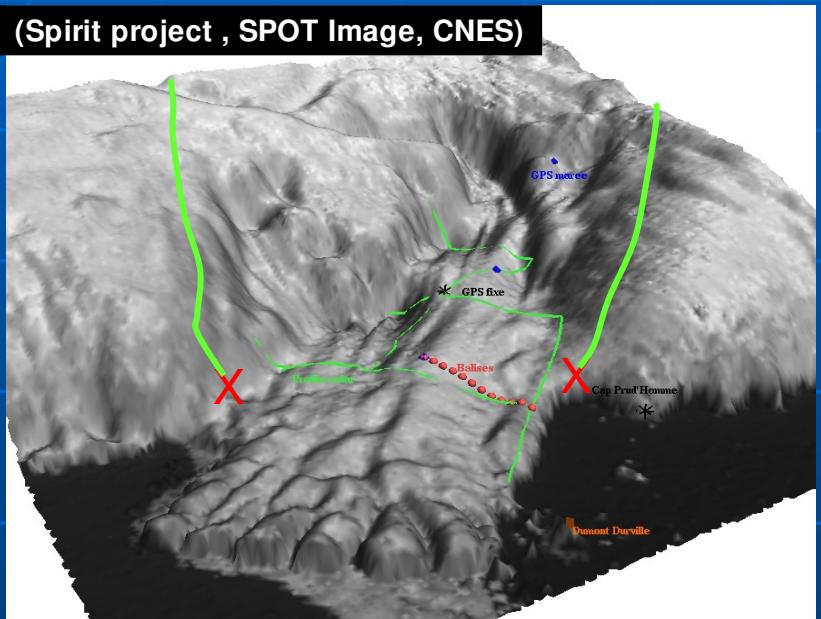


# SPIRIT DATA SETS

## A dynamically consistent body : the drainage basin

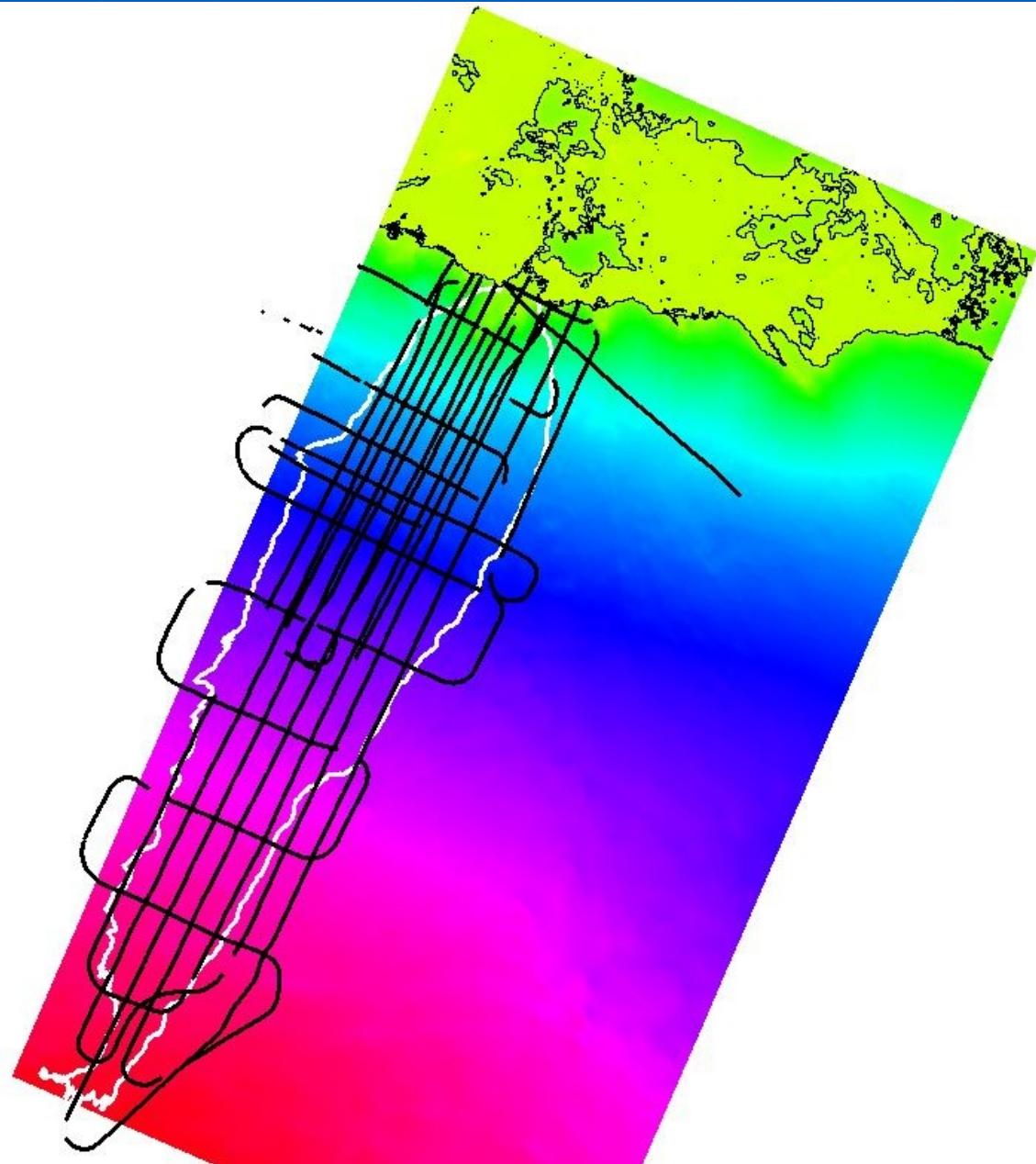
SPOT HRS stereographic pair -> DEM

(Spirit project , SPOT Image, CNES)



# SPIRIT DATA SETS

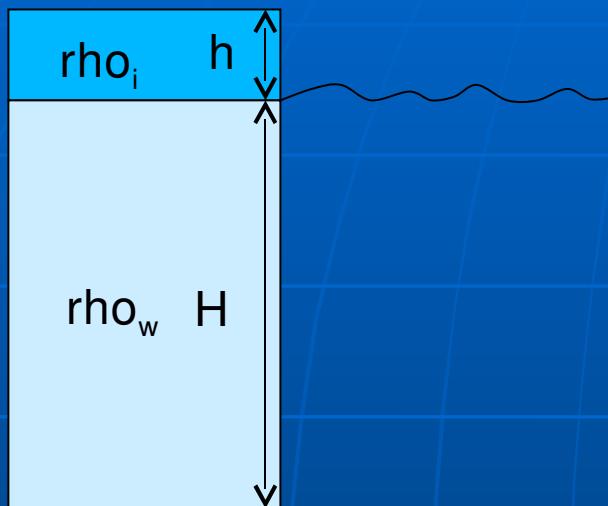
## Flight lines for the airborne geophysical survey



JPL 2.5MHz radar  
(red grid)



## Location of the Grounding line



On Topographic grounds.....

Flotation criterion :

$$H = h * \rho_i / (\rho_w - \rho_i)$$

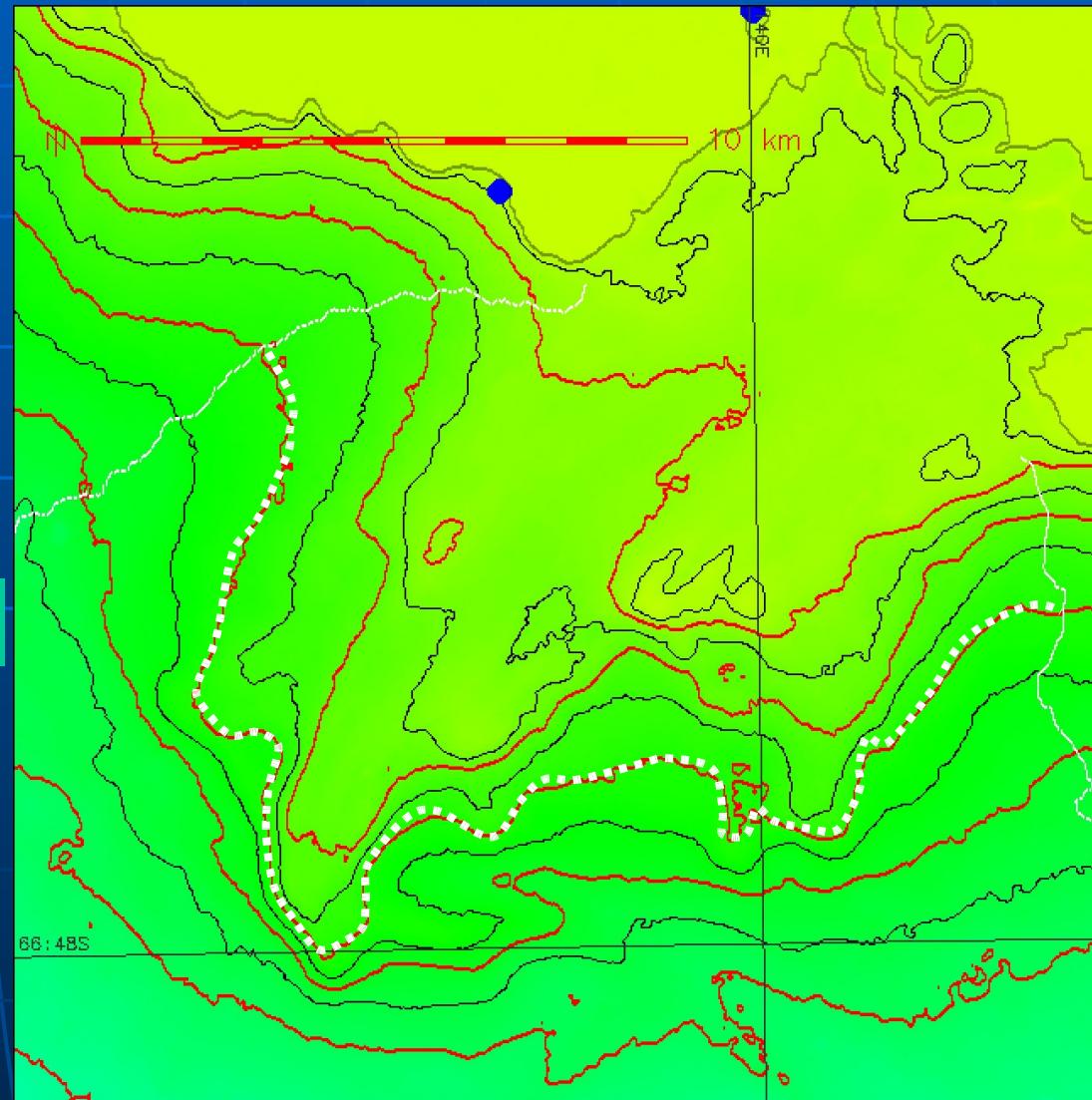
$$\rho_w = 1023 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$$

$$\rho_i = 875 \text{ kg.m}^{-3}$$

$$H = 6 * h$$

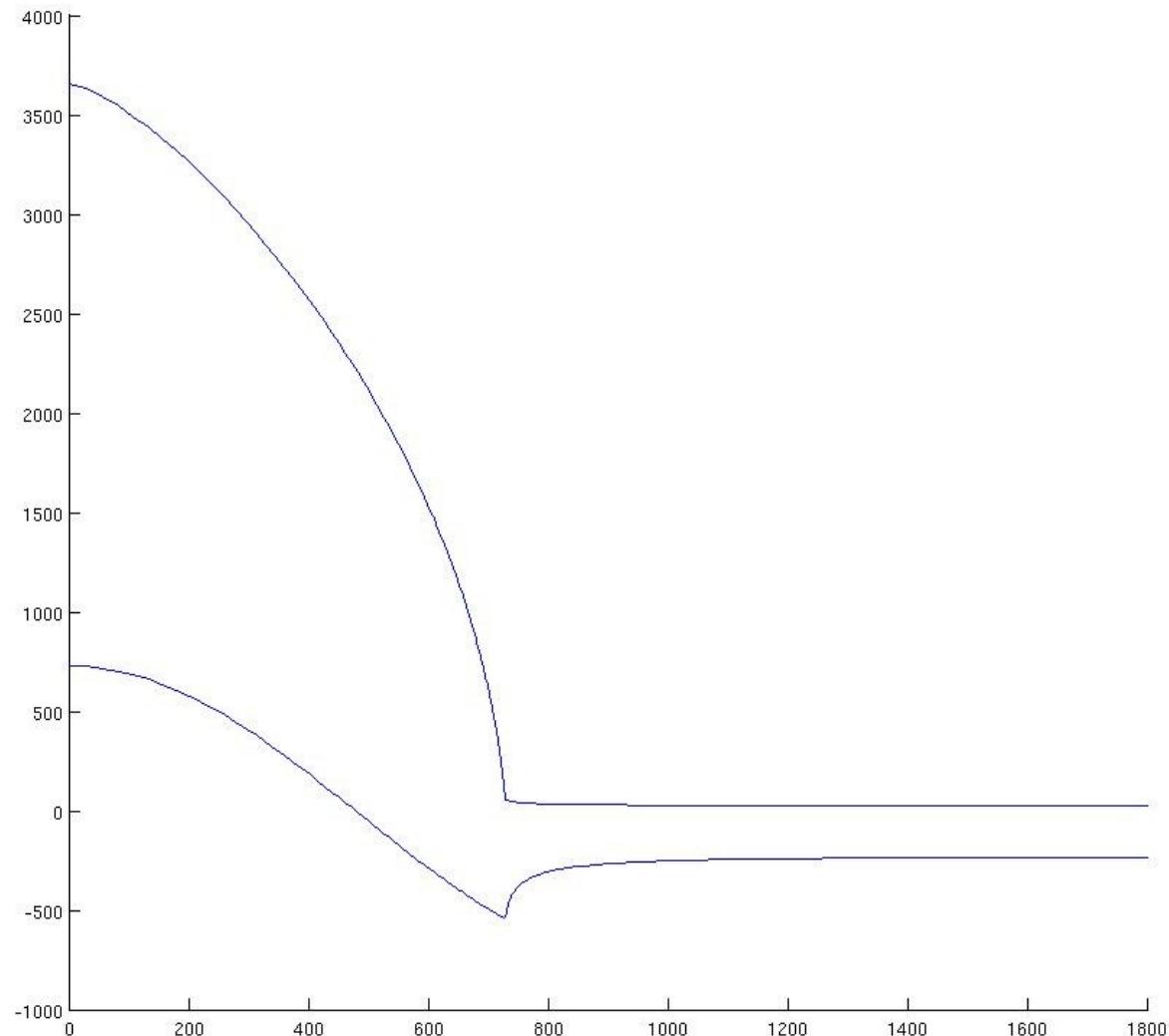
$$H_{\max} : 1800-2000 \text{ m}$$

Maximum floating height  
of about 300m



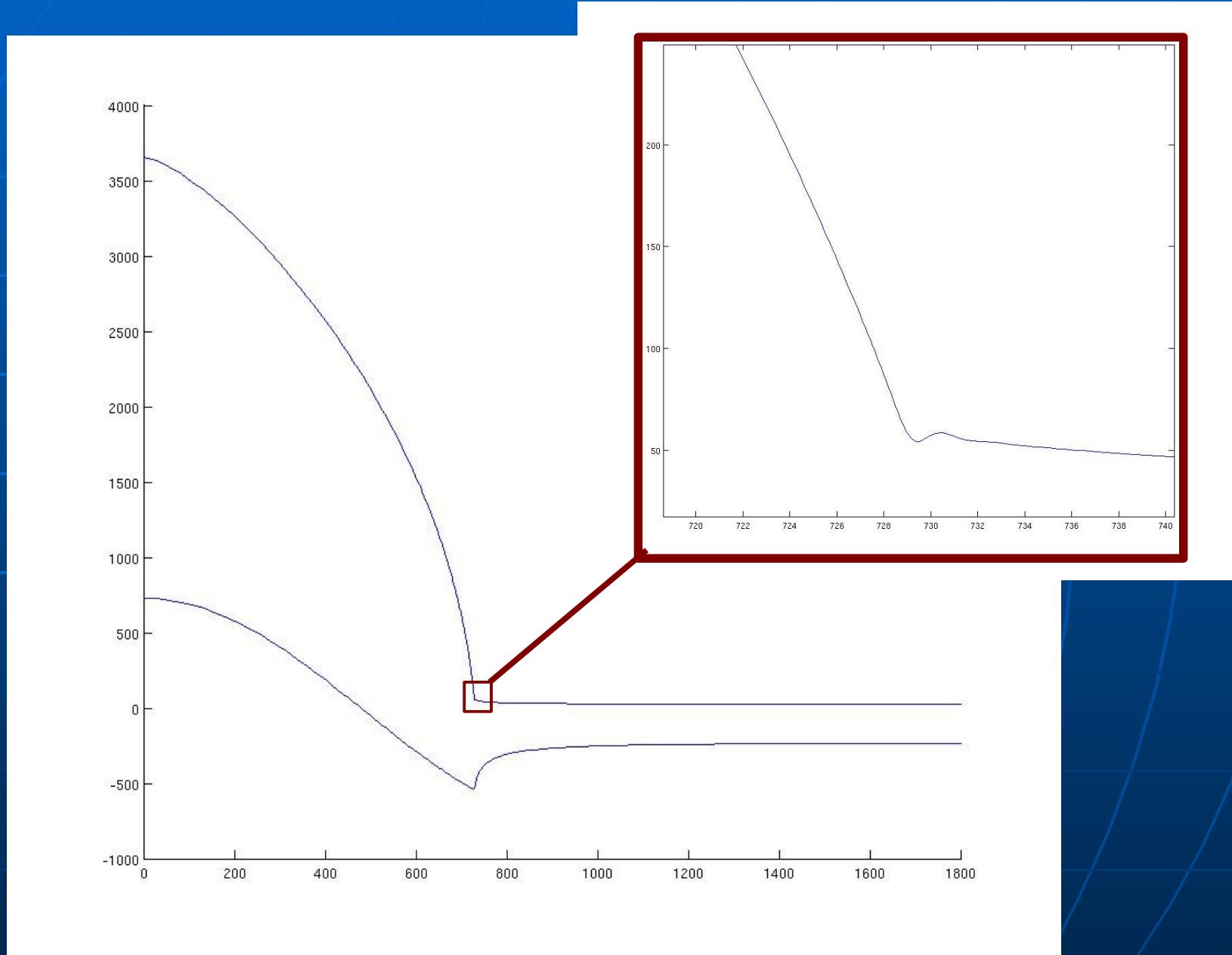
# Marine ice-sheet – Model profile

Grounding line position from modelling



# Marine ice-sheet – Model profile

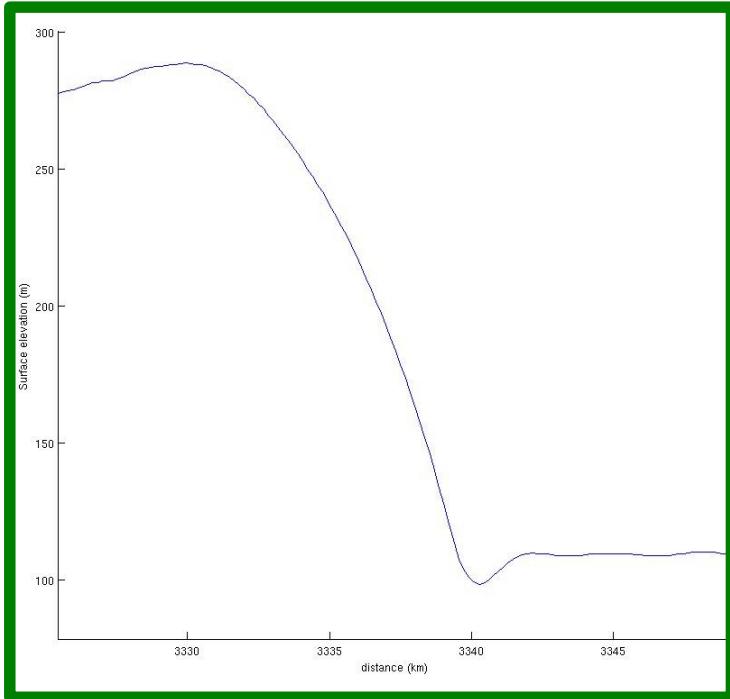
Grounding line position from modelling



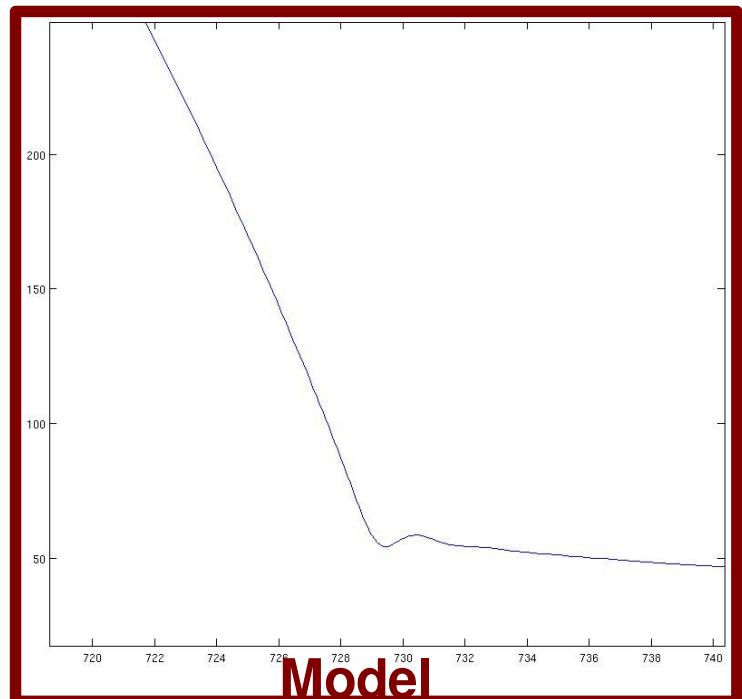
## Grounding line position from modelling

### Surface elevation around the grounding line : model versus data

Data

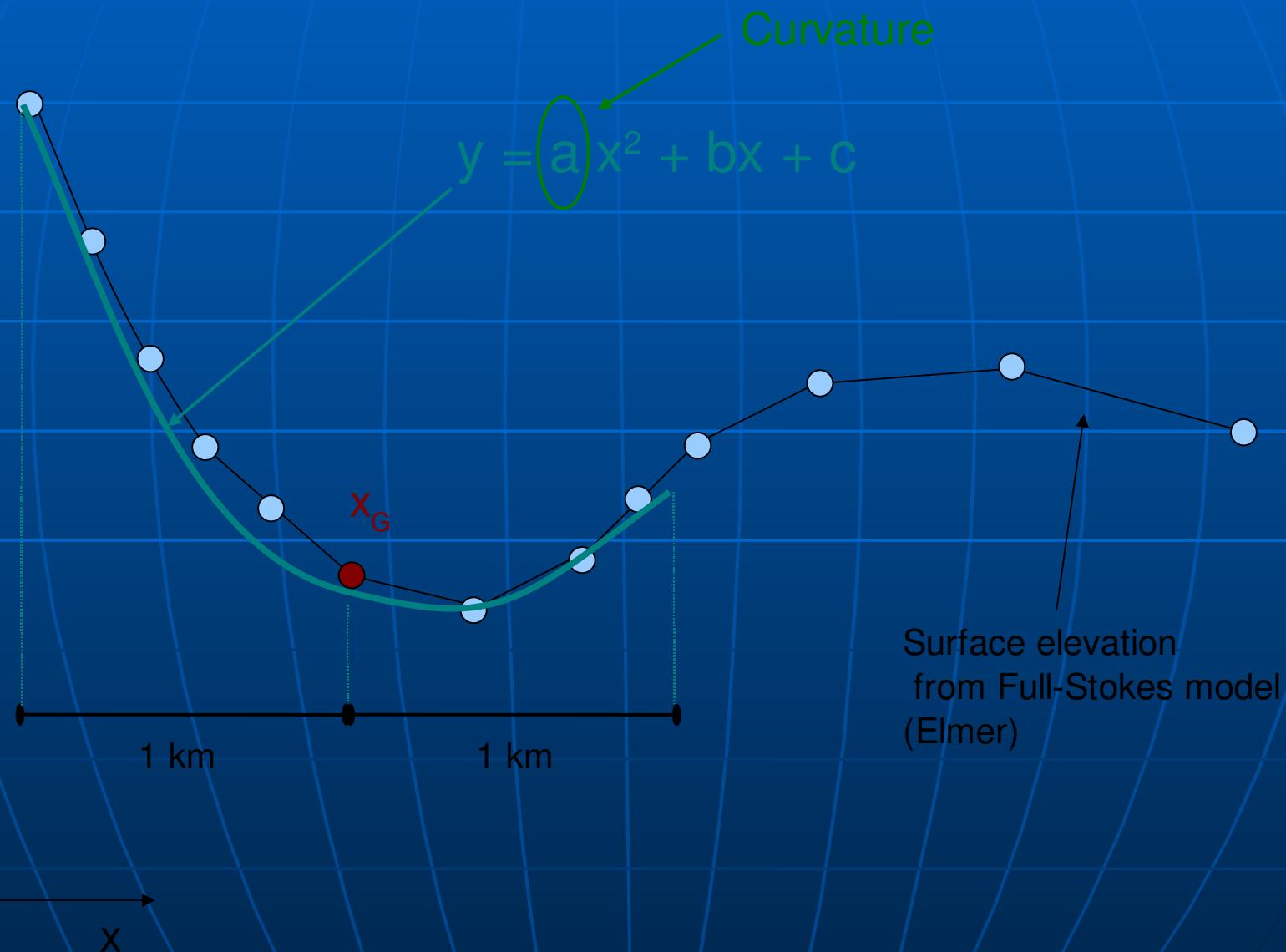


Model



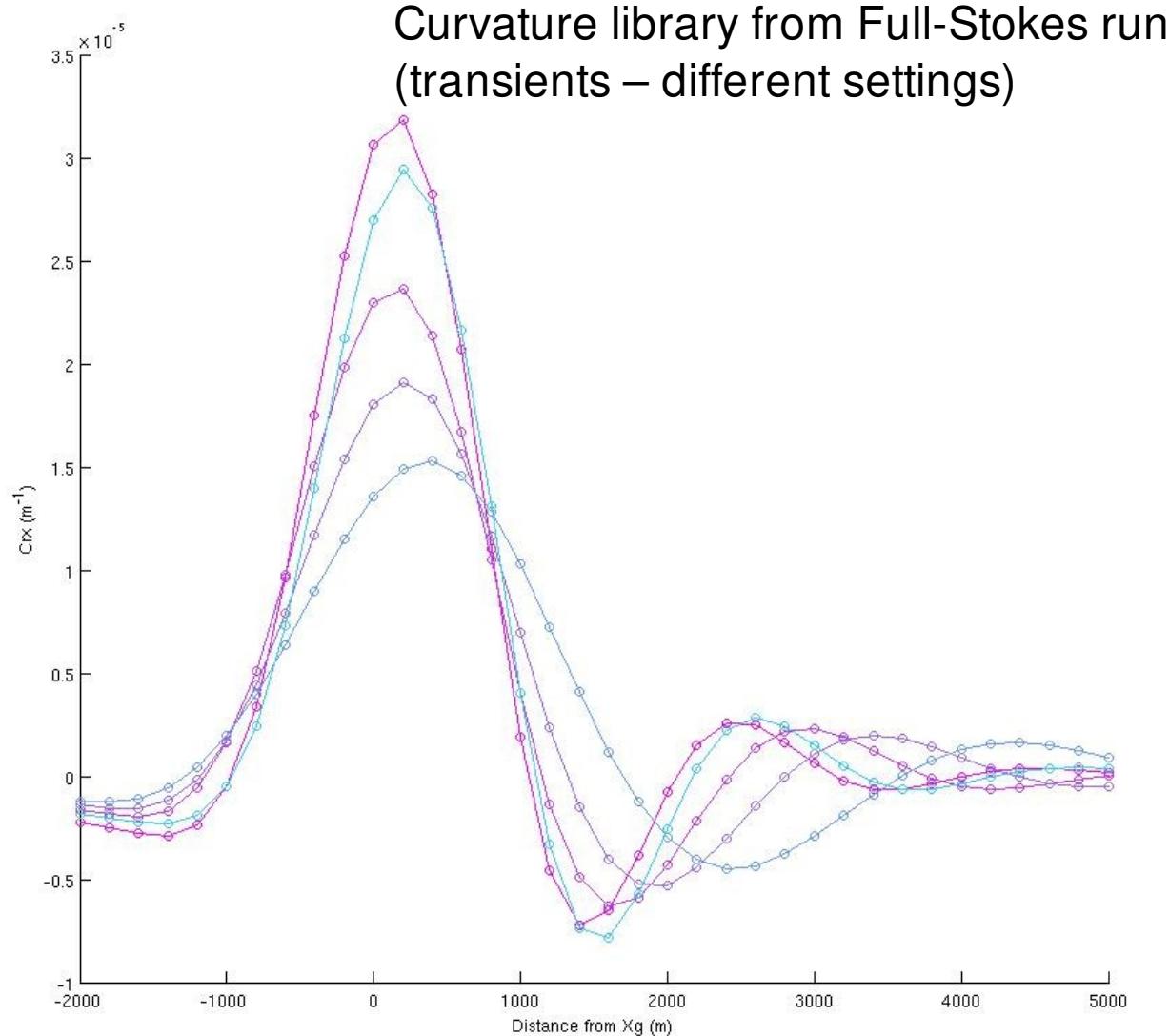
# Quadratic curvature fitting around the grounding line (along a flow line)

Grounding line position from modelling

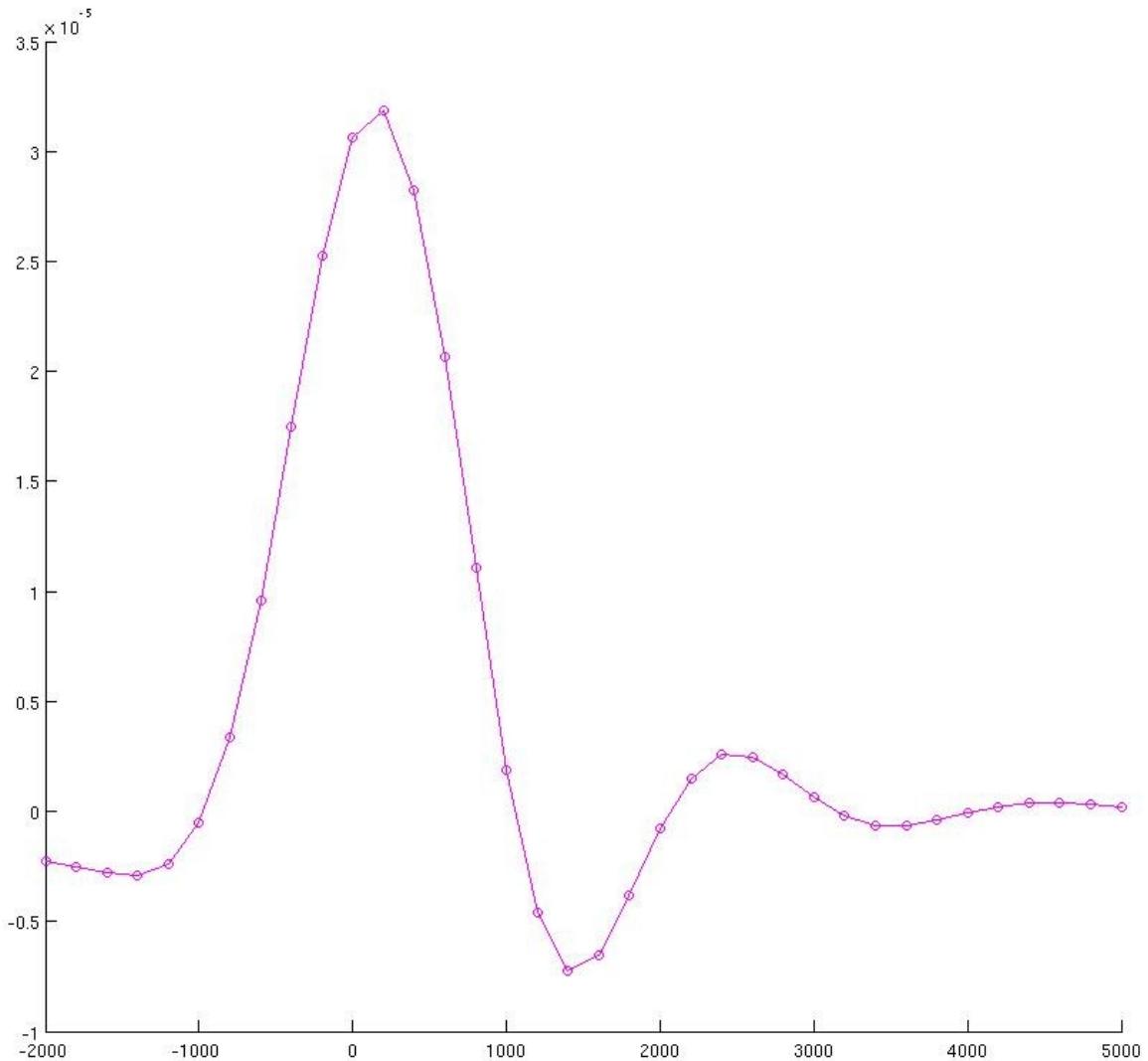


# Runs under various conditions -> library of fitting curves

Grounding line position from modelling

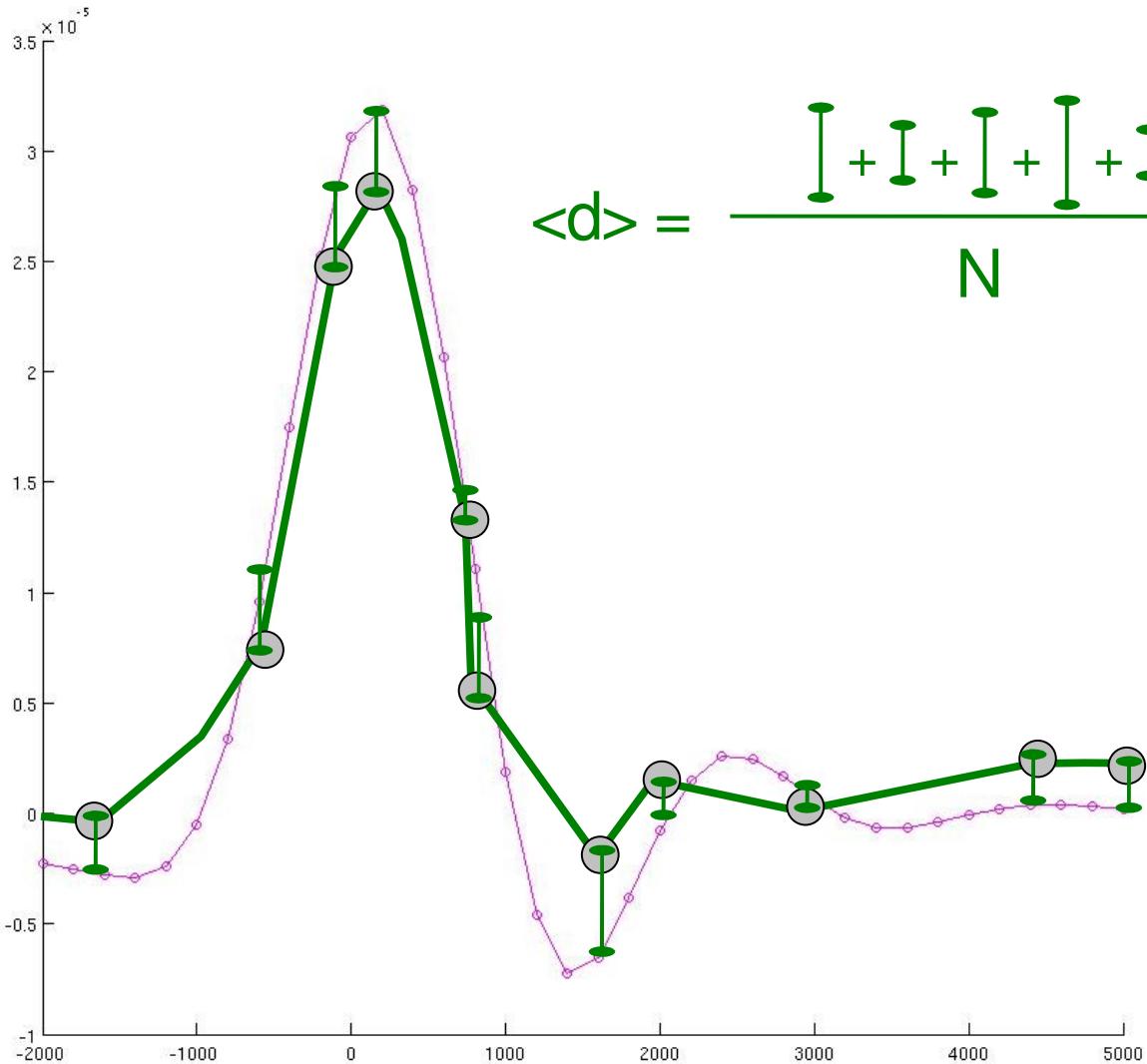


## Grounding line position from modelling

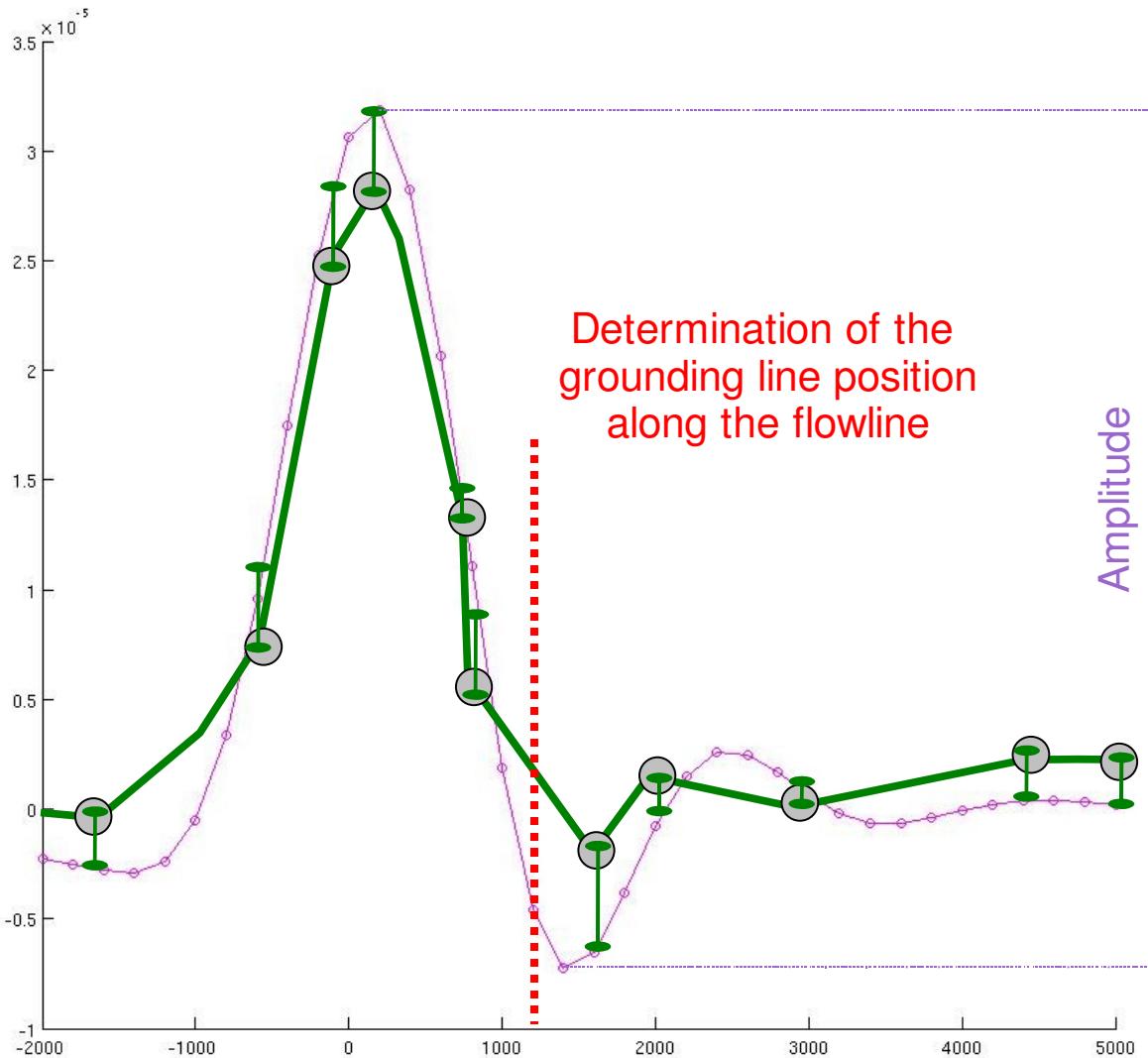


# Minimizing the misfit → selection of the most appropriate curve

Grounding line position from modelling



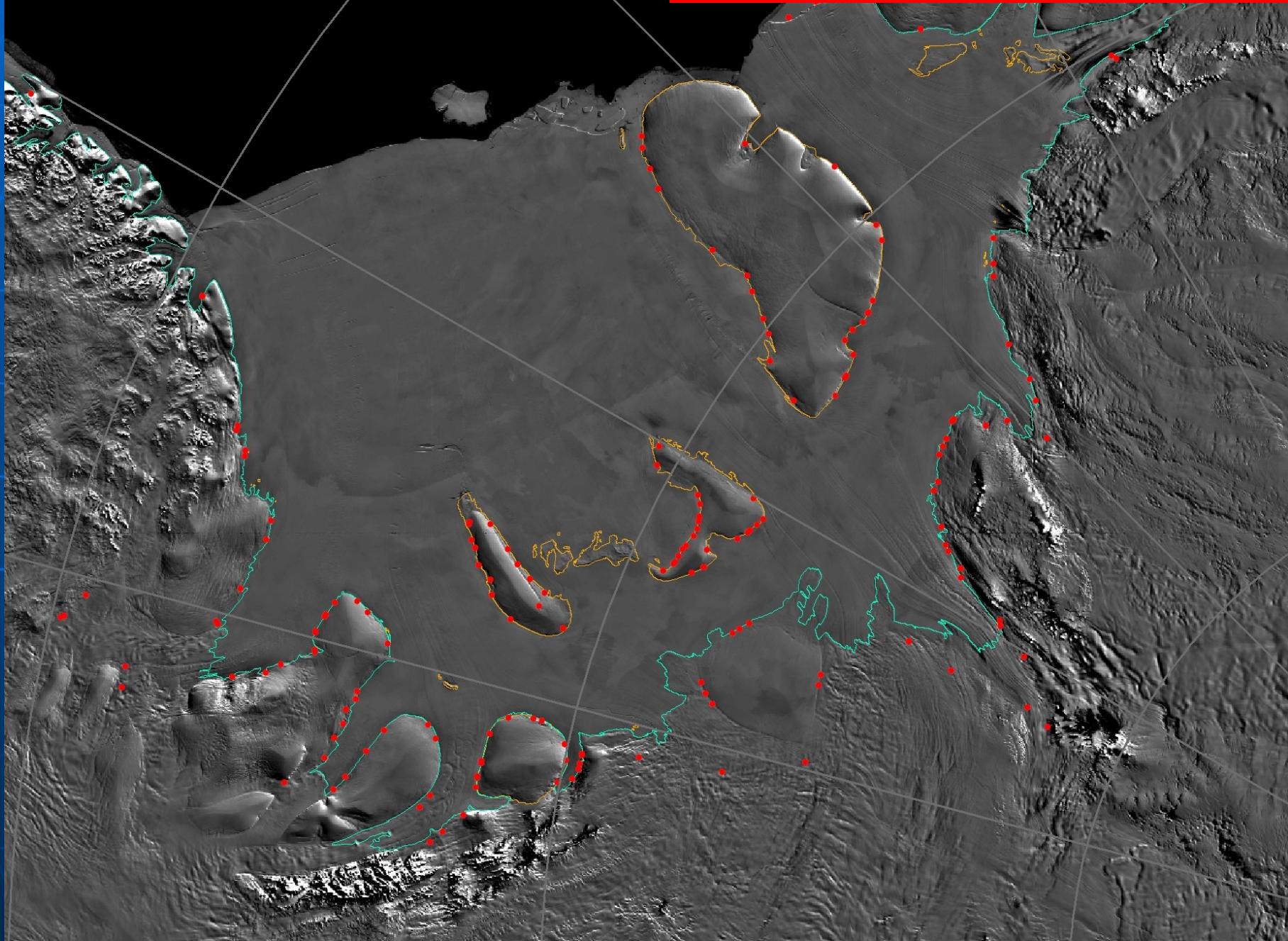
## Grounding line position from modelling



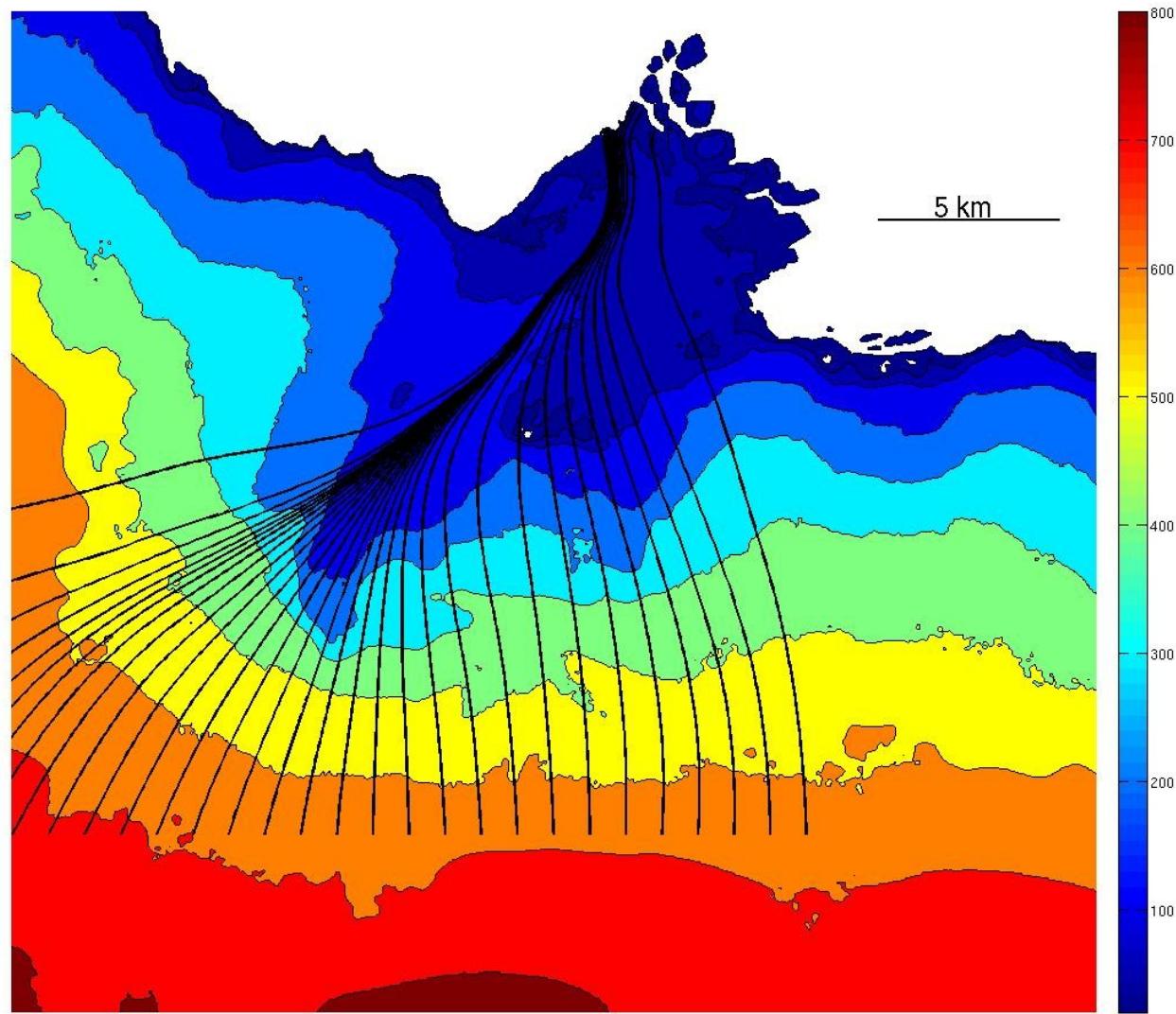
$$\frac{\langle d \rangle}{\text{Amplitude}} < 0.2$$

# Ronne-Filchner Ice-shelf

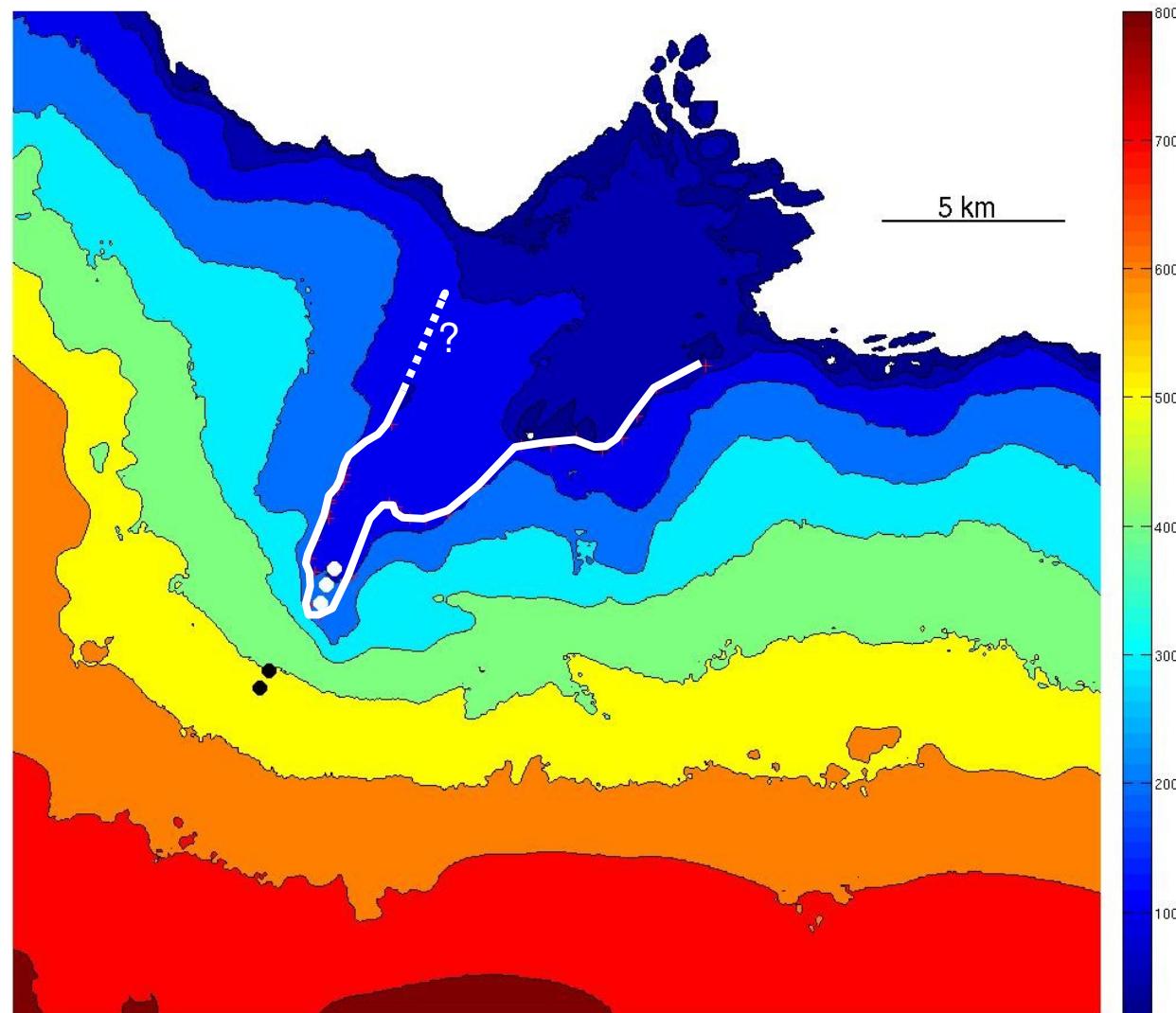
Grounding line position from modelling



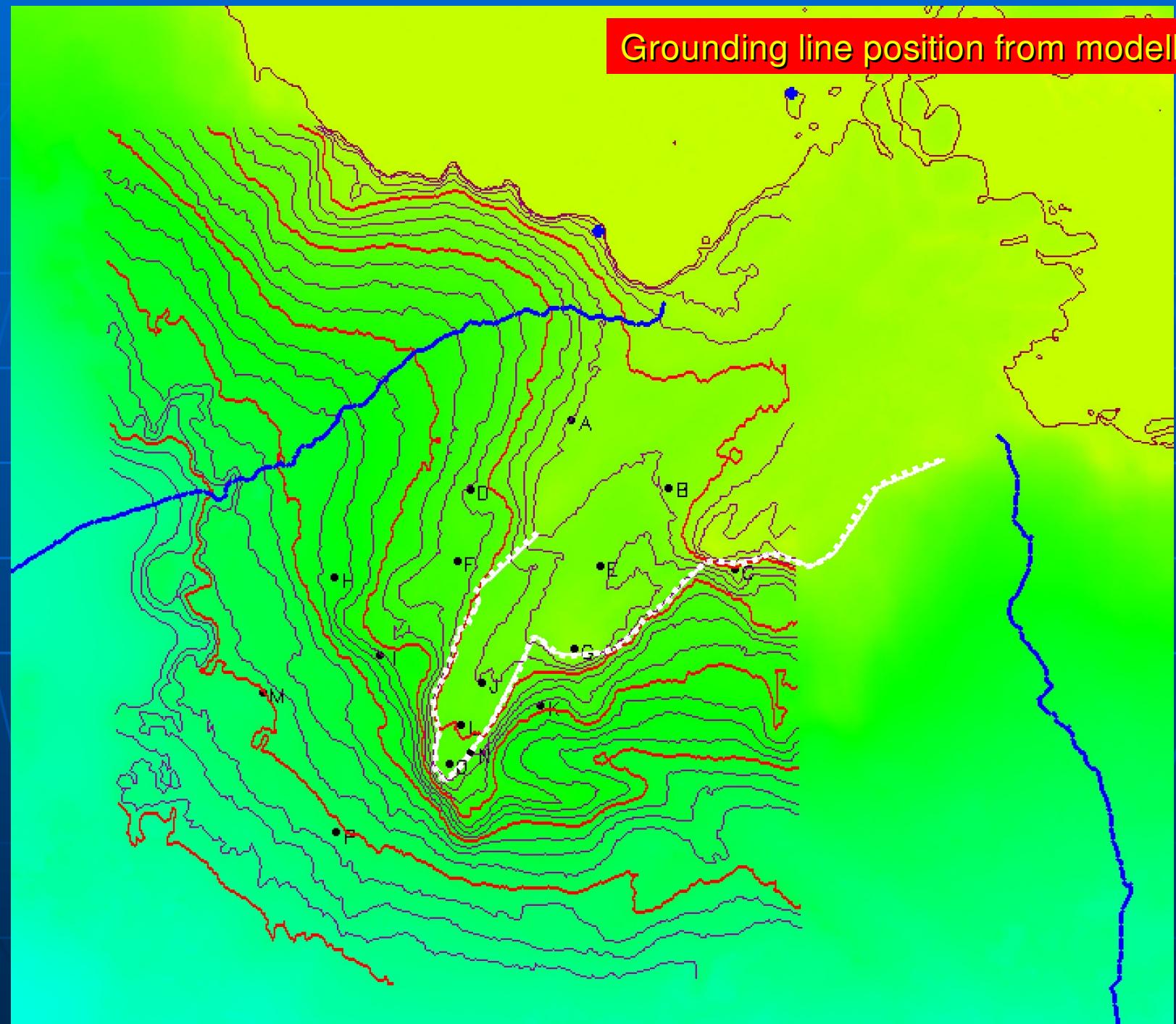
## Grounding line position from modelling



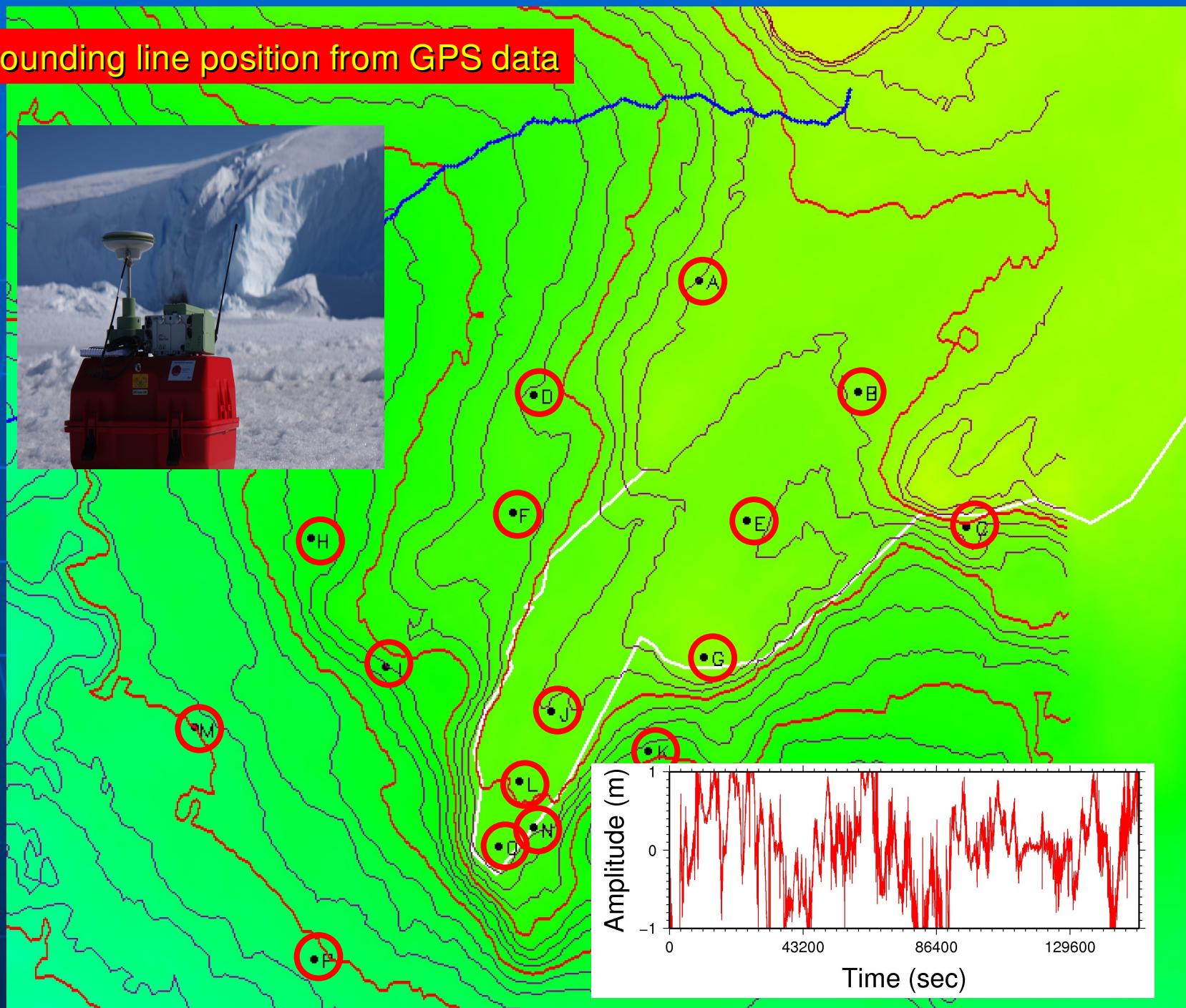
## Grounding line position from modelling



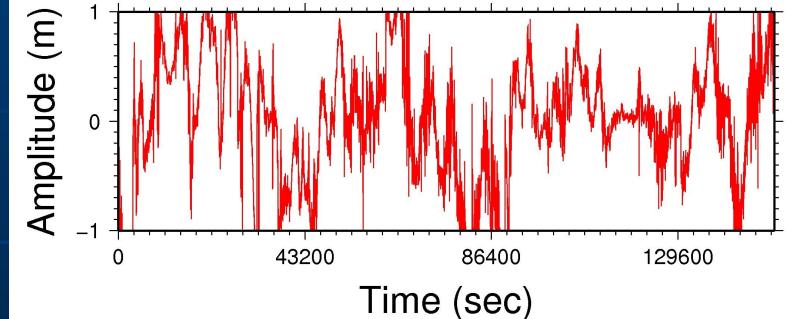
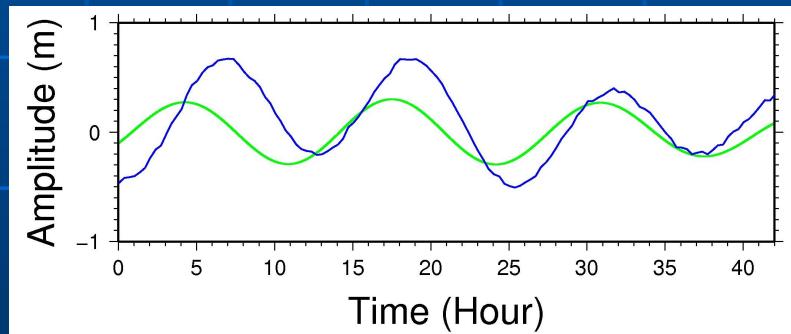
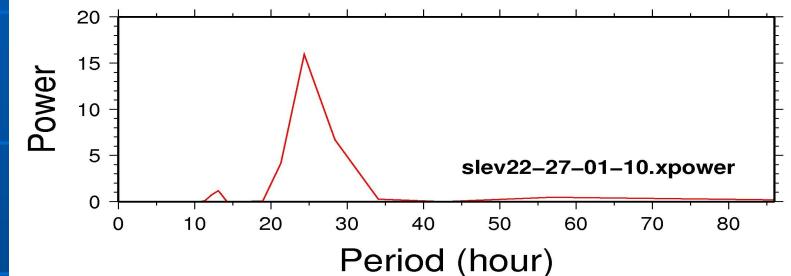
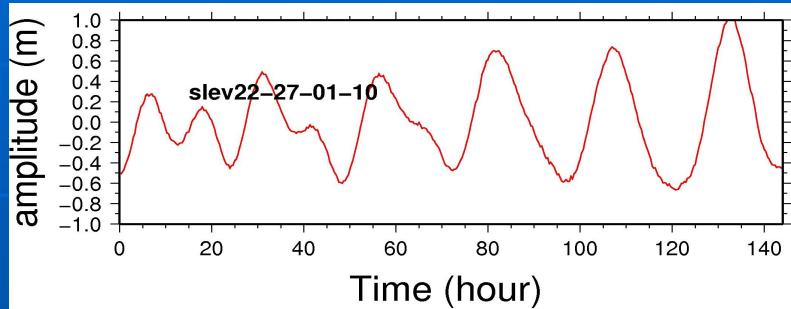
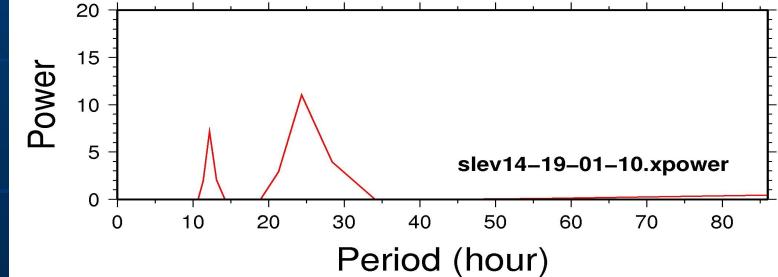
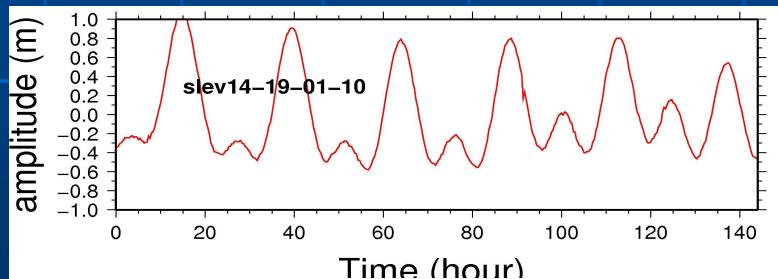
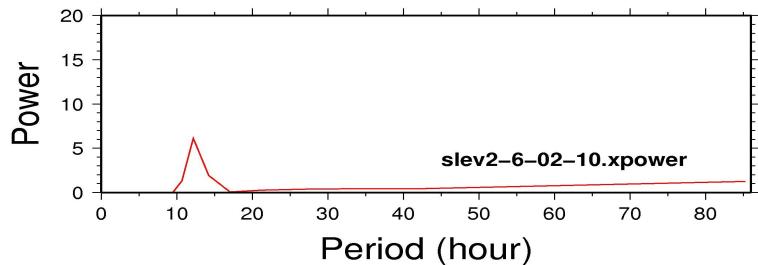
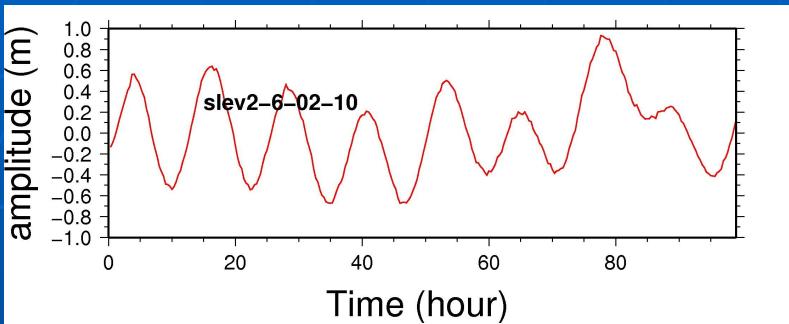
## Grounding line position from modelling



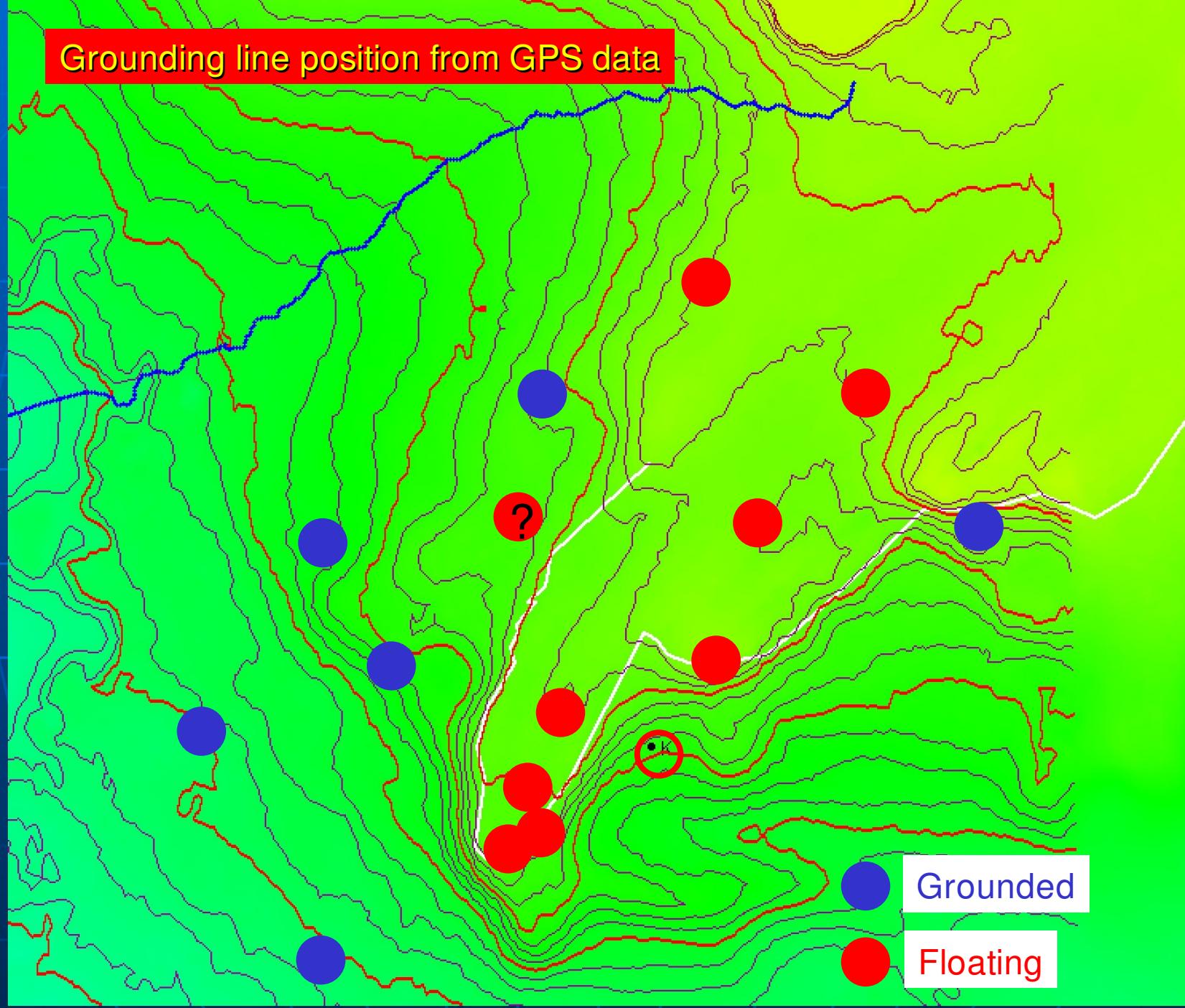
## Grounding line position from GPS data



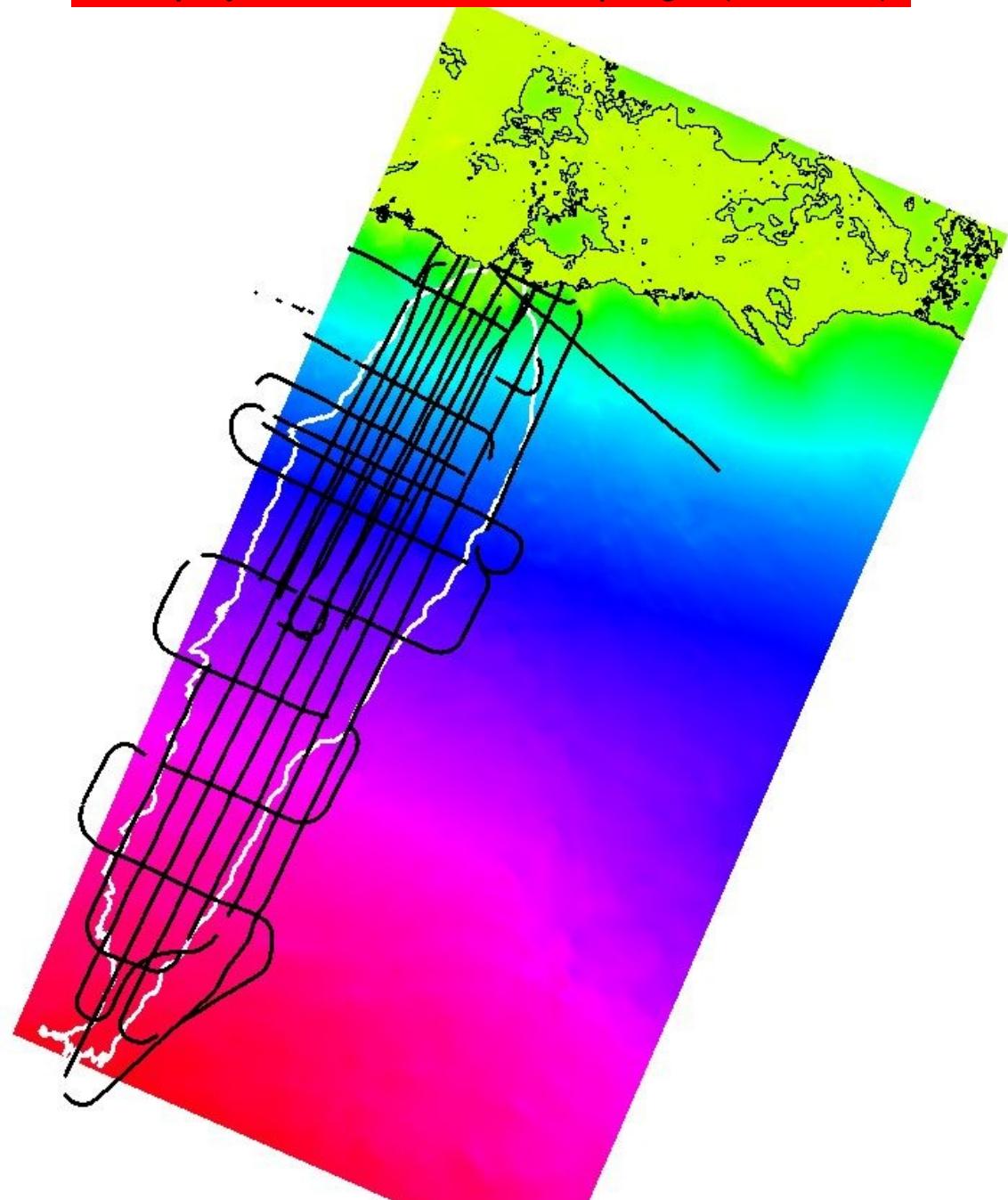
# Grounding line position from GPS data



## Grounding line position from GPS data



# Geophysical airborne campaign (UT-JPL)



JPL 2.5MHz radar  
(red grid)



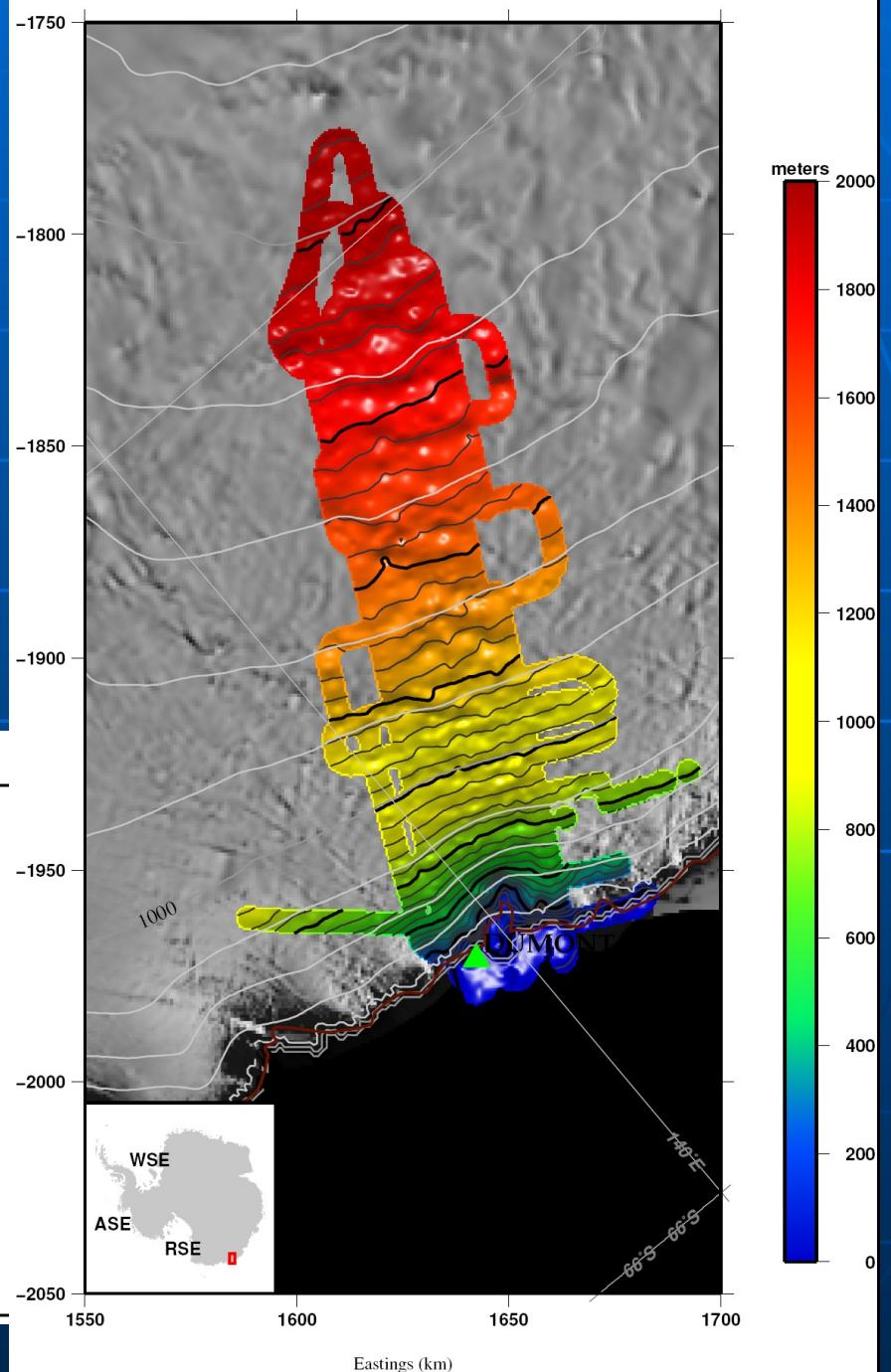
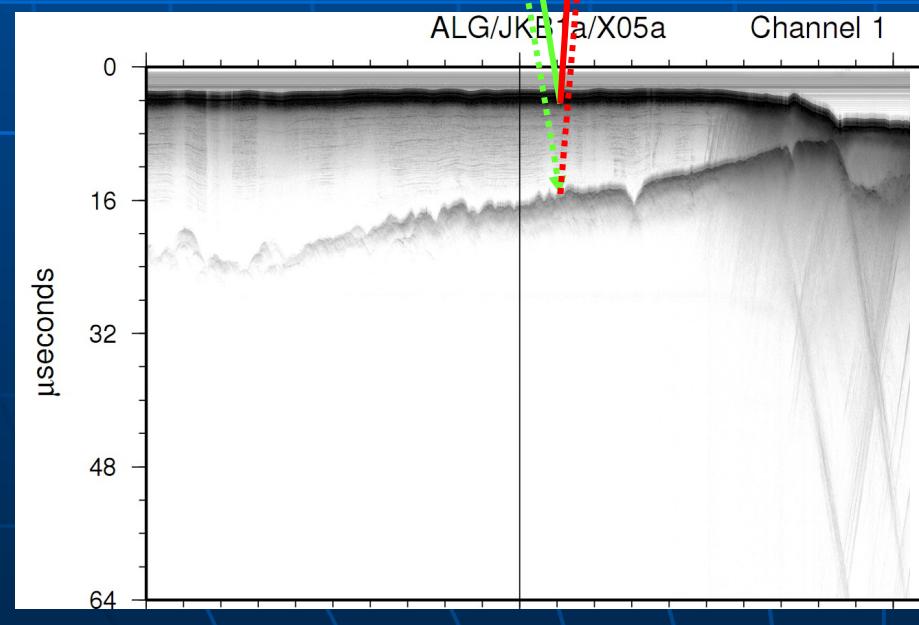
# Geophysical airborne campaign (UT-JPL)

ALG Surface Elevation (WGS-84)

Aircraft GPS positioning  
+ Double travel time of  
radar wave in the air

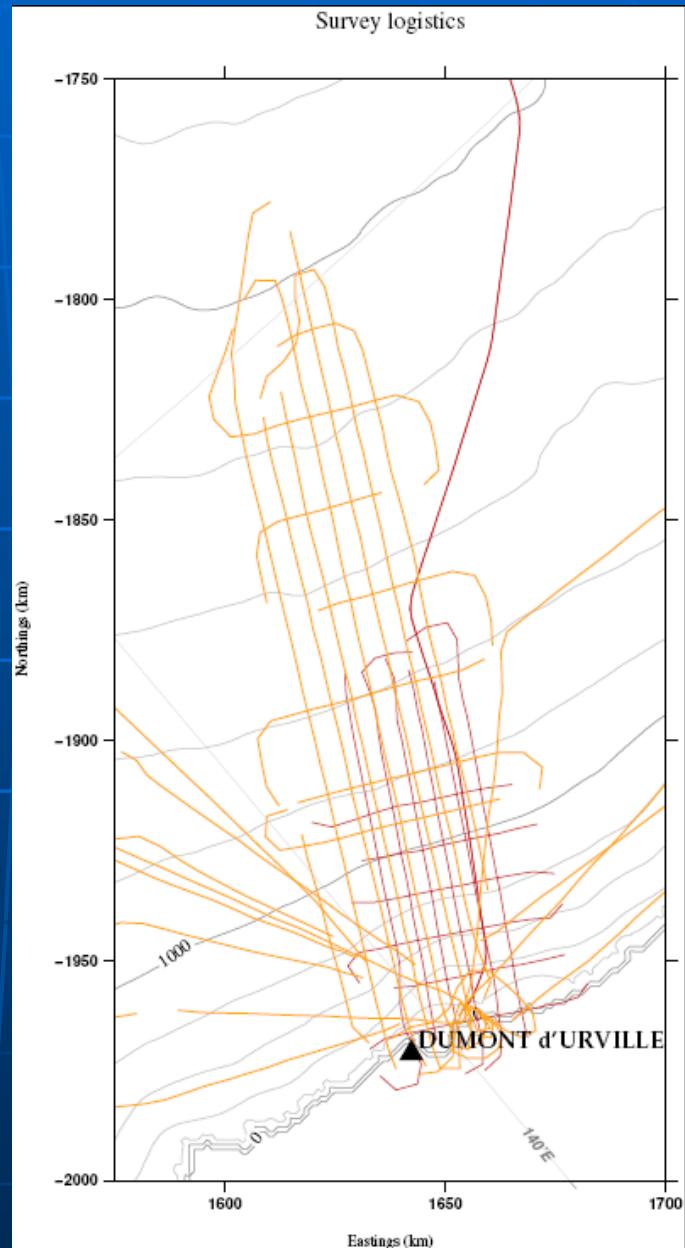
Surface elevation

Bedrock topography

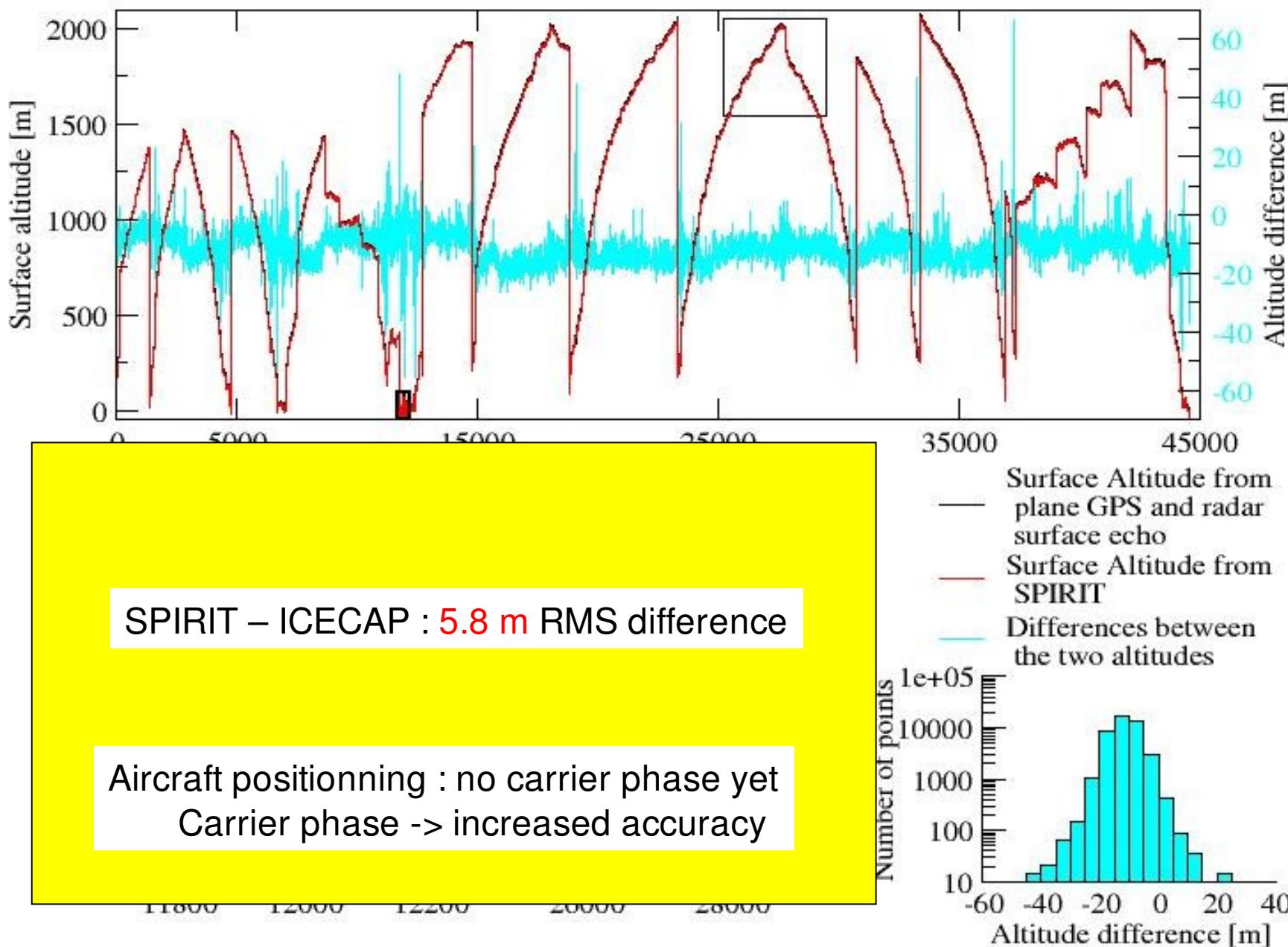


# SPIRIT DEM compared with the ICECAP surface data set

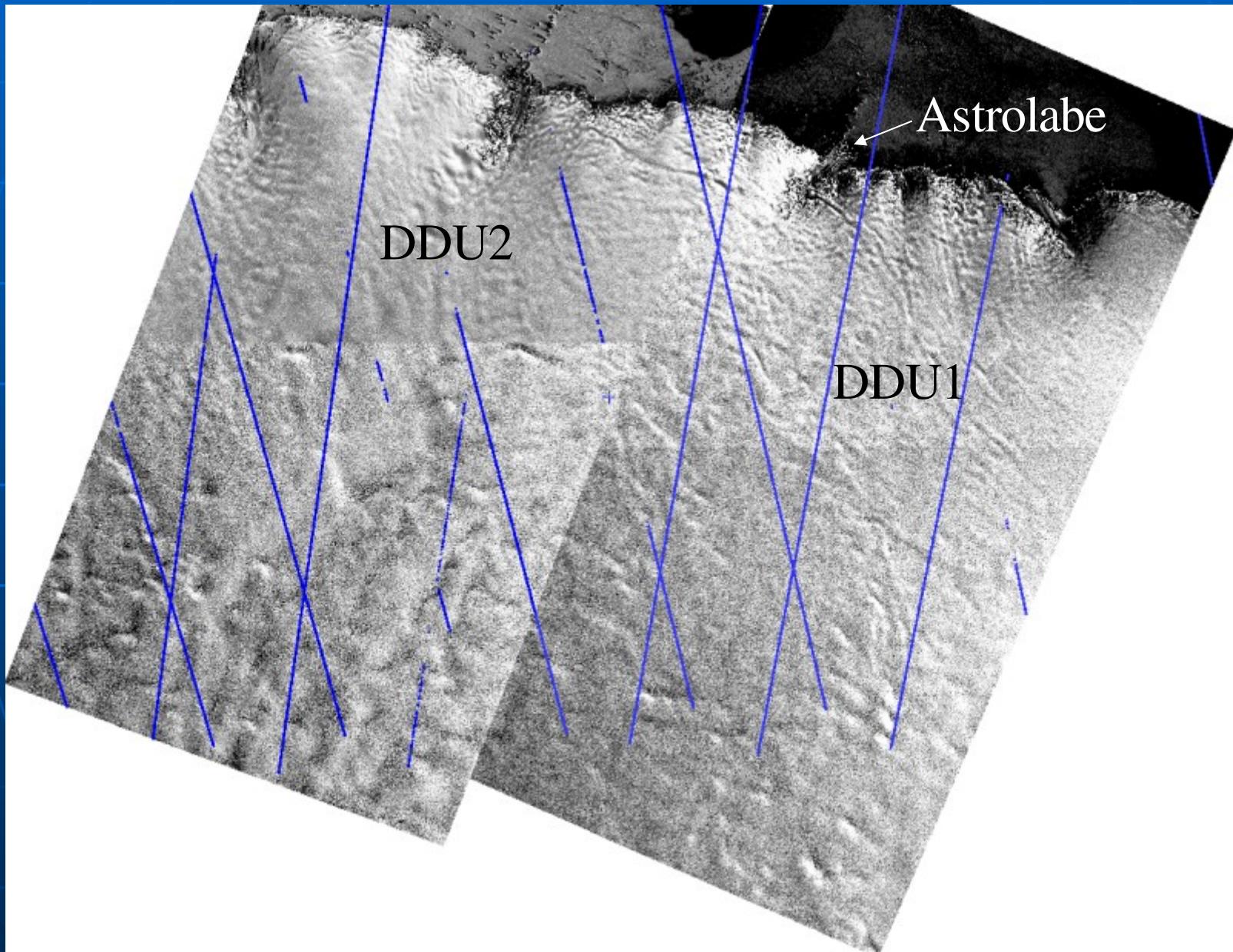
42 000 radar points  
-> nearest SPIRIT grid point



# SPIRIT DEM compared with the ICECAP surface data set



# DDU



# DDU 2 : compa HRS - ICESAT

		HRS DEM v1	HRS DEM v2	HRS DEM v3
With interpolated pixels (=all data)	mean	<b>0.43</b>	<b>15.15</b>	<b>15.31</b>
	stddev	18.65	79.29	74.11
	Nb data	4946	4946	4946
Without interpolated pixels	mean	<b>-1.44</b>	<b>-1.46</b>	<b>-1.62</b>
	stddev	3.73	2.78	2.82
	Nb data	1399	1419	545
% of interpolated pixels		<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>71</b>

# DDU 1: compa HRS - ICESAT

		HRS DEM v1	HRS DEM v2	HRS DEM v3
With interpolated pixels (=all data)	mean	<b>6.25</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>3.35</b>
	stddev	27.05	21.88	14.97
	Nb data	4520	4520	4520
Without interpolated pixels	mean	<b>-0.29</b>	<b>-0.30</b>	<b>-0.34</b>
	stddev	2.86	2.24	2.36
	Nb data	2329	2175	957
% of interpolated pixels		<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>54</b>



Thank you !