



# Ice shelves Basal Melting

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**POLAR+**  
Ice Shelves

## Polar+ Ice Shelves



European Space Agency



**SO-ICE**

## SO-ICE

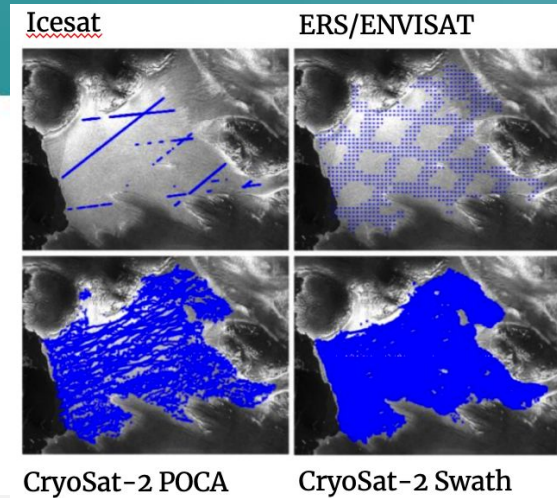
Southern Ocean – Ice Shelf Interaction







# Datasets



Mass conservation:

$$\dot{m} = SMB - \left( \frac{dS}{dt} + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla S + S \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right)$$

Basal melt rate      Thickness change      Advection      Divergence

## Linear changes

- Linear changes over CryoSat-2 period (~11 years)
- Maps of ~1km pixels

## Time series

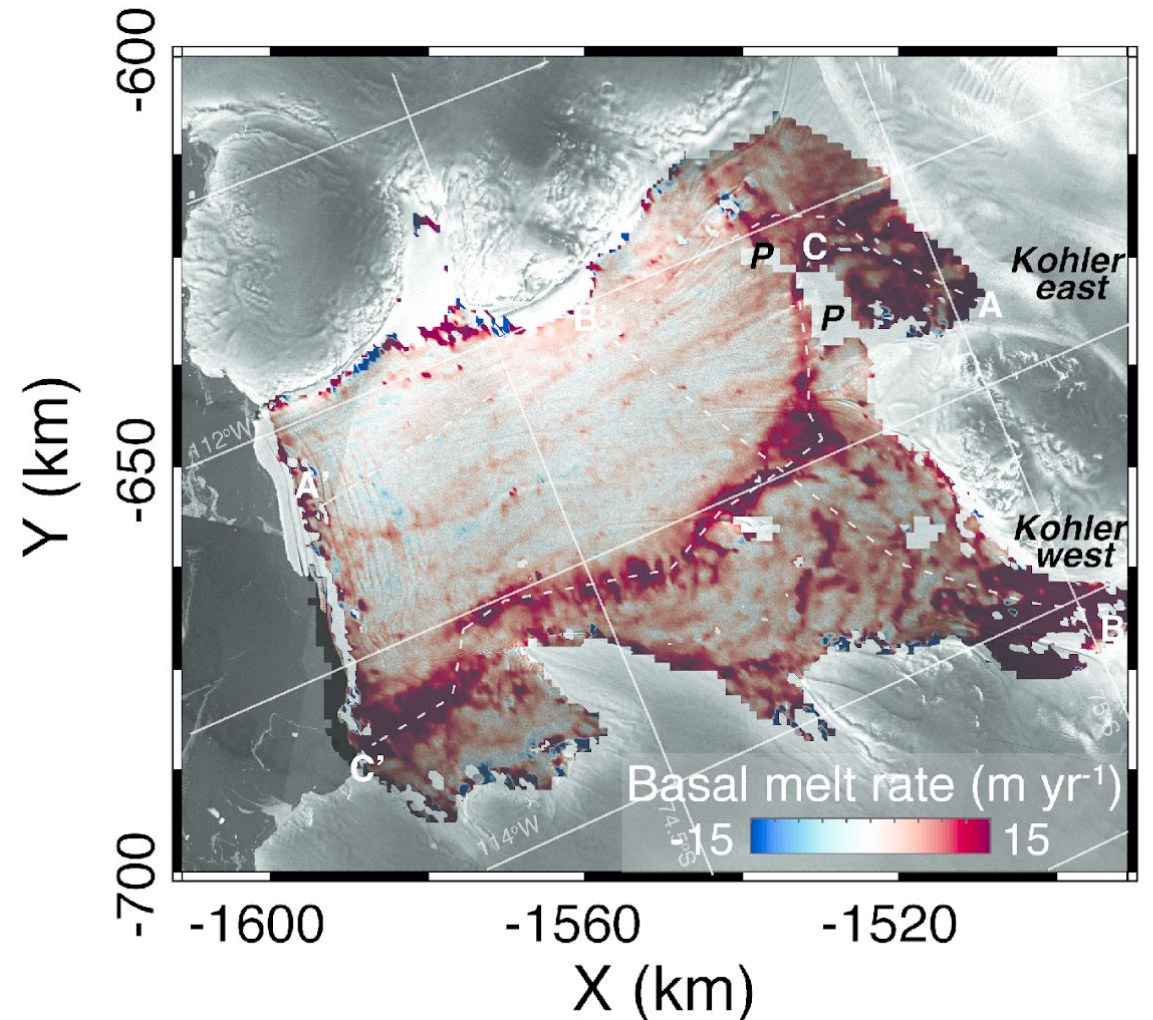
- 30 days temporal resolution
- Nominal ~1km spatial grid



# Basal melting

$$\dot{m} = SMB - \left( \frac{dS_{Lag}}{dt} + S \nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} \right)$$

- Elevation change
- Ice thickness
- Ice velocity
- Surface Mass Balance and firn air content
- Hydrostatic equilibrium assumption



# Time series of basal melt

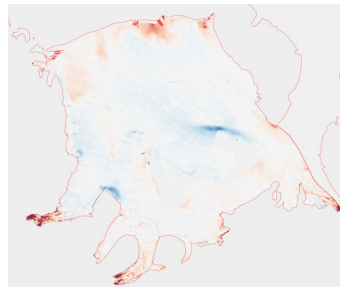
## Basal melt anomalies:

Anomalies are relative to the 2010-2021 mean

$$w_{b,anom}(t) = \frac{\overset{\substack{\text{Basal melt} \\ \text{anomaly}}}{M_{s,anom}}}{\rho_i} - \frac{\overset{\substack{\text{Ice and} \\ \text{ocean} \\ \text{density}}}{\rho_w}}{\rho_w - \rho_i} \left( \overset{\substack{\text{Elevation} \\ \text{change} \\ \text{anomaly}}}{\frac{dh_{anom}}{dt}} - \overset{\substack{\text{Firn air} \\ \text{content} \\ \text{anomaly}}}{\frac{dh_{air,anom}}{dt}} \right)$$

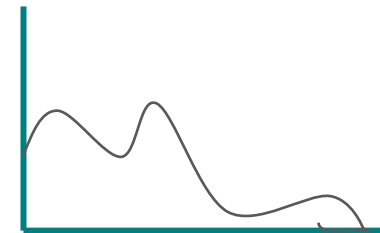
## Basal melt time series:

Rates from basal melt map



+

Basal melt anomaly



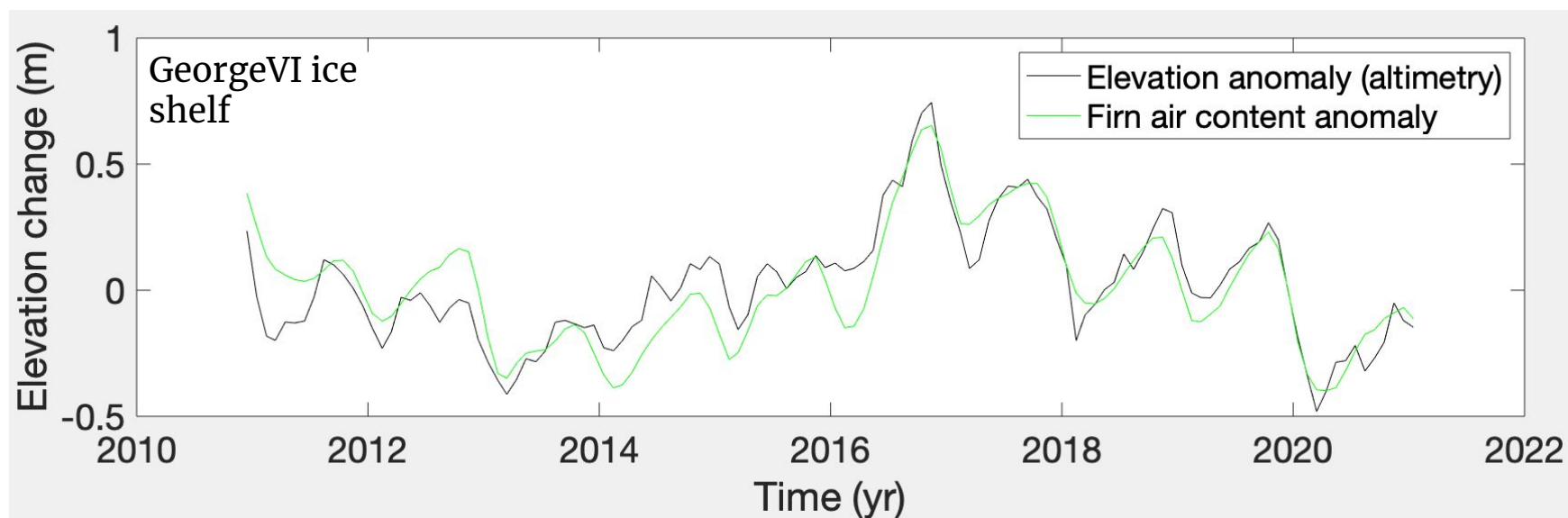
# Time series of basal melt

## Basal melt anomalies:

Anomalies are relative to the 2010–2021 mean

$$w_{b,anom}(t) = \frac{M_{s,anom}}{\rho_i} - \frac{\rho_w}{\rho_w - \rho_i} \left( \frac{dh_{anom}}{dt} - \frac{dh_{air,anom}}{dt} \right)$$

Labels above the equation:  
 Basal melt anomaly (points to  $w_{b,anom}(t)$ )  
 SMB anomaly (points to  $M_{s,anom}$ )  
 Ice and ocean density (points to  $\rho_w$ )  
 Elevation change anomaly (points to  $\frac{dh_{anom}}{dt}$ )  
 Firn air content anomaly (points to  $\frac{dh_{air,anom}}{dt}$ )



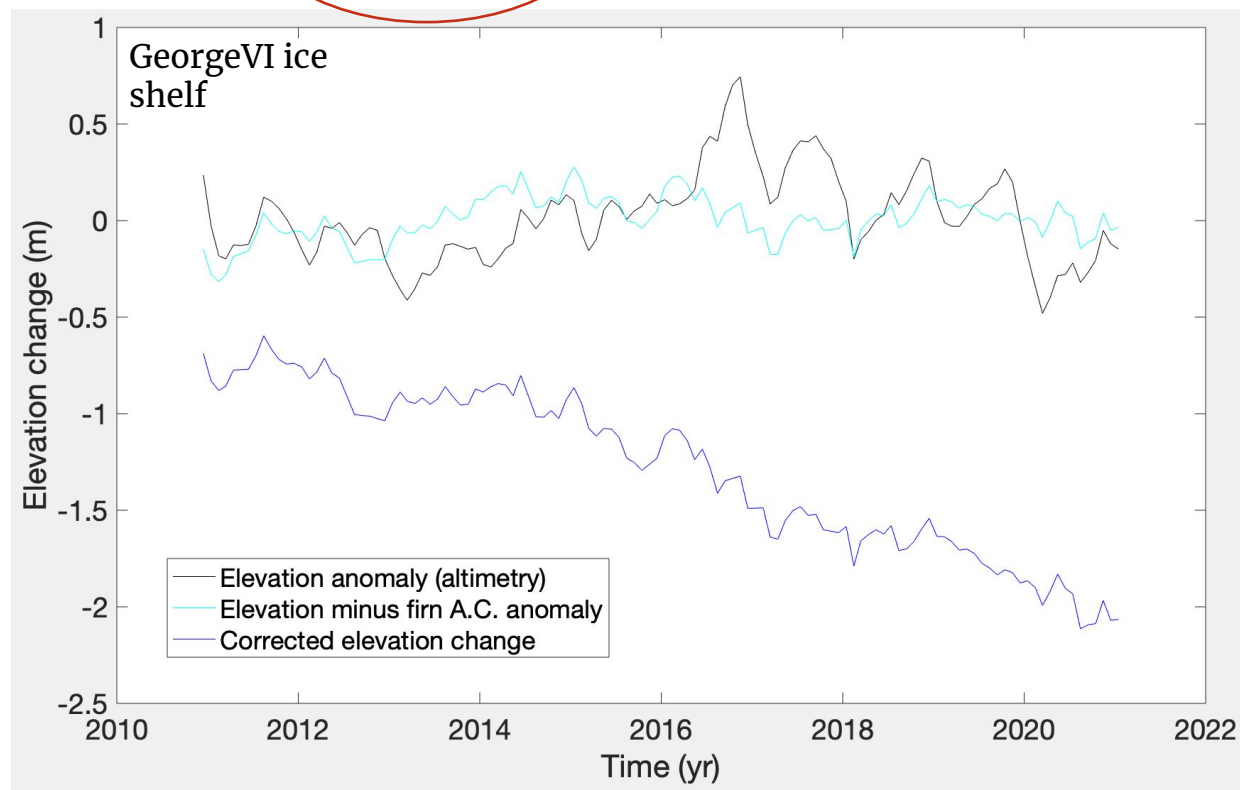
# Time series of basal melt

## Basal melt anomalies:

Anomalies are relative to the 2010–2021 mean

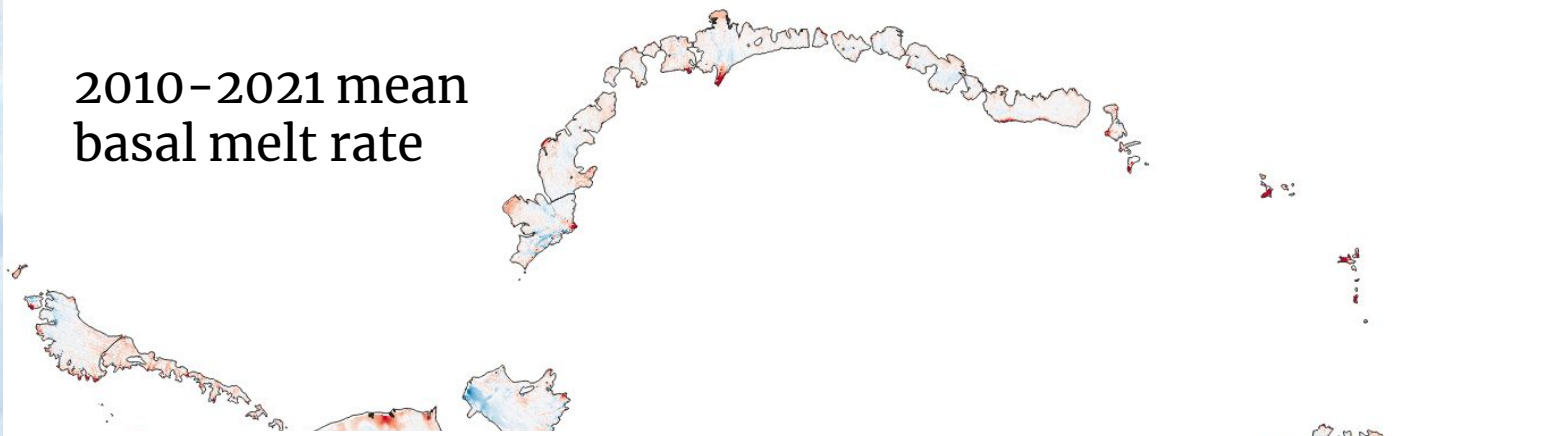
$$w_{b,anom}(t) = \frac{M_{s,anom}}{\rho_i} - \frac{\rho_w}{\rho_w - \rho_i} \left( \frac{dh_{anom}}{dt} - \frac{dh_{air,anom}}{dt} \right)$$

Labels above the equation:  
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 Firm air content anomaly (points to  $\frac{dh_{air,anom}}{dt}$ )

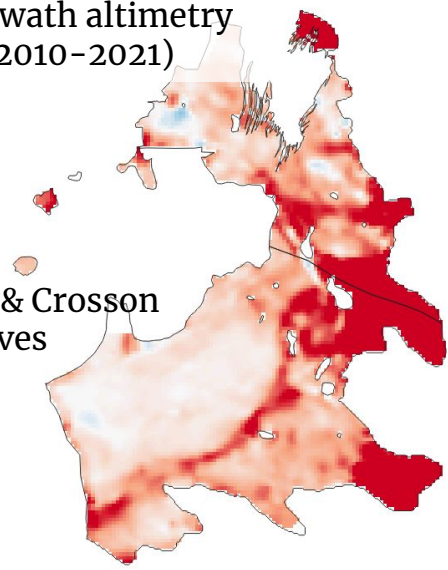




# 2010-2021 mean basal melt rate

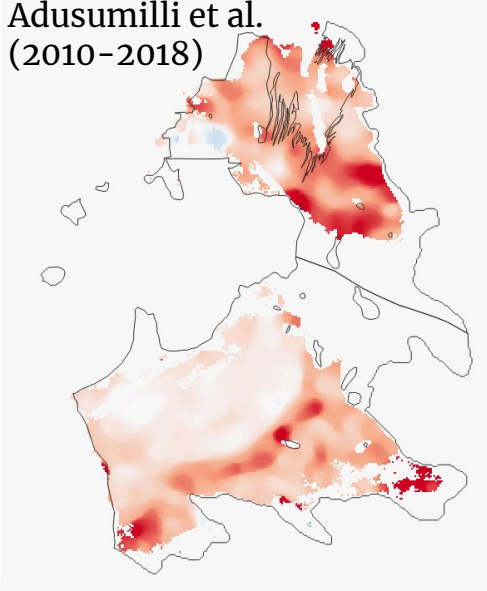


Swath altimetry (2010-2021)

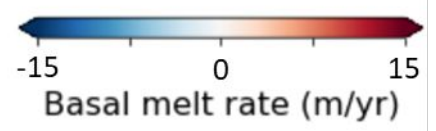
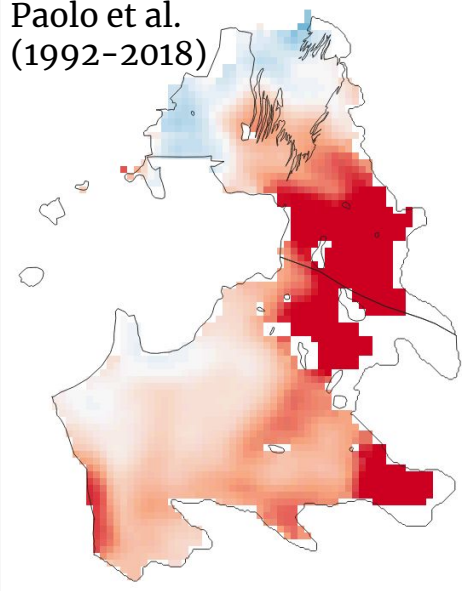


Dotson & Crosson ice shelves

Adusumilli et al. (2010-2018)



Paolo et al. (1992-2018)



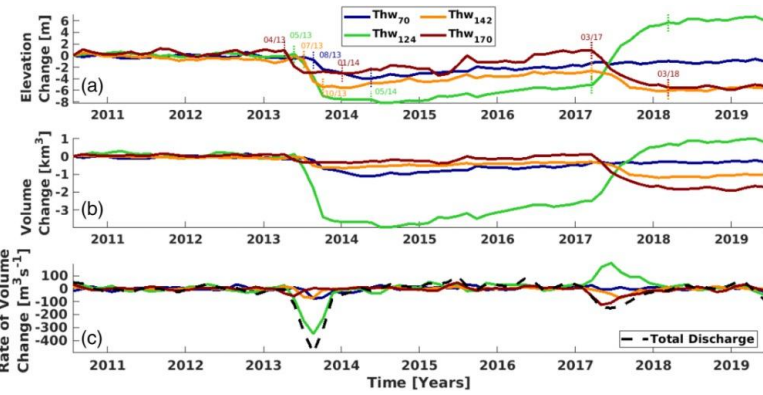


# - Subglacial discharge - Antarctic peripheral glaciers

## Transient sub-glacial flux

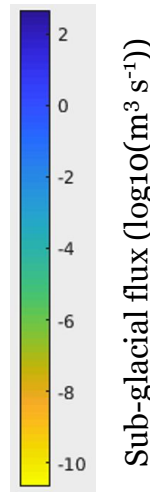
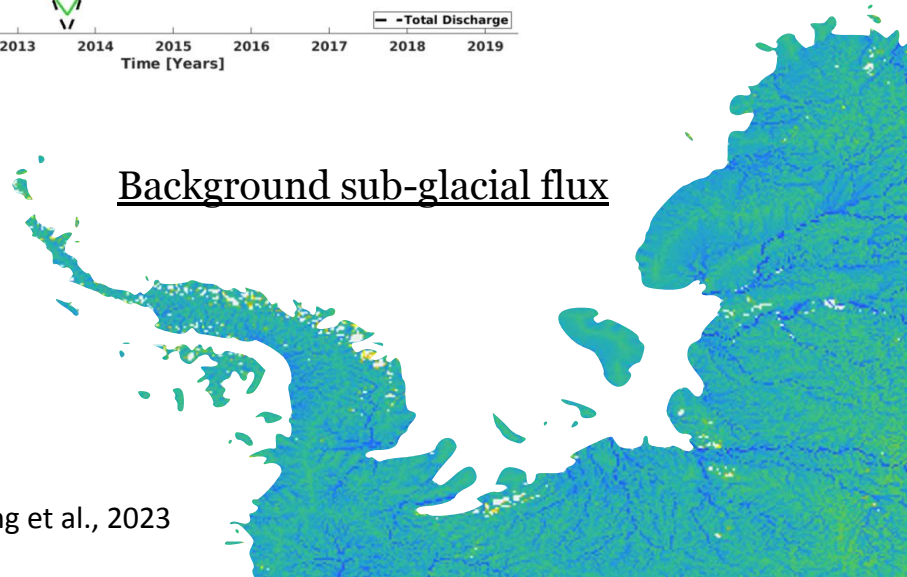


Malczyk et al., 2020

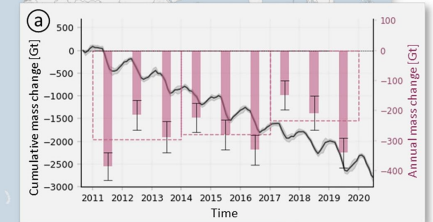
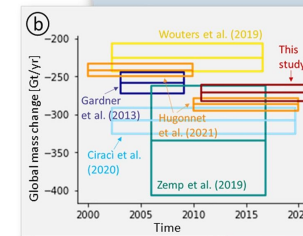
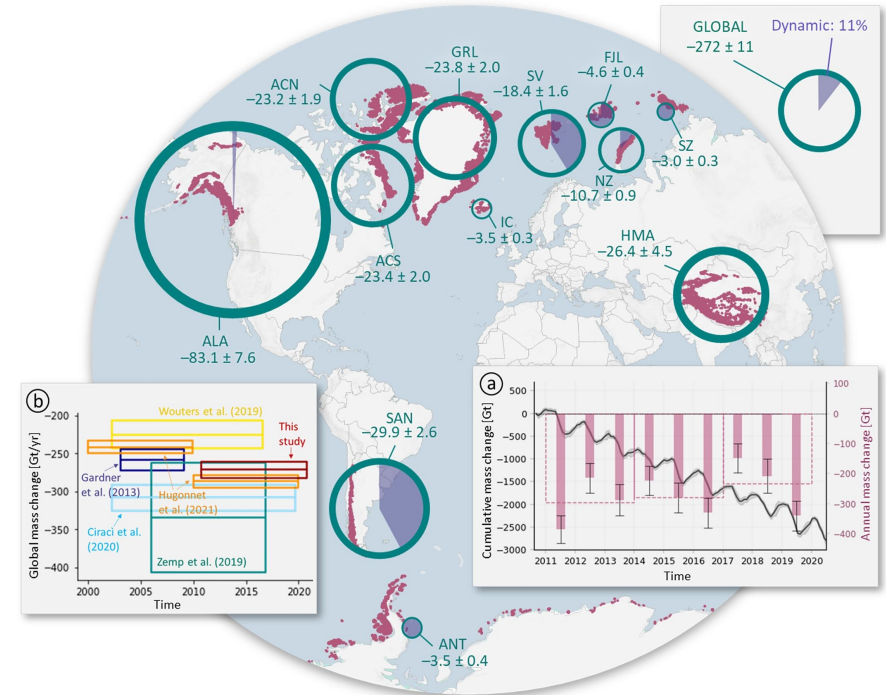


## Background sub-glacial flux

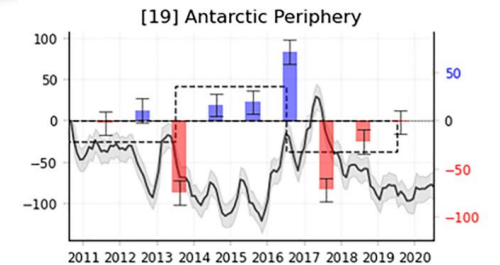
Wearing et al., 2023



Sub-glacial flux ( $\log_{10}(\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1})$ )



Jakob & Gourmelen, 2023



# Looking ahead



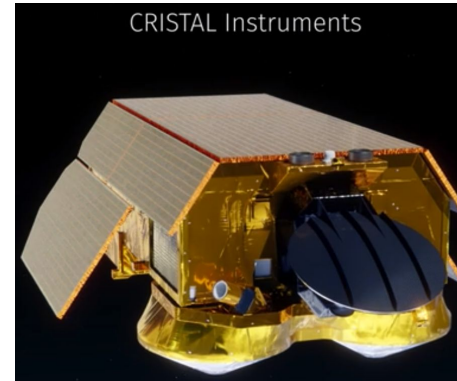
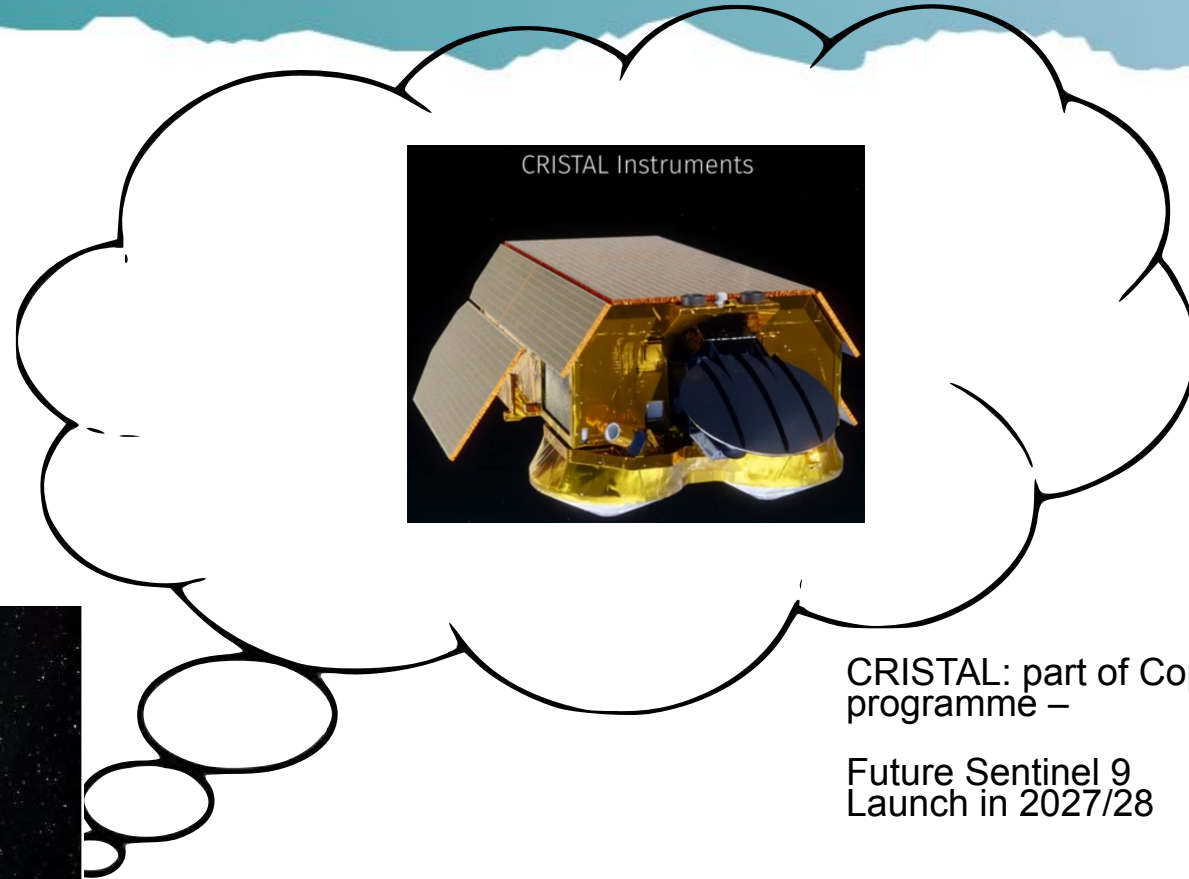
THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



earthwave



Swath as operational mode/product



CRISTAL: part of Copernicus expansion programme –

Future Sentinel 9  
Launch in 2027/28