Interior of an ice stream: NEGIS

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Airborne radar survey







Aims:

- Map the stratigraphy with the focus on shear margins
- Use radar stratigraphy as passive tracer to reconstruct deformation history of the ice

HELMHOLTZ

Airborne radar survey



New bedrock data set

Bed topography and subglacial landforms in the onset region of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream

Basal conditions & flow

Complex Basal Conditions and Their Influence on Ice Flow at the Onset of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream

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Published results based on this data set so far, and detailed information about processing:





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Folded isochrones



Sample Radar Profile



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Picked continuous horizon layer deposited ~ 7300 years BP



"Table cloth folds"



- Folds are formed outside of the stream due to convergent flow regime (Bons et al., 2016)
- Folds are sheared in the margins, leading to a new "apparent wavelength"
- Most fold hinges can be traced over entire survey area



- From this pattern it appears that the fold-free centre of the stream never passed any shear margin
- This area is highlighted in blue on the map

Jansen, coauthors of the abstract and others, in preparation



Advection of fold hinges





- Advection over 1000 years would lead to folded ice in the centre of the stream, which is not observed
- This indicates, that the flow pattern must have changed over the advection time period, as flow lines only can be seen as trajectories of ice volumes in a steady state system
- we propose that the location and shape of the shear margins has changed over time
- Details on this, and some surprising conclusions about the existence of NEGIS will be published soon!

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