

***Interactive comment on “Climatology and ablation
at the South Greenland ice sheet margin from
automatic weather station observations” by
D. van As et al.***

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I would like to thank both reviewers for their time and effort invested in this MS and the authors for their extensive reply.

Both reviewers signal the problems with the data (i.e. many gaps, limited quality control possible) and the lack of validation of the surface energy balance calculations from reliable ablation observations and/or surface temperature measurements. I agree with this assessment: the description of the problems must be more transparant, including a table detailing the data gaps and how monthly means were calculated.

But at the same time, both reviewers also state the potential importance of AWS data

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from the GrIS ablation zone, as only few such observations are available. This is the main feature of the paper.

Based on my own assessment and that of the reviewers, the present version of the MS is not suitable for publication in TC, mainly due to the lack of validation of the ablation calculations.

The authors suggest to tackle these problems by changing the focus of the MS away from mass balance and more towards a description of SL climate.

I think this is a good suggestion and I would like to invite the authors to reshape and rewrite the MS along the lines suggested, taking into account the comments made by the reviewers.

Since this requires a major reorganization of the paper, I would also like to ask reviewer 2, who was most critical about the MS, whether he would be willing to re-review a revised version of the MS.

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 3, 117, 2009.

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