



1 **Evaluation of six geothermal heat flux maps for the Antarctic Lambert-Amery**
2 **glacial system**

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15

16

Abstract

17 Basal thermal conditions play an important role in ice sheet dynamics, and they are
18 sensitive to geothermal heat flux (GHF). Here we estimate the basal thermal conditions,
19 including basal temperature, basal melt rate, and friction heat underneath the Lambert-
20 Amery glacier system in east Antarctica, using a combination of a forward model and
21 an inversion from a 3D ice flow model. We assess the sensitivity and uncertainty of
22 basal thermal conditions using six different GHFs. We evaluate the modelled results
23 using all available observed subglacial lakes. There are very large differences in
24 modelled spatial pattern of temperate basal conditions using the different GHFs. The
25 two most-recent GHF fields inverted from aerial geomagnetic observations have higher
26 values of GHF in the region, produce a larger warm-based area, and match the observed
27 subglacial lakes better than the other GHFs. The fast flowing glacier region has a lower
28 modelled basal friction coefficient, faster basal velocity, with higher basal frictional
29 heating in the range of 50-2000 mW m⁻² than the base under slower flowing glaciated
30 areas. The modelled basal melt rate reaches ten to hundreds of mm per year locally in
31 Lambert, Lepekhin and Kronshtadtskiy glaciers feeding the Amery ice shelf, and ranges
32 from 0-5 mm yr⁻¹ on the temperate base of the vast inland region.

33

34 **1 Introduction**

35 The Lambert-Amery system in East Antarctica is believed to be relatively stable against
36 climate change and has changed little over several decades of observations (King et al.,
37 2007). However, there is also evidence of extensive subglacial rifts and lakes. Jamieson
38 et al. (2016) report a large subglacial drainage network, suggesting that the region could
39 respond rapidly to changes in basal water supply or, potentially to surface forcing.

40

41 Extensive ice penetrating radar has been collected recently over Princess Elizabeth



42 Land (PEL; Fig. 1d), including the eastern part of the Lambert-Amery system (Cui et
43 al., 2020a). This fills in large data gaps from older surveys, and provides the basis for
44 our study. The radar surveys reveal ~1100 km long canyons (Fig. 1) that are incised
45 hundreds of meters deep into the subglacial bed that extend from the Gamburtsev
46 Subglacial Mountains (GSM) to the coast of the Western Ice Shelf (WIS). Li et al. (2021)
47 used airborne magnetic survey collected alongside the radar, which when combined
48 with the radar ice thicknesses and estimated depths at which the bedrock reaches its
49 Currie temperature, can be inverted for geothermal flux. This higher resolution data set
50 (Li et al., 2021) infers a larger heat flux than previous estimates in this region.
51 Furthermore recently discovered subglacial lakes, including potentially the second
52 largest subglacial lake in Antarctica, adds evidence for more widespread basal melting
53 in the region than was thought based on the much sparser earlier survey data (Cui et al.,
54 2020b). The complex subglacial topography, relatively high geothermal heat flux and
55 subglacial lakes imply a complex distribution of basal thermal condition and subglacial
56 water network. This heterogenous basal condition will have shaped much of ice flow
57 and the mass balance of the Lambert-Amery system. This motivates us to investigate
58 how the basal thermal condition inferred from the new high-resolution topography
59 dataset reconciles with surface ice velocities and existing geothermal heat flow maps.

60

61 Ice temperature is an important factor in the rheology of ice (Budd et al., 2013) and ice
62 flow. Whether the basal ice is at the melting point influences the movement of the ice
63 flow to a great extent. Ice at the melting point can lead to water lubricating the ice/bed
64 interface or saturating any sediment till layer and facilitating higher ice velocities via
65 basal sliding. This forms the basis for making inferences on basal conditions via surface
66 observations (Pattyn, 2010), or relict landforms (e.g. Näslund et al., 2005). Any
67 meltwater will tend to flow along hydraulic gradients, and accumulate in local
68 depressions (Fricker et al., 2016). The ice temperature is controlled by the
69 deformational heat generated from strain within the ice, the lateral advection of heat
70 due to ice motion and the descent rate of ice from the surface, the conduction of heat
71 through the ice and frictional heating from basal sliding.

72

73 Ice sheet models are useful tools to simulate the dynamic evolution of the ice sheet and
74 estimate its mass balance. Ice temperature is hard to evaluate because of the scarcity of
75 in-situ measurements, typically obtained from boreholes that are very rarely drilled
76 through the Antarctic ice sheet. GHF is an important boundary condition for ice
77 temperature, and is generally the largest source of uncertainty. Hence geophysical
78 survey methods are used to indirectly map GHF. To date GHF datasets have been
79 estimated from seismic models (Shapiro and Ritzwoller, 2004; An et al., 2015; Shen et
80 al., 2020), derived from airborne magnetic surveys (Li et al., 2021; Martos et al., 2017)
81 and satellite geomagnetic data (Maule et al., 2005; Purucker, 2013).

82

83 Large scale studies on the dependence on GHF of the Greenland (Rezvanbehbahani et
84 al., 2019) and Antarctica ice sheet (Pattyn, 2010) have inferred ice and basal
85 temperatures. Regionally, the rapidly retreating Thwaites and Pope glaciers in the



86 Amundsen Sea sector of West Antarctica is being facilitated by the high heat flow in
87 the underlying lithosphere (Dziadek et al., 2021). In the Lambert-Amery glacial system,
88 Pittard et al. (2016) suggest that ice flow is most sensitive to the spatial variation in the
89 underlying GHF near the ice divides and along the edges of the ice streams.

90

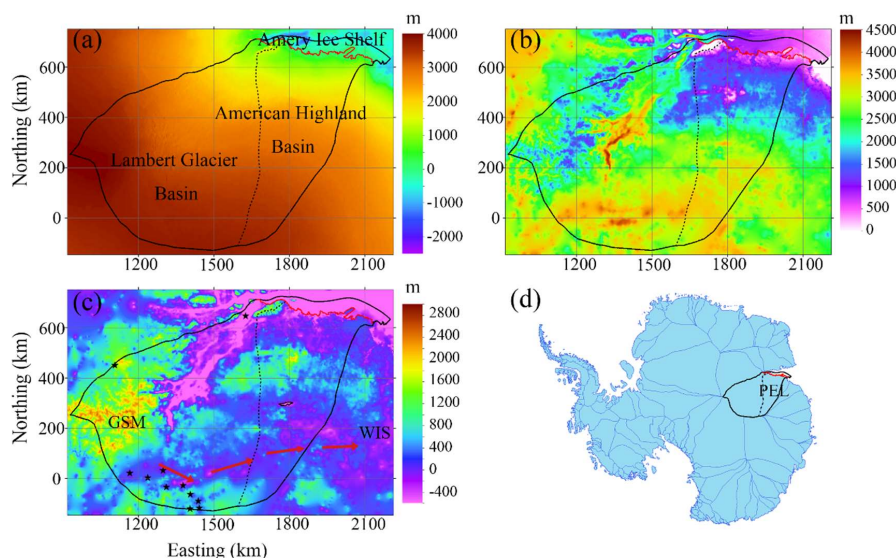
91 In this study, we simulate ice basal temperatures and basal melt rates in the Lambert-
92 Amery system using the new high-resolution digital elevation model, along with six
93 different published GHF maps as forcing for an off-line coupling between a basal
94 energy and water flow model and a 3D full-Stokes ice flow model. We evaluate the
95 quality of the resulting basal temperature field incorporating the Stokes model estimates
96 of ice advection, strain and frictional heating under the different GHF maps using all
97 available observed subglacial lakes and surface velocities. Hence, we make inferences
98 on which GHF maps yield the best match with observations in the region.

99

100 2 Regional Domain and Datasets

101 Our modeled domain is in the Lambert-Amery system. It consists of two drainage
102 basins: the Lambert Glacier Basin, the American Highland Basin, along with half of
103 Amery Ice Shelf (Fig. 1). The 2D domain boundary outlines are defined by the inland
104 ice catchment basin boundary, the central streamline, and the ice front of Amery Ice
105 Shelf. The inland sub-basin and the central streamline of the Amery Ice Shelf were
106 chosen as boundaries because the mass flux across them is assumed to be zero by
107 definition.

108



109

110 Fig. 1. The domain topography and location with domain boundary overlain. (a) surface elevation;
111 (b) ice thickness; (c) bed elevation; (d) the location of our domain in Antarctica. The solid black
112 curve is the outline of the study domain, including the central streamline of Amery ice shelf and the
113 boundary of inland sub-basins based on drainage-basin boundaries defined from satellite ice sheet



114 surface elevation and velocities (Mouginot et al., 2017; Rignot et al., 2019). The red curve is part of
 115 the grounding line of Amery ice shelf. The dotted black curve is the dividing line between Lambert
 116 Glacier Basin and the American Highland Basin. The black stars in (c) denote the locations of
 117 observed subglacial lakes, and the area surrounded by the black line in American Highland Basin in
 118 (c) is the potentially second largest subglacial lake in Antarctic. The red arrows in (c) indicate the
 119 routing through the deep subglacial canyon system from GSM to WIS.

120

121 The surface elevation, bedrock elevation, and ice thickness are from MEaSUREs
 122 BedMachine Antarctica, version 2 with a resolution of 500 m (Morlighem et al., 2020).
 123 Additional ice thickness data from Cui et al. (2020a) were added to further constrain
 124 the bed topography beneath the grounded ice (Table 1). The bed elevation is calculated
 125 using upper surface elevation minus ice thickness.

126

127 The surface ice velocity data are obtained from MEaSUREs InSAR-based Antarctic ice
 128 velocity Map, version 2 with resolution of 450 m (Rignot et al., 2017). Data were largely
 129 acquired during the International Polar Years 2007 to 2009, and between 2013 and 2016.
 130 Additional data acquired between 1996 and 2016 were used as needed to maximize
 131 coverage.

132

133 Ice sheet surface temperature data are prescribed by ALBMAP v1 with resolution of 5
 134 km (Le Brocq et al., 2010) and come from monthly estimates inferred from AVHRR
 135 data averaged over 1982-2004. Subglacial lake locations are from the fourth inventory
 136 of Antarctic subglacial lakes (Wright and Siegert, 2012), with the addition of the newly
 137 discovered lakes (Cui et al., 2020b).

138

139 Six GHF datasets (Fig. 2; Table 2) are used in this study. All the datasets are interpolated
 140 into the same 2.5 km resolution.

141

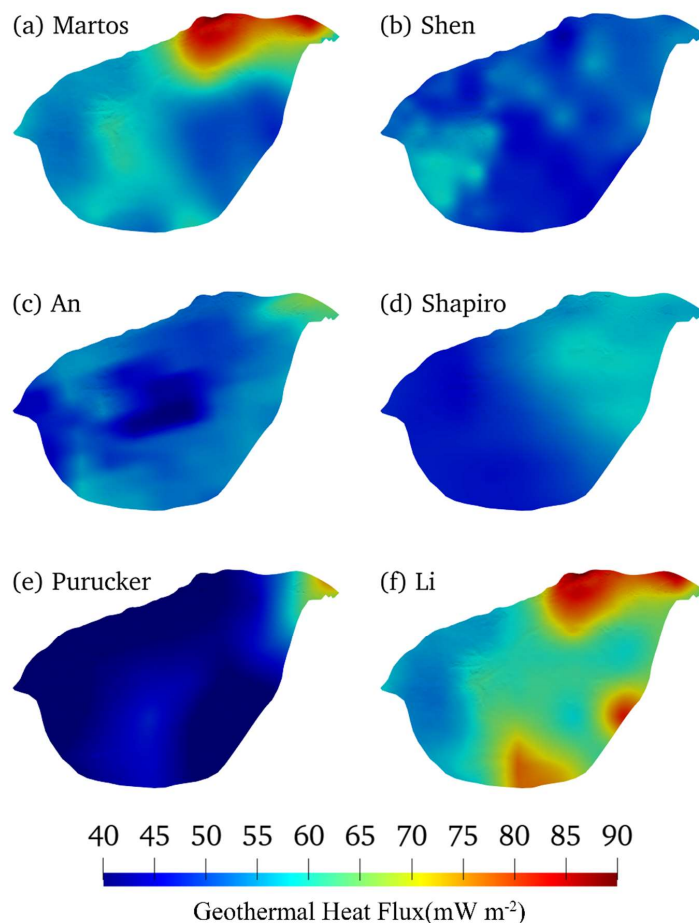
142 Table 1 Datasets used in this study.

Variable name	Dataset	Resolution	Reference
surface elevation, bedrock elevation, and ice thickness	MEaSUREs BedMachine Antarctica version 2	500 m	Morlighem et al., 2020; Cui et al., 2020
surface ice velocity	MEaSUREs InSAR-based Antarctic ice velocity Map, version 2	450 m	Rignot et al., 2017
surface temperature	ALBMAP v1	5 km	Le Brocq et al., 2010; Wright and Siegert, 2012;
subglacial lakes location	The fourth inventory of Antarctic subglacial lakes	-----	Cui et al., 2021

143

144 Table 2 The six GHF datasets used in this study.

GHF map	Reference	Method	Mean (mW m ⁻²)	Range (mW m ⁻²)
Martos	Martos et al., 2017	airborne geomagnetic data	72	47-90
Shen	Shen et al., 2020	seismic model	50	43-59
An	An et al., 2015	seismic model	55	40-66
Shapiro	Shapiro and Ritzwoller, 2004	seismic model	54	45-58
Purucker	Purucker, 2013	Satellite geomagnetic data	47	26-47
Li	Li et al., 2021	airborne geomagnetic data	72	52-90



145

146 Fig. 2. The spatial distribution of GHF over our domain as described in Fig. 1. See Table 2 for the
147 GHF map details.

148

149 **3 Model**

150 Our goal is to infer the basal thermal condition, including basal temperature and basal
151 melt rate in the domain. Geothermal heat flux, internal heat conduction and basal
152 friction heat are the main heat sources that determines the basal thermal condition.
153 Therefore, we need to model both ice flow velocity and stress for basal friction heat and
154 ice temperature for internal heat conduction.

155

156 We use an inverse method implemented in a full-Stokes model, Elmer/Ice, to estimate
157 ice flow velocity and stress, infer the basal friction coefficient and obtain the basal
158 friction heat. A proper initial ice temperature is needed in the inverse method. To get it,
159 we use a forward model that consists of an improved Shallow Ice Approximation (SIA)



160 thermomechanical model with a subglacial hydrology model (Wolovick et al., 2021).
161 The forward model uses the velocity direction and basal slip ratio from the full-Stokes
162 inverse model to constrain its solution. We do steady state simulations by coupling the
163 two models.

164 3.1 Forward Model

165 The forward model consists of a thermomechanical steady state model using an
166 improved Shallow Ice Approximation (SIA) in equilibrium with the subglacial
167 hydrological system (Wolovick et al., 2021), described in Sections 3.1.1-3.1.3. It has
168 internal consistency between three components: ice flow, ice temperature, and basal
169 water flux. The numerical model requires three coupled components to be consistent
170 with one another: (1) Integration for balance flux and englacial temperature downhill
171 in the ice surface, (2) Integration for basal water flux and freezing rate downhill in the
172 hydraulic potential, and (3) Rheology and shape function computations to determine
173 the distribution of ice flux and shear heating. These three components are solved within
174 a large fixed-point iteration. In our coupling scheme, components (1) and (3) are
175 constrained by the velocity direction and basal sliding ratio computed by the full-Stokes
176 inverse model. The simulation is done on a finite difference mesh with resolution of 2.5
177 km.

178

179 3.1.1 Balance Flux and Thermal Model

180 The mass balance of the ice sheet is given by,

$$181 \nabla \cdot (\bar{u}H) = a - m, \quad (1)$$

182 where \bar{u} is the vertically averaged horizontal velocity, H is the ice thickness, a is
183 surface accumulation rate and m is basal melt rate, both expressed as ice equivalent
184 thickness per unit time. In most of the domain, the direction of the horizontal velocity
185 vector is taken from the full-Stokes Elmer/Ice model, but the magnitude of horizontal
186 velocity is allowed to vary to ensure exact mass conservation for a given surface
187 accumulation rate and basal melt forcing. Near the domain edges the velocity direction
188 in Elmer/Ice is unreliable, and the smoothed surface gradient is used to provide velocity
189 direction at those locations instead. The magnitude of horizontal velocity is determined
190 using a balance flux algorithm (e.g., Budd and Warner, 1996). The integration order is
191 taken from the smoothed ice surface elevation, with local corrections to ensure that no
192 grid cells depend on values downstream of themselves. Once the column-average
193 horizontal velocity in a given grid cell is known, the vertical distribution of horizontal
194 velocity in the ice column is calculated by:

$$195 \mathbf{u}(x, y, z) = \bar{u}(x, y)\hat{u}(x, y, z), \quad (2)$$

196 where $\mathbf{u} = (u_x, u_y)$ is the horizontal velocity vector and \hat{u} is a dimensionless scalar
197 shape function for horizontal velocity (section 3.1.3). The shape function is taken from
198 the last iteration and interpolated to the edge of the mesh. Once the vertical distribution
199 of horizontal velocity is known, the vertical velocity is calculated from the
200 incompressibility condition by,



201
$$w(z) = -m - \int_0^z \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} dz', \quad (3)$$

202 where w is the vertical component of velocity.

203

204 After obtaining all the three components of the velocity, the ice column temperature can
205 be calculated from the conservation of energy,

206
$$-\frac{d}{dz} \left(k(T) \frac{dT}{dz} \right) + \rho_i \vec{u} \cdot \nabla (c_{p,i(T)} T) = 4\eta \dot{\epsilon}_E^2, \quad (4)$$

207 where T is temperature, $k(T)$ is the temperature-dependent thermal conductivity of ice,
208 ρ_i is the density of ice, $c_{p,i(T)}$ is the temperature-dependent specific heat capacity of ice,
209 \vec{u} is the full (3 component) velocity vector, η is the ice viscosity and $\dot{\epsilon}_E$ is the effective
210 strain rate.

211

212 For the thermal boundary condition, at the surface, we use the Dirichlet condition where
213 the temperature is equal to the surface temperature. At the bottom of ice shelves, we set
214 basal temperature as pressure melting point. At the bed of grounded ice, the boundary
215 condition can be either Dirichlet or Neumann condition depending on the basal melting
216 and subglacial water conditions. The logical conditions are given by,

217
$$k(T) \frac{dT}{dz} = G, \quad \text{for } T < T_m \text{ and } m = 0; \quad (5)$$

218
$$T = T_m, \quad \text{for } m \neq 0, \quad (6)$$

219 Where T_m is the pressure-dependent melting temperature, G is GHF, taking six GHF
220 datasets listed in Table 2. The thermal condition will switch from Neumann (Eq 5) to
221 Dirichlet (Eq 6) if the basal temperature exceeds the pressure-dependent melting point.
222 The opposite switch from Dirichlet to Neumann is determined by the hydrology model,
223 if there is insufficient water input to supply a large freezing rate. The basal melt rate
224 here can be either positive or negative representing melting or freezing; when it is
225 negative, the freezing must be balanced by an influx of water.

226

227 The thermally determined melt rate is,

228
$$\rho_i L m = G - k(T) \frac{dT}{dz} + \vec{u}_b \tau_b - \vec{q}_w \cdot (\nabla \phi + \rho_w c_{p,w} \beta \nabla P), \quad (7)$$

229 where L is the latent heat of fusion, \vec{q}_w is the flux of water along the basal plane, $\phi =$
230 $\rho_i g H + \rho_w g B$ is the hydraulic potential, ρ_w is the density of water, $c_{p,w}$ is the specific
231 heat of water, β is the pressure coefficient of the melting point, and $P = \rho_i g H$ is the
232 overburden pressure of the ice sheet. The final term in Eq 7 represents the combined
233 effect of viscous dissipation and sensible heat changes within the water system and can
234 potentially give rise to glaciohydraulic supercooling.

235

236 3.1.2 Basal Hydrology Model

237 The water flux is determined from mass conservation,

238
$$\nabla \cdot \vec{q}_w = \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_w} m, \quad (8)$$

239 where we have included the density ratio to convert melt rate from ice-equivalent



240 thickness to water-equivalent thickness. The water flux is computed in a similar style
 241 of balance-flux calculation as the ice flux, where the flux vector is assumed to point
 242 downhill in hydraulic potential and Eq 8 is integrated downhill to determine flux
 243 magnitude. The water flow is governed by hydraulic potential ϕ . We fill closed basins
 244 in the hydraulic potential before running the model to ensure that we have a continuous
 245 flow path all the way to the margins of the domain. As long as water flux magnitude
 246 remains positive (that is, directed down-potential), the hydrology model uses the
 247 thermally determined melt/freeze rate from Eq 7. In the event that the balance flux
 248 calculation would yield negative water flux (that is, water flow directed up-potential),
 249 the hydrology model switches the grid cell from Dirichlet back to Neumann, and the
 250 limiting freezing rate is determined by rearranging Eq 8 to solve for the value of m that
 251 results in zero flux leaving the grid cell. In grid cells that receive no water input from
 252 upstream, this merely means that the melt/freeze rate is set to zero and the basal
 253 boundary condition can be given by Eq 5 without complication, but for grid cells at the
 254 termination of a water network, a special partially frozen condition must be used.

255
 256 When a water network terminates by freeze-on, we have grid cells in which the freezing
 257 front penetrates partially through the grid cell but not completely. To respect both mass
 258 and energy conservation, it is necessary for there to be a nonzero freezing rate and
 259 nonzero water flux entering these grid cells despite the fact that their average
 260 temperature is below the melting point. For these partially frozen cells, the freezing rate
 261 is determined by the water supply through Eq 8 as described above. That freezing rate
 262 is associated with a release of latent heat, which must be accounted for by the thermal
 263 model. The hydrology model, therefore sets these grid cells to a Neumann condition,
 264 but instead of being taken from Eq 5, the basal temperature gradient is determined by
 265 rearranging Eq 7 to solve for $\frac{dT}{dz}$. The basal temperature in these grid cells is thus not
 266 fixed to the melting point, but it nonetheless is higher than it otherwise would be
 267 because of the release of latent heat at the termination of the water network.

268

269 3.1.3 Rheology and Shape Function Model

270 The shape function determines the distribution of horizontal velocity with depth. The
 271 effective viscosity of the ice is given by,

$$272 \quad \eta = \frac{1}{2} (A(T))^{-\frac{1}{n}} \dot{\epsilon}_E^{\frac{1-n}{n}}, \quad (9)$$

273 where $A(T)$ is the temperature-dependent rate factor calculated using an Arrhenius
 274 equation (Cuffey and Paterson, 2010),

$$275 \quad A(T) = A_0 \exp\left(\frac{-Q}{RT}\right), \quad (10)$$

276 where A_0 is the prefactor, Q is the activation energy, R is the universal gas constant.
 277 $n = 3$ is the rheological exponent for ice. The effective strain rate $\dot{\epsilon}_E$ is given by,

$$278 \quad \dot{\epsilon}_E = \sqrt{\dot{\epsilon}_{xy}^2 + \dot{\epsilon}_{xz}^2 + \dot{\epsilon}_{yz}^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\dot{\epsilon}_{xx}^2 + \dot{\epsilon}_{yy}^2 + \dot{\epsilon}_{zz}^2)}. \quad (11)$$



279

280 Once we have the viscosity, we can compute the shape function. We use the results of
281 the full-Stokes inverse model to constrain the slip ratio, $\hat{u}_b = u_b/\bar{u}$. We then assume
282 the shear stress between the bed and the surface varies linearly, and then use the
283 relationship between stress and strain rate to get the vertical gradient of horizontal
284 velocity, $\frac{du}{dz} = \sigma_b \frac{1-\hat{z}}{\eta}$. Integrating this expression up from the bed, normalizing to unit
285 amplitude, and canceling the common factor, we get the shape
286 function,

$$287 \quad \hat{u}(\hat{z}) = \hat{u}_b + (1 - \hat{u}_b) \frac{\int_0^{\hat{z}} \frac{1-\hat{z}'}{\eta(\hat{z}')} d\hat{z}'}{\int_0^1 \frac{1-\hat{z}'}{\eta(\hat{z}')} d\hat{z}'}, \quad (12)$$

288 where $\hat{u} = u/\bar{u}$ is the shape function for horizontal velocity, $\hat{z} = (z - B)/H$ is
289 normalized elevation.

290

291 3.2 Inverse Method with full-Stokes Model

292 The spatial distribution of basal friction in the domain is modelled by an inverse method
293 using three-dimensional the full-Stokes model, Elmer/Ice, an open source finite element
294 method package (Gagliardini et al., 2013). The inverse method is based on adjusting the
295 spatial distribution of the basal friction coefficient to minimize the misfit between
296 simulated and observed surface velocities. The modelled velocity is obtained by solving
297 the full-Stokes equation, which includes conservation equations for both the momentum
298 and mass of the ice,

$$299 \quad \text{div } \boldsymbol{\tau} - \text{grad} p = \rho_i \mathbf{g}, \quad (13)$$

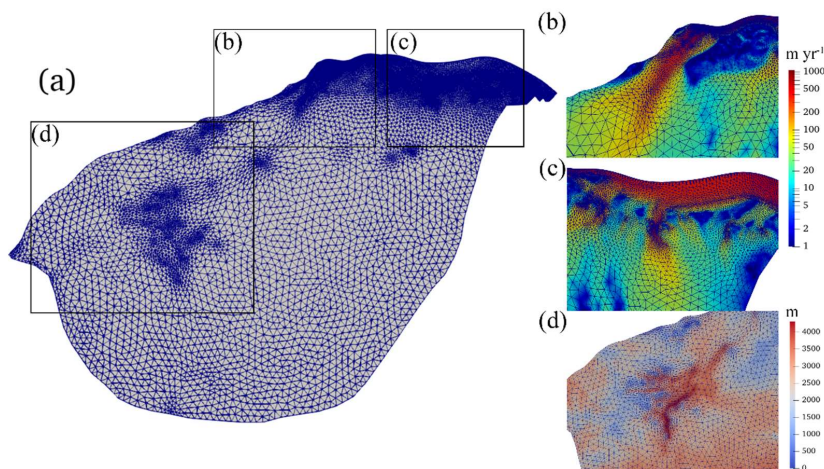
$$300 \quad \text{div } \vec{v} = 0, \quad (14)$$

301 where $\boldsymbol{\tau}$ is the deviatoric stress tensor, p is the isotropic pressure, ρ_i is ice density, \mathbf{g} is
302 the acceleration due to gravity $(0, 0, -9.81) \text{ m}\cdot\text{s}^{-2}$, $\vec{v} = (u, v, w)$ is ice velocity.
303 According to Glen's flow relation, deviatoric stress is related to the deviatoric part of
304 the strain rate tensor, $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_E$, which can be described by $\boldsymbol{\tau} = 2\eta\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_E$, where η denotes ice
305 viscosity, given by Eq 9, is sensitive to the flow rate factor $A(T)$ given by Eq 10. Ice
306 temperature distribution is from the modelled result of forward model in section 3.1.

307

308 3.2.1 Mesh Generation and Refinement

309 Firstly, we use GMSH (Geuzaine and Remacle, 2009) to generate an initial 2-D
310 horizontal footprint mesh with the boundary described in section 2. Then we refine the
311 mesh by an anisotropic mesh adaptation code called the Mmg library
312 (<http://www.mmgtools.org/>). The resulting mesh is shown in Fig. 3 and has minimum
313 and maximum element sizes of approximately 1000 m and 8000 m. The 2-D mesh is
314 then vertically extruded using 10 equally spaced, terrain following layers.



315
316 Fig. 3. The refined 2-D horizontal domain footprint mesh (a). Boxes outlined in (a) are shown in
317 detail overlain with surface ice velocity in (b) and (c), and with ice thickness in (d).
318

319 3.2.2 Boundary Condition

320 The ice surface is assumed to be stress-free. At the ice front, the normal stress under the
321 sea surface is equal to the hydrostatic water pressure. On the lateral boundary, the
322 normal stress is equal to the ice pressure applied by neighboring glaciers and the normal
323 velocity is assumed to be 0. The bed for grounded ice is assumed to be rigid,
324 impenetrable, and fixed over time.

325
326 The normal basal velocity is set to 0 at the ice-bed interface. The Weertman sliding law
327 is used to describes the relationship between the basal sliding velocity, u_b , and the basal
328 shear force, τ_b , on the bottom of grounded ice,

$$329 \tau_b = C \bar{u}_b. \quad (15)$$

330 To avoid non-physical negative values, $C = 10^\beta$ is used in the simulation. We call β
331 the basal friction coefficient rather than C . C is initialized to a constant value of 10^{-4}
332 MPa m^{-1} yr (Gillet-Chaulet et al., 2012), and then replaced with the inverted C in
333 subsequent inversion steps.

334 3.2.3 Surface Relaxation

335 We relax the free surface of the domain by a short transient run to reduce the non-
336 physical spikes in initial surface geometry (Zhao et al., 2018). The transient simulation
337 period here is 0.5 yr with a timestep of 0.01 yr.

338 3.2.4 Inversion for Basal Friction Coefficient

339
340 Taking the results from surface relaxation as initial condition, we use an inverse method
341 to retrieve the basal friction coefficient, the deviatoric stress field and ice velocity field.
342 The inverse method is to adjust the basal friction coefficient C to minimize the value of
343 the cost function (Morlighem et al., 2010), which is defined as the difference between
344 the simulated surface velocity and the observed,
345



346
$$J_0 = \int_{\Gamma_s} \frac{1}{2} (|u| - |u^{obs}|)^2 d\Gamma, \quad (16)$$

347 where Γ_s is the ice surface, u and u^{obs} are the simulated and observed surface velocities.

348

349 To avoid over-fitting of the inversion solution to non-physical noise in the observations,
350 a regularization term,

351
$$J_{reg} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma_s} \left(\left(\frac{\partial c}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial c}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right) d\Gamma, \quad (17)$$

352 is added to the cost function, then the total cost function is defined as,

353
$$J_{tot} = J_0 + \lambda J_{reg}, \quad (18)$$

354 where λ is a positive regularization weighting parameter. An L-curve analysis (Hansen
355 and Johnston, 2000) has been done for inversions to find the optimal λ by plotting the
356 term J_{reg} as the function of J_0 . The optimal value of 10^{10} is chosen for λ to minimize J_0 .

357

358 **3.2.5 Basal Melt Rate**

359 Based on the inverted basal velocity and basal shear force, we can calculate the basal
360 friction heat. Then we can produce the basal melt rate using the thermal equilibrium as
361 follows:

362
$$M = \frac{G + \bar{u}_b \tau_b - k(T) \frac{dT}{dz}}{\rho_i L}, \quad (19)$$

363 where M is the basal melt rate. The ice-bed interface gets heat through GHF and friction
364 heat but loses heat from upward heat conduction.

365

366 **4 Simulations and Results**

367 **4.1 Experimental Design**

368 We design the coupled simulations by an 8-step scheme by coupling the forward model
369 and inverse model:

- 370 1. We run the forward model with the velocity direction taken from a mixture of the
371 surface gradient and surface velocity observations, and get an initial modelled
372 englacial temperature.
- 373 2. We do surface relaxation in Elmer/Ice with the englacial temperature from step
374 1.
- 375 3. Taking the results from step 2 as the initial state, we do inversion simulation by
376 Elmer/Ice using the modeled englacial temperature from step 1, to get a modelled
377 surface velocity best fit to the observed surface velocity. The modelled surface
378 velocity will remove some artifacts in the observed field.
- 379 4. We run the forward model using the velocity directions from Elmer-Ice, and get
380 an updated modelled englacial temperature.
- 381 5. We run the inverse method in Elmer/Ice with the improved englacial temperature
382 from step 4, and get an updated modelled velocity.



- 383 6. We run the forward model again using the ratio of basal sliding to column-
384 average velocity in Elmer/Ice from step 5 to constrain the slip ratio, and get a
385 further updated basal temperature.
- 386 7. We run the inverse method again in Elmer/Ice with the improved englacial
387 temperature from step 6, and get an updated modelled velocity and stress.
- 388 8. We analyze the modelled results in step 7, calculate basal friction heat and basal
389 melt rate.
- 390
- 391 We use six sets of GHF in basal thermal condition in the forward model, and obtain six
392 sets of englacial temperature used in the inverse model. Correspondingly, we call the
393 six experiments: Martos, Shen, An, Sr, Purucker and Li.

394 4.2 Improvement of Basal Friction Coefficient

395 Basal friction in reality depends on basal temperature, i.e., it is relatively large on cold
396 beds since the ice is frozen, and small on warm bed where basal temperature reaches
397 pressure-melting point allowing the ice to slide. However, in the inverse model, basal
398 friction coefficient (Eq 15) is adjusted to match velocity observations without regard to
399 basal temperature, which leads to unrealistic noise manifested as local spikes in
400 modelled basal friction heat .

401

402 We improve the parameterization of β via C in Eq 15 (Section 3.2.2) by considering
403 basal temperature T_{bed} .

$$404 \beta_{new} = \beta_{old} + \alpha(T_M - T_{bed}), \quad (20)$$

405 where β_{old} is modelled by inverse model, α is a positive factor to be tuned, T_M is
406 pressure-dependent melting temperature. β_{new} equals β_{old} at a warm bed with
407 temperate ice, and is larger than β_{old} at a cold bed with ice temperature lower than T_M .
408 We tune α in the range of [0.1, 2] with an interval of 0.1, and find the local spikes in
409 modelled friction heat become less as α increases from 0.1 to 1, and keep almost the
410 same with α from 1 to 2. Therefore, we take α to be 1, and use the parameterization of
411 β_{new} in Eq 20 in all the simulations. Using Eq 20 does not change the modelled surface
412 velocity in the interior region.

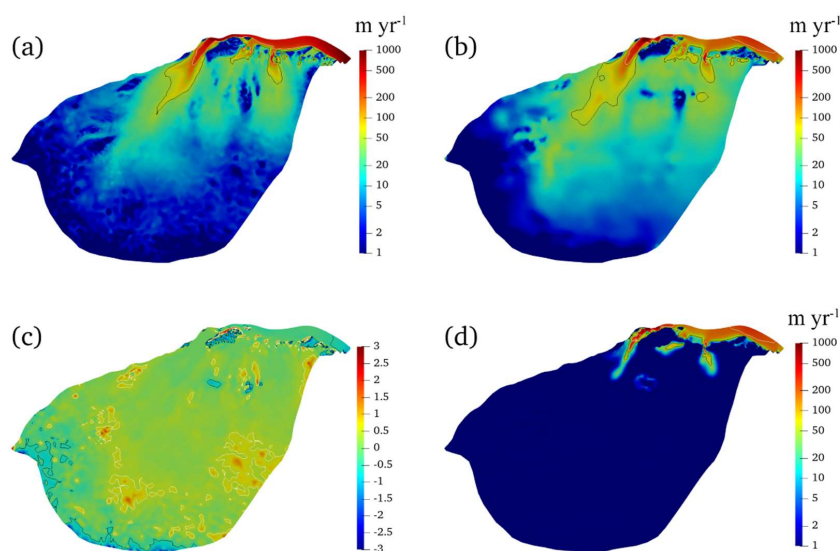
413 4.3 Simulation Results

414 4.3.1 Ice Velocity

415 In the inverse method, the modeled the surface velocity matches best to the observed
416 surface velocity. Therefore, we get very similar distributions of modeled velocity field
417 using different GHFs. Fig. 4 shows the modelled velocity in the Martos experiment as
418 an example. The modeled surface velocity shows spatial similarities to the observed
419 surface velocity (Fig. 4a, b). Three fast-flowing outlet glaciers (Lambert Glacier,
420 Lepekhin Glacier and Kronshtadtskiy Glacier) deliver ice to the ice shelf. The velocity
421 of the Lambert glacier exceeds 800 m yr⁻¹ at the grounding line. The Lepekhin Glacier



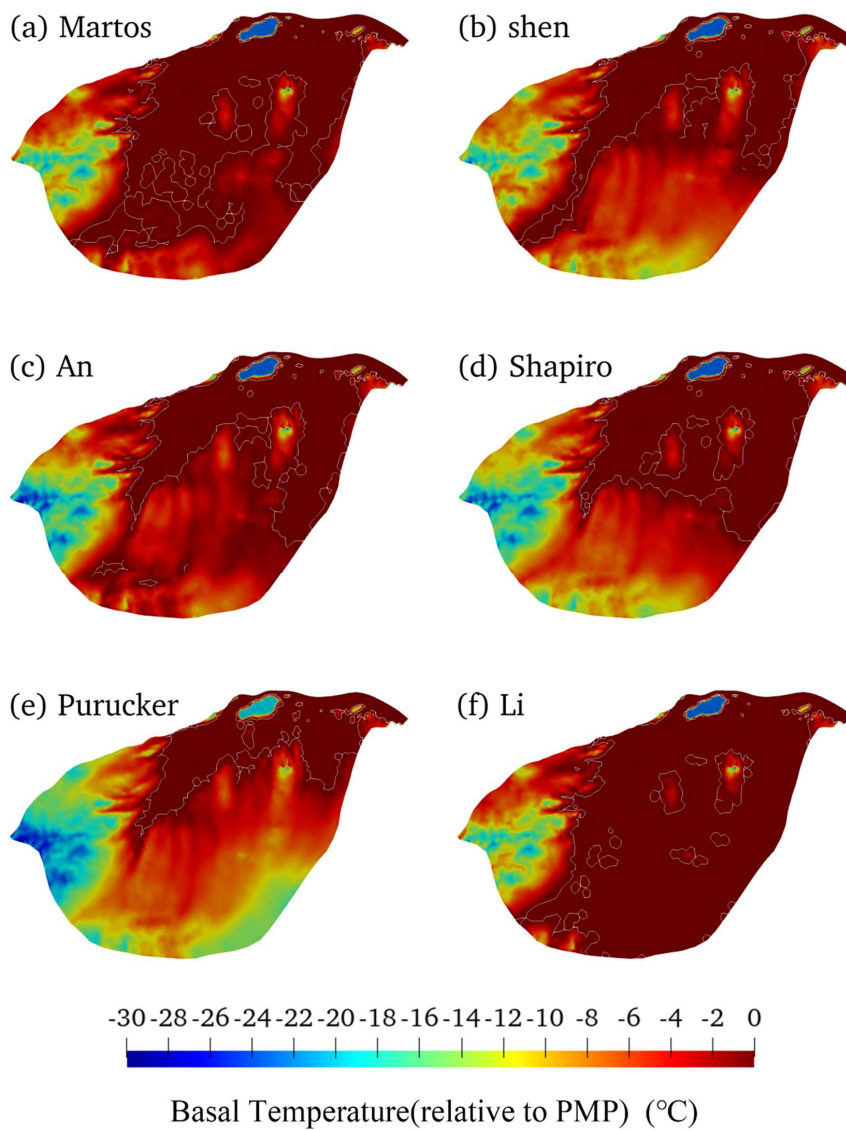
422 and the Kronshtadtskiy Glacier have maximum flow velocities of about 200 and 400 m
423 yr^{-1} at their grounding lines, respectively. Regions with large differences between
424 modeled and observed surface velocity occupy a small fraction of the whole area (Fig.
425 4c) and are associated with high velocity gradients. Ice velocity decreases with depth.
426 Fig. 4d shows modeled basal ice velocity. The maximum basal velocity on Lambert
427 Glacier exceeds 500 m yr^{-1} , and maximum basal velocities on Lepekhin Glacier and the
428 Kronshtadtskiy Glacier reach about 150 and 200 m yr^{-1} at the grounding line.



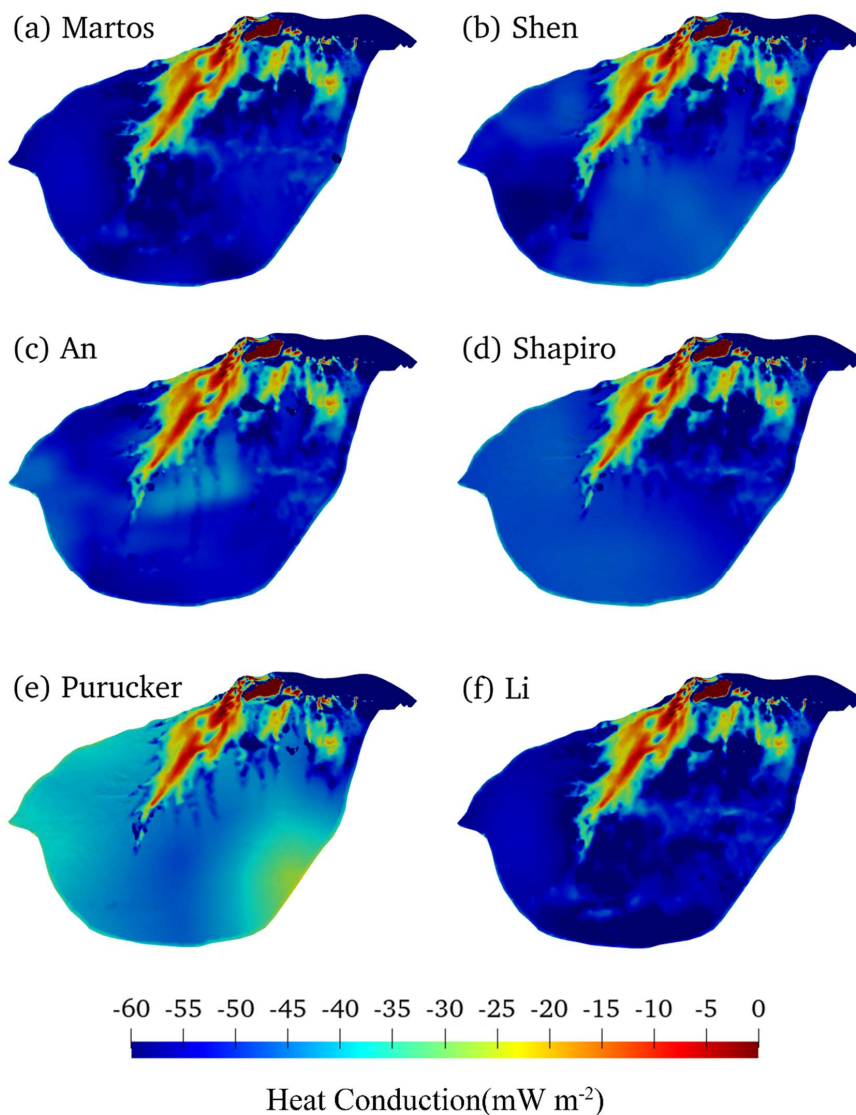
429
430 Fig. 4. (a) Observed surface velocity, (b) modeled surface velocity in the Martos experiment, (c)
431 difference of modeled and observed surface velocity plotted as $\log_{10}(\text{modeled}/\text{observed})$, (d)
432 modeled basal velocity. The black, cyan and white solid lines in (a), (b), and (d) represent speed
433 contours of 50, 100 and 200 m yr^{-1} , respectively. The white lines in (c) represent contours of 0.5,
434 and the black lines represent contours of -0.5. The three fast-flowing outlet glaciers in plot (a) from
435 left to right are Lambert, Lepekhin and Kronshtadtskiy glaciers.
436

437 4.3.2 Basal Ice Temperature and Heat Conduction

438 In Fig. 5 we show the modelled basal temperature from the six experiments. There are
439 significant differences in the modelled distribution of warm base (basal temperature
440 reaching the pressure melting point) using different GHFs. The basal temperature is
441 highly dependent on the GHF. In the Li experiment which has high GHF over the
442 domain, the basal temperatures over most of the domain reaches the melting point, and
443 the area of warm base is the largest. The Martos experiment with the second high GHF
444 yields the second largest area of warm base and the Purucker experiment with the
445 coldest GHF gives the smallest area which is concentrated around the fast-flowing ice.
446 All experiments display cold basal temperatures at the southwest of Lambert Glacier
447 Basin, where there are subglacial mountains.



448
449 Fig. 5. Modelled basal temperature relative to pressure melting point, (a) to (f) corresponding to the
450 GHF (a) to (f) in Fig. 2. The ice bottom at the pressure-melting point is delineated by a white contour.

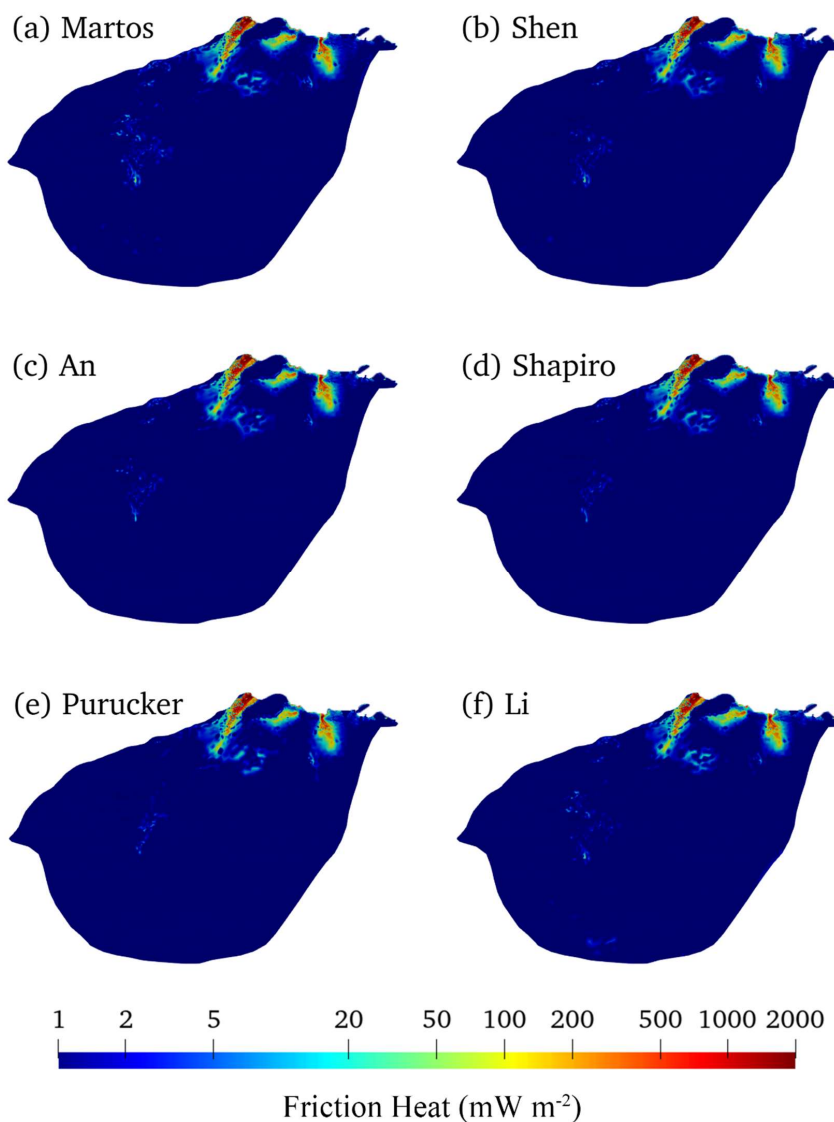


451
452 Fig. 6. Modelled basal heat conduction (unit: mW m^{-2}). (a) to (f) corresponding to the GHF (a) to
453 (f) in Fig. 2.
454
455 Fig. 6 show the modelled heat conduction in the six experiments. In the fast-flowing
456 tributaries (Fig. 4a), the upward heat conduction is lower than $0\text{-}30 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$ in all
457 experiments. For vast inland areas, most experiments yield high upward heat
458 conduction in the range of $45\text{-}60 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$ except for the Purucker experiment which
459 has lower values around $30\text{-}45 \text{ mW m}^{-2}$.



460 **4.3.3 Basal Friction Heat**

461 Fig. 7 shows the modelled friction heating maps in six experiments. As expected, basal
462 friction heat is high in fast-flowing regions. The fast-flowing tributaries have friction
463 heating over than 50 mW m^{-2} and reach 2000 mW m^{-2} at the grounding line.



464
465 Fig. 7. Modeled basal friction heat (unit: mW m^{-2}), (a) to (f) corresponding to the GHF (a) to (f) in
466 Fig. 2, respectively.
467

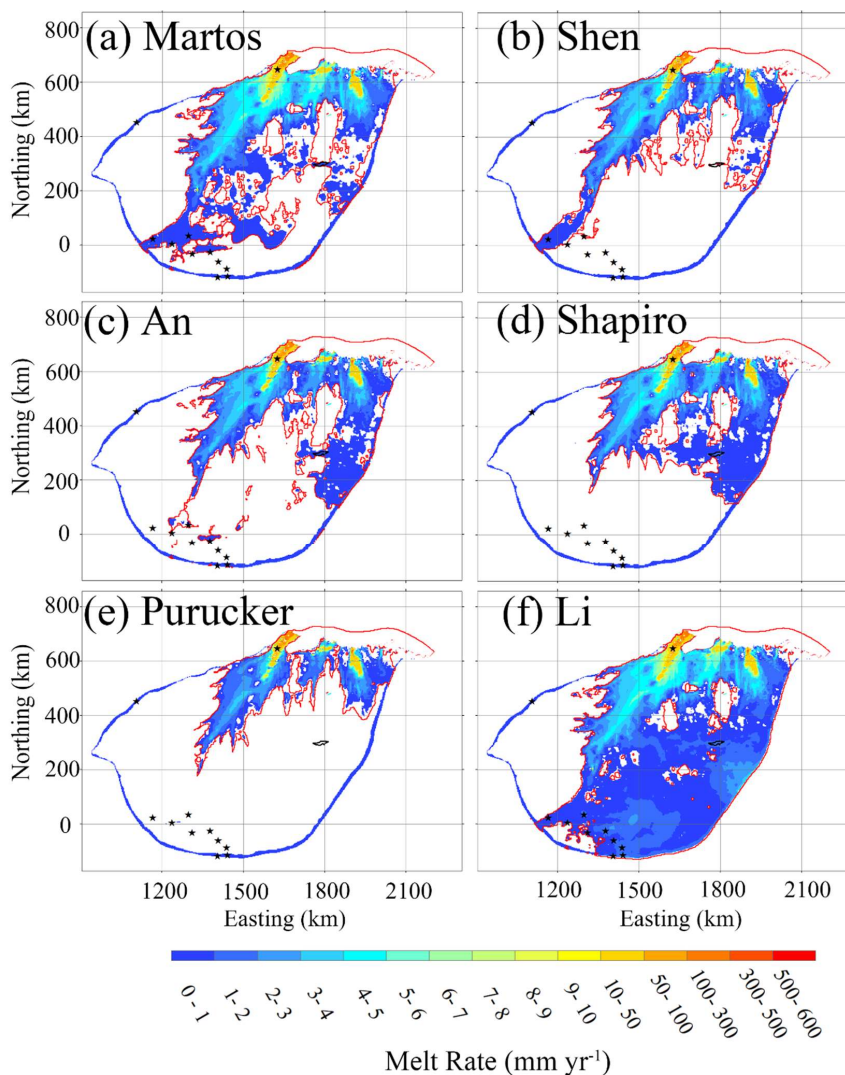


468 **4.3.4 Basal Melt Rate**

469 We get the basal melt rate using the thermal balance equation (Eq 19). Fig. 8 shows the
470 modelled basal melt rate in the six experiments using different GHF. Regions with basal
471 melt rate coincide with a warm base where basal temperatures reach pressure-melting
472 point. There are significant differences in area with basal melting among the six
473 experiments due to large variability in GHF. The Li and Martos experiments yield the
474 largest area with basal melting. In contrast, Purucker experiment gives the least area
475 with basal melting (Fig. 8).

476
477 The modelled basal melt rate is below 5 mm yr^{-1} in the parts of the vast inland region
478 that are warm based. Higher basal melt rate occurs in fast-flowing regions (Fig. 8 Fig.
479 8) where frictional heat is high (Fig. 7), despite the differences in GHF (Fig. 4).
480 Maximal basal melting rate is above 10 mm yr^{-1} near the grounding line, reaching 500
481 mm yr^{-1} at the grounding line of the central flowline running onto Amery ice shelf. Thus,
482 in fast-flowing regions, frictional heat is the dominant factor rather than GHF,
483 consistent with Larour et al., (2012) who noted that slower flowing ice in the interior
484 of the ice sheet will be more sensitive to the GHF, but frictional heat dominates GHF
485 in regions of fast ice flow.

486
487 We use the positions of observed subglacial lakes to validate simulated regions with
488 basal melting (Fig. 8). The Li experiment gives the best fit between the observed
489 subglacial lakes and the modelled warm base region (Fig. 8f). The modelled warm base
490 covers all the observed subglacial lakes in the domain, including the recently discovered
491 second-largest subglacial lake in Antarctica (Cui et al., 2020b). The Martos experiment
492 gives the next best fit (Fig. 8a), and the An experiment the third (Fig. 8c). The Shen
493 experiment captures two subglacial lakes in the southwest of the domain (Fig. 8b),
494 while the Shapiro experiment missed many known subglacial lakes in the southwest of
495 the domain, but successfully captures the recently discovered second-largest subglacial
496 lake (Fig. 8b, d). The Purucker experiment performs worst in recovering subglacial lake
497 locations (Fig. 8e).



498
499 Fig. 8. Modelled basal melt rate (unit: mm yr^{-1}), (a) to (f) correspond to the GHF (a) to (f) in Fig. 2.
500 The ice bottom at pressure-melting point is surrounded by a red contour. The stars denote the
501 locations of observed subglacial lakes, and the area surrounded by the black line is the likely second
502 largest subglacial lake in Antarctica.

503

504 5 Discussion

505 GHF distribution largely governs basal thermal conditions. Many previous studies on
506 basal temperature and basal melt have used the Shapiro, Fox, Purucker, and An datasets,
507 with few making use of the more recent Martos and Li fields. In this study, we find that
508 the Li and Martos experiments have higher GHF than the earlier datasets in the
509 Lambert-Amery domain and consequently have the largest area with warm base. The
510 warmer basal conditions best match the observed distribution of subglacial lakes.



511 However, it should be noted that observations of subglacial lakes are a one-sided
512 constraint: a model result that misses the observed lakes is clearly too cold, but if the
513 model puts warm-based conditions outside of the locations of the observed lakes, it is
514 not clear whether this is because the model is too warm, or if the subglacial water exists
515 in a form other than ponded lakes.

516

517 Our methodology builds on the earlier inversion method employed by Wolovick et al.
518 (2021). Specifically, we use the full-Stokes flow model in the inversion of basal friction
519 field rather than a simplified physics model. We also improve on the treatment of basal
520 friction field by imposing an increase in basal friction where the ice bed is colder than
521 the pressure melting point, and which increases with temperature difference from
522 freezing point. These modifications produce more physically meaningful results since
523 we expect frozen beds to have high basal friction. Hence, the basal friction field is
524 constrained by simulated temperatures in addition to producing the best fitting match
525 of simulated and observed surface velocities.

526

527 Van Liefferinge and Pattyn (2013) estimated basal temperature for the Antarctica ice
528 sheet using three GHF datasets (Fox, Sharpio, Purucker), and each of the datasets were
529 improved by the method in Pattyn (2010). Their modeled temperatures show spatial
530 similarities to the Purucker experiment field in our study. Pittard et al. (2016) did
531 sensitivity experiments of the Lambert-Amery glacial system based on 3 GHF fields
532 (Fox, An, Sharpio) using the ice dynamics model PISM, and found that modelled basal
533 temperature reached the pressure melting point only under the fast-flowing ice, with
534 maximum melting rates of 500 mm yr^{-1} at places very close to the grounding line of the
535 central flowline onto the Amery ice shelf. This is similar to our modelled maximum
536 basal melt at similar locations in the six experiments. However, their modelled region
537 of basal melt is mainly confined to the Lambert glacier tributary and well-matches only
538 that of the Purucker experiment in our study.

539

540 We analyze the contribution of GHF and frictional heat to basal melt. The basal friction
541 is a significant heat sources only under fast-flowing ice. The GHF distribution in the
542 ice sheet connected to the ice shelf is much more homogeneous, but frictional heating
543 means that the melt rate in the fast-flowing ice is more than 10 times higher than that
544 in the slow-flowing ice. Thus slower flowing ice in the interior of the ice sheet is more
545 sensitive to the GHF, than fast-flowing ice (Larour et al., 2012).

546

547 GHF has its largest impact on the basal melt of the vast inland ice sheet. There are two
548 principle ways to constrain GHF: (1) direct measurement (2) inversion by multiple
549 geophysical methods. The GHFs used in this study are based on inversion of satellite
550 or aero magnetic data and seismic tomography. Direct observations of heat flux are
551 difficult to obtain in Antarctica, and satellite data are low resolution. The most efficient
552 methods is to invert the heat flux through aerial geomagnetic observation such as for
553 the Martos and Li GHF fields. However, there are still large data gaps in remote regions,
554 especially in PEL, leaving just inversion using satellite magnetic data with a lower



555 resolution. The Li et al. (2021), field uses the latest aeromagnetic data to estimate the
556 GHF in the PEL region and this gives higher values than derived previously.

557

558 To validate the modelled basal melt, we use the locations of detected subglacial lakes.
559 There may be many other undiscovered subglacial lakes beneath the study area, and
560 further discoveries would help us validate the model results, and possibly refine GHF
561 maps. In addition, further observational constraints with a two-sided sensitivity to ice
562 temperature, such as observations of subglacial freeze-on or measurements of englacial
563 attenuation, would help us to identify areas in which the GHF maps are too warm, in
564 addition to those areas in which they are too cold.

565

566 **6 Conclusions**

567 In this paper, we estimate the basal thermal conditions of the Lambert-Amery system
568 by coupling a forward model and an inverse model, based on six different GHF datasets.
569 We analyze the contribution of GHF, heat condition, and basal friction to the modelled
570 basal melt rate. We verify the result using the locations of all known subglacial lakes,
571 and evaluate the reliability of six GHF datasets in our study domain.

572

573 We find significant differences in area with basal melting among the six experiments
574 due to large variability in GHF. The Li and the Martos fields yield the largest area with
575 basal melting, and match best with the subglacial lake locations. In contrast, the
576 Purucker field gives the least area with basal melting and worst match with subglacial
577 lakes locations. We suggest GHF datasets from Li et al. (2021) and Martos et al. (2017)
578 as the most suitable choice for this study region.

579

580 The modelled high basal friction heating regions are consistent with the fast-flowing
581 regions. The fast flowing region has smaller modelled basal friction coefficients, and
582 faster basal velocities. The fast-flowing tributaries have frictional heating in the range
583 of 50-2000 mW m⁻². In the vast inland areas, our experiments generally yield high
584 upward heat conduction in the range of 45-60 mW m⁻² which means that GHF
585 dominates the heat content of the basal ice in the slow flow regions. The modelled basal
586 melt rate reaches 50-500 mm yr⁻¹ locally in three very fast flow tributaries (Lambert,
587 Lepekhin and Kronshtadtskiy glaciers), to the Amery ice shelf, and is in the range of 0-
588 5 mm yr⁻¹ in the inland region.

589

590 **Data availability**

591 All data sets used are publicly available.

592

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597



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