

Interactive comment on “Reply to “Basal buoyancy and fast-moving glaciers: in defense of analytic force balance” by C. J. van der Veen (2016)” by Terence J. Hughes

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This reply is a re-iteration in the defense of the analytical force balance that does not add anything new to the discussion launched by C. van der Veen. Both authors (Hughes, 2016 and van der Veen, 2016) make their point in defending and vividly demonstrating the usefulness of their approaches. Having the two papers published in TC definitely makes comparison between both approaches possible for TC readers.

In this reply, Hughes addresses a number of errors that are clearly not present in van der Veen (2016) and probably relate to a version of the manuscript that is not published. As correctly stated by one of the referees, there is nothing wrong with the analysis of van der Veen. Moreover, the reply contains a lot of anecdotal reference that may be of

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interest for some (or of potential interest from a historical perspective), but are out of place in a reply on a published manuscript. Furthermore, the tone of the reply as well as its format is not what is to be expected for a scientific reply within a scientific journal. Referee 2 summarizes this neatly.

Given that the discussion around this reply is at certain stages too personal and with limited interest for TC readers, I suggest that the reply by Hughes and the associated discussion remains part of the legacy of TC discussions (as it is a discussion) and does not get published as a final TC paper in The Cryosphere.

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