

# Autonomous Polar Observing Systems:

Mike Rose  
& Many co workers at BAS.

Developments at  
British Antarctic Survey



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Antarctic Survey

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Mike Rose 2010 BAS

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COMMS

POWER

COMPUTING

SENSOR



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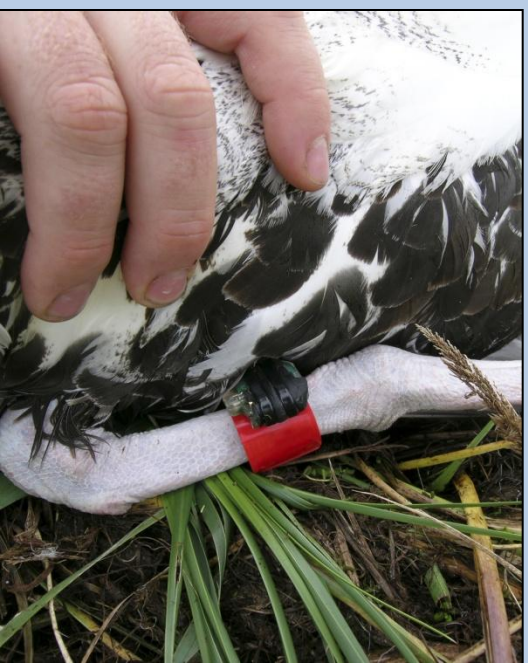
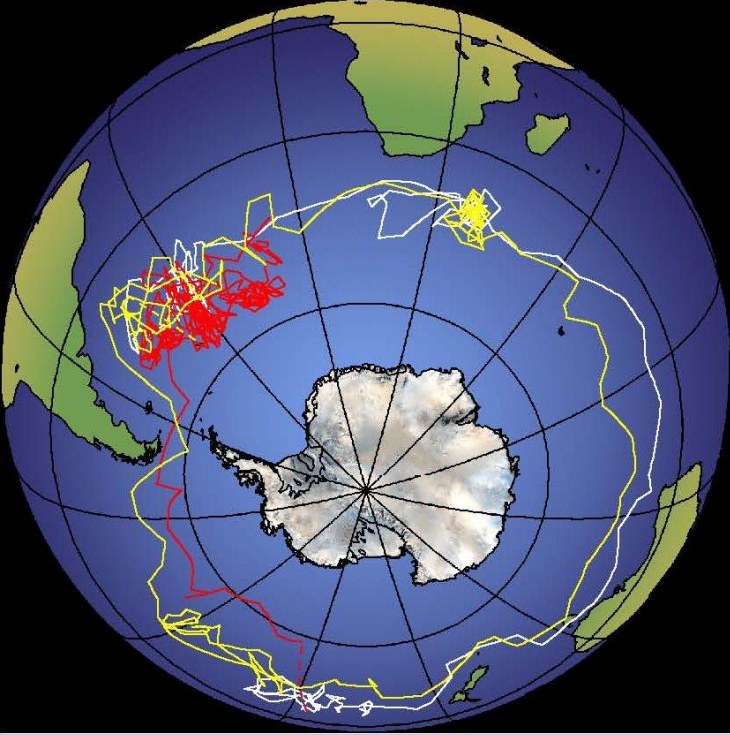


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# UAS for Boundary layer studies





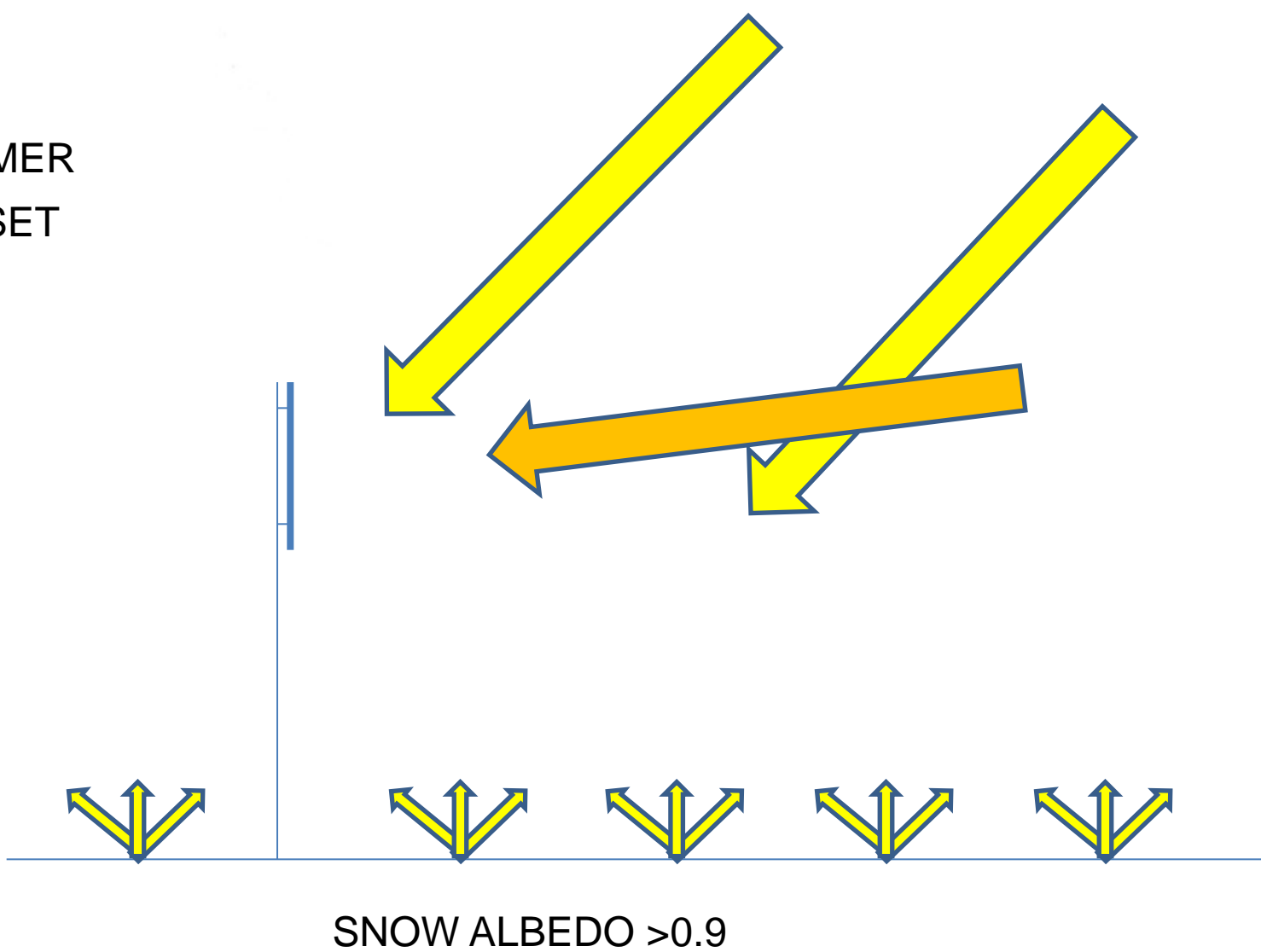
Bird Loggers:  
Position of bird and immersion (feeding) information  
relayed via Argos.

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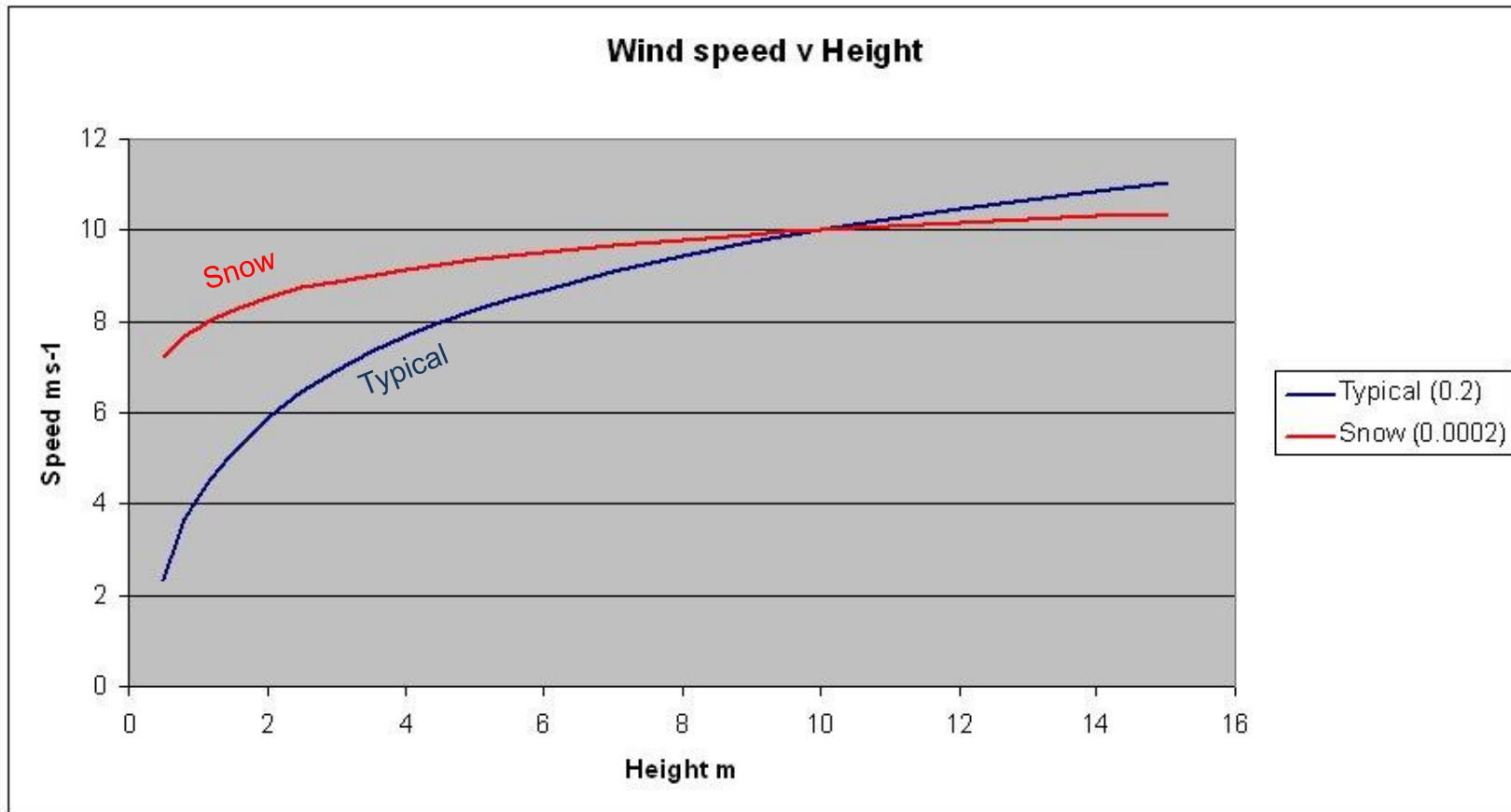
SUMMER  
SUNSET



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## Roughness length ( $z_0$ ) implications



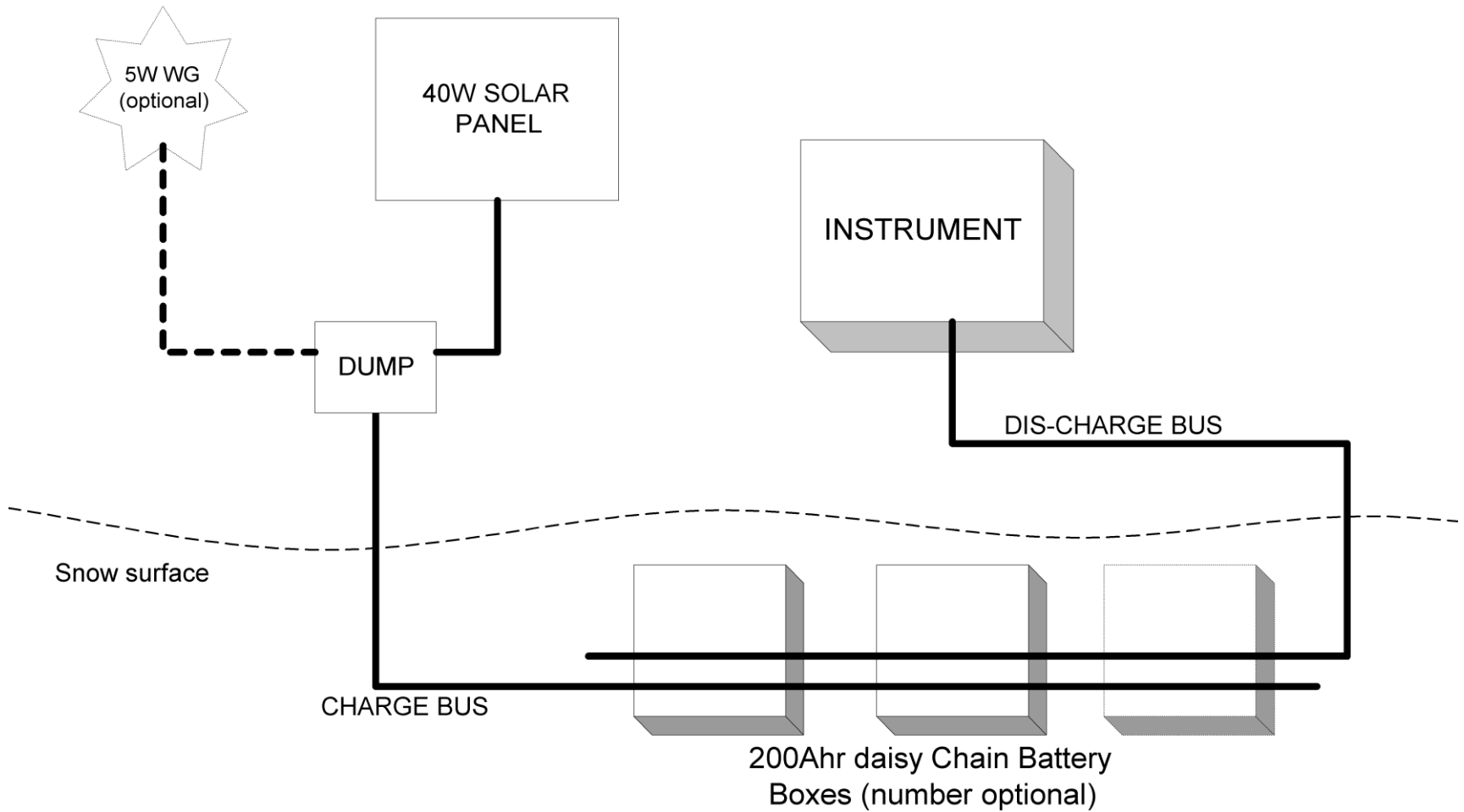
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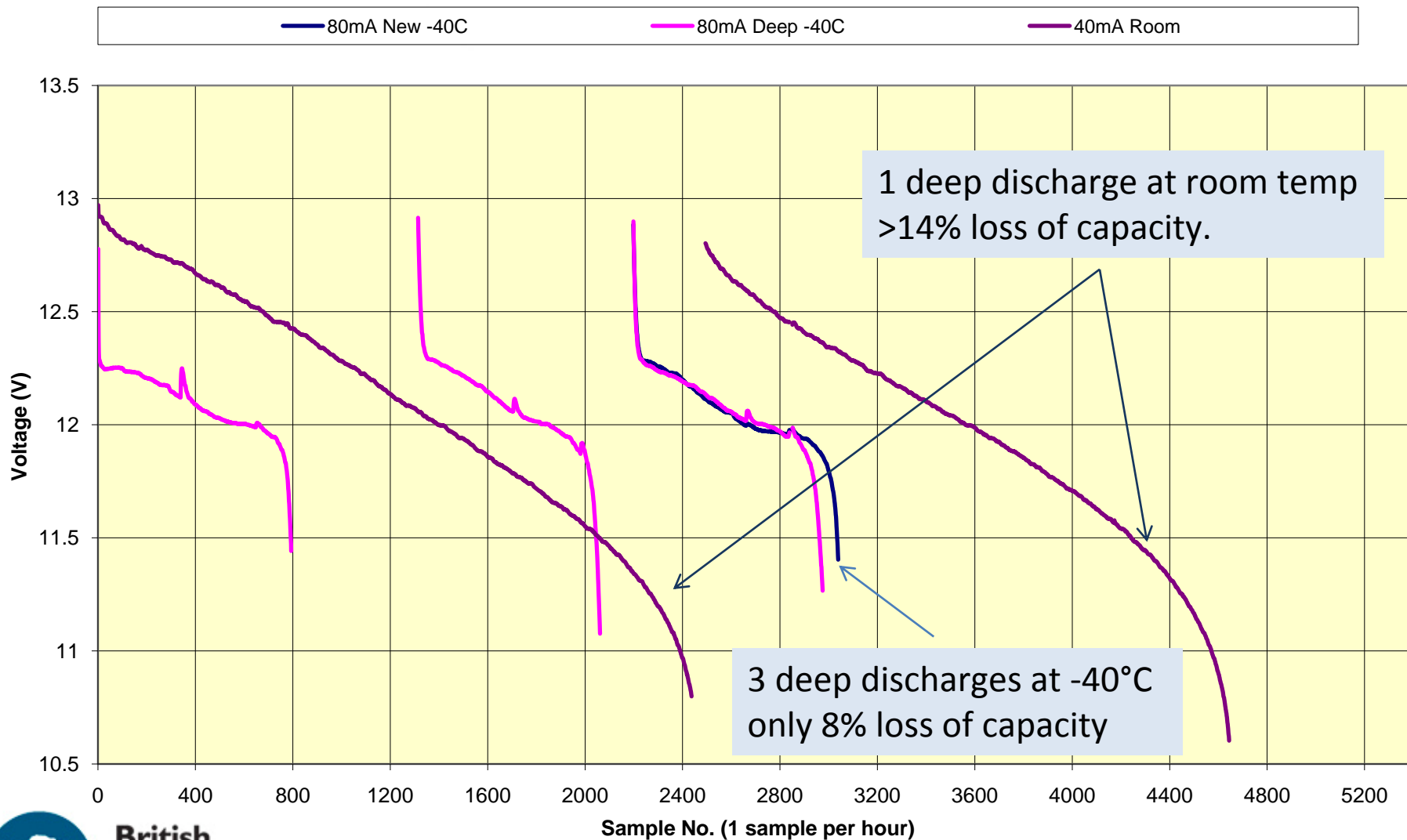
# LPM Power system



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## Long Term Battery Tests



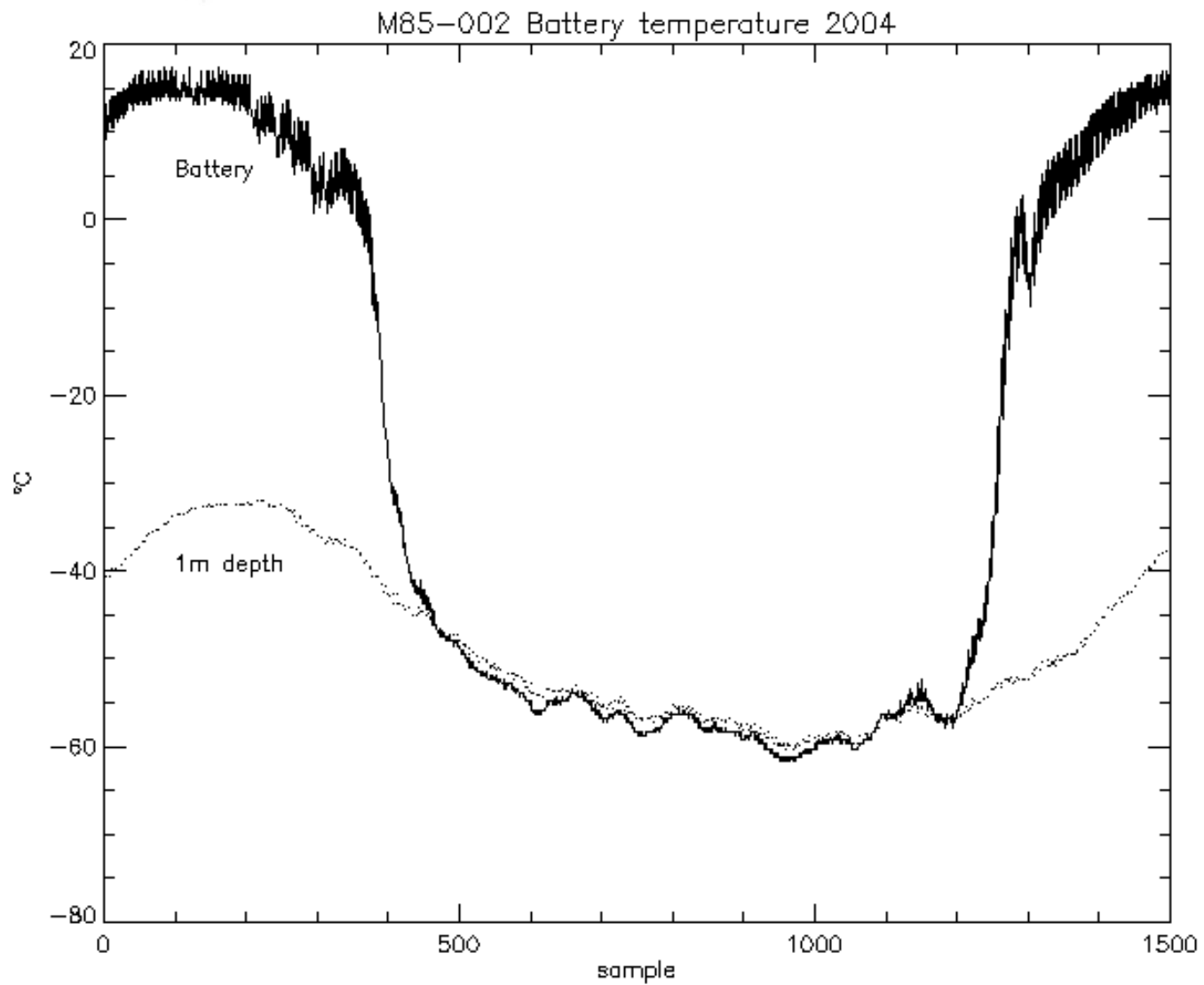
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# Expected duration for 100Ahr Lead Acid AGM Cell at -40°C

Discharge current	Rating	Expected Duration For 100Ahr
10mA	82%	341 days
20mA	75%	156 days
40mA	67%	70 days
80mA	50%	26 days



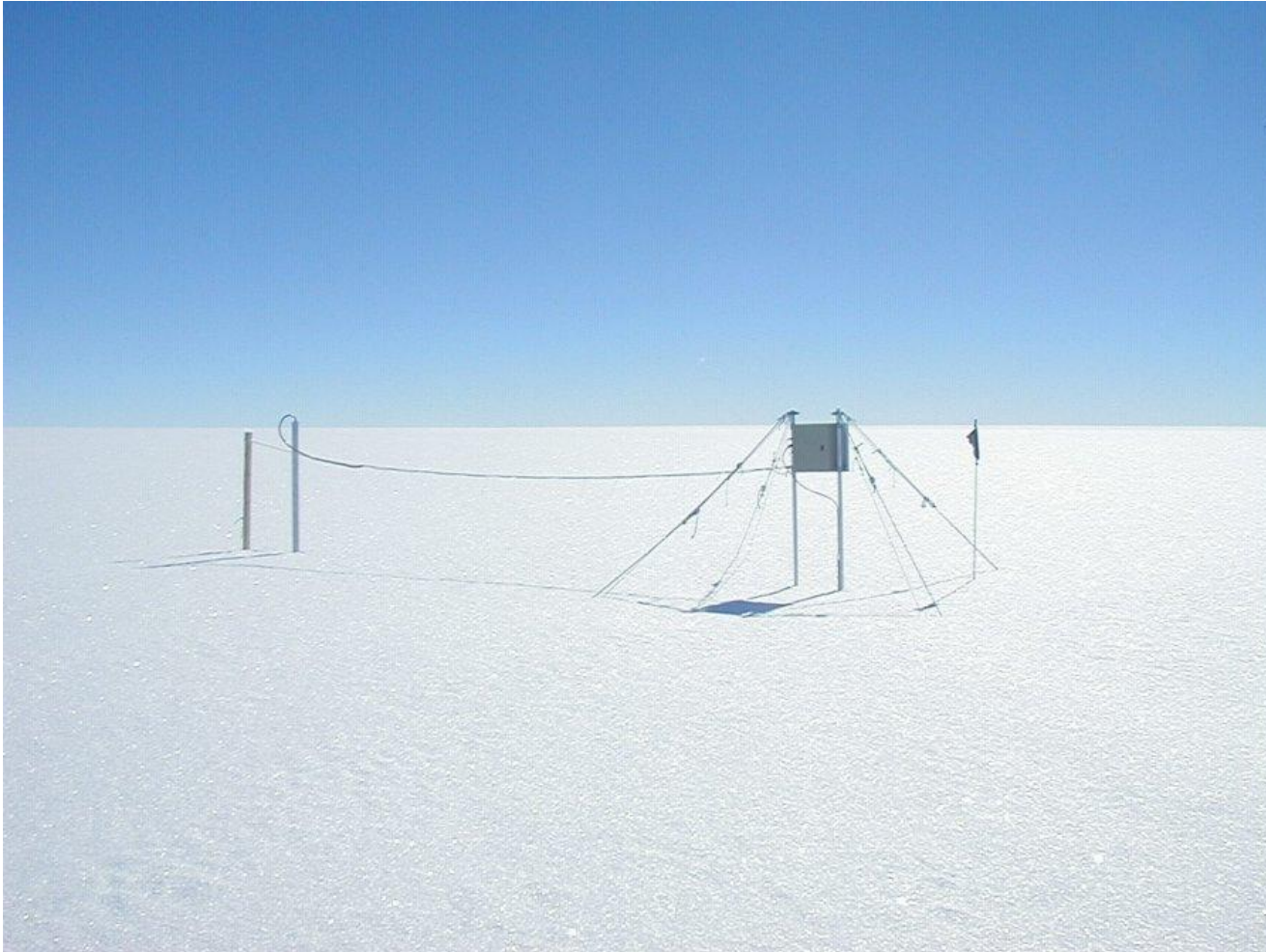


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# BAS LPMs



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# BAS LPMs



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# POWER SAVING



TURN ON - Make a MEASUREMENT - TURN OFF

Time spent on/off is defined mainly by:

- Sampling interval
- Anti-alias filter



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# POWER SAVING

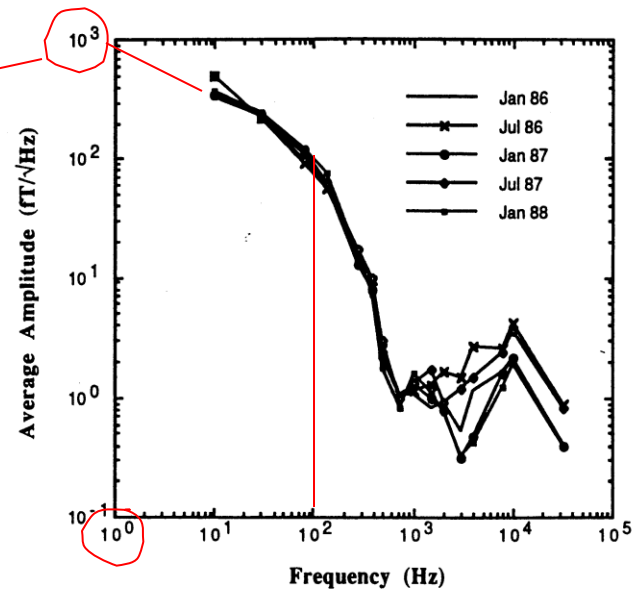


TURN ON - Make a MEASUREMENT - TURN OFF

Low-Frequency Radio Noise

303

Average noise power  
 $10^3 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  @ 1s  
Peak – allow 10X more.  
Sensor is  $10^4 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  @ 1s  
Allow  $10^5 \text{ fT}/\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$  @ 1s  
With 100Hz LP this is 1nT



**Figure 12.3.1** Variation of the Arrival Heights ELF/VLF noise amplitudes for the months of January 1986, 1987, and 1988 and July 1986 and 1987. Overall average amplitudes for each of the 16 narrowband frequencies are shown. For frequencies less than 1 kHz the amplitudes show little variation over the 2-year interval. (From Fraser-Smith, A. C. et al. *Environmental Space Electromagnetics*, H. Kikuchi, Ed., Springer-Verlag, Tokyo, 1991, 191. With permission.)

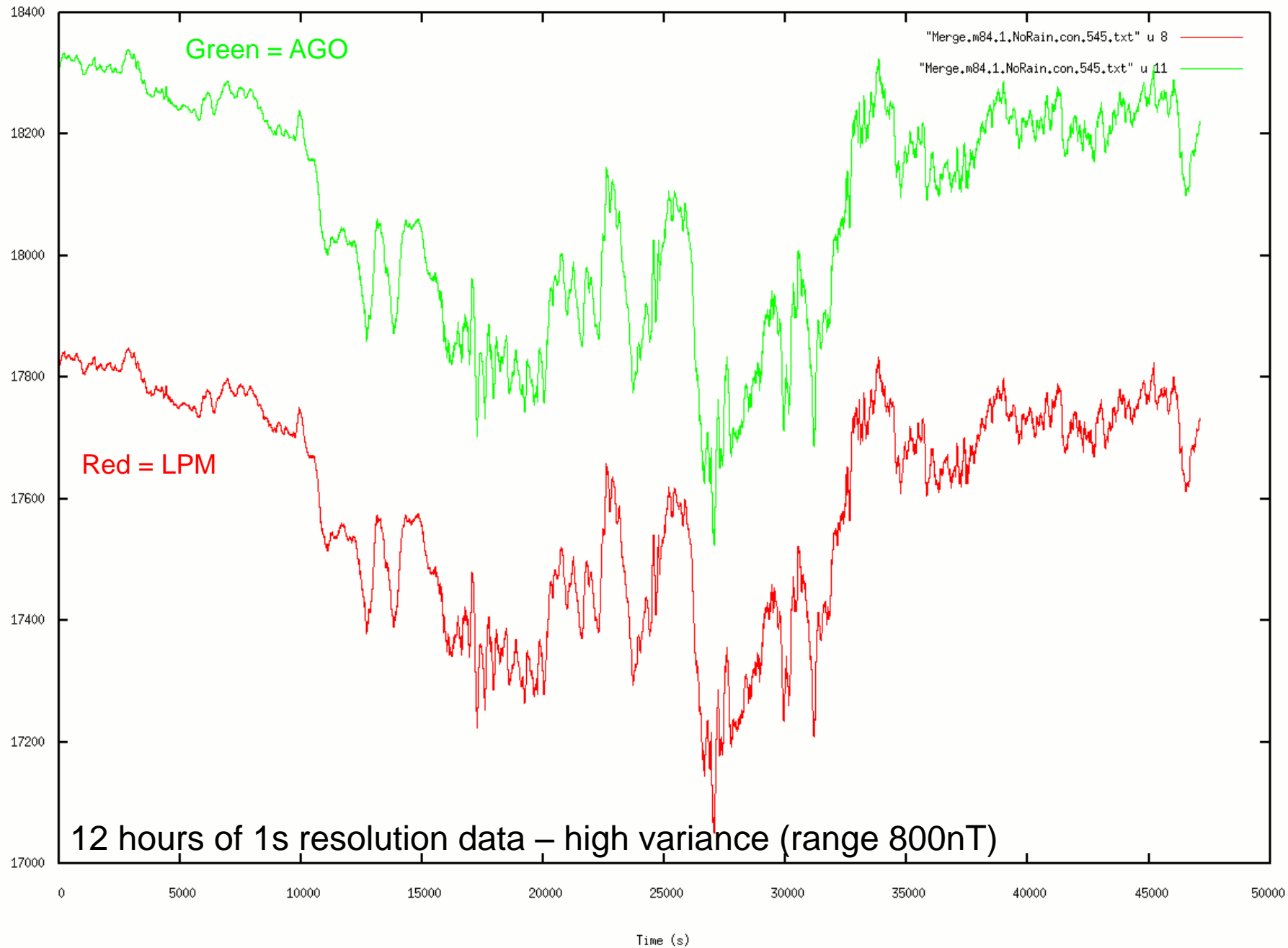


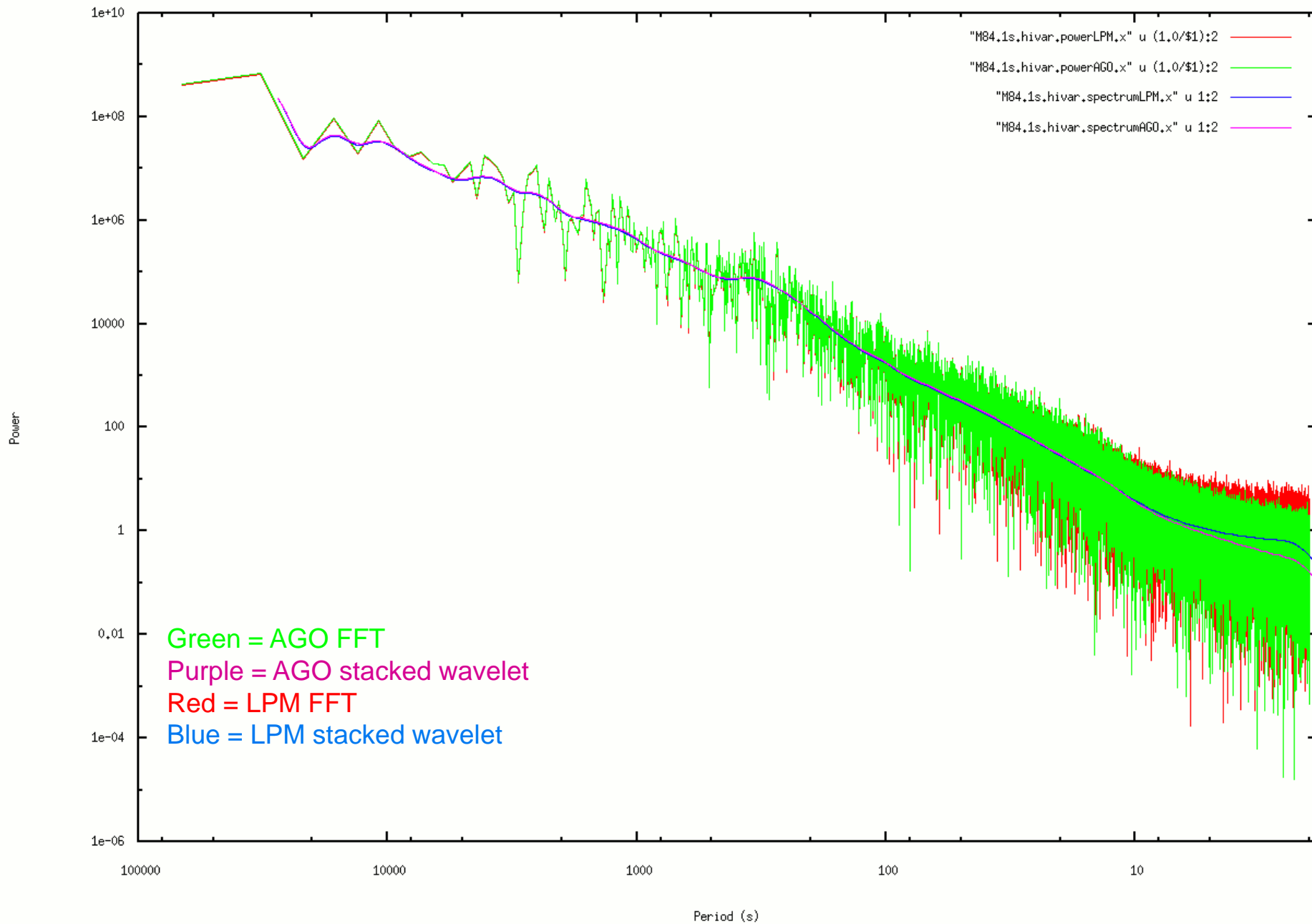
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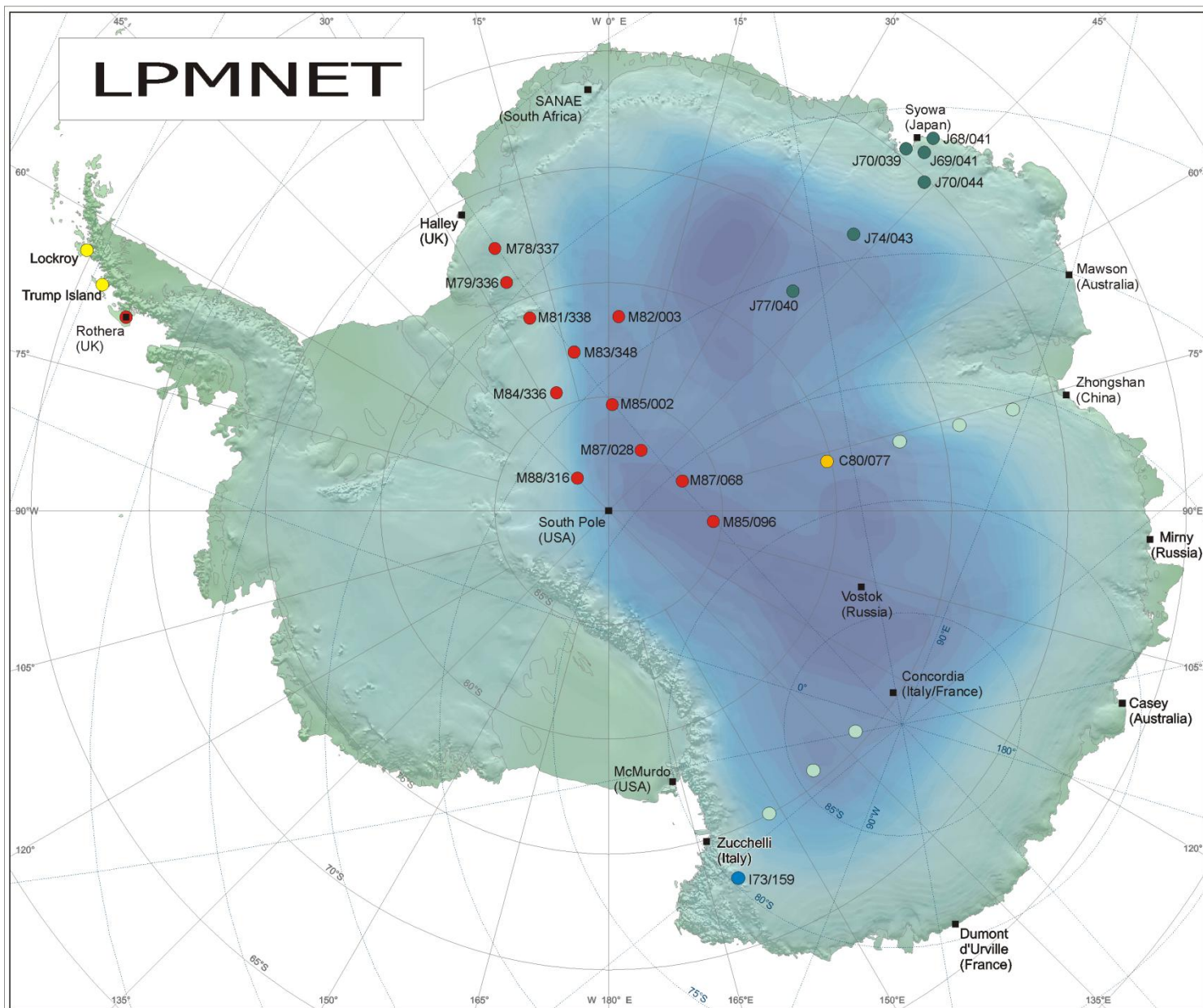
1s H Component, High variance data

Red = LPM, Green = AGO





# LPMNET



- BAS LPM
- BAS AFI pulsation (2000-2)
- Japanese NIPR/BAS LPM
- Italian INGV/BAS LPM
- Chinese PRIC/BAS LPM
- Proposed sites  
(Not all sites are in continuous operation)

- Selected manned research station
- Corrected geomagnetic
- Geographic graticule

Mean annual temperature



Near surface (2m) air temperature from: Gibson et al. ECMWF re-analysis project report series 1 (1997).



Polar stereographic projection  
Latitude of true scale: 71°S

[www.antarctica.ac.uk](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk)



# LPMNET



- **International Low Power magnetometer network operating on Antarctic Plateau.**
- **Data freely available at: [dabs.nerc-bas.ac.uk/lpm](http://dabs.nerc-bas.ac.uk/lpm) from 2001 to date.**
- **20 in total: 11 BAS systems, 4 Operated by Japan, 4 Operated by China and 1 by Italy.**
- **Data validation, system performance, processing code and other technical information at: [www.antarctica.ac.uk](http://www.antarctica.ac.uk)**
- **Commercially available from [www.extreme-instrumentation.com](http://www.extreme-instrumentation.com)**



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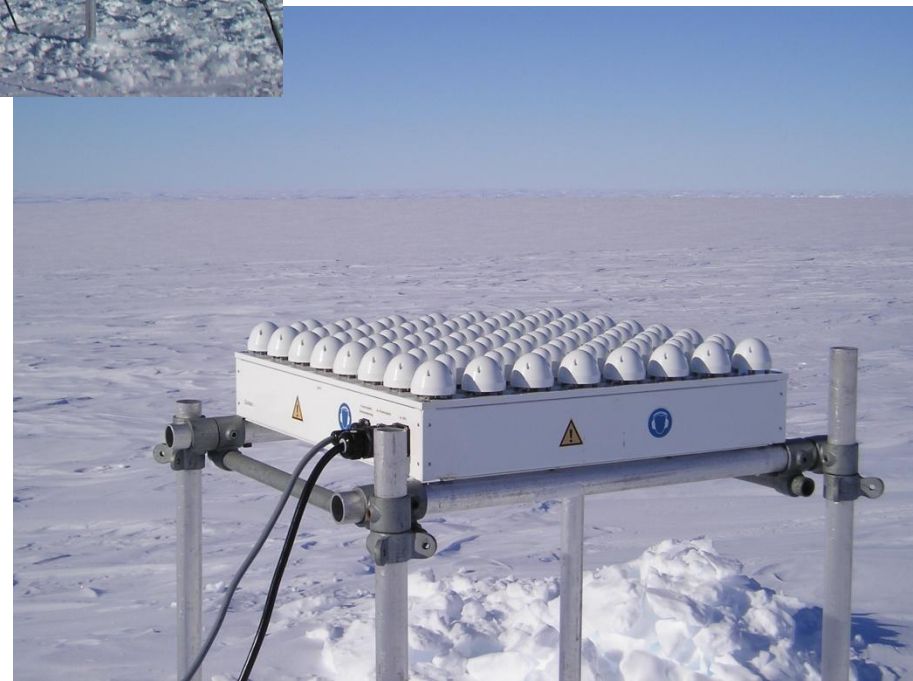


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# (small) variable speed wind generators

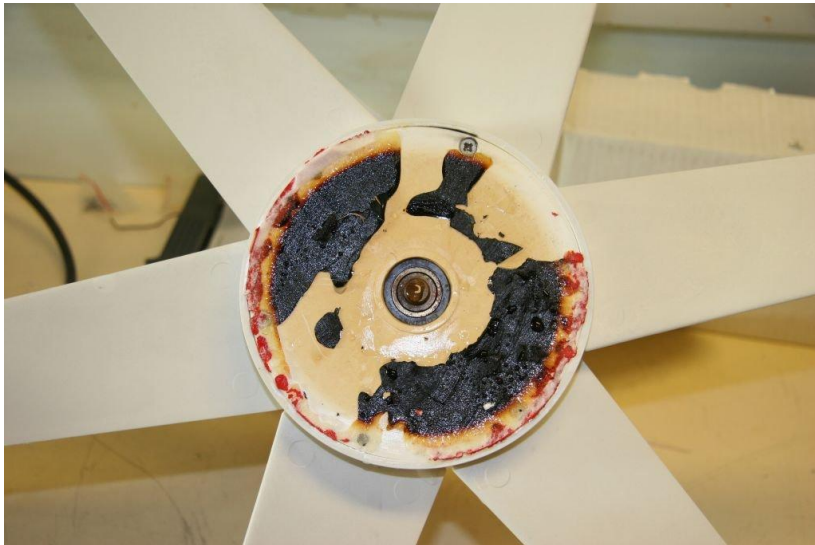
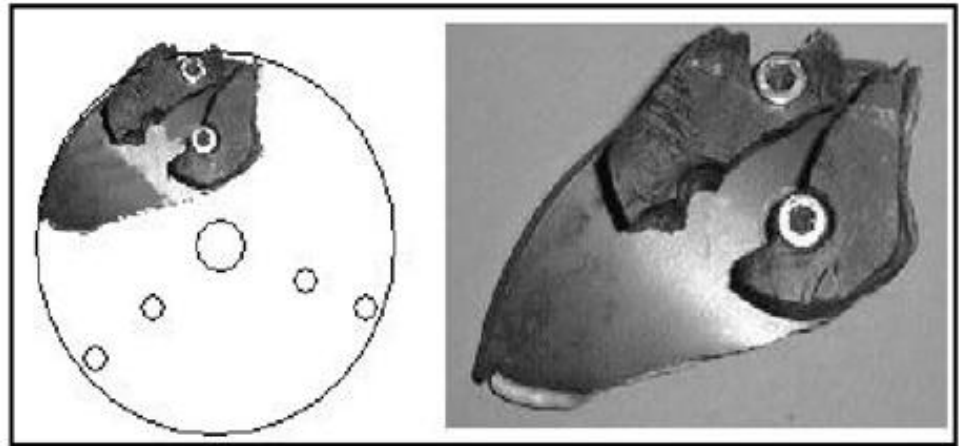
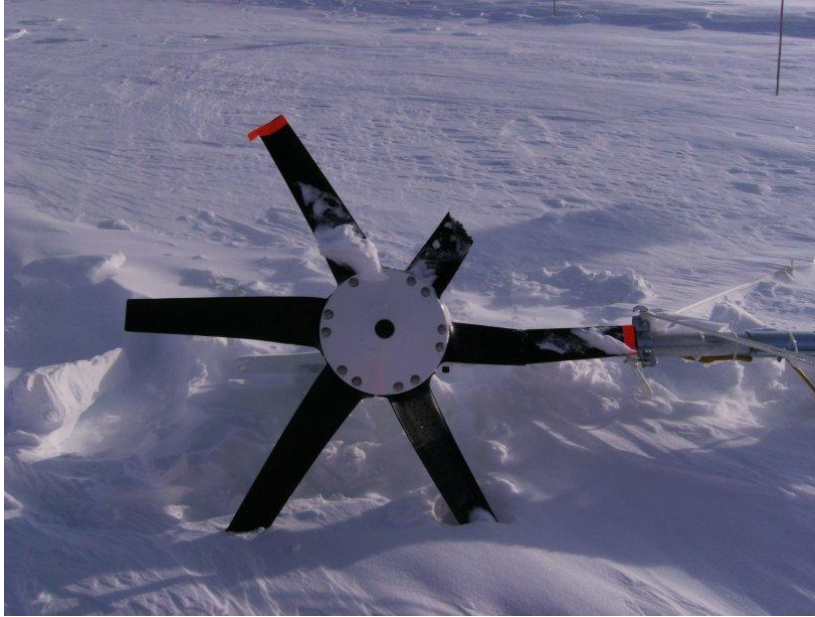


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# Wind Generators fail in Antarctica





# Antarctica

- Wind regime dominated by storms and katabatics.
- Many sites with average wind speeds of  $10\text{ms}^{-1}$  or greater.
- Calms are rare - low windspeed and startup are unimportant.
- Sites may be remote and rarely visited >1year.
- Cold - many implications, but especially for chemical and mechanical systems.
- **Survivability and MTBF is most important.**



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## 'Controllers' do more than 1 job

- Govern the operating conditions of the turbine
- Protect down stream systems from the energy available in the wind
- Report back status, knowledge etc
- Regulate the batteries - arghh
- Megalomaniacs - assume they are THE controller.



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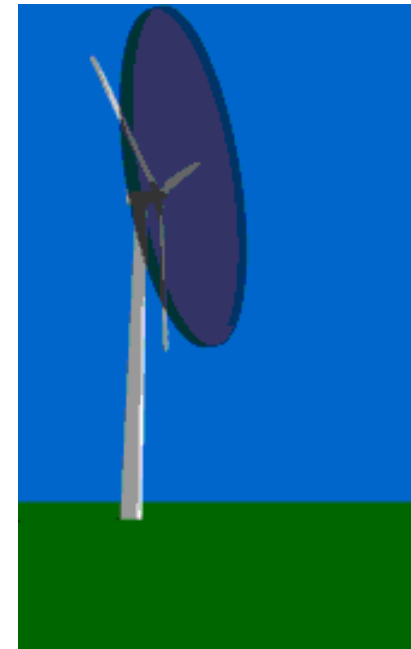
## Basic - but important

$$E = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$

$m = \rho \pi r^2 v$  (for a tube of air in 1s)

(and remembering  $E = P \times T$ )

Therefore  $P = \frac{1}{2} \rho \pi r^2 v^3$



© 1998 [www.WINDPOWER.org](http://www.WINDPOWER.org)

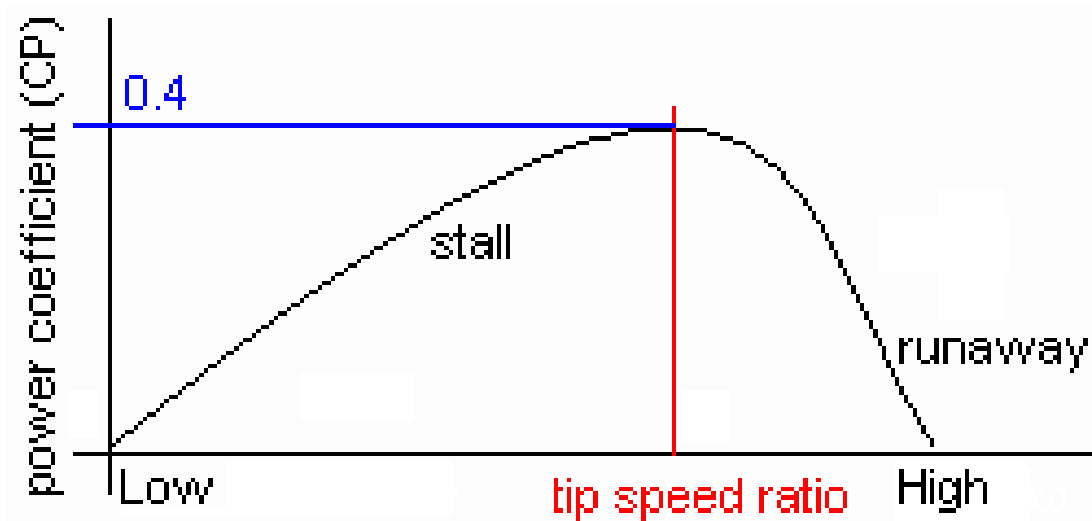


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Tip Speed Ratio -  $\lambda$  - tip speed / wind speed



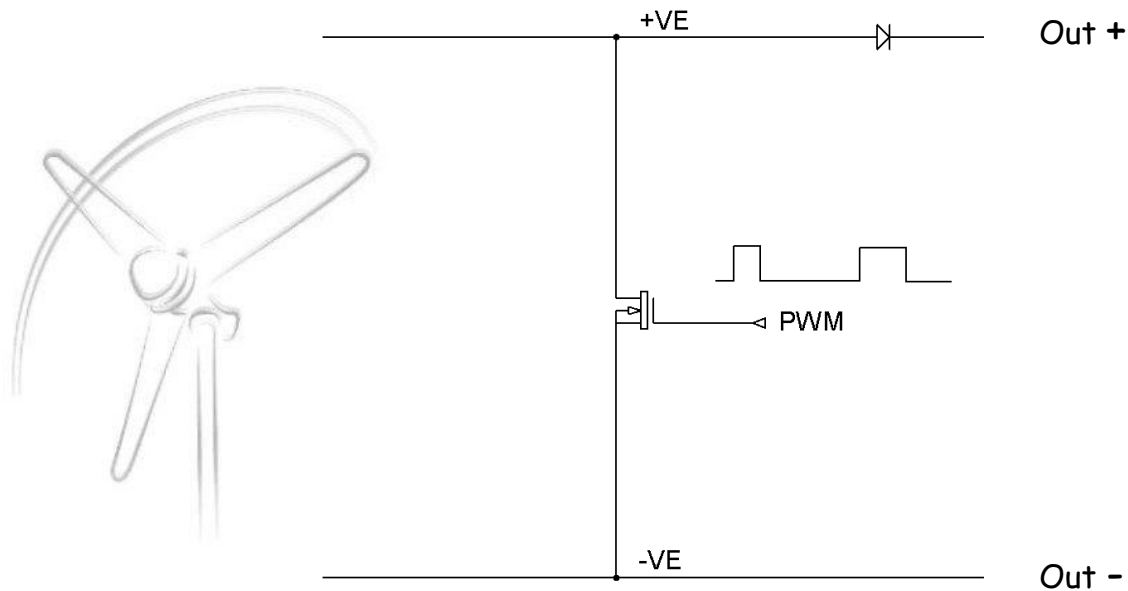
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# Control method - PWM shunting.



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## Control method – PWM shunting.

- High frequency (4.5KHz) energy loss
- Removes energy from:
  - Stored in inductance of windings.
  - That being supplied by the wind.
  - Momentum of the blades etc.  
(this is the big one!)



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## Modular system considerations

- Multiple manufacturers - redundancy
- Scaleable - more generators, more batteries
- Standard controllers in system - one per generator
- Maintenance - log history of performance



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# BAS Wind Generator Controller

Regulates on:

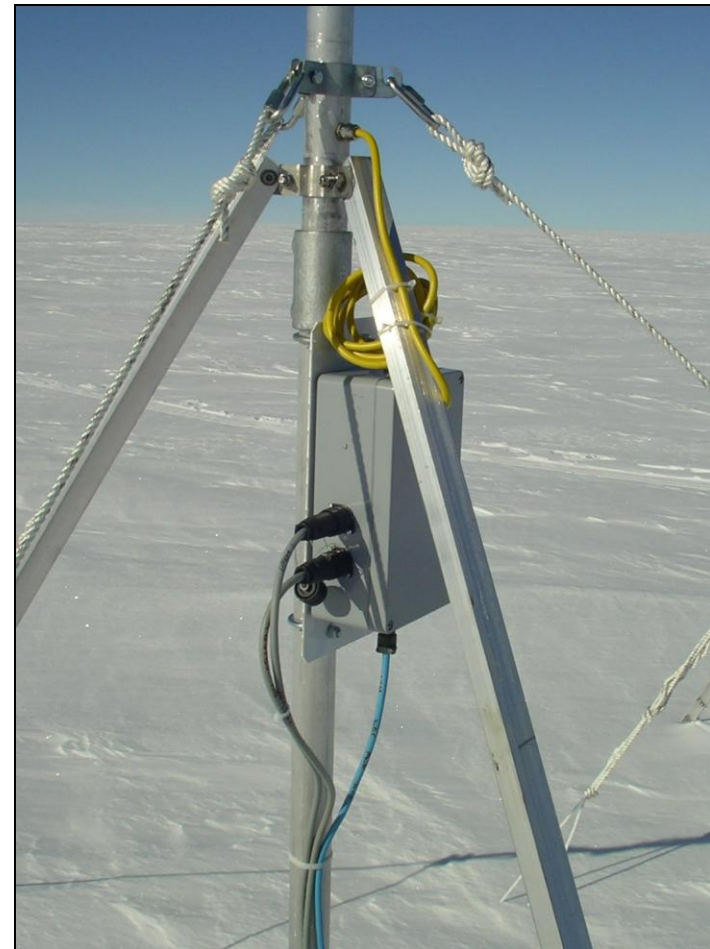
- **Output voltage**
- **Output Current**

Shuts down on:

- **Input I (ave and peak)**
- **Hardwired input (OTSW)**
- **RS485 command**

Transmits:

- **Input I&V, Output I&V, PWM, RPM, Temp, etc**



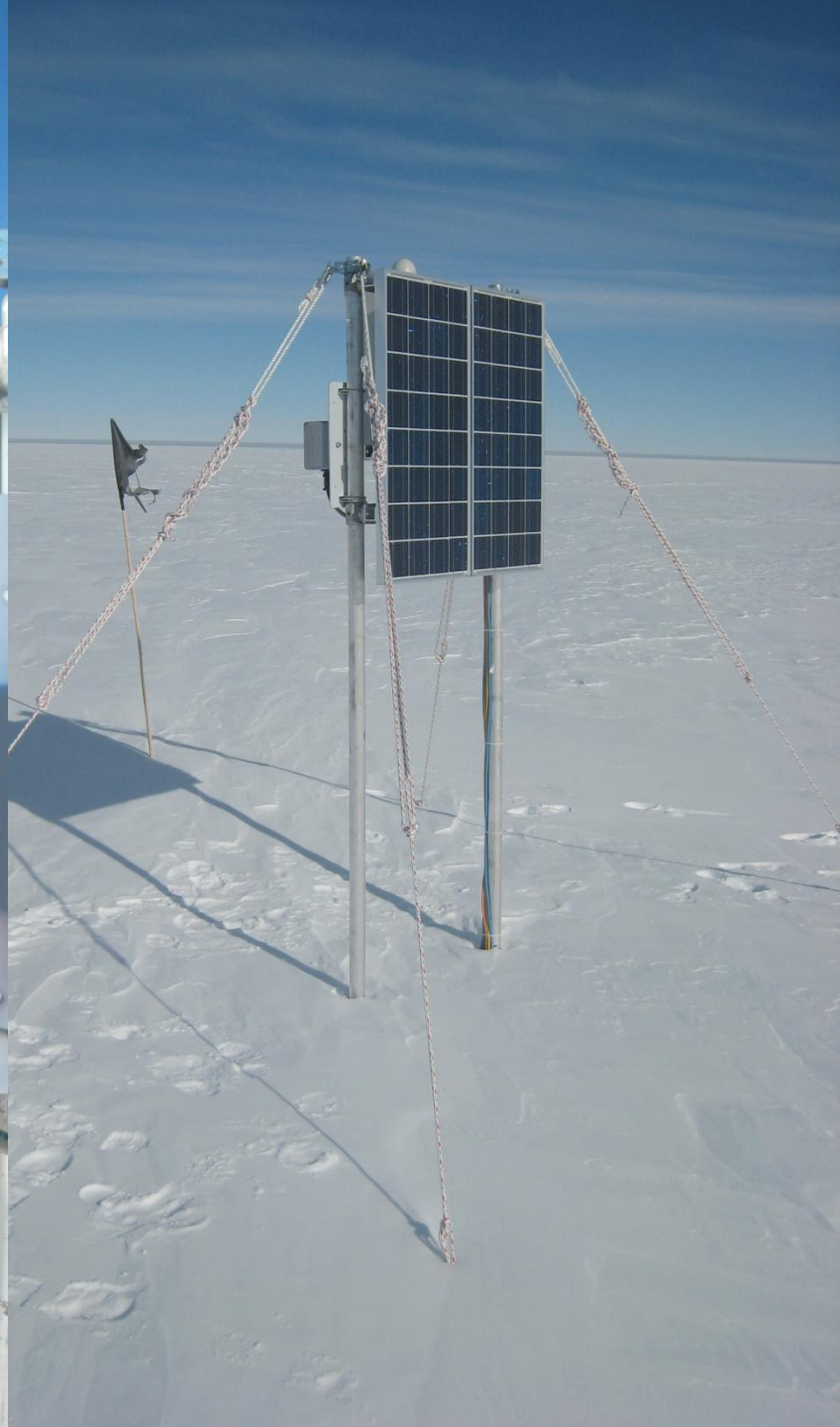
# Turbine survivability

		2008	2009	2010	Notes
SG1 913	Generator	✓			Only 1 year of operation
	Controller	✓			Only 1 year of operation
SG1 Ampair	Generator	✗			Only 1 year of operation
	Controller	✗			Only 1 year of operation
SG1 Windside	Generator	✓			Only 1 year of operation
	Controller	✓			Only 1 year of operation
SG2 913	Generator	✓			Only 1 year of operation
	Controller	✓			Only 1 year of operation
SG2 Windside	Generator	✓			Only 1 year of operation
	Controller	✗			Only 1 year of operation
A77 913	Generator	✓	✓	✓	
	Controller	✓	✓	✓	
A77 Ampair	Generator	✗	✓	✓	New turbine in 08/09 season.
	Controller	✓	✓	✓	
A77 Windside	Generator	✓	✓	?	
	Controller	✓	✓	?	
A80 913	Generator	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season
	Controller	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season
A80 Ampair	Generator	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season
	Controller	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season
A80 Windside	Generator	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season
	Controller	✓	✓		System removed in 09/10 season

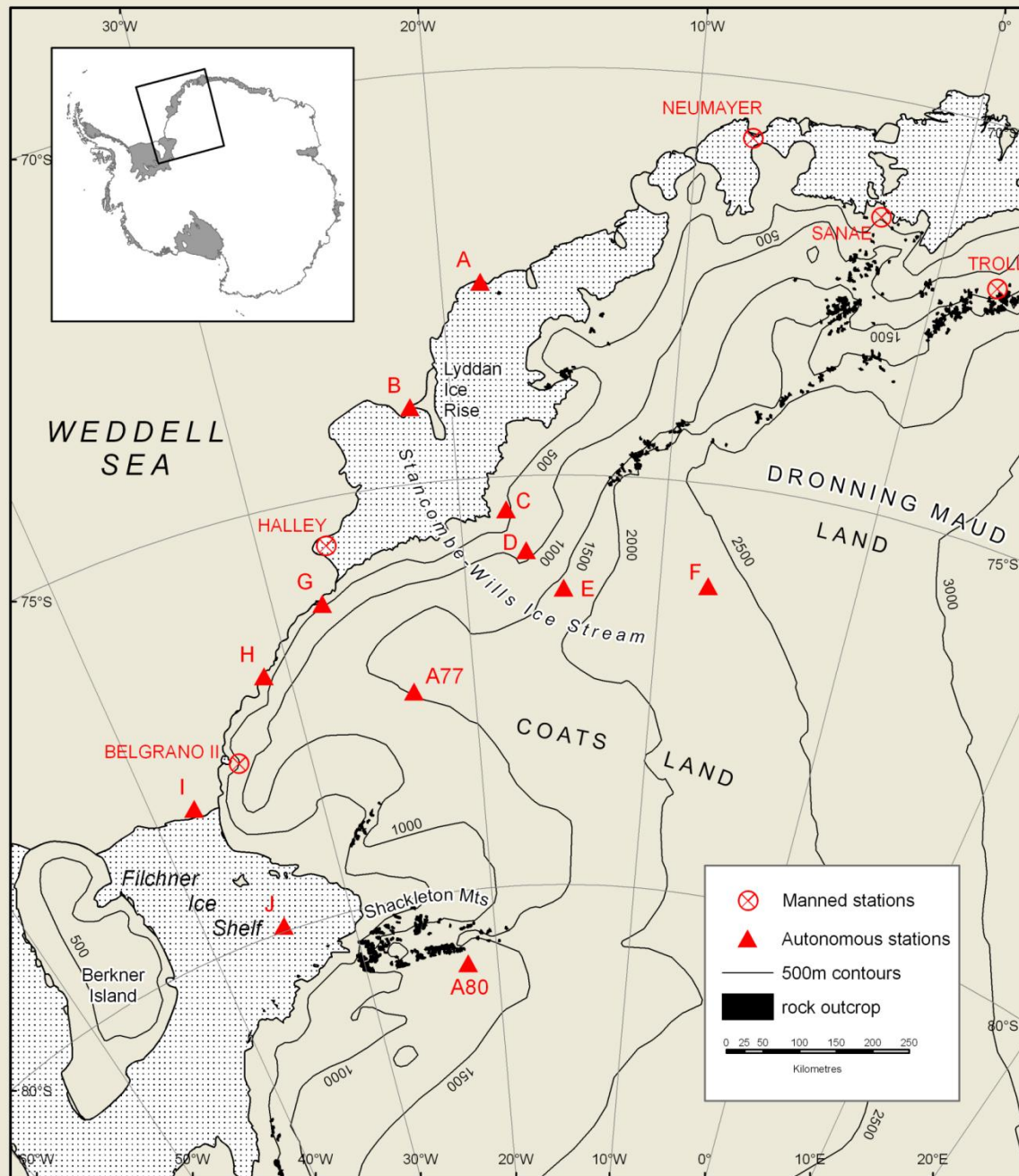


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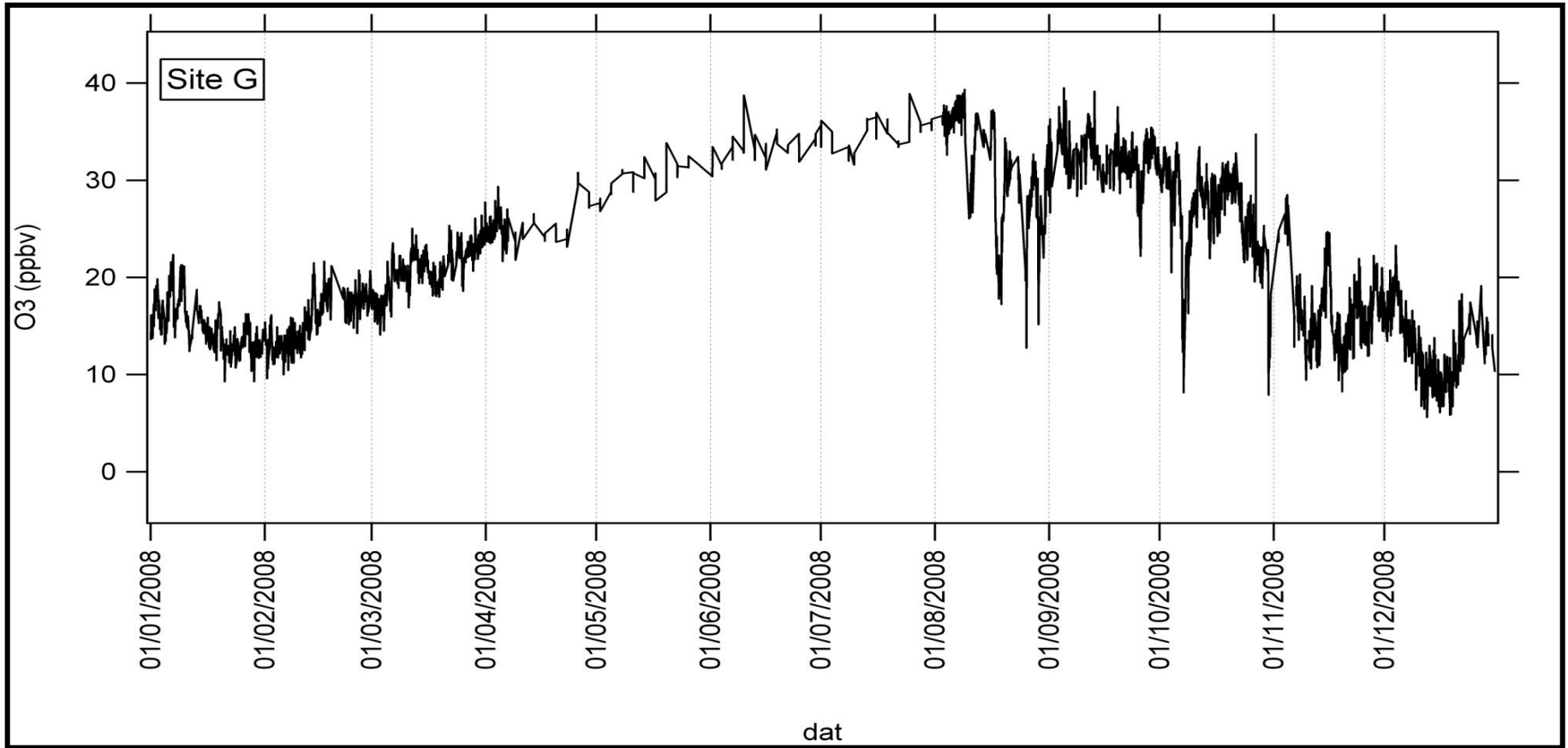


Surface ozone monitoring network during IPY





# Site G 2008 Tropospheric Ozone Data



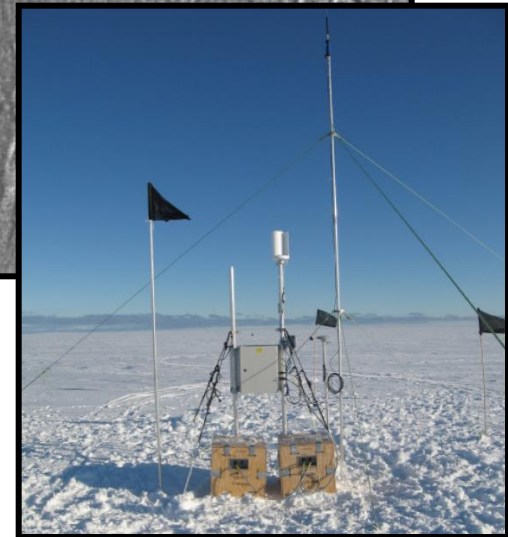
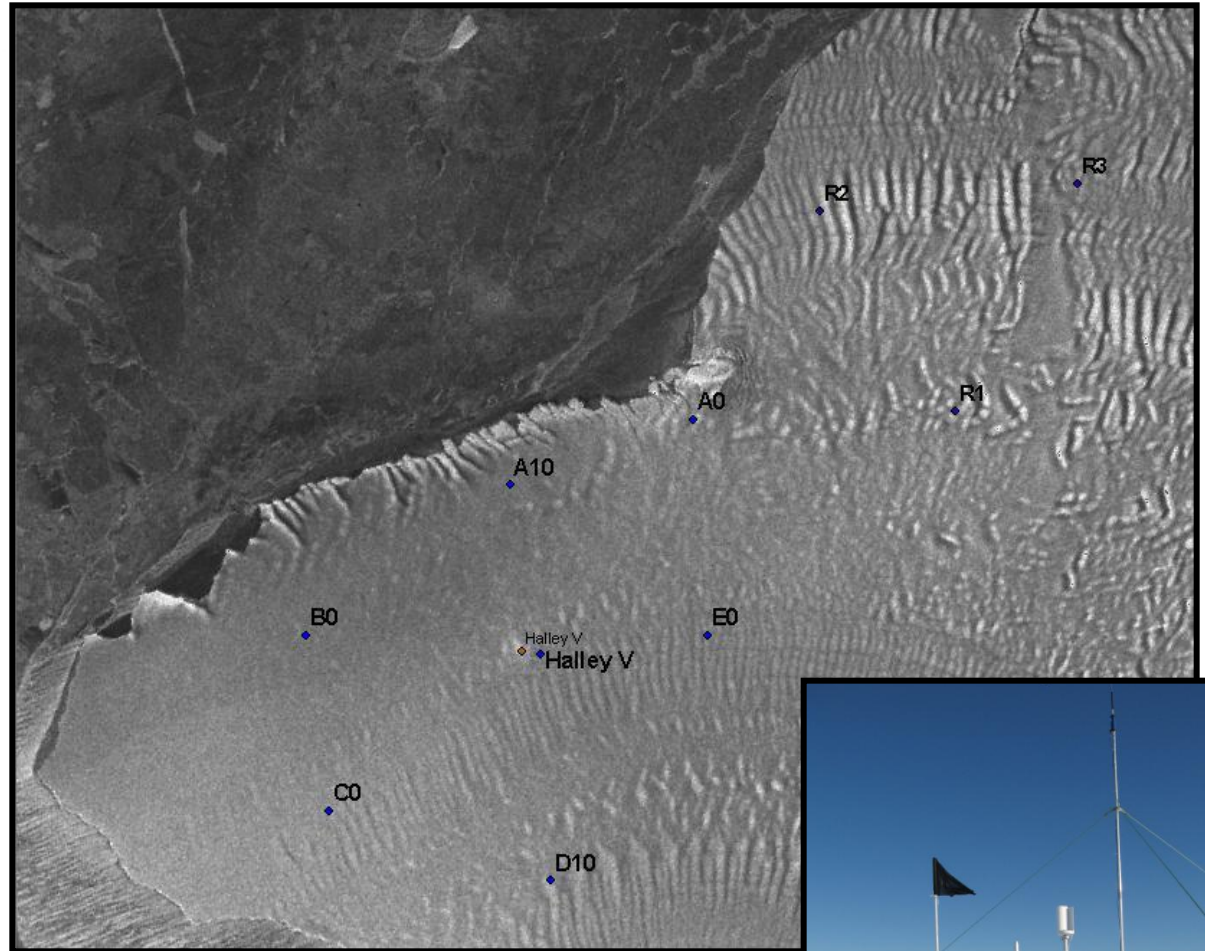
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# Monitoring Program: GPS network

- Survey-quality GPS stations have been installed around Halley to watch for a natural calving event.
- Each station collects two hours of GPS raw data daily and transmits it back to Halley via radio modem.
- Our network has shown that the Brunt Ice shelf is currently stable.



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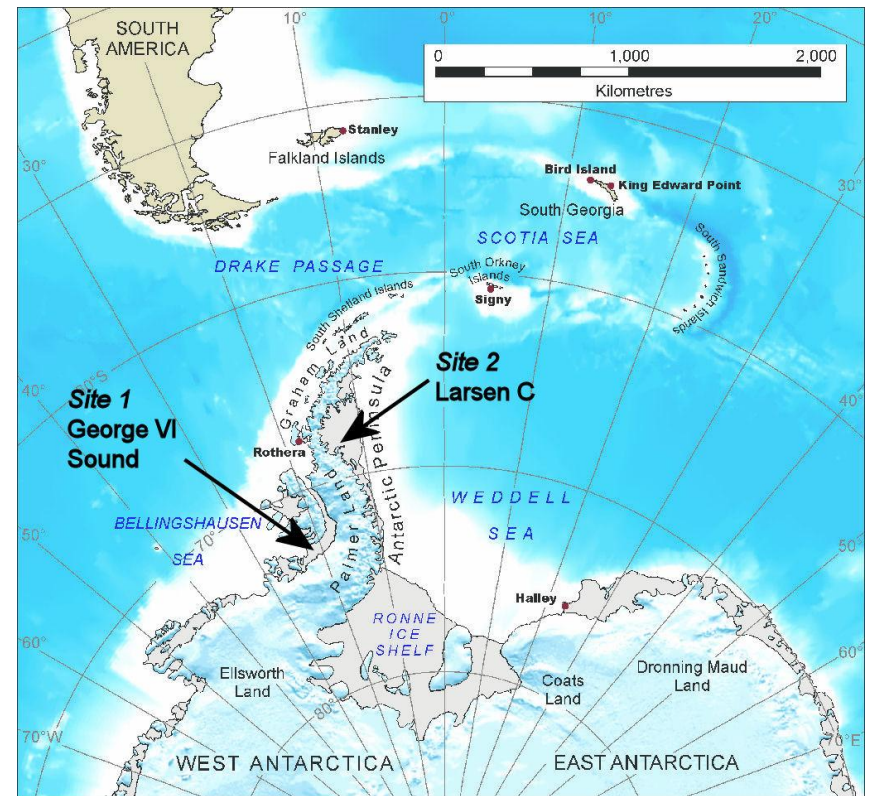
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# SIBLEX

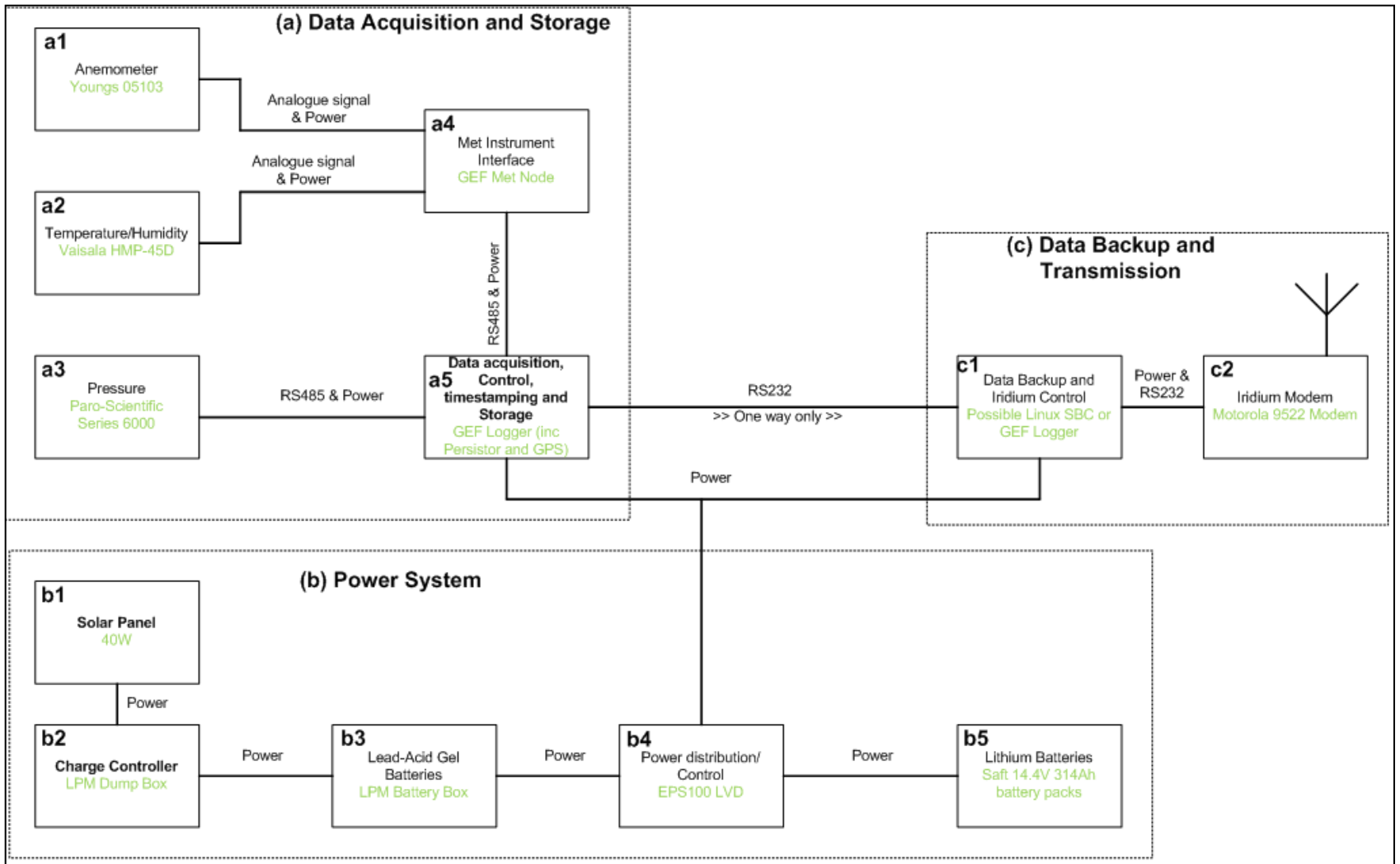
## Sea Ice Boundary Layer Experiment

- Logging of
  - Water current
  - Upward looking sonar
  - Depth
  - Atmospheric pressure
- Battery powered
- Solar recharging
- Iridium SBD
- GPS
- Persistor 1 – raw logger
- Persistor 2 – data processing and comms
- Designed for Peninsula iceshelf conditions
- IP67 rated logger and battery boxes



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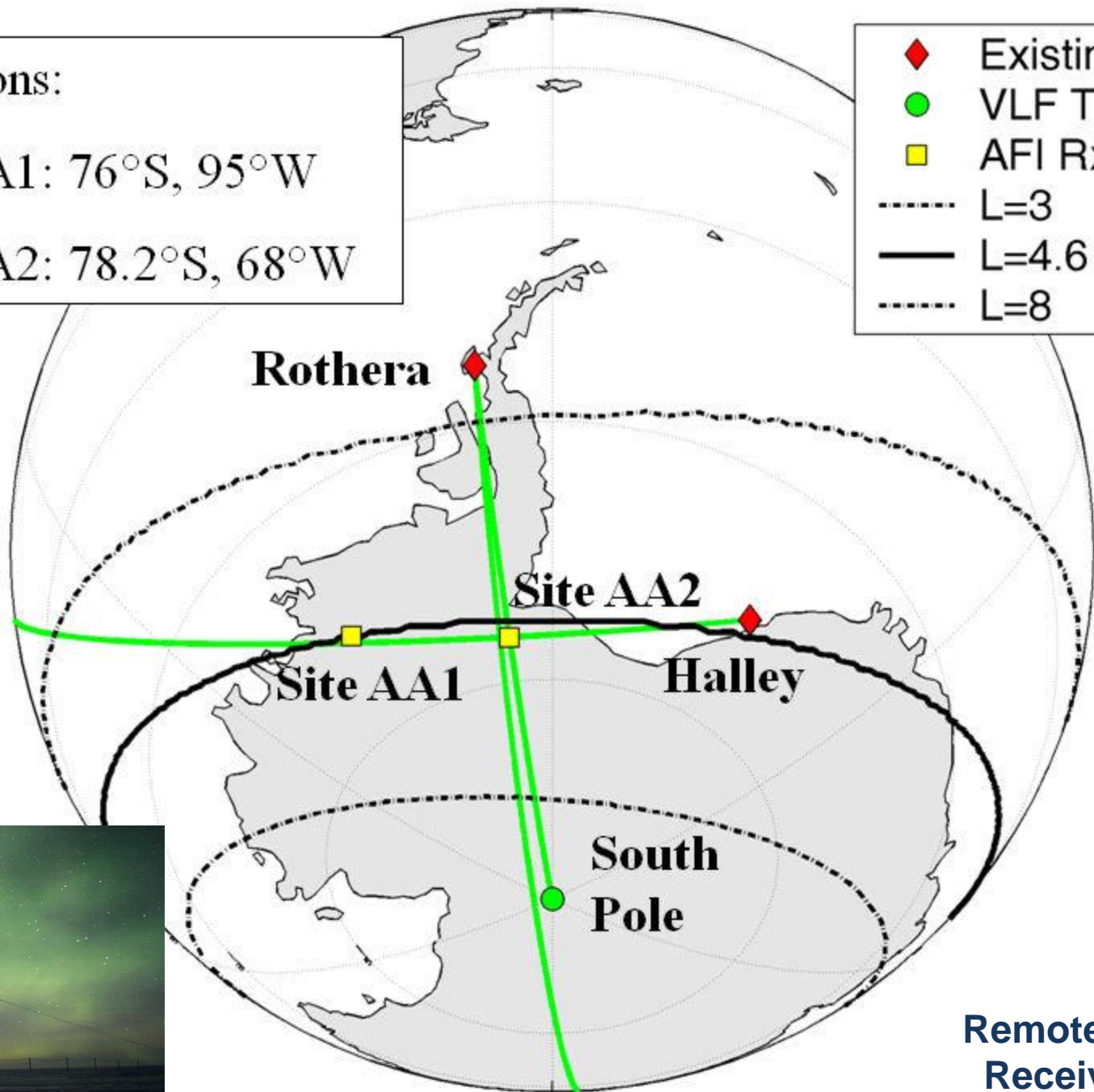
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Locations:

Site AA1:  $76^{\circ}\text{S}$ ,  $95^{\circ}\text{W}$

Site AA2:  $78.2^{\circ}\text{S}$ ,  $68^{\circ}\text{W}$

- ◆ Existing Rx
- VLF Tx
- AFI Rx
- L=3
- L=4.6
- L=8



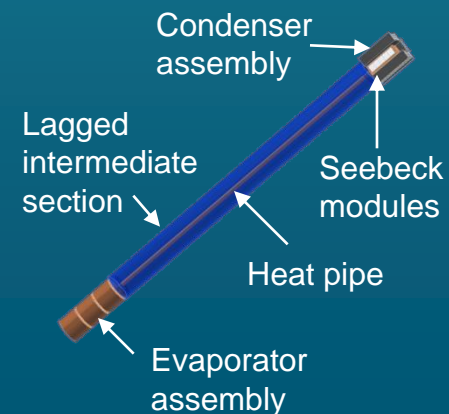
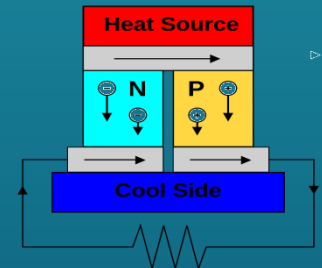
Remote VLF  
Receivers



SCOTTISH  
ASSOCIATION  
for MARINE  
SCIENCE

# Powering sea-ice equipment via the Seebeck effect

- Problem powering sea-ice instruments during polar winters;
  - No solar power, wind generators unreliable.
- Thermoelectric energy harvesting;
  - Seebeck effect: temperature  $\rightarrow$  electricity.
  - Exploit thermal gradient across sea-ice.
- Prototype device;
  - 2m long, 6" dia, rugged construction,
  - Heat pipe (thermal superconductor),
  - No moving parts (reliability),
  - Output:  $\approx 5V$ , 300mW ( $\Delta T=30^{\circ}C$ ).



Bryn Jones, Keith Jackson, Alistair James, David Meldrum, Mike Rose (BAS)

Project funded by NERC grant NE/H002839/1v

# Closing remarks



- Modular systems allows reuse at design and in the field.
- Simplicity in the field, eases maintenance, lowers logistic cost.
- Clustering instruments lowers logistics cost.
- Suggestion: Multiple networks - share maintenance by location rather than equipment originator.
- Much BAS kit available from [www.extreme-instrumentation.com](http://www.extreme-instrumentation.com) primarily as means to support collaborations.
- Knowledge exchange - collaborations, job swaps, sabbaticals, etc.
- EGU usually has a session on polar instrumentation.



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