

A photograph of a large ice cave entrance. The cave is carved into a massive glacier, with a dark, shadowed interior. A river flows through the cave, carrying icebergs and sediment. The surrounding ice is a deep blue color, and the rock walls are rugged and layered. The scene is dramatic and awe-inspiring.

**The flip side: Thermal state of
Greenland's ice-bed interface
in ice flow models**

William Colgan

Geological Survey of Denmark & Greenland

How have we improved the Greenland heat flow map?

Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 14, 2209–2238, 2022

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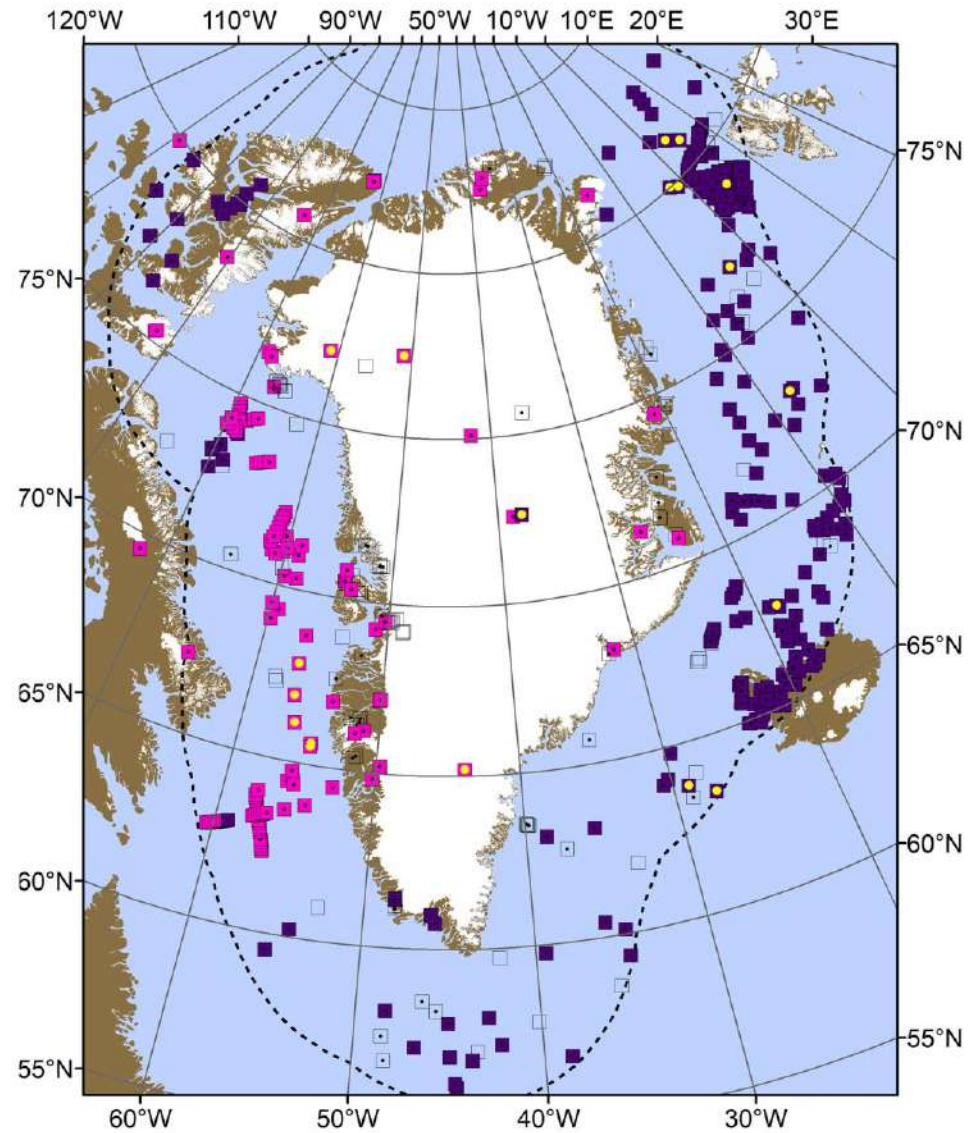


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Science
Data

Greenland Geothermal Heat Flow Database and Map (Version 1)

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How have we improved the Greenland heat flow map?



- Type 0 (included in IHFC2018) (290)
- Type 1 (not included in IHFC2018) (129)
- Type 2 (uncertain data) (66)
- Type 3 (insufficient data) (74)
- reassessed (20)

290 existing IHFC

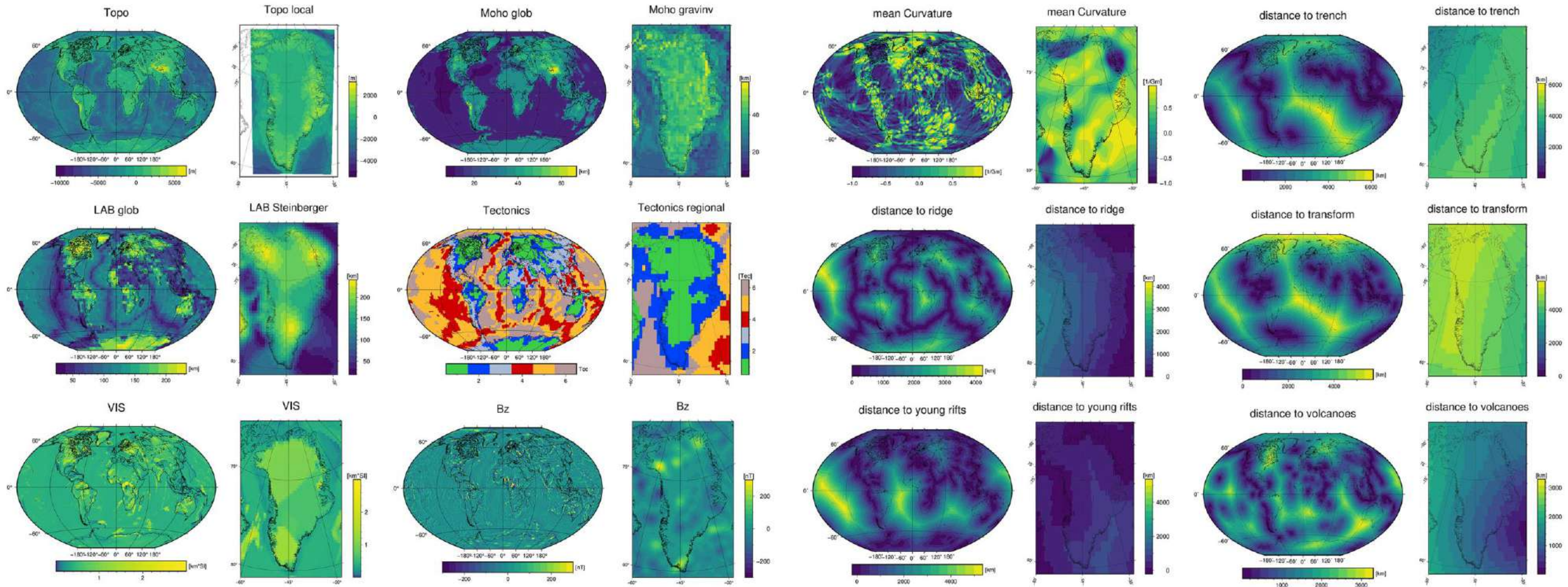
129 new

88 submarine

24 subglacial

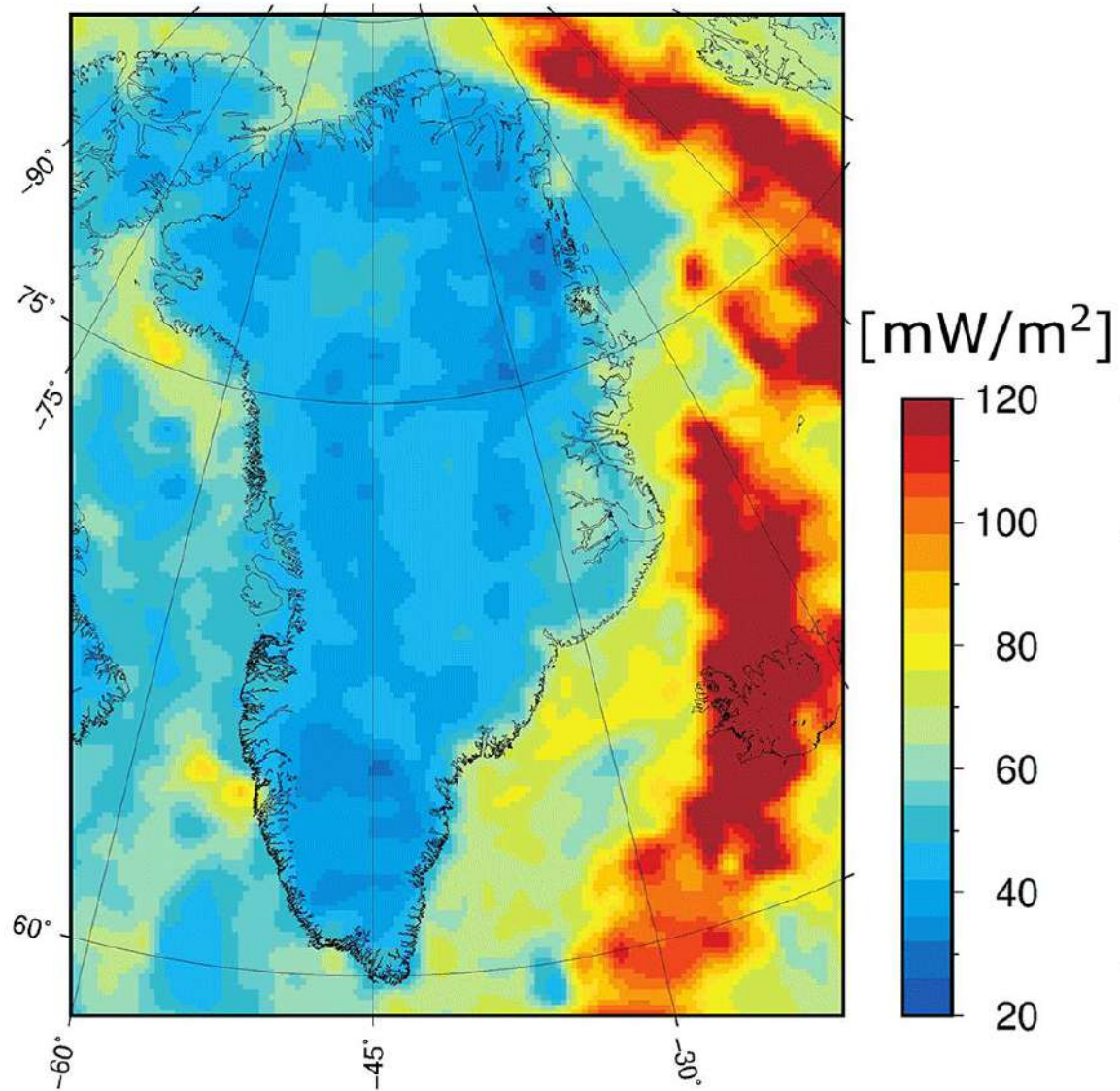
17 subaerial

How did we convert point observations into a map?



12 geophysical datasets to predict heat flow through machine learning

What does our new model of Greenland heat flow look like?



**“Cold Greenland”
model
(seamless)**

Model	Min [mW m ⁻²]	Mean [mW m ⁻²]	Max [mW m ⁻²]
This study (without NGRIP)	28	44	76
This study (with NGRIP)	29	48	102
Rezvanbehbahani et al. (2017)	20	54	124
Artemieva (2019)	40	58	108
Martos et al. (2018)	50	60	75
Greve (2019)	32	62	130
Lucazeau (2019)	46	64	83

Which geothermal heat flow map to use for ISMIP7?

This Study

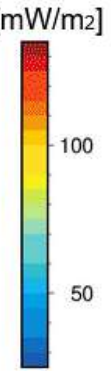
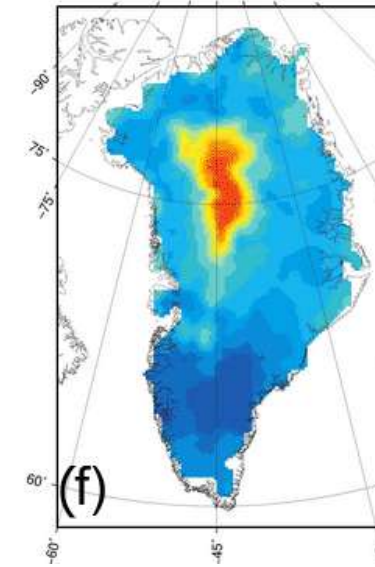
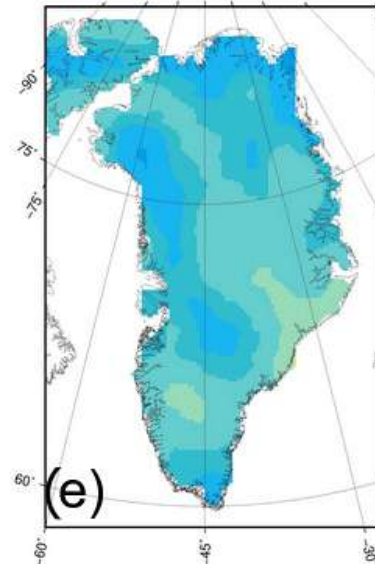
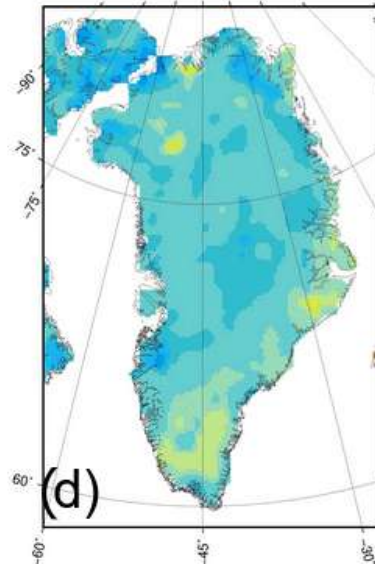
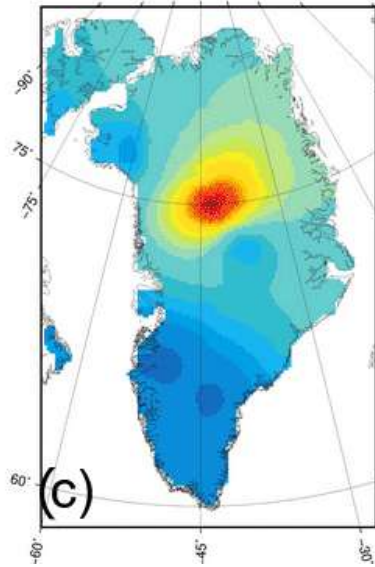
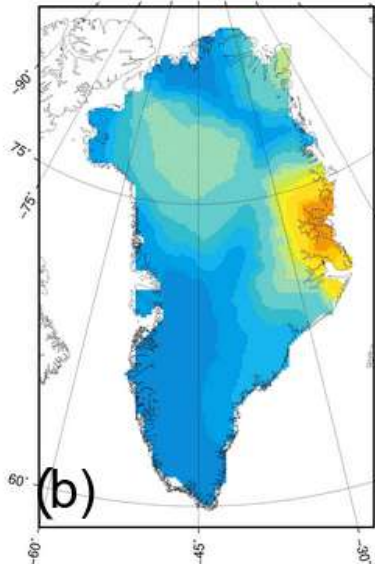
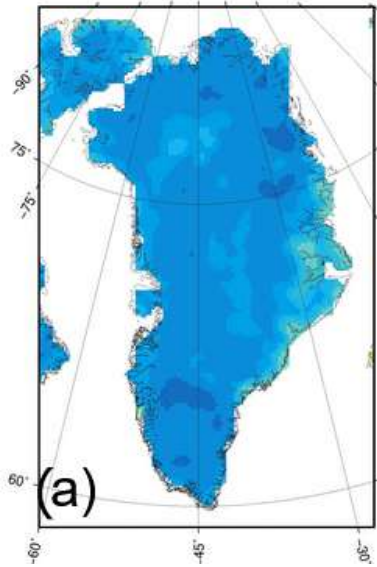
Artemieva 2018

Greve 2019

Lucazeau 2019

Martos et al. 2018

Rezvanbehbahani et al. 2017



**Several choices for the
ice-sheet basal
boundary condition!**

Which geothermal heat flow map to use for ISMIP7?

Model	Number of Greenland heat flow measurements			Number of geophysical datasets	Interpolation method
	Onshore		Offshore		
	Subglacial	Subaerial			
This study	25	77	317	12	Machine learning
Rezvanbehbahani et al. (2017)	5	4	0	20	Machine learning
Artemieva (2019)	1	60	229	8	Thermal isostasy model
Martos et al. (2018)	6	2	0	5	Forward model
Greve (2019)	5	3	0	3	Paleoclimate and ice flow model
Lucazeau (2019)	4	62	248	14	Geostatistical model

Different approaches, geophysical data, and training data

How do the current generation of heat flow maps influence simulations?

The Cryosphere, 18, 387–402, 2024

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The Cryosphere Open Access 

Evaluating different geothermal heat-flow maps as basal boundary conditions during spin-up of the Greenland ice sheet

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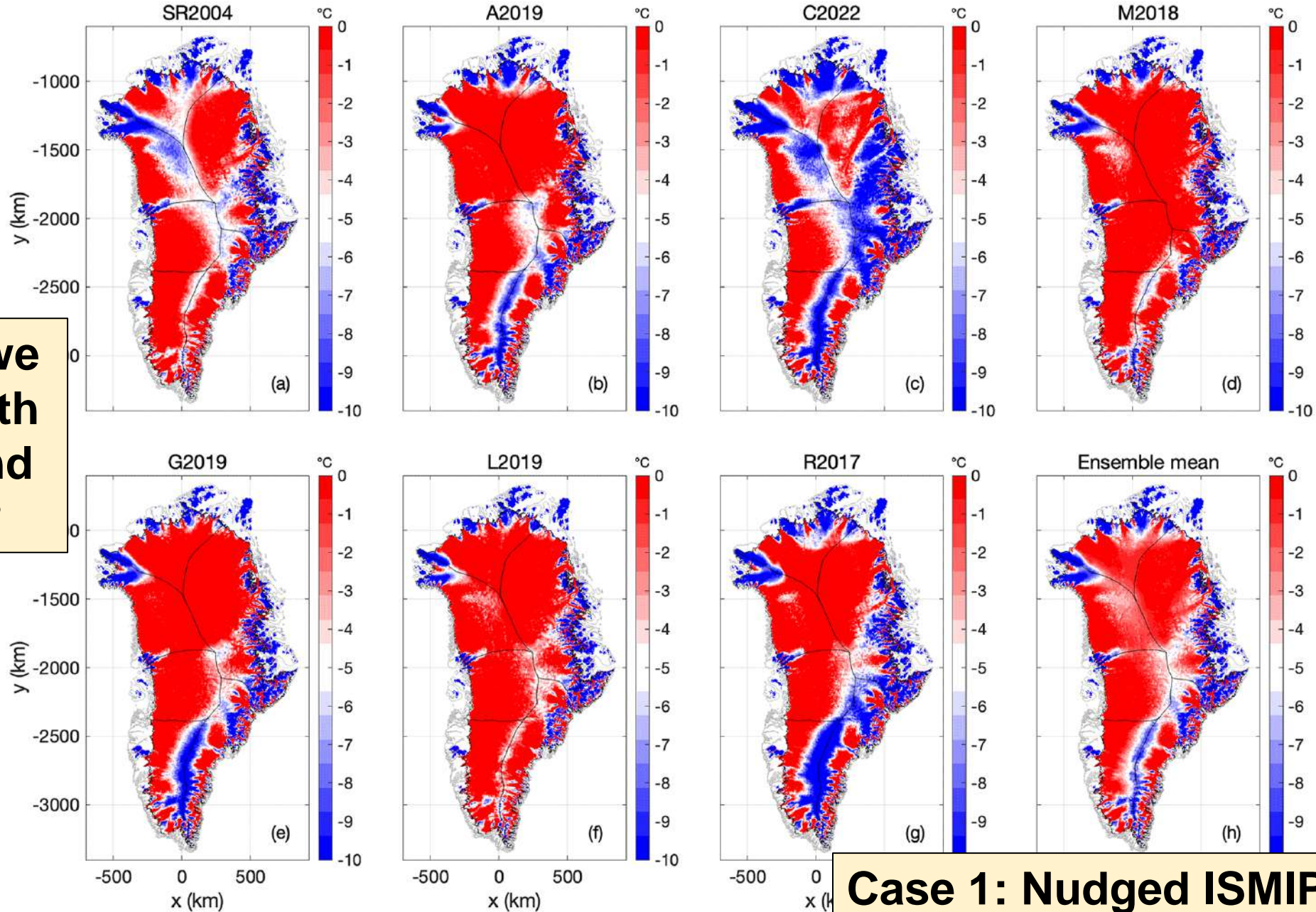
¹State Key Laboratory of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

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³Institute of Geosciences, Kiel University, Kiel, Germany

⁴Climate and Global Dynamics Laboratory, NSF National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO, USA

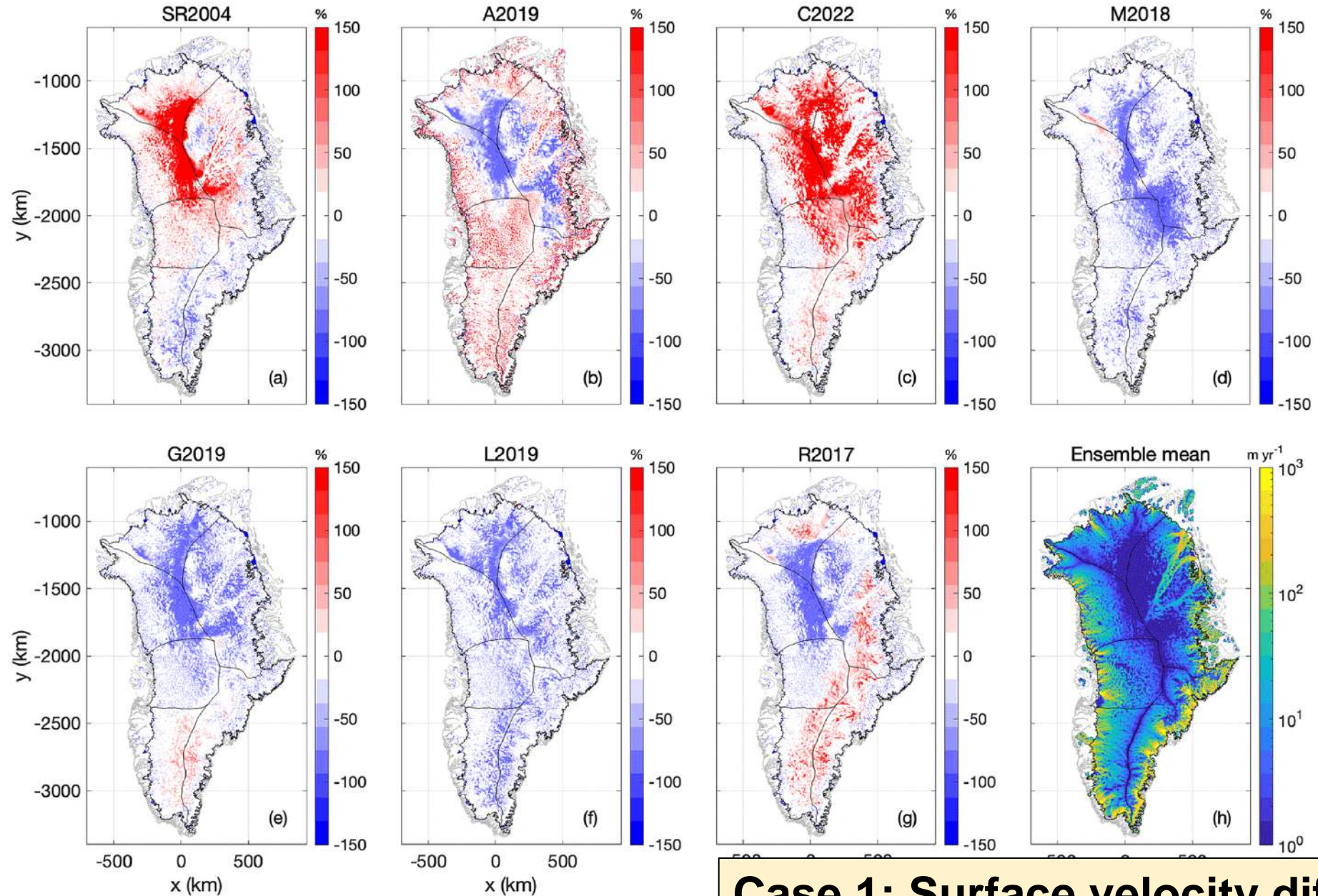
How do the current generation of heat flow maps influence simulations?



How do we keep North Greenland frozen?

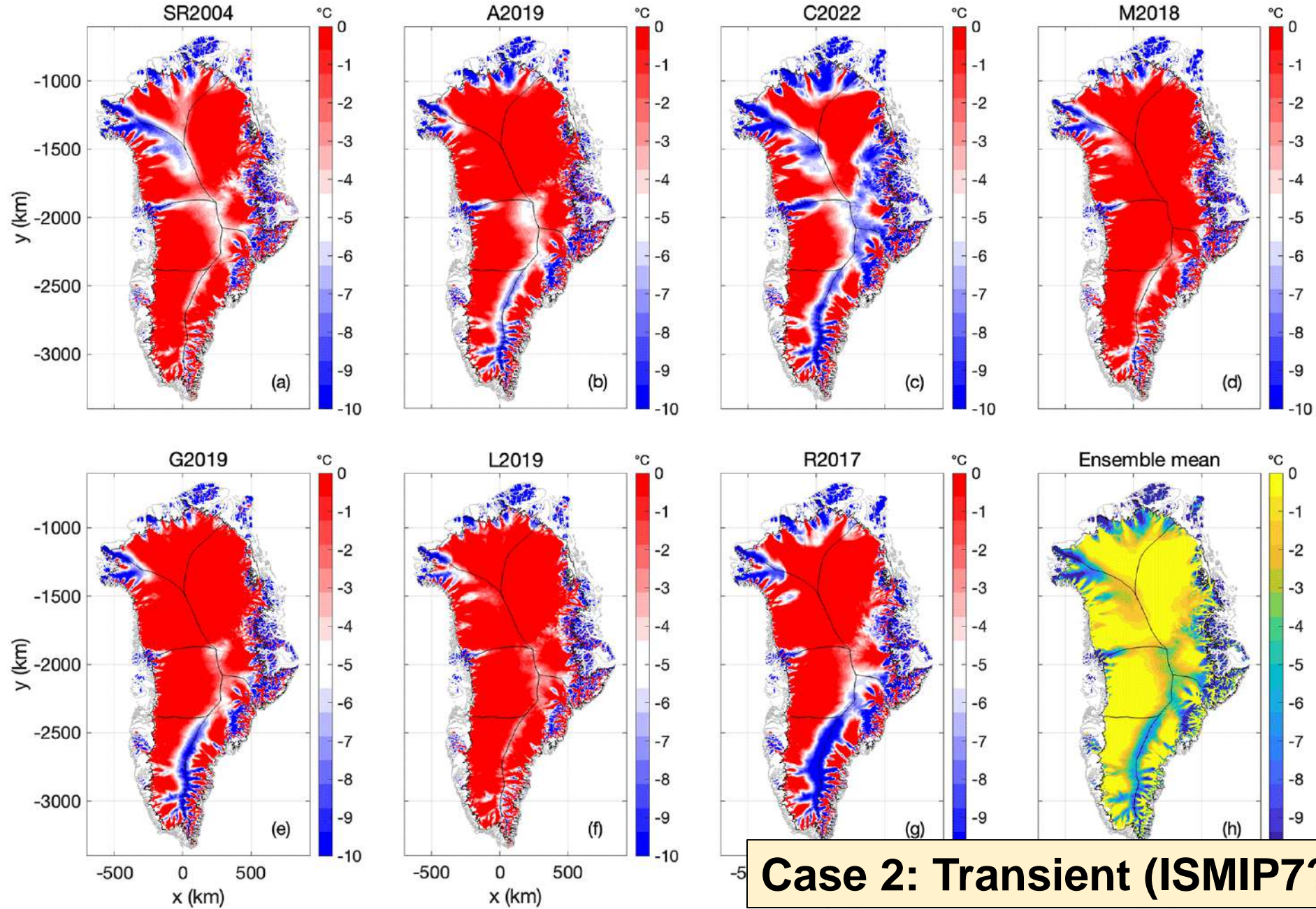
Case 1: Nudged ISMIP6 spin-up

How do the current generation of heat flow maps influence simulations?



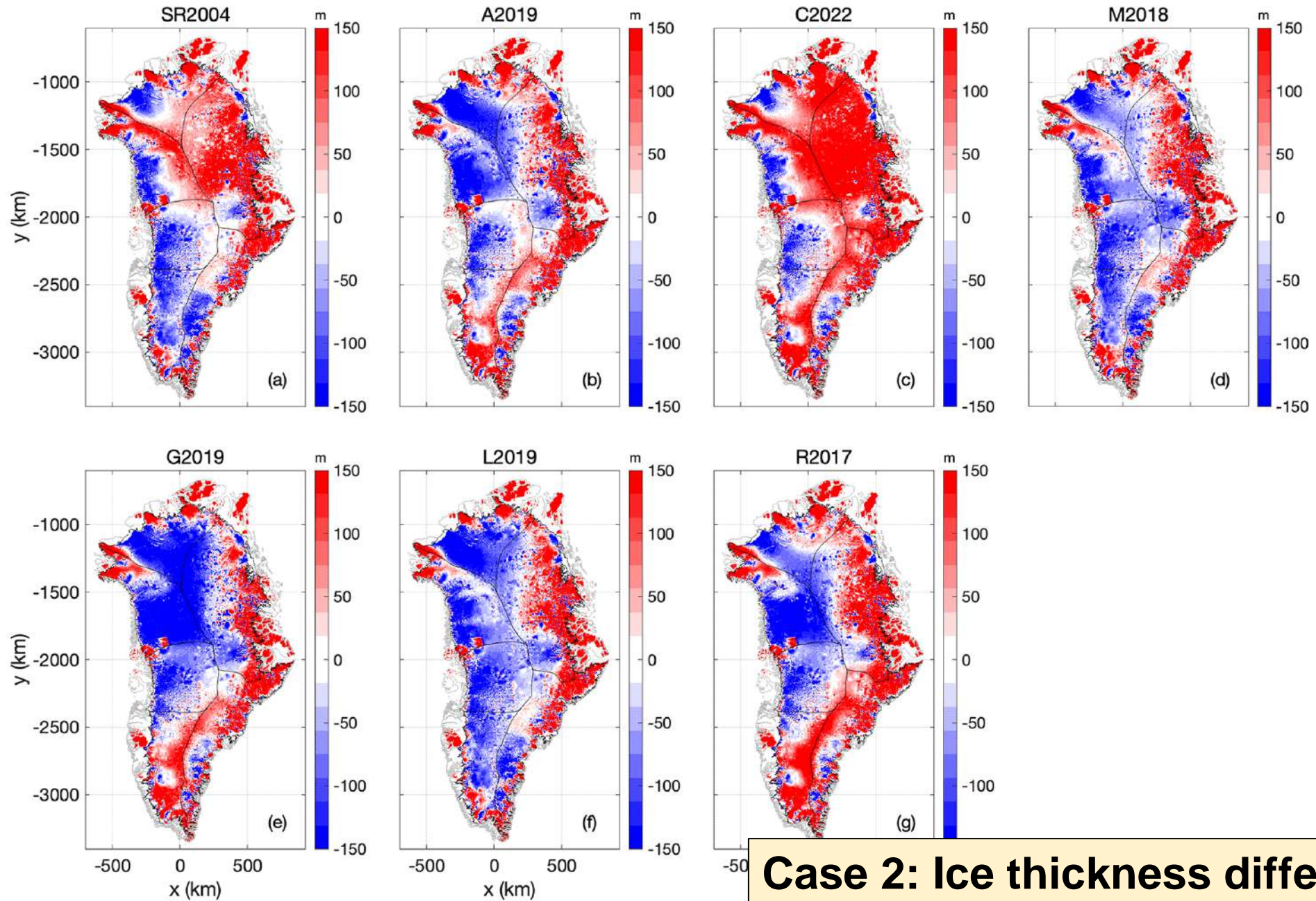
Case 1: Surface velocity differences

How do the current generation of heat flow maps influence simulations?



Case 2: Transient (ISMIP7?) spin-up

How do the current generation of heat flow maps influence simulations?



Case 2: Ice thickness differences

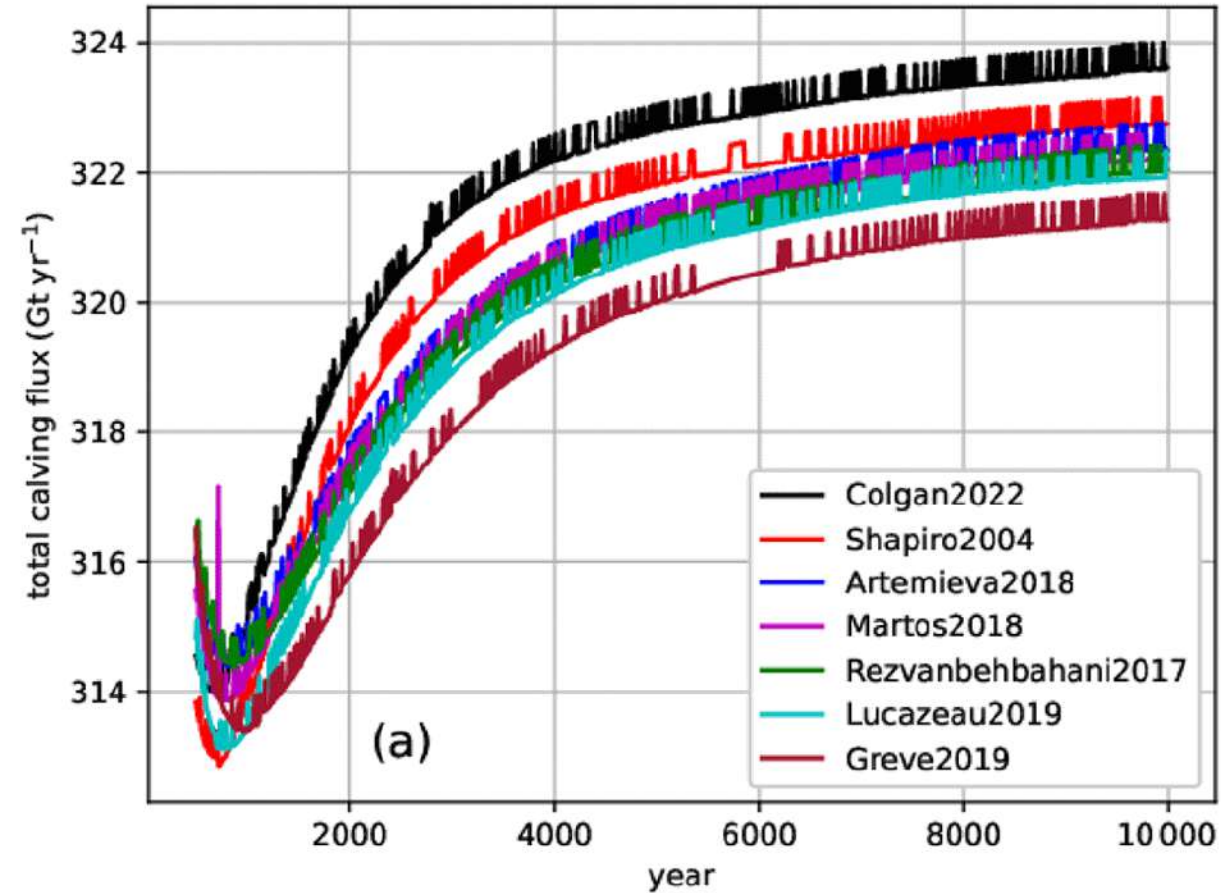
What is the heat flow influence on ice-sheet sensitivity?

Name	Reference	Case 1	Case 2
C2022	Colgan et al. (2022)	21.8 %	33.5 %
R2017	Rezvanbehbahani et al. (2017)	43.0 %	48.0 %
SR2004	Shapiro and Ritzwoller (2004)	35.5 %	44.3 %
A2019	Artemieva (2019)	50.2 %	52.8 %
M2018	Martos et al. (2018)	54.4 %	60.0 %
G2019	Greve (2019)	53.6 %	57.4 %
L2019	Lucazeau (2019)	52.5 %	59.7 %

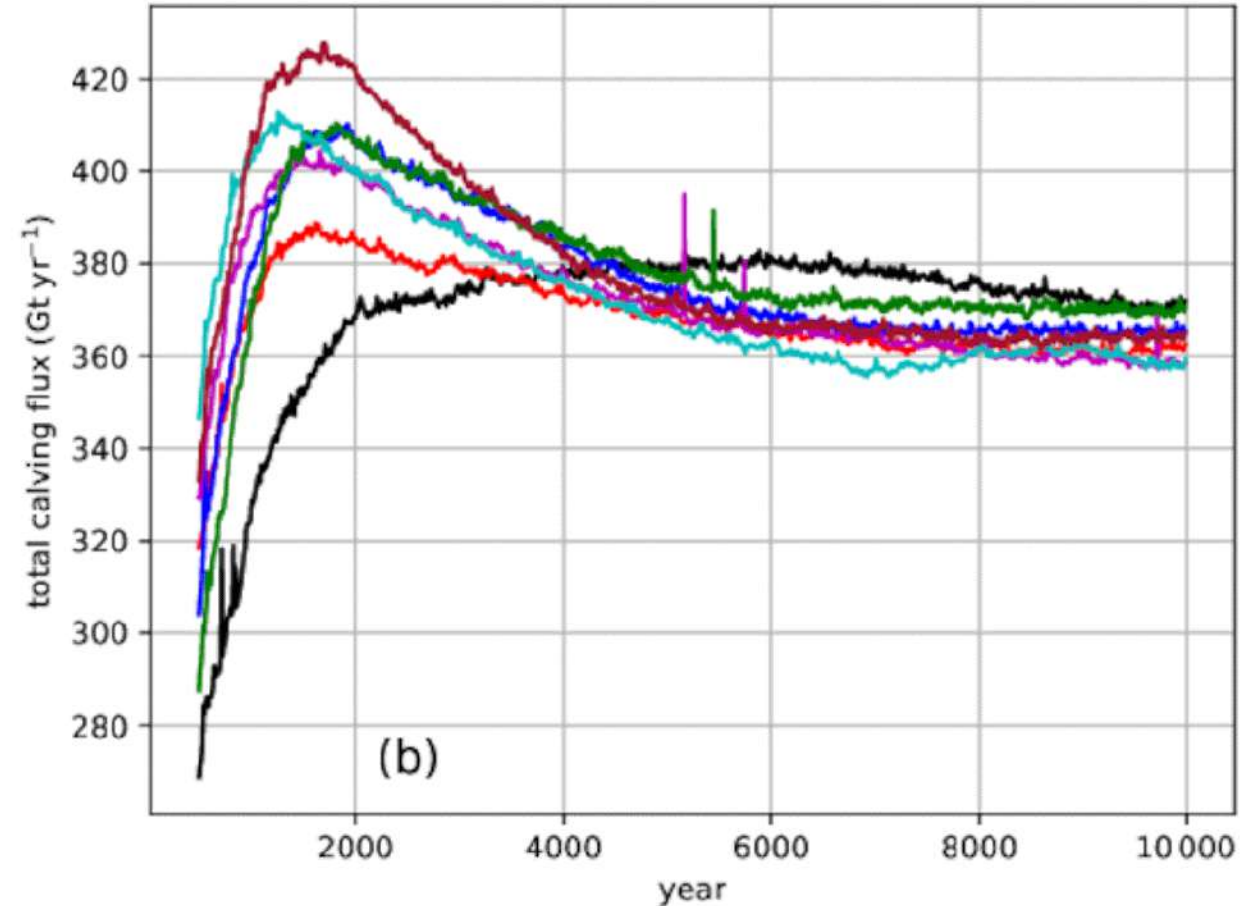
**Temperate fraction
of ice-bed interface**

What is the heat flow influence on ice-sheet sensitivity?

Case 1 (nudged)



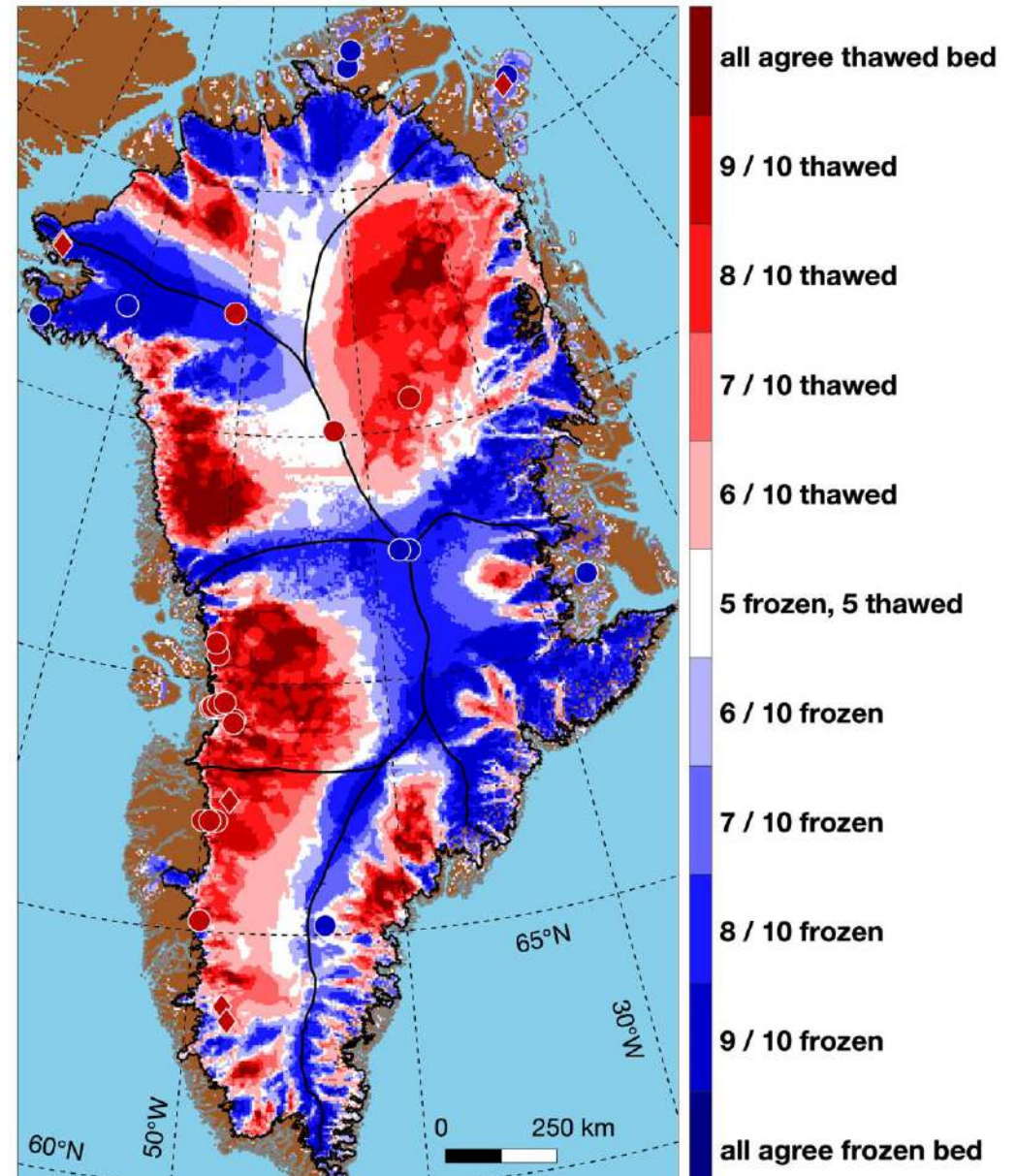
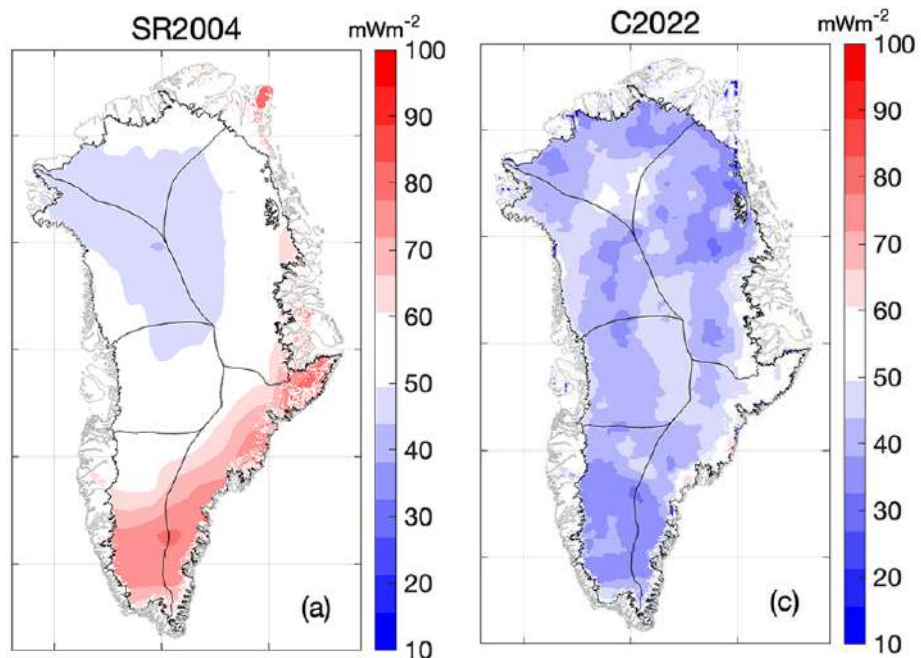
Case 2 (transient)



Differences in
iceberg calving

How did geothermal heat flow map influence ISMIP6?

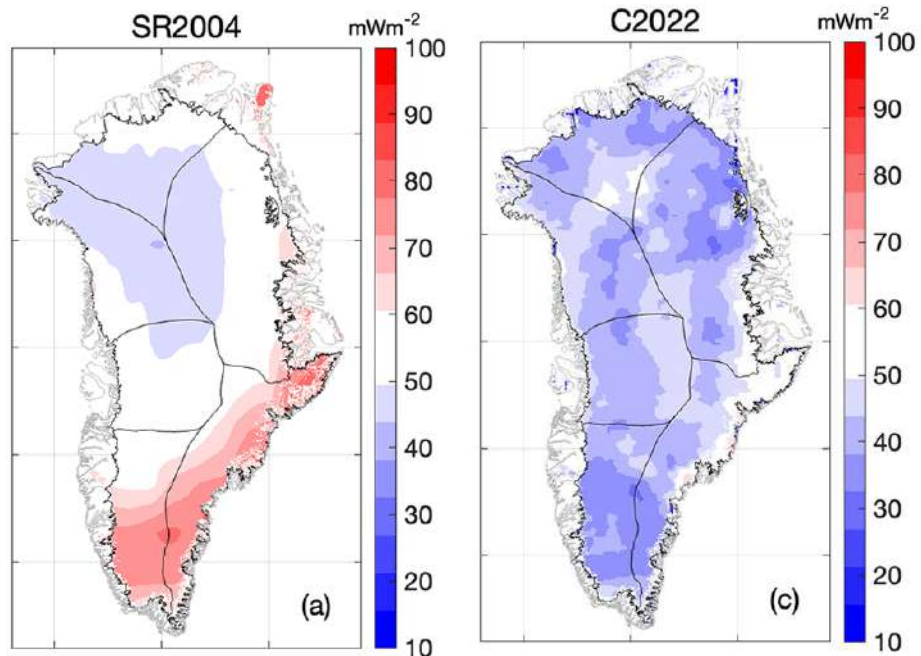
“Of the 21 Greenland model submissions to ISMIP6, 12 prescribed geothermal heat flow from a 20-year-old global heat flow product that had limited evaluation data and a known warm bias in South Greenland.”



MacGregor et al., 2022, *The Cryosphere*

How did geothermal heat flow map influence ISMIP6?

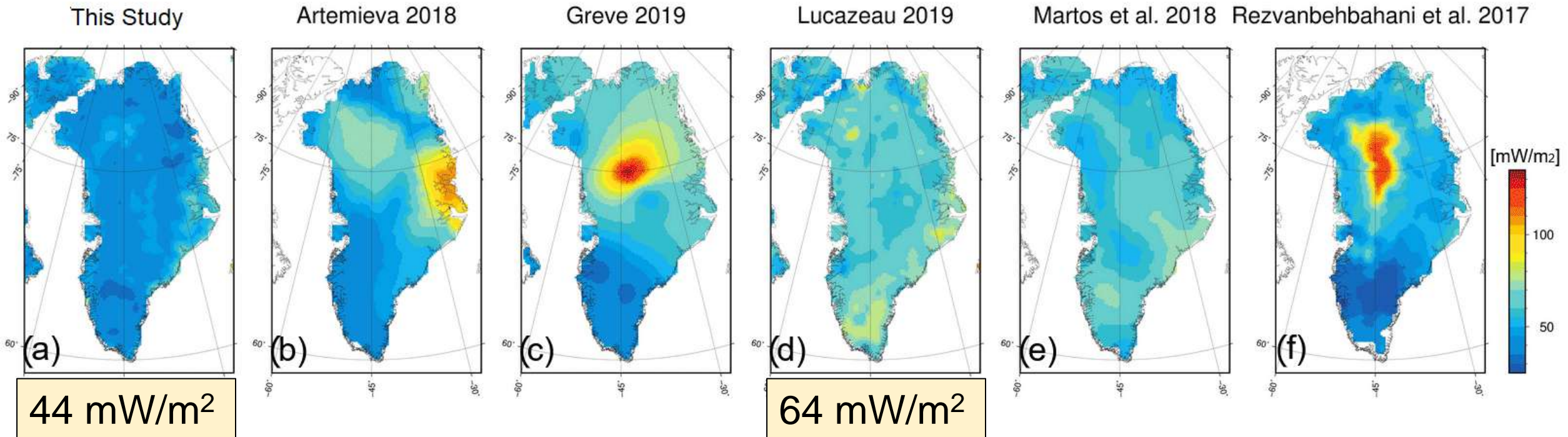
“Of the 21 Greenland model submissions to ISMIP6, 12 prescribed geothermal heat flow from a 20-year-old global heat flow product that had limited evaluation data and a known warm bias in South Greenland.”



Looking ahead to ISMIP7

“We suggest that ISMIP7 should only employ newer and better validated geothermal heat-flow maps, namely those exhibiting high agreement against comprehensive observation datasets.”

Similar to climatic forcing, ISMIP7 should explore the influence of geothermal heat flow forcing on simulated thermal state and ice flow.”



Antarctica too!

The Cryosphere, 18, 1139–1155, 2024

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Impact of boundary conditions on the modeled thermal regime of the Antarctic ice sheet

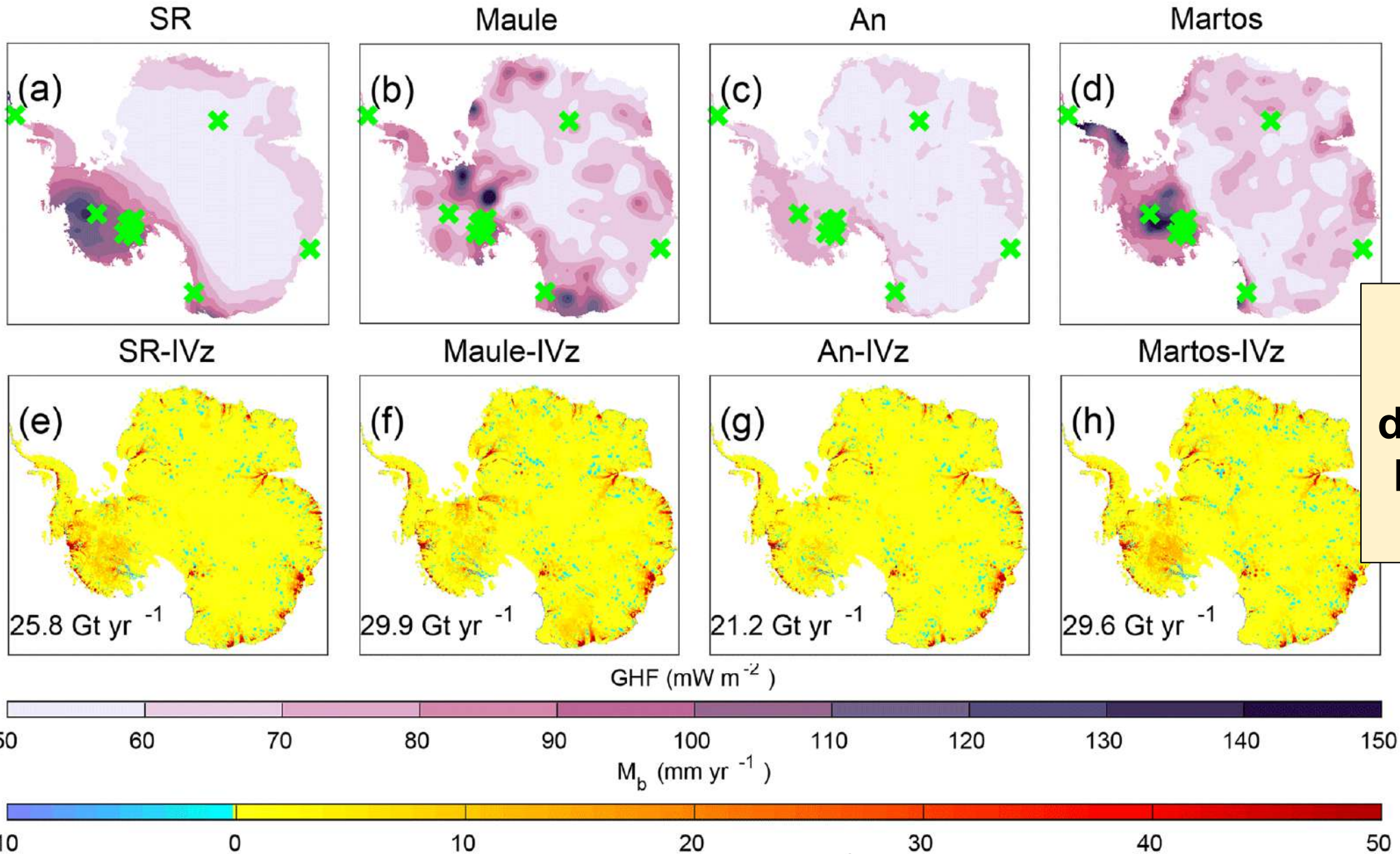
In-Woo Park^{1,2}, Emilia Kyung Jin², Mathieu Morlighem³, and Kang-Kun Lee¹

¹School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea

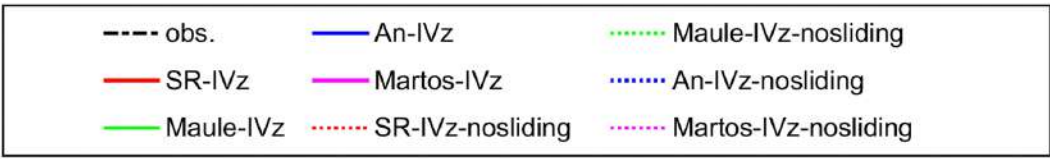
²Korea Polar Research Institute, Incheon, South Korea

³Department of Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, USA

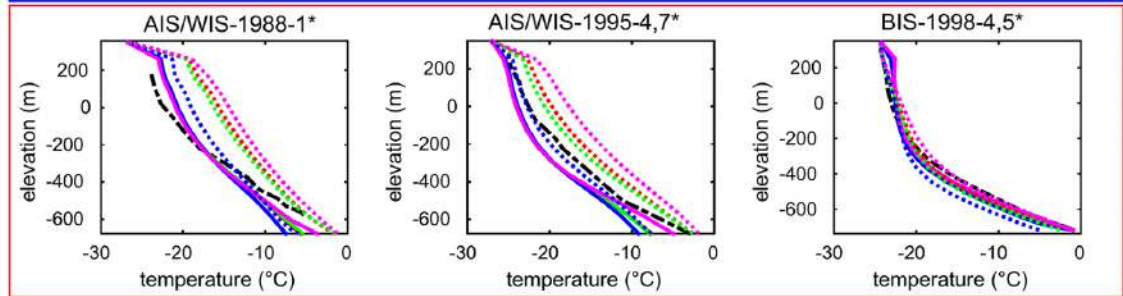
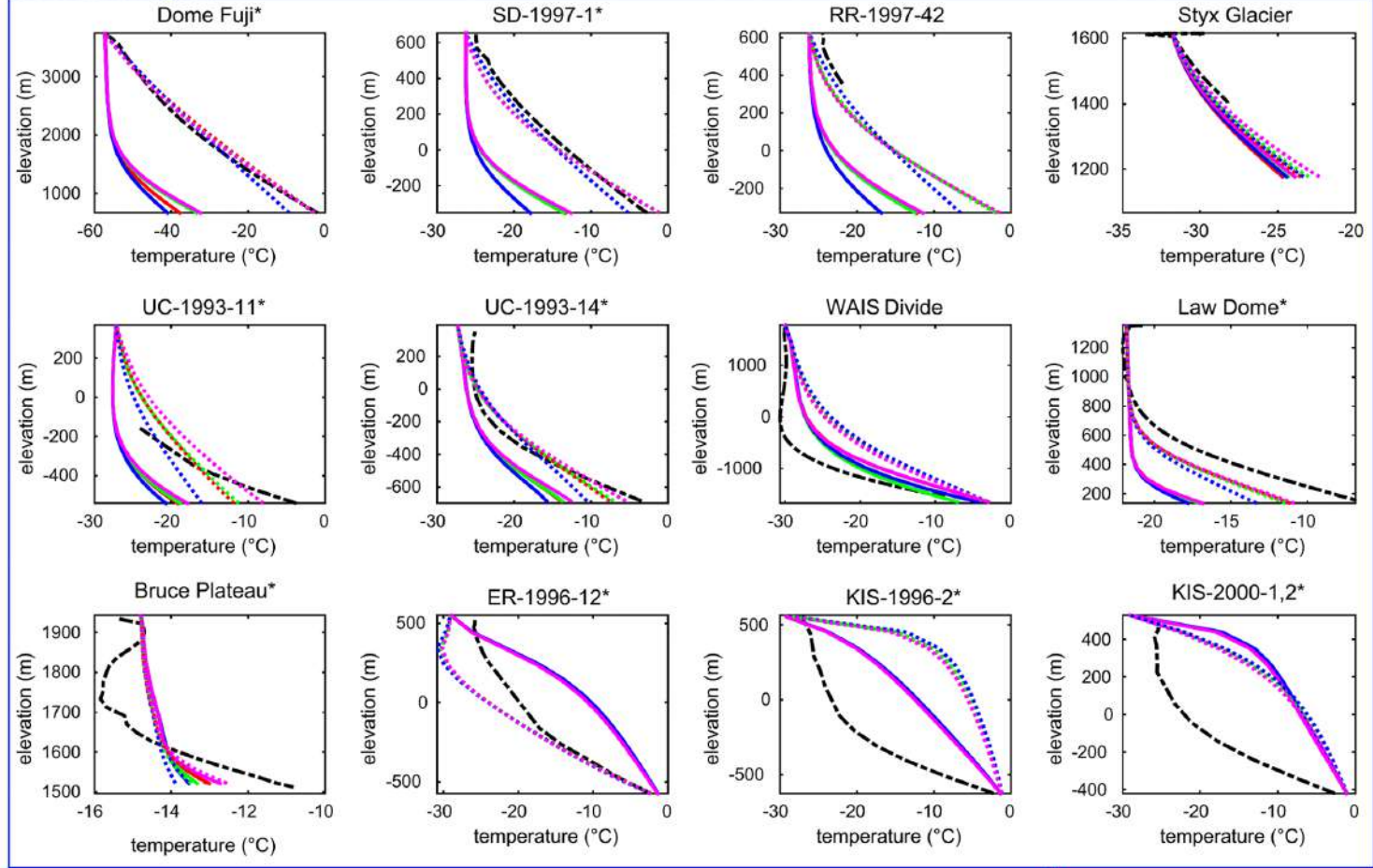
Which geothermal heat flow map to use for ISMIP7?



Absolute magnitude of differences can be larger than Greenland.



Slow flow region



Siple coast
fast flow region

“We find that the impact of using different GHF fields has only a modest influence on the ice temperature field and the total grounded ice basal melting volume.”

An2015 is too cold.
Temperature profiles more dependent on parameterization of vertical advection (accumulation and basal melt rates).

A photograph of a large ice cave entrance. The cave is a dark, cavernous opening in a massive wall of blue-tinged ice. A river flows through the cave, with several icebergs floating in the water. The surrounding ice is heavily crevassed and textured. The foreground shows a rocky shoreline with some ice chunks.

**The flip side: Thermal state of
Greenland's ice-bed interface
in ice flow models**

William Colgan

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