

1 **Winter observations of CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between sea-ice and the**  
2 **atmosphere in a coastal fjord environment**

3  
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## 1 **Abstract**

2 Eddy covariance observations of CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes were conducted during March-April 2012 in a temporally  
3 sequential order for 8, 4 and 30 days respectively, at three locations on fast sea-ice and on newly  
4 formed polynya ice in a coastal fjord environment in North East Greenland. CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes at the sites  
5 characterized by fast sea ice (ICEI and DNB) were found to increasingly reflect periods of strong  
6 outgassing in accordance with the progression of springtime warming and the occurrence of strong  
7 wind events:  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{ICEI}} = 1.73 \pm 5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  and  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{DNB}} = 8.64 \pm 39.64 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ , while CO<sub>2</sub>  
8 fluxes at the polynya site (POLYI) were found to generally reflect uptake  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{POLYI}} = -9.97 \pm$   
9  $19.8 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ . Values given are the mean and standard deviation, and negative/positive values  
10 indicate uptake/outgassing respectively. A diurnal correlation analysis supports a significant connection  
11 between site energetics and CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes linked to a number of possible thermally driven processes,  
12 which are thought to change the pCO<sub>2</sub> gradient at the snow-ice interface. The relative influence of these  
13 processes on atmospheric exchanges likely depends on the thickness of the ice. Specifically, the study  
14 indicates a predominant influence of brine volume expansion/contraction, brine  
15 dissolution/concentration and calcium carbonate formation/dissolution at sites characterized by a thick  
16 sea ice cover, such that surface warming leads to an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> and vice versa, while convective  
17 overturning within the sea ice brines dominate at sites characterized by comparatively thin sea ice  
18 cover, such that nighttime surface cooling leads to an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> to the extent permitted by  
19 simultaneous formation of superimposed ice in the lower snow-column.

20

## 21 **1 Introduction**

22 Sea-ice has long been considered a passive participant in the high latitude carbon cycle, preventing  
23 CO<sub>2</sub> exchange between the ocean and atmosphere. Consequently, most carbon-cycle research has  
24 treated ice-cover as areas of zero (or very low) exchange (Tison et al., 2002). This view has been  
25 challenged by reports of significant fluxes of CO<sub>2</sub> over first and multiyear sea-ice during both  
26 spring/summer (Delille et al., 2007; Geilfus et al., 2012; Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011; Semiletov et  
27 al., 2004; Semiletov et al., 2007; Zemmeling et al., 2006) and autumn/winter (Else et al., 2011; Geilfus  
28 et al., 2013; Miller et al., 2011a; Miller et al., 2011b) and suggestions of a coupling between the  
29 carbonate system in sea ice, the underlying sea water and the atmosphere (Anderson et al., 2004;

1 Nomura et al., 2006; Papadimitriou et al., 2004; Rysgaard et al., 2011; Rysgaard et al., 2012; Rysgaard  
2 et al., 2007; Rysgaard et al., 2013).

3 The coupling of the air-ice-ocean carbonate system has been suggested to drive a significant annual net  
4 uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>, through convective sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> to intermediate and deeper ocean layers during  
5 wintertime sea ice formation and subsequent CO<sub>2</sub> uptake from the atmosphere during springtime sea-  
6 ice melt (Rysgaard et al., 2009; Rysgaard et al., 2007). Together with seasonal biological carbon uptake  
7 within the ice (Thomas and Dieckmann, 2010; Lizotte, 2001), this outlines the basis for a seasonal  
8 carbon imbalance, which may drive CO<sub>2</sub> uptake from the atmosphere during springtime melting of sea-  
9 ice, and mineral dissolution of trapped calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) within the brine channels. The net  
10 uptake associated with this sea ice-driven carbon pump has been estimated to be 50MT C yr<sup>-1</sup> in the  
11 Arctic alone (Rysgaard et al., 2007) and constitutes an important fraction of the total CO<sub>2</sub> uptake of the  
12 Arctic Ocean (66 – 199MT C yr<sup>-1</sup>) (Parmentier et al., 2013). The size of these estimates highlights  
13 the importance of the annual sea ice cycle on the global carbon cycle, particularly since the sea ice  
14 cover is becoming more ephemeral over a range of space and time scales (Barber et al., 2014).

15 Accurate assessment of the impact of air-ice-ocean CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges on the global carbon budget in a  
16 future climate requires the continued advancement of exchange parameterizations and up-scaling  
17 techniques that describe CO<sub>2</sub> exchange within all sea-ice conditions, as well as particularly dynamic  
18 areas such as polynyas, leads, cracks and thaw-holes. To our knowledge only one attempt has been  
19 made at developing a parameterization for air - sea ice CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges in a fast ice environment  
20 (Sørensen et al., 2014). That study emphasizes the importance of, and difficulties in, estimating the  
21 surface pCO<sub>2</sub> concentration in sea ice in order to make a proper parameterization. In general there is a  
22 need for further investigations into the interplay between biogeochemical and physical processes in  
23 facilitating and mediating observed air - sea ice CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges. Such efforts are, however, complicated  
24 by the logistical limitations associated with conducting large-scale observations in the Arctic, and the  
25 prerequisite requirement of providing trustworthy data from an inhospitable and instrument-  
26 challenging environment. From a surface-flux perspective, recent studies have suggested that some  
27 open path infrared gas analyzers, commonly used to conduct eddy covariance observations (e.g.  
28 Baldocchi, 2008) of CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, may be subject to sensor bias during cold weather application  
29 (Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011, and references herein). A recent study furthermore found that eddy

1 covariance flux estimates in environments characterized by very small scalar fluxes, such as sea ice, are  
2 likely to be influenced by larger scale motions, making it difficult to accurately resolve vertical  
3 turbulent fluxes under these conditions (Sievers et al., 2015).

4 Here we present an investigation into connections between site surface energetics, wind speed and CO<sub>2</sub>  
5 fluxes over snow covered sea ice during a 6-week field experiment in late winter (March-April) of  
6 2012 in the fast sea ice and polynya environment of Young Sound, NE Greenland. Measurements were  
7 conducted with gas analyzers believed to be less sensitive to temperature biases relative to previous  
8 reported studies, while eddy covariance flux estimates were derived using the Ogive optimization  
9 method (Sievers et al., 2015) that accounts for the problem of influence from large scale motions in  
10 low-flux environments.

11

## 12 **2 Theory and Method**

### 13 **2.1 Study location and instrumentation**

14 Observations of CO<sub>2</sub>-exchanges were carried out from early March to late April of 2012 in the vicinity  
15 of the Daneborg base in Young Sound, NE Greenland (Fig. 1). During the campaign two separate flux  
16 towers, one stationary and one mobile, were used at three different locations (ICEI, POLYI and DNB).  
17 Data from ICEI and POLYI were used in a recent study concerning the distribution of ikaite crystals  
18 (CaCO<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O) in sea ice (Rysgaard et al., 2013). Data were collected at ICEI (74°18.576'N,  
19 20°18.275'W) and DNB (74°18.566'N, 20°13.998'W) from the 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of March and the 29<sup>th</sup> of  
20 March to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April respectively. Both were located inside Young Sound in conditions of 110-  
21 115 cm thick sea ice and 67-88 cm snow cover thickness. Data were collected at POLYI (74°13.883'N,  
22 20°07.758'W) from the 24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> of March at the mouth of the sound in an active polynya area.  
23 Conditions at the site were distinctly different from those of ICEI and DNB, with 15-30 cm ice  
24 thickness and 15-20 cm snow cover thickness (Barber et al., 2014).

25 Observations of the three wind components and CO<sub>2</sub> at the static site (ICEI) were performed with a Gill  
26 Windmaster sonic (Gill Instruments®, Lymington UK) and an LI-7200 closed path gas analyzer (LI-  
27 COR®, Licoln, NE, USA), placed 3.8 m and 3.5 m above the snow surface respectively, with a

1 horizontal separation of 0.42 m. Observation frequency was 10 Hz. Any frosting on the sensors was  
2 removed during daily maintenance, and datasets were discarded accordingly based on instrument  
3 diagnostics output. In addition a number of datasets were discarded due to unfavourable wind  
4 directions for which the flow was potentially disturbed by the tower itself. Net radiation was recorded  
5 with a Kipp & Zonen CNR1 net radiometer (Kipp & Zonen®, Delft, The Netherlands) placed 1.00 m  
6 above the undisturbed snow surface. Observations of the wind components and CO<sub>2</sub> at the mobile site  
7 (POLYI and DNB) were performed with a METEK USA-1 sonic anemometer (METEK®, Elmshorn,  
8 Germany) and a LI-7500A (LI-COR®, Licoln, NE, USA) gas analyzer, placed 3.1 m and 2.7 m above  
9 the snow-surface, with a horizontal separation of 0.44 m. Observation frequency was 20 Hz. As at  
10 ICEI, a number of datasets were discarded because of frosting on the sensors and unfavourable wind  
11 direction. At the POLYI site net radiation was recorded with a Kipp & Zonen CNR1 net radiometer  
12 (Kipp & Zonen®, Delft, The Netherlands). At the DNB site no on-site net radiometer data were  
13 available. Over this period we make use of radiation measurements made with a Kipp & Zonen CMA6  
14 and a Kipp & Zonen NR lite net radiometer (Kipp & Zonen®, Delft, The Netherlands) located in  
15 Zackenberg research station (74°28.315'N, 20°33.125'W), approximately 20 km further in-land  
16 relative to the Daneborg base (Fig. 1). Air temperature was observed at ICEI and POLYI using  
17 Campbell Scientific HMP45C212 sensors (Campbell Scientific®, UT, USA). Chamber observations of  
18 CO<sub>2</sub> flux were carried out at sites ICEI and POLYI using an LI-8100A (LI-COR®, Licoln, NE, USA)  
19 automated soil CO<sub>2</sub>-flux chamber system. Sea ice cores were extracted at all sites using a MARK II  
20 coring system (Kovacs Enterprises). Temperature readings were performed on all cores, while the sea  
21 ice cores from ICEI and POLYI were subjected to additional brine volume calculation as described in  
22 (Rysgaard et al., 2013).

23

## 24 **2.2 Flux measurements and analysis**

25 While the LI-7200 gas analyzer (ICEI) utilizes measurements of temperature, pressure, and water  
26 vapour within the gas analyzer cell to make point-by-point calculations of dry air mixing ratio, the open  
27 path LI-7500A gas analyzer (POLYI and DNB) requires a density correction based on external  
28 measurements of temperature and pressure. This was achieved using the point-by-point method  
29 described by Sahlee et al. (2008), with fast measurements of temperature and pressure provided by the

1 sonic anemometer. Subsequently, surface flux estimates of CO<sub>2</sub>, sensible and latent heat were derived  
 2 using Ogive optimization (Sievers et al., 2015). The approach allows for separation of vertical turbulent  
 3 flux and contributions from larger scale motions by optimization of a model Ogive spectral distribution  
 4 (Desjardins et al., 1989; Foken et al., 2006) to a density distribution of a large number of Ogive  
 5 spectral distributions, for which dataset length and de-trending by running mean are varied  
 6 simultaneously. Flux estimates are discarded only if an excessive number of gaps are present in the raw  
 7 dataset or if no theoretical model Ogive distribution can be optimized sufficiently. Among a number of  
 8 other desirable attributes, the method does not require the application of any conventional spectral  
 9 corrections, making flux estimates less likely to reflect propagation of uncertainties associated with  
 10 serial-correction. In this study we adopt the standard convention that all turbulent fluxes are negative  
 11 towards the surface and positive away from the surface.

## 12 **2.3 The surface energy balance**

13 Following e.g. (Else et al., 2014; Persson, 2012) the surface energy balance of snow overlaying sea-ice  
 14 may be written as:

$$\Delta Q = -R_{\text{net}} - Q_{\text{SENS}} - Q_{\text{LAT}} - G \quad (1)$$

15 where  $\Delta Q$  is the net energy flux at the surface  $Q_{\text{SENS}}$  is the turbulent sensible heat flux,  $Q_{\text{LAT}}$  is the  
 16 turbulent latent heat flux and  $G$  is the upward conductive heat through the snow and ice. The net  
 17 radiative flux may be written as:

$$R_{\text{net}} = R_{\text{n}}^{\text{SW}} + R_{\text{n}}^{\text{LW}} - R^{\text{T}} \quad (2)$$

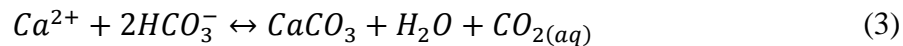
18 where  $R_{\text{n}}^{\text{SW}}$  and  $R_{\text{n}}^{\text{LW}}$  are the net shortwave (0.3 $\mu\text{m}$  – 5 $\mu\text{m}$ ) and longwave (5 $\mu\text{m}$  – 40 $\mu\text{m}$ ) radiative  
 19 fluxes respectively,  $R^{\text{T}}$  is the net radiative energy transmitted into the snow cover. The latter is derived  
 20 here based on Persson (2012, eq. 10). We deviate from Persson (2012) by treating all terms as positive  
 21 if energy is transported away from the surface and negative otherwise, thus conforming to the  
 22 conventions of turbulent fluxes, to simplify interpretation of a correlation analysis, which follows in a  
 23 subsequent section. Using this notation,  $\Delta Q$ , will be positive when net energy is received by the  
 24 snow/ice volume, and negative when net energy is lost. While  $R_{\text{n}}^{\text{LW}}$ ,  $Q_{\text{SENS}}$  and  $Q_{\text{LAT}}$  are exchanged  
 25 virtually at the snow surface,  $R_{\text{n}}^{\text{SW}}$  penetrates into the snow/ice cover where it is strongly attenuated

1 with depth. Following (Persson, 2012, eq. 10) we can derive a 1% transmission rate at 0.46 m depth  
2 into snow, suggesting that for very thick snow covers, energy transport to the snow/ice interface relies  
3 on other mechanisms. Energy transport within a snow cover occurs mainly as conduction between  
4 snow-grains and as vapour transport (Sturm et al., 2002). Upward vapour transport by thermal  
5 convection has been shown to occur in terrestrial snow covers (Powers et al., 1985) and to depend on  
6 medium porosity and the strength of the temperature gradient within the medium (Ganot et al., 2014;  
7 Sturm, 1991).

8

## 9 **2.4 Thermochemical carbon processes in the ice**

10 Brine volume decreases with decreasing sea-ice temperature. This can lead to significant changes in the  
11 mineral-liquid thermodynamic equilibrium of the brine and to thermally sequential mineral  
12 precipitation (Marion, 2001), most notably of calcium carbonate in the form of the metastable mineral  
13 *ikaite* ( $CaCO_3 \cdot 6H_2O$ ) at temperatures below  $-2.2^\circ C$ :



14 The formation of  $CaCO_3$  and  $CO_{2(aq)}$  and the decreasing  $CO_2$  solubility of the increasingly saline brine  
15 (Tison et al., 2002), drives the brine to higher  $CO_2$  partial pressure ( $pCO_2$ ) (Geilfus et al., 2012).  
16 Hence, the temperature sensitivity of carbon speciation in sea ice brines supports the premise that  
17 thermochemical processes within brine exposed to the atmosphere facilitates an air-ice  $pCO_2$  gradient,  
18 thereby linking  $CO_2$  exchange to site energetics via brine carbon chemistry (Loose et al. 2011). In  
19 theory, sea ice is permeable to vertical brine transport when brine proportion by volume in sea ice is in  
20 excess of  $\sim 5\%$  (Golden et al., 1998). The brine-atmosphere interface may be positioned at the sea ice  
21 surface or at distance up into the snow pack as would be the case for brine-wetted snow. Snow over sea  
22 ice may contain appreciable quantities of salt, drawn up from the ice surface in the form of  
23 concentrated brine (Barber et al., 1995a; Barber et al., 1995b; Crocker, 1984; Perovich and  
24 Richtermenge, 1994). A list of processes possibly affecting  $pCO_2$  at the brine-atmosphere interface  
25 include; (1) Given sufficiently permeable sea-ice (Golden et al., 1998; Loose et al., 2011a; Loose et al.,  
26 2011b) brine concentration/dilution, alters the  $pCO_2$  gradient across the sea-ice surface and thus the  
27 potential for  $CO_2$  exchanges (Geilfus et al., 2012; Killawee et al., 1998; Tison et al., 2002; Nomura et

1 al., 2006; Papadimitriou et al., 2004). (2) Formation/dissolution of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )  
2 within brine (Dieckmann et al., 2008; Fischer et al., 2013; Marion, 2001; Papadimitriou et al., 2004;  
3 Rysgaard et al., 2013) leads to an increase/decrease in brine  $\text{pCO}_2$  thus changing the potential for  $\text{CO}_2$   
4 exchanges at the ice surface (Geilfus et al., 2012; Miller et al., 2011b; Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011;  
5 Sogaard et al., 2013). (3)  $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  has been observed in brine-soaked snow at the snow/ice  
6 interface (Fischer et al., 2013; Geilfus et al., 2013; Nomura et al., 2013). This suggests that  
7 formation/dissolution of  $\text{CaCO}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  in snow may be able to contribute to observed  $\text{CO}_2$  exchange,  
8 particularly during conditions conducive to upward transport of brine to the snow base from the sea ice  
9 (e.g. large snow/ice interface brine volume and negative freeboard).

10

## 11 **2.5 Gas transport in snow**

12 Gas transport in snow occurs by way of diffusion, advection and thermal convection. While diffusion is  
13 a slow process, and thermal convection is a notoriously elusive process (Powers et al., 1985),  
14 advection, or wind-pumping, is a dynamic process that allow for very rapid flushing of  $\text{CO}_2$ , which has  
15 been accumulated in the snow-pockets (Jones et al., 1999; Sturm, 1991) following e.g. emission from  
16 the sea-ice. The wind pumping process has been described in a number of studies (Albert et al., 2002;  
17 Albert and Shultz, 2002; Jones et al., 1999; Massman and Frank, 2006; Seok et al., 2009; Takagi et al.,  
18 2005) as well as discussed specifically as a plausible mechanism for periods of enhanced  $\text{CO}_2$   
19 exchanges on sea-ice (Miller et al., 2011b; Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011).

20

## 21 **3 Observations**

### 22 **3.1 ICEI**

23 Freeboard, which is the height of the ice above the water surface, was found at ICEI to be negative and  
24 a thin slush layer was observed at the snow/ice interface. Observed  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes, energy fluxes, and  
25 meteorological parameters from the site are shown in Fig. 2. The site experienced a number of power  
26 outages, primarily during night and in the morning, as indicated by instrument status bars (Fig. 2A).  
27 The prevailing wind direction (Fig. 2A) during the ICEI experiment was from the ice covered inner



1 fjord (North). The period was dominated by low wind speeds on the order of  $1 - 2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  with three  
2 events of relatively strong wind-speed  $U = 6 - 8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$  recorded on the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of March,  
3 past midday on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March and during night on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March respectively (Fig. 2A). Air  
4 temperature was recorded within the range  $T_{\text{air}} = -25 \pm 10^\circ\text{C}$  and followed a diurnal pattern with  
5 daily temperature changes on the order of  $10 - 15^\circ\text{C}$  (Fig. 2A). The range of  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes observed at  
6 ICEI (Fig. 2A) was modest and characterized by limited variation;  $F_{\text{CO}_2} = 1.73 \pm 5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ ,  
7 where values given are the mean and standard deviation. Two chamber observations were conducted  
8 just before midday on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March (Fig. 2A, magenta diamonds), both showing flux estimates  
9 similar to eddy covariance derived flux estimates at the same time during both the preceding and the  
10 following day ( $F_{\text{CO}_2} = 0.86 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  and  $F_{\text{CO}_2} = 2.16 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ ). No concurrent eddy  
11 covariance observations were available. Average net solar radiation during the experiment was low  
12  $\bar{R}_n^{\text{SW}} = -27 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 2B). Sensible heat fluxes were predominantly within the range  $Q_{\text{SENS}} =$   
13  $\pm 5 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  with three events of strong warming and cooling  $Q_{\text{SENS}} = \pm 25 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  recorded on the  
14 evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, the evening and night of the 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> of March and the night of the 26<sup>th</sup>-  
15 27<sup>th</sup> of March, respectively (Fig. 2C). The only non-negligible latent heat fluxes were recorded on the  
16 night of the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> of March within the range  $Q_{\text{LAT}} = 2 \pm 2 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 2C). Ice-temperatures taken  
17 from an extracted ice-core on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, three days before the initiation of the experiment,  
18 indicated a snow/ice interface temperature at  $-10^\circ\text{C}$  and calculated brine volume at around  $V_B = 5.1\%$   
19 (Rysgaard et al., 2013).

20

### 21 **3.2 Observations at POLYI**

22 Freeboard at POLYI was found to be negative and a slush layer was observed at the snow/ice interface.  
23 The snow base was generally characterized by a higher level of moisture relative to the ICEI and DNB  
24 sites. Observed  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes, meteorological parameters and components of the energy balance from the  
25 site are shown in Fig. 3. The prevailing wind direction (Fig. 3A) during the entire experiment was from  
26 the ice covered inner fjord (West) and the period was dominated by low to moderate wind speeds  
27 within the range  $U = 1 - 6 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ . Air temperature was recorded within the range  $T_{\text{air}} = -17 \pm 8^\circ\text{C}$   
28 and followed a diurnal pattern with daily temperature changes on the order of  $10^\circ\text{C}$  as well as a general

1 incline of 5°C during the experiment (Fig. 3A). We note that due to the relatively thin snow cover and  
2 cold atmosphere, the ice at this site was actively growing, as opposed to the thicker inner-fjord sites  
3 ICEI and DNB. CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes observed at POLYI (Fig. 3A) were both larger and more variable relative to  
4 observations at ICEI;  $F_{\text{CO}_2} = -9.97 \pm 19.8 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ , where values given are the mean and  
5 standard deviation. Two chamber observations (Fig 3A, magenta diamonds), performed on the ice and  
6 in the snow on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March (Fig. 3A), both showed flux estimates on the order of concurrent eddy  
7 covariance flux estimates ( $|F_{\text{CO}_2}| \leq 3.5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ ). Average net solar radiation during the  
8 experiment was slightly stronger than at ICEI;  $\bar{R}_n^{\text{SW}} = -40 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 3B). Sensible heat fluxes were  
9 observed within the range  $Q_{\text{SENS}} = \pm 20 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  with three events of strong heating and cooling  
10 recorded on the evening/night of the 24<sup>th</sup> of March, the midday/evening on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March and the  
11 early morning on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March (Fig. 3C). The only non-negligible latent heat fluxes were recorded  
12 on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March within the range  $Q_{\text{LAT}} = 1 \pm 1 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 3C). An ice-core  
13 observation on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, five days before the initiation of eddy covariance measurements at  
14 POLYI, indicated a snow/ice interface temperature around -5 °C and calculated brine volume at  
15 around 12% (Rysgaard et al., 2013).

16

### 17 **3.3 Observations at DNB**

18 Freeboard at DNB was found to be negative and a thin slush layer was observed at the snow/ice  
19 interface in the beginning of the measurement period. Observed CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, meteorological parameters  
20 and components of the energy balance from the site are shown in Fig. 4. The prevailing wind direction  
21 (Fig. 4A) during the entire experiment was from the ice-covered inner fjord (North-West) and the  
22 period was dominated by low wind speeds of 1 – 4 ms<sup>-1</sup> with three events of very strong wind-speed  
23 of 6 – 10 ms<sup>-1</sup> recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> of April and on the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of April  
24 respectively (Fig. 4A). Air temperature was recorded within the range of  $-19 \pm 6$  (Fig. 4A). The range  
25 of CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes observed at DNB (Fig. 4A) was the largest during the entire field-campaign;  $F_{\text{CO}_2} =$   
26  $8.64 \pm 39.64 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ , where values given are the mean and standard deviation. Average net  
27 solar radiation during the experiment was significantly higher than for both ICEI and POLYI;  $\bar{R}_n^{\text{SW}} =$   
28  $-75 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 4B). Sensible heat fluxes were predominantly within the range  $Q_{\text{SENS}} = \pm 50 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$

1 with three events of strong surface heating ( $Q_{\text{SENS}} = -100 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$ ) recorded on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> and the  
2 7<sup>th</sup> of April, respectively (Fig. 4C). Latent heat fluxes were recorded within the range  $Q_{\text{LAT}} = 3 \pm$   
3  $3 \text{ Wm}^{-2}$  (Fig. 4C). Temperature readings of ice-cores (Attard, K., unpublished) taken a couple of days  
4 before the initiation of observations at the DNB site on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March respectively,  
5 indicated an increase in temperature from  $-4.7^\circ\text{C}$  to  $-4.0^\circ\text{C}$  at the snow/ice interface.

6

## 7 **4 Data analysis and discussion**

### 8 **4.1 On the size of the CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes**

9 The CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes observed during this experiment, particularly at POLYI and DNB, are comparable to  
10 the larger flux-rates reported in past studies over sea ice;  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{ICE1}} = 1.73 \pm 5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ ,  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{POLY1}} =$   
11  $-9.97 \pm 19.8 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  and  $F_{\text{CO}_2}^{\text{DNB}} = 8.64 \pm 39.64 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ . Using eddy covariance  
12 instrumentation, CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  $\pm 60 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  have been measured over fast sea-ice  
13 near barrow, Alaska in June, 2002 (Semiletov et al., 2004). CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  $-11 \pm$   
14  $18 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  have been observed in summer sea-ice from the western Weddell Sea, Antarctica  
15 (Zemmelink et al. 2006). CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  $0.3 \pm 1.5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  were observed from a  
16 drifting ice-station in the Laptev sea during September, 2007 (Semiletov et al. 2007). Average CO<sub>2</sub>-  
17 fluxes of  $19.9 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  and  $32 \pm 5.2 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  were observed on newly forming fast ice  
18 (30-40 cm thick) and on older fast ice respectively, in the Canadian arctic during November, 2007  
19 through January, 2008 (Else et al., 2011). The authors also report strong uptake in areas of  
20 unconsolidated ice, open water and active leads. Daily average CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  $7 \pm$   
21  $67 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  were reported on growing fast ice (0.8-1.7m thickness) in the Canadian arctic during  
22 January through June, 2004 (Miller et al., 2011b). CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  $-78 \pm$   
23  $180 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  were reported on first-year ice in the Canadian arctic during May through June,  
24 2002 (Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011). Using chamber instrumentation, CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes within the range  
25  $1.5 \pm 1.5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  were observed at ice-stations of various characteristics in the Canadian arctic  
26 during April through June, 2008 (Geilfus et al., 2012). The disparity in strength and direction of  
27 observed CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes at sites of different characteristics and at different time of year confirm that sea-  
28 ice is a very dynamic system and that further studies are necessary to understand the full potential of

1 sea-ice in offsetting both regional- and global-scale carbon cycles. It is also possible that some of the  
2 fluxes derived using eddy covariance in the studies cited above contained a heating bias associated with  
3 the use of an older version of the open-path sensor (cf. Papakyriakou and Miller, 2011) In addition, a  
4 significant degree of disparity may be introduced by methodological challenges associated with eddy  
5 correlation observations in environments characterized by low fluxes and/or challenging topographical  
6 forcing of the ambient air flow (Sievers et al., 2015).

7 The fact that CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes at ICEI were close to zero may be because (1) calculated brine volume  
8 (Rysgaard et al., 2013) was just at the critical threshold for gas-permeability  $V_B = 5.1\%$  (Golden et al.,  
9 1998; Loose et al., 2011a; Loose et al., 2011b), raising the possibility that brine transport was inhibited  
10 within the ice during that part of the experiment, and (2) the thick overlying snow cover prevented the  
11 free exchange of CO<sub>2</sub> in absence of wind-induced ventilation. We discuss the latter issue below. On the  
12 other hand, the stronger fluxes observed at POLYI may be attributed to thinner snow cover and brine  
13 transport in response to the much larger calculated brine volumes  $V_B = 12\%$ . Vertical brine transport  
14 and possible mixing with under-ice sea ice water (Zhou et al., 2013; Vancoppenolle et al., 2010)  
15 provides a mechanism for the brine wetting of the snow/ice interface and possibly of the snow-base. In  
16 this situation brine is close to the snow/atmosphere interface, not only allowing for an enhanced CO<sub>2</sub>  
17 exchange (particularly in the presence of a thinner snow cover) with the atmosphere, but also subject to  
18 more pronounced temperature shifts in response to the 24 h cycle of the diurnal energy budget at the  
19 site. As mentioned, changes in brine solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> and the dissolution/precipitation of CaCO<sub>3</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O  
20 associated with changing temperature provides for a dynamic air-ice pCO<sub>2</sub> gradient. Brine salinity and  
21 density increases with decreasing temperature (Petrich and Eiken, 2009). Hence, a temperature change  
22 may lead to convective mixing within the sea ice and underlying seawater, thereby coupling  
23 atmospheric exchange to conditions within the ice and ocean. Information on sea ice salinity,  
24 temperature, and therefore brine volume, were not available for the DNB site. The observation of larger  
25 CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes at this site is consistent with the notion that the brine volume at the snow/ice interface was  
26 well above the threshold for vertical mixing, and therefore for CO<sub>2</sub> exchange with the atmosphere. The  
27 snow/ice interface was warmer during the DNB time series relative to the ICEI and POLYI stages of  
28 the experiment (section 3.1-3.3), and therefore it is reasonable to assume that brine was present at the  
29 snow base and that processes affecting CO<sub>2</sub> speciation in the brine described above for POLYI  
30 remained active throughout the study period.

## 1 4.2 Processes controlling the CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes

### 2 4.2.1 Site energy fluxes

3 In order to investigate the association of the surface energy balance with CO<sub>2</sub> exchanges, we performed  
4 a diurnal correlation analysis (Fig. 5). Generally speaking, the limited observation time at both ICEI  
5 (Fig. 5A-E) and POLYI (Fig. 5F-J) leads to less certain definitions of diurnal patterns relative to that of  
6 the much longer time series obtained at DNB (Fig. 5K-O). The absence of turbulent observations  
7 during morning and noon, due to battery failures at the ICEI site is particularly clear in this illustration  
8 (Fig. 5A-E). Nevertheless, some patterns can be observed. At ICEI (Fig. 5A-E) outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub>  
9 coincides with radiative longwave cooling during nighttime (Fig. 5D) while uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> coincides  
10 with radiative shortwave warming during daytime (Fig. 5C). The net result is a positive correlation  
11 between net radiation and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes ( $R^2 = 0.34$ ) as seen in Fig. 5E. The same relations are evident at  
12 the similar, though warmer, DNB site (Fig. 5K-O). Outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub> coincides with nighttime  
13 radiative longwave cooling (Fig. 5N) while uptake or negligible CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes coincide with daytime  
14 radiative shortwave warming (Fig. 5M). Again, the net result is a positive correlation between net  
15 radiation and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes ( $R^2 = 0.47$ ) as seen in Fig. 5O. Unlike at ICEI, the clearly defined diurnal  
16 patterns at DNB also reveals a remarkable anti-correlation ( $R^2 = 0.67$ ) between CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes and  
17 sensible heat fluxes (Fig. 5K). An association also observed over Antarctic sea ice by Zemmeling et al.  
18 (2006). Typically some positive correlation between turbulent parameters is expected considering their  
19 shared dependency on atmospheric flow conditions. An anti-correlation, however, is further indication  
20 of a connection between surface cooling (warming) and CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing (uptake).

21 It appears that much of the variability in CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes at ICEI and DNB can be explained by changes in  
22 the surface radiative balance. The plausible underlying thermochemical processes were discussed in  
23 section 4.2.1. At sea ice sites characterized by a thick ice cover, warming of the snow-ice interface, by  
24 way of radiative or oceanic influences, likely leads to brine dilution, brine volume expansion and  
25  $CaCO_3$  dissolution and hence a decrease in brine  $pCO_2$  which ultimately drives enhanced uptake of  
26 CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. In contrast, cooling of the snow-ice interface likely leads to brine  
27 concentration, brine volume decrease and  $CaCO_3$  formation and hence an increase in brine  $pCO_2$  which  
28 ultimately drives enhanced outgassing of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere.

1 Equivalent relationships are less apparent at POLYI (Fig. 5F-J). There are indications of CO<sub>2</sub> uptake  
2 coinciding with radiative shortwave warming (Fig. 5H) and some CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing coinciding with  
3 radiative longwave cooling in the morning (Fig. 5I) but the pattern is broken by a consistent uptake of  
4 CO<sub>2</sub> coinciding with net radiative cooling in the late evening and night (Fig. 5J). It is important to note  
5 that the time series obtained at POLYI is very limited and so any conclusion drawn from these data  
6 might simply stem from the lack of a fully representative diurnal cycle. Nevertheless, a number of  
7 interpretations are possible: (1) surface cooling leads to convective mixing within the sea ice brines.  
8 Providing sufficiently permeable sea ice at the snow-ice interface, this couples atmospheric exchanges  
9 directly to overturning of high pCO<sub>2</sub> brines with comparatively low pCO<sub>2</sub> ocean water, thus facilitating  
10 an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is supported here because all uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> in the period 2PM-1AM coincided  
11 with decreasing air temperatures (Fig. 3A). Note that some temporal lag between surface temperature  
12 changes and temperature changes within the ice should be expected. (2) As noted in the field, the site  
13 was characterized by high levels of moisture above the snow-ice interface. Such conditions might lead  
14 to the formation of superimposed ice within the snow, which has been found to inhibit gas exchanges  
15 (Nomura et al., 2010). This might explain the limited gas exchanges observed during the coldest part of  
16 the day (2AM-6AM). By extension we might expect a build-up of high pCO<sub>2</sub> brine during night at the  
17 snow-ice interface, which would explain the sudden burst of outward exchanges at 8AM when,  
18 presumably, warming of the superimposed ice and the snow-ice interface allows for the resumption of  
19 surface exchanges.

20 The fact that clear diurnal patterns of CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes can be described emphasizes that carbon budget  
21 estimates over sea ice should be based on sufficiently frequent sampling and not be restricted to  
22 snapshot measurements during the day.

23

#### 24 **4.2.2 Wind-speed**

25 Given the indication of a relationship between CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes and the site energy balance, an appropriate  
26 evaluation of wind pumping requires the separation of thermochemical influences from any wind  
27 pumping effects. Furthermore, proper evaluation of wind pumping would have to account for the fact  
28 that correlation between wind speed and turbulent components, such as CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes, are expected under  
29 any circumstances. In the previous section we found that the best predictor for CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes was sensible

1 heat fluxes (Fig. 5K). Here this correlation is re-evaluated in the context of wind-speed (Fig. 6). Two  
2 distinct mechanisms appear to be present, evident as a plausible thermochemical relationship between  
3 sensible heat fluxes and CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes ( $R^2 = 0.41$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) during wind speeds within the range 0 –  
4 9.5 ms<sup>-1</sup> and a decoupled, less significant relationship ( $R^2 = 0.26$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ), during wind speeds  
5 within the range 9.5 – 11 ms<sup>-1</sup>. As expected, a positive relationship between turbulent components  
6 and wind speed is clearly evident for the proposed thermochemical relationship within the wind speed  
7 range 0 – 9.5 ms<sup>-1</sup>, while the same does not hold true for the relationship within the range 9.5 –  
8 11 ms<sup>-1</sup>. The implication is that wind-pumping is a plausible additional process at the DNB site. No  
9 similar decoupling relationships were found at ICEI and POLYI. This may be due to the moderate  
10 wind speeds and the limited observation times. In addition, the moderate flux activity at ICEI could  
11 have also contributed to the lack of a decoupled relationship, in that less CO<sub>2</sub> would have been stored in  
12 the snow under these circumstances. By extension, the presence of a thick snow cover might constitute  
13 a greater potential for snow pumping of stored CO<sub>2</sub>. As such, this could explain the lack of a decoupled  
14 relationship at POLYI where snow thickness was moderate compared to the DNB site.

15

## 16 **5 Conclusion**

17 Eddy covariance observations of CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes were conducted during late winter at three locations on  
18 fast ice and newly formed polynya ice in a coastal fjord environment in North East Greenland. For the  
19 first time, CO<sub>2</sub>-flux estimates over sea ice were derived using the Ogive optimization method (Sievers  
20 et al., 2015) shown to be an appropriate technique for quantifying small fluxes. Observations at the  
21 three sites were indicative of an environment experiencing the slow onset and gradual intensification of  
22 spring warming with average net solar radiation increasing from  $-27\text{Wm}^{-2}$  at ICEI to  $-40\text{Wm}^{-2}$  at  
23 POLYI and  $-75\text{Wm}^{-2}$  at DNB. Concurrent CO<sub>2</sub>-flux estimates increased throughout the period: ICEI  
24 was characterized by negligible net CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes:  $F_{CO_2} = 1.73 \pm 5 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ , POLYI was  
25 characterized by net CO<sub>2</sub> uptake  $F_{CO_2} = -9.97 \pm 19.8 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$  and DNB was characterized by  
26 net CO<sub>2</sub> outgassing  $F_{CO_2} = 8.64 \pm 39.64 \text{ mmol m}^{-2}\text{d}^{-1}$ . A diurnal correlation analysis supports a  
27 significant connection between site energetics and CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes linked to a number of possible thermally  
28 driven processes, which change the pCO<sub>2</sub> gradient at the snow-ice interface. The relative influence of  
29 these processes on atmospheric exchanges likely depends on the thickness of the ice. Specifically, the

1 study indicates a predominant influence of brine volume expansion/contraction, brine  
2 dissolution/concentration and calcium carbonate formation/dissolution at sites characterized by a thick  
3 sea ice cover, such that surface warming leads to an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> and vice versa, while convective  
4 overturning within the sea ice brines dominate at sites characterized by comparatively thin sea ice  
5 cover, such that nighttime surface cooling leads to an uptake of CO<sub>2</sub> to the extent permitted by  
6 simultaneous formation of superimposed ice in the lower snow-column. The existence of clear diurnal  
7 patterns of both energy fluxes and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes emphasizes the importance of continuous and frequent  
8 sampling in order to properly resolve the respective budgets in a sea ice environment. In addition, a  
9 clear decoupling between CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes and the proposed thermochemical processes was observed at the  
10 DNB site at wind speeds exceeding the threshold 9.5ms<sup>-1</sup>, making wind-pumping a plausible second  
11 mechanism here. No similar relationships were found at the ICEI and POLYI sites, likely due to a  
12 combination of moderate wind speeds, limited observation time, limited flux activity (ICEI) and less  
13 thick snow cover (POLYI).

14

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27



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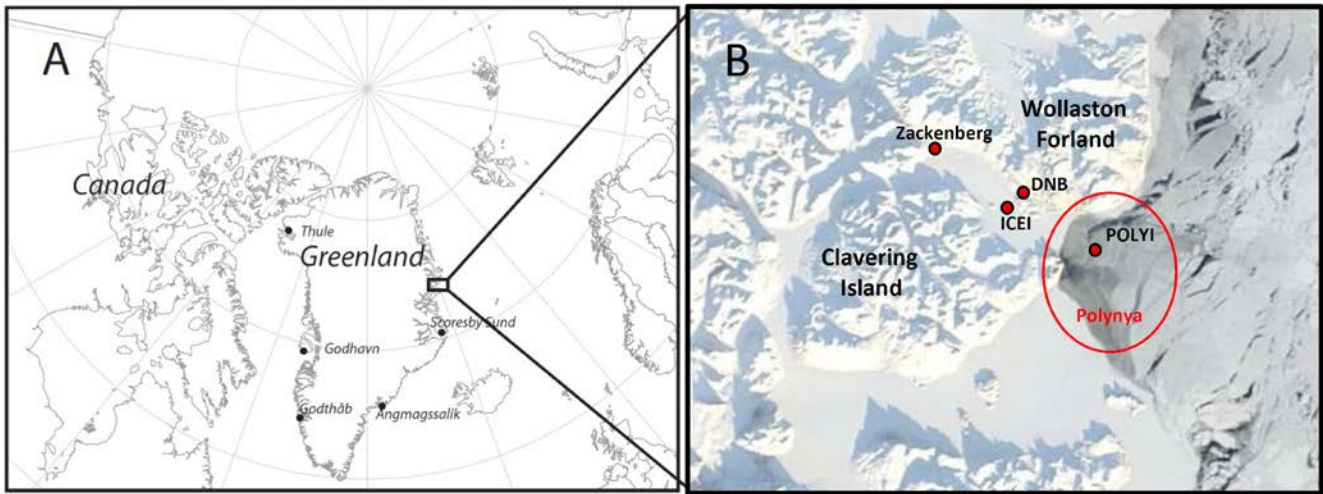
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1 **Figures**

2



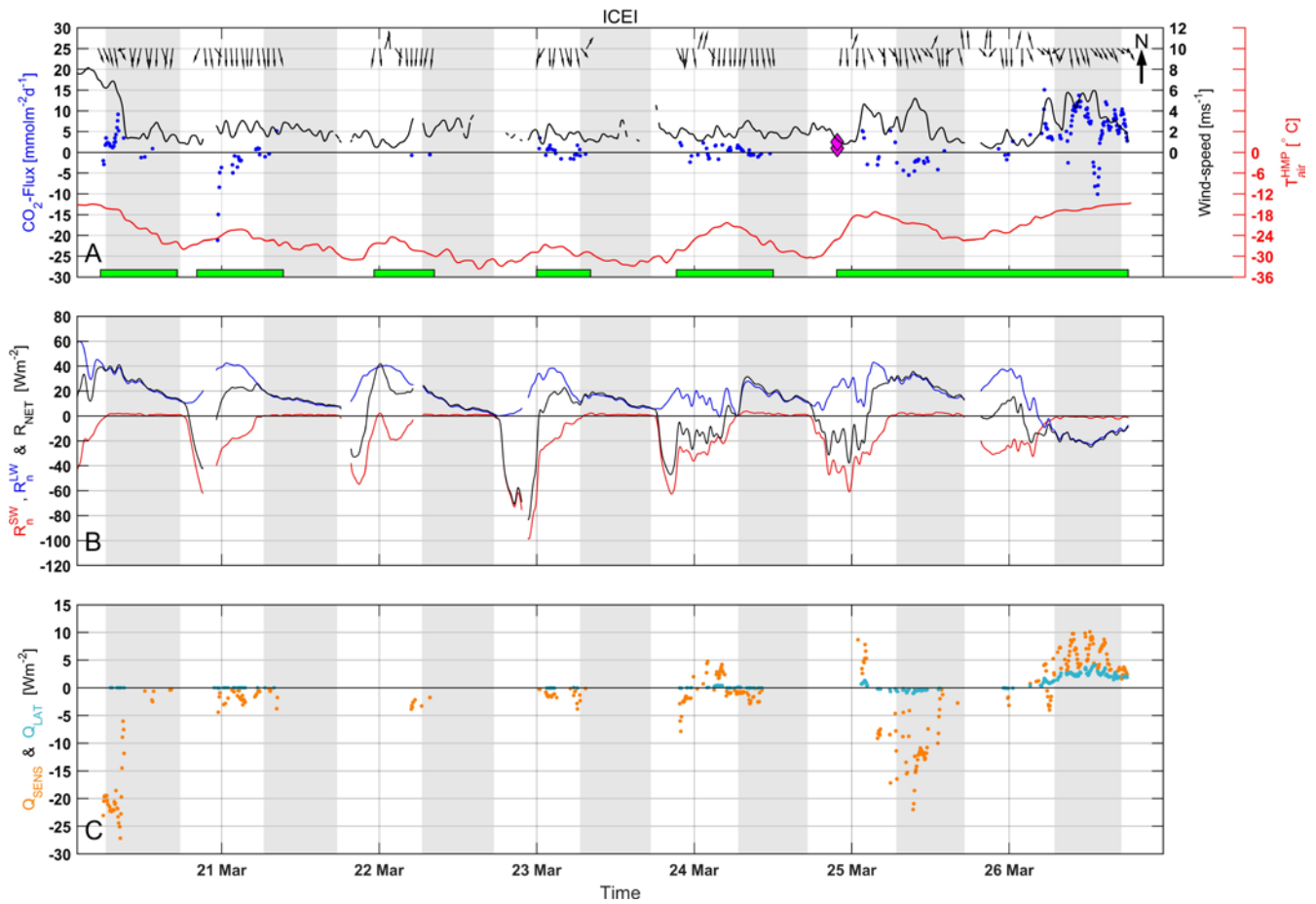
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5 **Figure 1:** (A) Regional and (B) local overview of field-sites in Young-Sound, NE Greenland. Sites ICEI and DNB were  
6 located in the inner-fjord characterized by thick fast sea ice and a thick snow-cover, and POLYI was located in an active  
7 polynia, characterized by thin ice and snow-cover.

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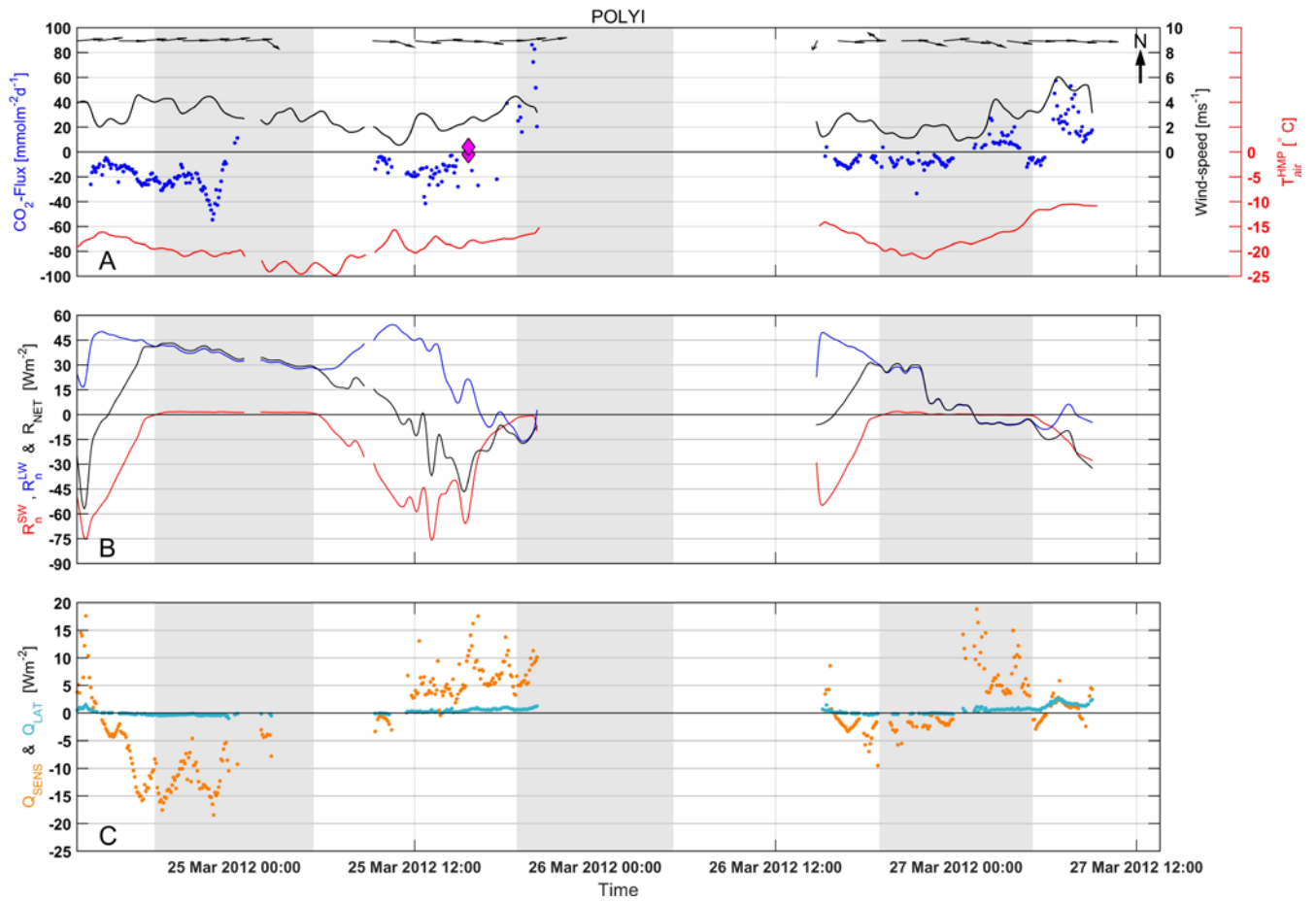


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2 **Figure 2:** ICEI timeseries of (A) EC derived CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes (blue markers), chamber observations of CO<sub>2</sub>-flux (magenta  
 3 diamonds), wind-speed (black line), HMP air temperature (red line) and wind-direction (black arrows). Wind-direction due  
 4 north is indicated in the upper right corner. Green bars indicate when the EC instruments were online; (B) net shortwave  
 5 radiation (red line), net longwave radiation (blue line) and net radiation (black line); (C) turbulent sensible heat flux (orange  
 6 dots) and turbulent latent heat flux (light-blue dots). Grey shaded areas indicate night-time.

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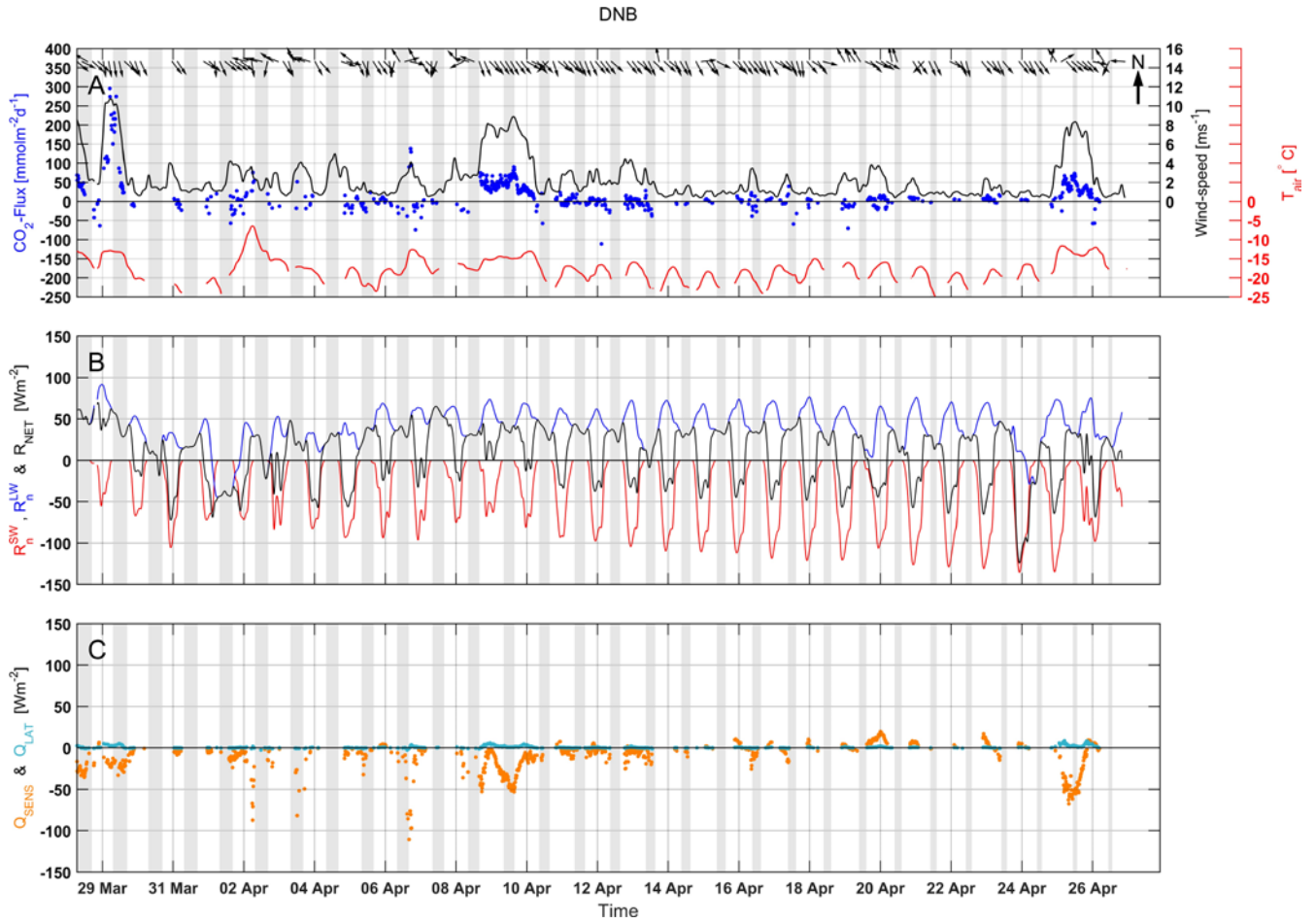
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2 **Figure 3:** POLYI timeseries shown as for Fig. 2, but without green bars indicating instrument status in (A).

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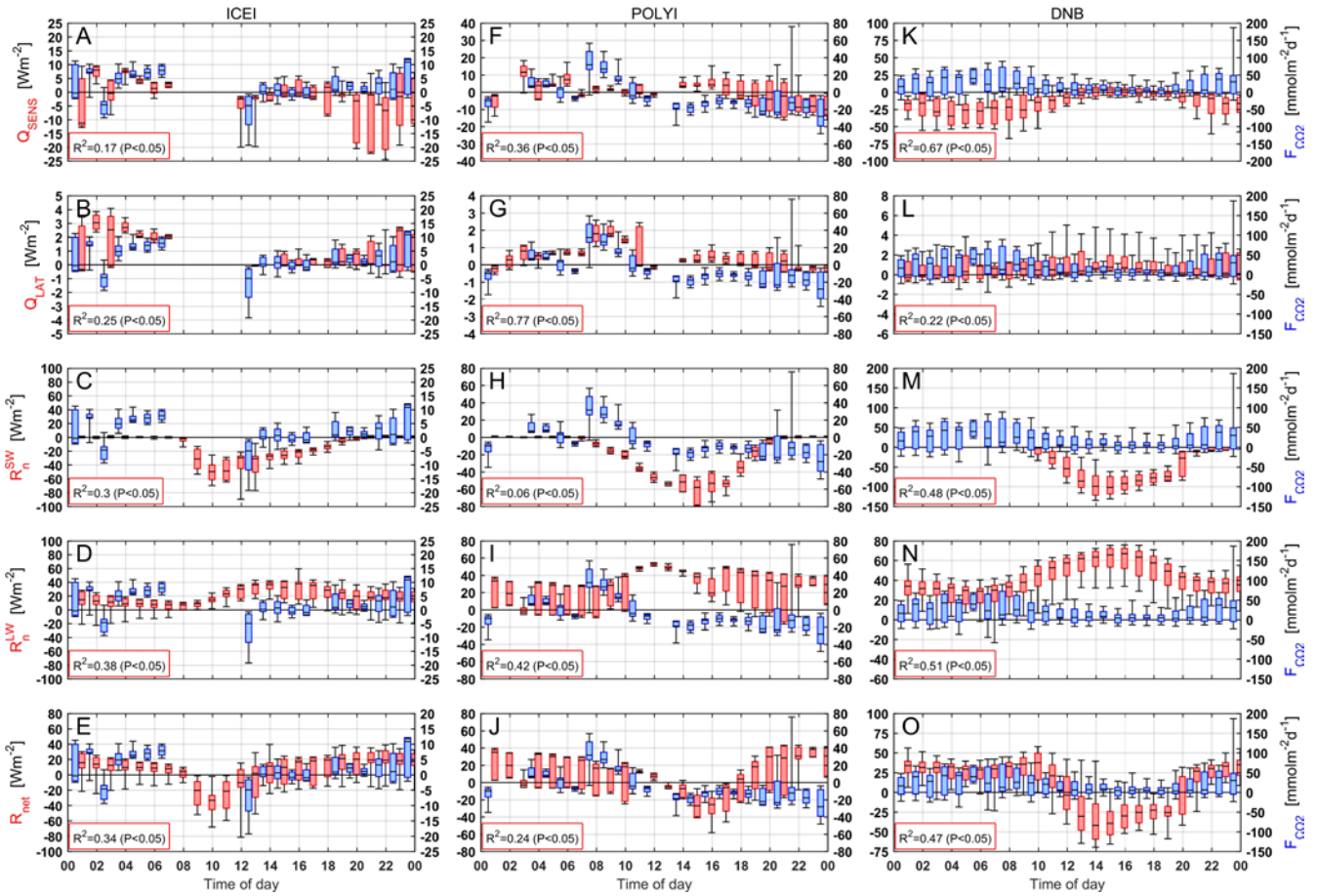


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2 **Figure 4:** DNB timeseries shown as for Fig. 2, but without green bars indicating instrument status in (A).

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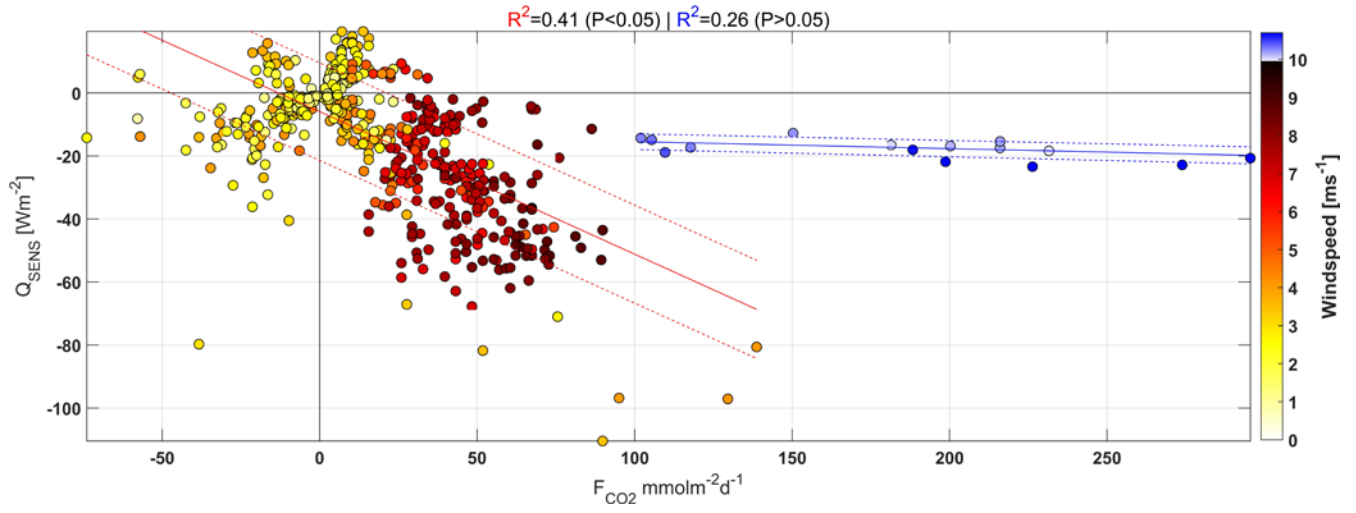




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3 **Figure 5:** Diurnal patterns of (AFK) sensible heat flux (BGL) latent heat flux (CHM) net shortwave energy (DIN) net  
 4 longwave energy and (EJO) net radiative energy (red boxplots) shown alongside the diurnal pattern of CO<sub>2</sub>-fluxes (blue  
 5 boxplots) for the three experimental sites in question (columns). Boxplots are composed of the median (black middle line),  
 6 the 25-75<sup>th</sup> percentile (box) and the 9-91<sup>st</sup> percentile (black whiskers) respectively. Correlations are indicated along with P-  
 7 values in red boxes in the lower-left corner of each graph. In order to account for outliers the correlations given are the best  
 8 among four diurnal correlations based on either all data, the 9-91<sup>th</sup> percentile, the 25-75<sup>th</sup> percentile or the medians, for  
 9 which  $P < 0.05$ .



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**Figure 6:** Correlations between sensible heat flux and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes for the DNB site, colorcoded according to wind speed.