



Mathematical Statistics
Stockholm University

**A Bayesian Simulation Study Using MCMC
to Find Possible Ice Shelves Characteristics in
the Arctic Ocean about 140 000 Years Ago**

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Examensarbete 2012:5

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October 2012

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to investigate possible features of ice shelves in the Arctic about 140000 years ago. The ice shelves have a critical role in the global climate system and since the human carbon emissions will increase the temperature in the future it is important to understand more about how the ice sheet interacts with the global climate. Today most ice shelves are found in the Antarctic. The Antarctic data are being used as plausible relations between several parameters under the presumption that the ice shelves in the Antarctic today have similar features as ice shelves in the Arctic 140000 years ago. Seafloor findings suggest that the Arctic has been covered with huge ice shelf complexes. Markov Chain Monte Carlo, MCMC, is a general simulation method that draws values from approximate distributions. The Markov chain used here is the Gibbs sampler and the software OpenBUGS has been performing the simulations. The results suggest that huge ice shelf complexes were extreme events but support the idea of ice shelves in the Arctic in the past.

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2 Introduction

2.1.1 Ice Shelves

Ice shelves develop when grounded inland ice masses reach the coast and become afloat on the ocean. Today most ice shelves are found along the Antarctic coast line. Research suggests that there have been huge ice shelf complexes covering large parts of the Arctic Ocean, fed by large ice masses on the surrounding continental land masses and high Arctic Archipelago. Ice shelves are dynamic and undergo extremely slow creeping motions due to the action of gravity and in response to climate. The ice shelves have a critical role in the global climate system; if their feeding inland ice masses melt, sea level will rise. Therefore more ice shelf research have been performed since the mid 1970'ies (Kirchner et al. [2011]).

A very important part of the climate system is the ice sheets. Still they are among the least understood. In the past there have been dramatic changes to the global climate which was affected by the evolution of large ice sheets. The human carbon emissions will increase the temperature on earth in the future and it is important to understand how the ice sheet interacts with the climate. Increases in atmospheric or ocean temperatures might lead to thresholds on ice sheet stability being surpassed and the earth could become irreversibly committed to near-permanent ice sheet decay or sea level rise. What this would mean to humanity is not fully understood (Fyke et al. [2011]).

2.1.2 Seafloor Erosion From Ice Shelves

Large parts of polar continental margins and some submarine ridges in the central Arctic Ocean have been impacted by ice sheets and, occasionally by grounding ice sheets. Images of those impacted seafloors are important to our understanding of the history of these ice sheets. In the last years there have been new advances in geophysical mapping technologies which provide even clearer views of the seafloor. The reconstruction of the history and dynamics of ice masses in the Arctic Ocean are so far poorly understood. There is a hypothesis of a thick floating ice shelf over the entire Arctic Ocean in the Pleistocene. More analysis is needed to test this and other hypotheses.

In the Arctic Ocean there are dramatic changes between glacial and interglacial periods. The ice and melt-water discharge from the ice sheets had a high impact on the Arctic Ocean circulation and sedimentation regimes. Seafloor mapping data indicate glacial erosion at depths reaching 1000 meters below the sea level. There is convincing evidence that eroded areas of Lomonosov Ridge and Chukchi Borderland depicts a dramatic impact of large ice masses that once invaded the central Arctic Ocean from both the Laurentide (over present

areas of Canada) and Eurasian ice sheets. Seafloor features in the polar areas are ice keel scours, also called plowmarks. Sea ice can affect the seafloor to water depths of less than approximately 50 meters. Iceberg erosion, on the other hand, can extend to depths of several hundreds of meters (Jakobsson et al.[2008]).

Widespread findings of glaciogenic bedforms on ridges and plateaus in the central Arctic Ocean suggest that large masses of thick ice covered great parts of this basin several times during the Pleistocene. The findings indicate that most of these features were formed by ice masses grounded on the seafloor rather than by disparate icebergs (Jakobsson et al.[2008]).

2.2 The Aim of This Thesis

The aim of this thesis is to investigate possible features of ice shelves in Arctic about 140000 years ago. There are signs on the central Arctic Ocean seafloor of erosion of deep drafting icebergs, which might have come from nearby ice shelves. The extent of ice shelves is not known and in this thesis statistical methods are being used to find reasonable parameters for ice shelves in the Arctic 140000 years ago. Today most ice shelves are found in the Antarctic. Under the presumption that the ice shelves in Antarctic today might have similar features as ice shelves in the Arctic in the past, the Antarctic data are used as plausible relations between the parameters.

2.3 Statistical Methods for the Analysis

2.3.1 MCMC

Multidimensional computations of the form

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = E[h(\mathbf{X})] = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} h(\mathbf{x}_j)P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}_j),$$

with a discrete random vector \mathbf{X} , with possible values \mathbf{x}_j , $j \geq 1$, and probability mass function, $P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}_j)$ and a function $h(\mathbf{x}_j)$ can be difficult to evaluate. To solve the problem simulations are often being used. A Monte Carlo simulation uses random numbers to generate a sequence of independent and identically distributed random vectors X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n with the mass function $P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}_j)$. The strong law of large numbers yields

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{h(\mathbf{X}_i)}{n} = \boldsymbol{\theta}$$

and hence $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ can be evaluated when n is sufficiently large (Ross [2000, p.216]).

It can be difficult to draw from the posterior distribution directly, for multidimensional Bayesian models. With Markov Chain Monte Carlo, MCMC, there is a general simulation method that draws values from approximate distributions. The draws are then corrected to better approximate the target posterior distribution. The samples are from a Markov chain and hence the sampled draws only depend on the last value drawn. The approximate distribution converges towards the target distribution and the distribution is thus improving at each step in the simulation. The Markov chain used here is the Gibbs sampler (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 283-287]).

2.3.2 The Gibbs Sampler

The Gibbs sampler can be used on the vector \mathbf{X} where \mathbf{X} is divided into n components X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n . One component is sampled conditional on all other components of \mathbf{X} . The Gibbs sampler cycles through the subvectors of \mathbf{X} and there are n steps in each iteration. The conditional density of \mathbf{X} is thus

$$p(X_i | X_j^{t-1}), \quad j \neq i,$$

where X_j^{t-1} represents all components of \mathbf{X} , except X_i , at their current values. That is

$$X_j^{t-1} = (X_1^t, X_2^t, \dots, X_{i-1}^t, X_{i+1}^{t-1}, \dots, X_n^{t-1}).$$

Thus the first $i-1$ components has been updated in iteration t and the components $X_{i+1}^{t-1}, \dots, X_n^{t-1}$ consists of the values from last iteration $t-1$ and X_i are being sampled conditional on those values (Gelman et al. [2004, p.287-288]).

2.3.3 OpenBUGS

The simulations have been performed in OpenBUGS. OpenBUGS is a free of charge program on the internet page www.stat.columbia.edu/~gelman/bugsR. It is a high-level language and the user can specify a model and starting values and the program performs a Markov chain simulation which is automatically implemented for the resulting posterior distribution (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 591]).

There is no prior information about the distributions of the parameters. Using OpenBUGS there is a need for proper prior distributions and hence the parameters are being given proper distributions with large uncertainties (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 593]). This implies that the prior

distribution have a minimal role in the posterior distribution with the aim to let the data speak for themselves (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 61]).

2.3.4 Starting Values

The Gibbs sampler should be run long enough to make the starting values unimportant. To make sure that it has been run long enough it is useful to perform several runs with widely dispersed starting values. The conclusions drawn from the different runs should not be sensitive to the choice of the starting values (Spiegelhalter et al. [1996, p. 29]).

It is useful to discard early iterations to decrease the effect of the starting values. Those discarded iterations are called “burn-in” and the length of appropriate burn-in fractions depends on the simulated results (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 295]).

2.3.5 The Deviance Information Criterion

To compare the performance of different models it is convenient to measure prediction errors. How well the models fit the data is computed through the deviance, which is defined as

$$D(y, \theta) = -2 \log p(y, \theta),$$

where y are the data, θ are the population parameters and p is the density function. If the model is normal with constant variance then the deviance is proportional to the mean squared error.

A summary that only depends on y is defined as

$$D_{\hat{\theta}}(y) = D(y, \hat{\theta}(y)),$$

which uses a point estimate for θ , for example the mean of the posterior simulations, to get the minimal deviance. The average discrepancy over the posterior distribution is

$$D_{\text{avg}}(y) = E(D(y, \theta) | y).$$

Using posterior simulations θ_i can be estimated by

$$\hat{D}_{\text{avg}}(y) = (1/L) * \sum_{i=1}^L D(y, \theta_i).$$

For replicated data y^{rep} the expected deviance can be computed as

$$D_{\text{avg}}^{\text{pred}}(y) = E [D(y^{\text{rep}}, \hat{\theta}(y))],$$

where

$$D(y^{\text{rep}}, \theta) = -2 \log p(y^{\text{rep}} | \theta)$$

is the expectation averages over the distribution of y^{rep} under the true sampling of the unknown model. $\hat{\theta}$ is a parameter estimate like the posterior mean.

To choose a model with the best out-of-sample predictive power the *deviance information criterion* (DIC) can be computed through

$$\text{DIC} = \hat{D}_{\text{avg}}^{\text{pred}}(y) = 2 * \hat{D}_{\text{avg}}(y) - D_{\hat{\theta}}(y),$$

which is an approximation of $D_{\text{avg}}^{\text{pred}}(y)$ above. The model with the smallest DIC value is the best (Gelman et al. [2004, p. 180-183]).

3 Data and Previous Work

3.1.1 Data From the Antarctic

The aim here is to find a relation between different variables from the ice shelves in Antarctica. There are no presumptions of a cause and effect relation between the different parameters.

The ice shelves that are considered here are of two different types, open and embayed. An embayed ice shelf is like an ice covered bay and in figure 3.2 it contains the area C and D. An open ice shelf is situated along the coast without a proper bay form. The calving front is the edge of the ice towards the sea water. The points A and B in figure 3.1 and 3.2 are the points where the grounding line meets the calving front. The cordal length is the shortest distance between those points. Other parameters that are being used are the maximal ice thickness at grounding line and the sea water temperature at the calving front. The number of ice rises are also counted and used in the computations. The ice rises are like islands under the ice shelves that are affecting the form of the ice and the ice movements.

	Characteristics
L	Length of calving front
L_c	Cordal length
P_1	Length of grounding line
P_2	Maximal ice thickness at grounding line
P_3	Number of ice rises
P_4	Ice shelf geometry (Class, open=0, embayed=1)
P_5	Water temperature at calving front

Table 3.1.

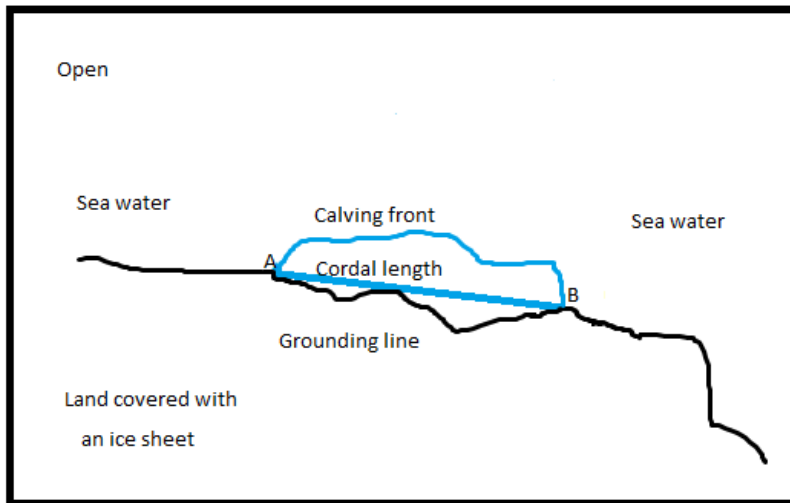


Figure 3.1.

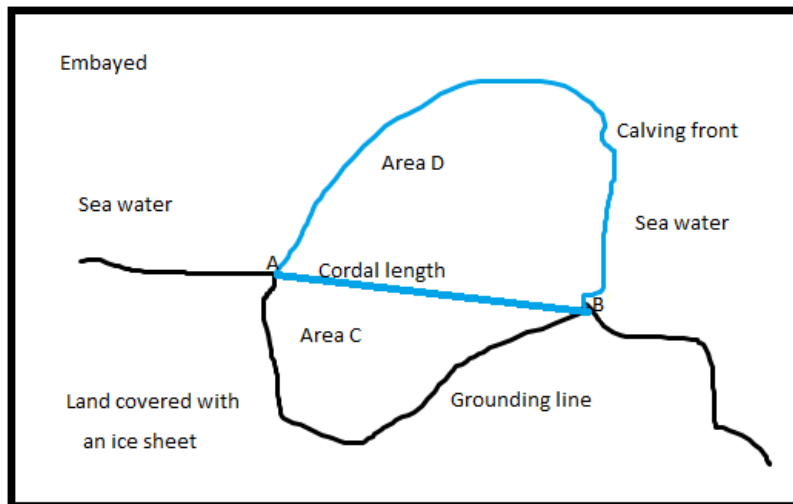


Figure 3.2.

The Antarctic data variables L , P_1 , P_2 , P_3 and P_4 are derived from Bohlander and Scambos' [2007] MODIS Mosaic of Antarctica, together with DiMarzio et al.'s [2007] digital elevation model, which were obtained from observation campaigns of the Geoscience Laser Altimeter System instrument aboard ICESat and an algorithm from Zwally et al.'s [2005] to compute ice-shelf thickness. The ice-fronts and grounding-lines were compiled from satellite imagery and have a resolution of 250 meter and better. The water temperatures, P_5 , were derived from the World Ocean Circulation Experiment Southern Ocean Data Base [Orsi and Whitworth, 2004].

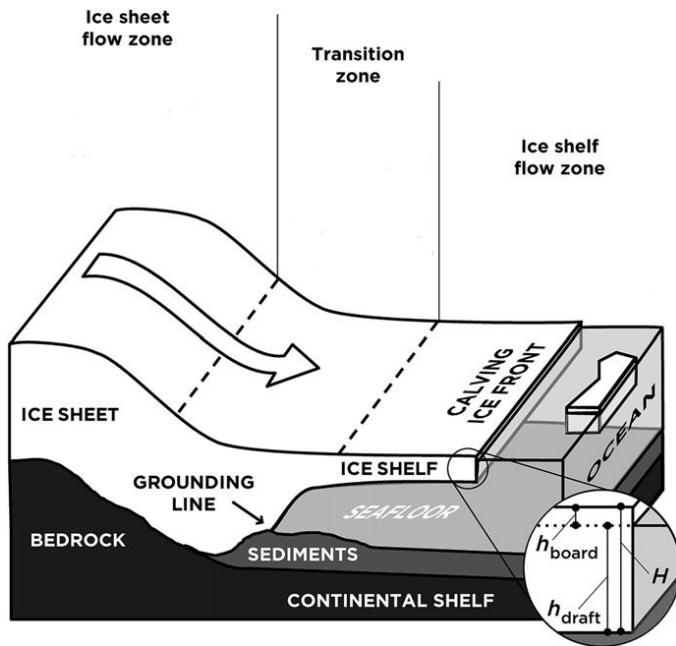


Figure 3.3 from Kirchner et al. [2011].

The coupled ice sheet-ice shelf system can be seen in figure 3.3. Ice on the ground, flow towards the sea, which is depicted with an arrow in the figure. Floating ice shelves fed by large ice sheets get thinner with increasing distance from the grounding line. When the ice shelves are calving it involves the propagation of a fracture through the ice. Icebergs calve from an ice shelf when the thickness is about 200 meters (Jakobsson et al.[2008]) .

3.1.2 Data From the Arctic

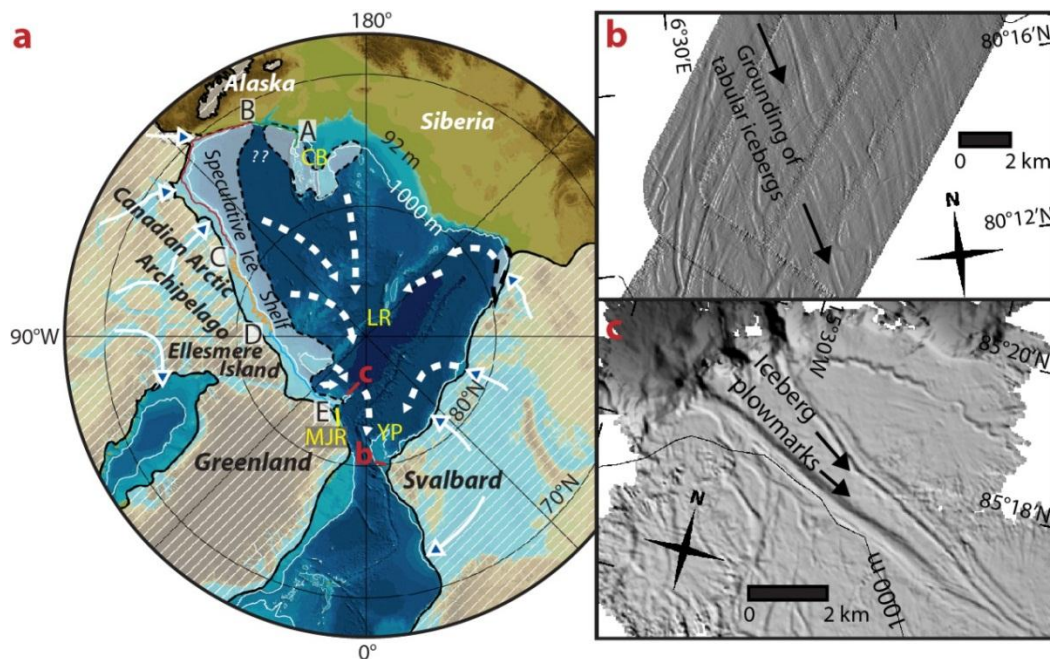


Figure 3.4. Picture from Kirchner et al. [2012].

Like Kirchner et al. [2012] the assumptions are made that the Laurentide ice sheet reached the continental shelf break and that an ice shelf extended from there. The present location of the shelf break is taken as an assumed grounding line for the ice shelf 140000 years ago. This was during a period called MIS 6 (Marine Isotope Stage 6) which extends from 190000 – 130000 years ago. The extent of the ice shelf is not known and five points A-E are depicted in the figure above, along the grounding line, making up possible segments of ice shelves in the statistical analysis. Those assumptions give the values of P_1 , P_3 and P_4 . The values of P_2 and P_5 are not known but some plausible values are used in the statistical computations. Like Jakobsson et al. (2010) the sea level in MIS 6 is assumed to be 92 meters below the present sea level (Jakobsson et al. [2010]).

3.2 Previous Works

Nina Kirchner et al. [2012] have performed statistical modeling of a former Arctic Ocean ice shelf complex using Antarctic analogies. There are evidence from geophysical mapping and coring of the central Arctic Ocean seafloor that there have been ice sheet/ice shelf complexes during previous glacial periods. There are signs of erosion from deep drafting icebergs. The largest ice shelf complex is believed to have been confined to the Amerasian sector of the Arctic Ocean during Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 6. To better understand the extent of those ice shelves a statistical analysis is performed to predict configurations of the Arctic Ocean ice shelves based on relations between characteristics from contemporary Antarctic ice shelves. To determine potential sources of deep-draft icebergs extreme value theory is employed. This analysis supports the idea of an extensive MIS 6 ice shelf complex (Kirchner et al. [2012]).

4 Antarctic Analysis

4.1 Shapes of Ice Shelves

The shapes of ice shelves can have a variety of forms and since it is not known for the ice shelves in the Arctic in MIS 6, certain approximations needs to be done. Inspecting the ice shelves in the Antarctic can give some clues about what shapes are reasonable. The ice shelves in Antarctic are not clearly wider outside the cordal line and hence the ice shelves in the Arctic are assumed not to be broader than the cordal line. It is possible that the ice shelves are thinner further away from the coast. Hence two shapes taking this into account are approximated, a triangle and a rectangle like in figure 4.1.

Inspecting the ice shelves in the Antarctic shows that the triangular and rectangular shapes are simplifications that sometimes have similarities with the real ice shelves but sometimes are different. The ice shelves Shackleton, Amery, Fimbul and Riieser Larsen have a triangular shape, but sometimes the point E in figure 4.1 is more to the left or right. A rectangular shape is seen in Merz and Drygalski ice shelves. Some ice shelves have calving front lengths that are not much larger than the cordal length, for example Filchner, Ronne, Ross and Dotson. Ice shelves with other forms are Ninnis, West and Brunt that could to some extent be seen to have a shape in between a triangular and rectangular shape. Some ice shelves, like Abbot and Getz, have different shapes because of islands interrupting the calving front. Under the present circumstances the triangular and rectangular simplification is acceptable approximation of the MIS 6 Arctic ice shelves.

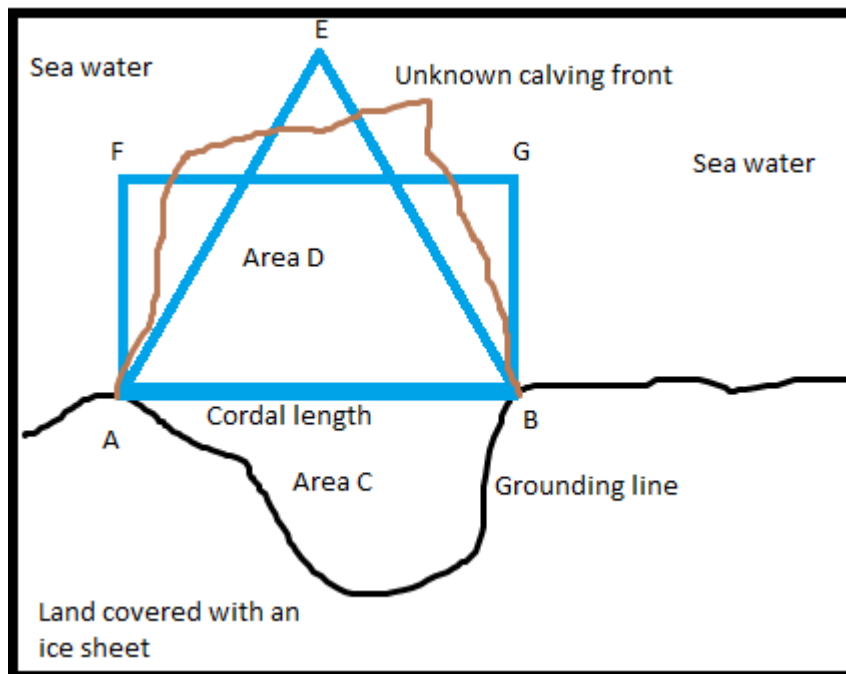


Figure 4.1

Since the approximated calving front using a triangle or rectangle shape are smoother than the true shape a factor called wiggleness is computed. In reality the ice shelf front consist of cape- and bay-like structures. To find an appropriate wiggleness factor the Antarctic ice shelves data are used. The rectangle shape can be thought of as consisting of three line segments outside of the cordal length. In figure 4.1 this would be segments AF, FG and GB. Approximating the Antarctic ice shelves calving fronts with three line segments and four node points has been performed using the first and last points and two points in between. The approximated points F and G are chosen from the 1/3 and 2/3 counts from the file consisting of data from points between A and B along the true calving fronts. The triangle shape can

accordingly be thought of as two line segments outside the cordal line with 3 node points, which are the A, B and E in figure 4.1. Those have been computed for the Antarctic ice shelves using the first, the middle and the last point in the data file.

Those approximations are arbitrary but there are no reasons to believe that other node points would be better approximations of E, F and G, and hence those points are chosen. The wiggleness factor is then computed from dividing the true calving front with the sum of the three line segments for the rectangular shape and the sum of the two line segments for the triangular shape. The result is a number above 1 since the calving front is longer with its cape and bay-like structure.

4.2 Wiggleness

Computing the wiggleness for the triangular and the rectangular shape of the ice shelves gives the following histograms and QQplots in figures 4.2 – 4.5.

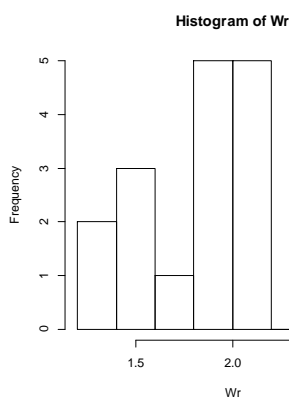


Figure 4.2.

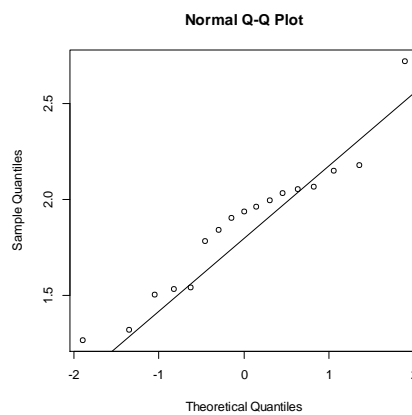


Figure 4.3.

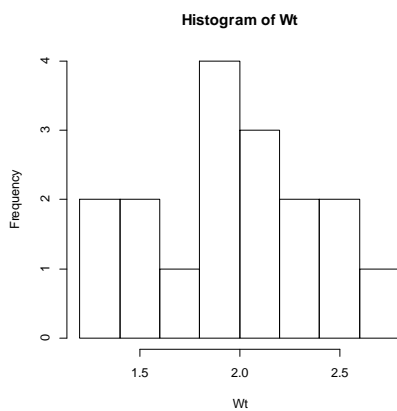


Figure 4.4.

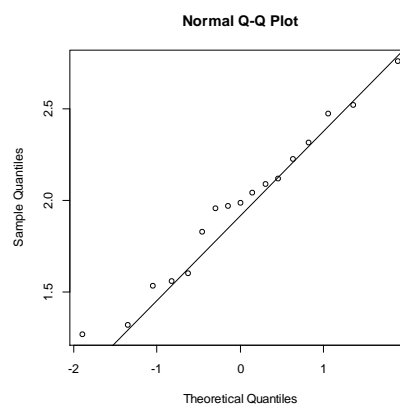


Figure 4.5.

The histograms show that the wiggleness is not very different from the normal distribution and hence the wiggleness is assumed to be approximately normally distributed. W_r is the wiggleness for the rectangular shape and W_t are the wiggleness for the triangular shape.

4.3 Method Setup

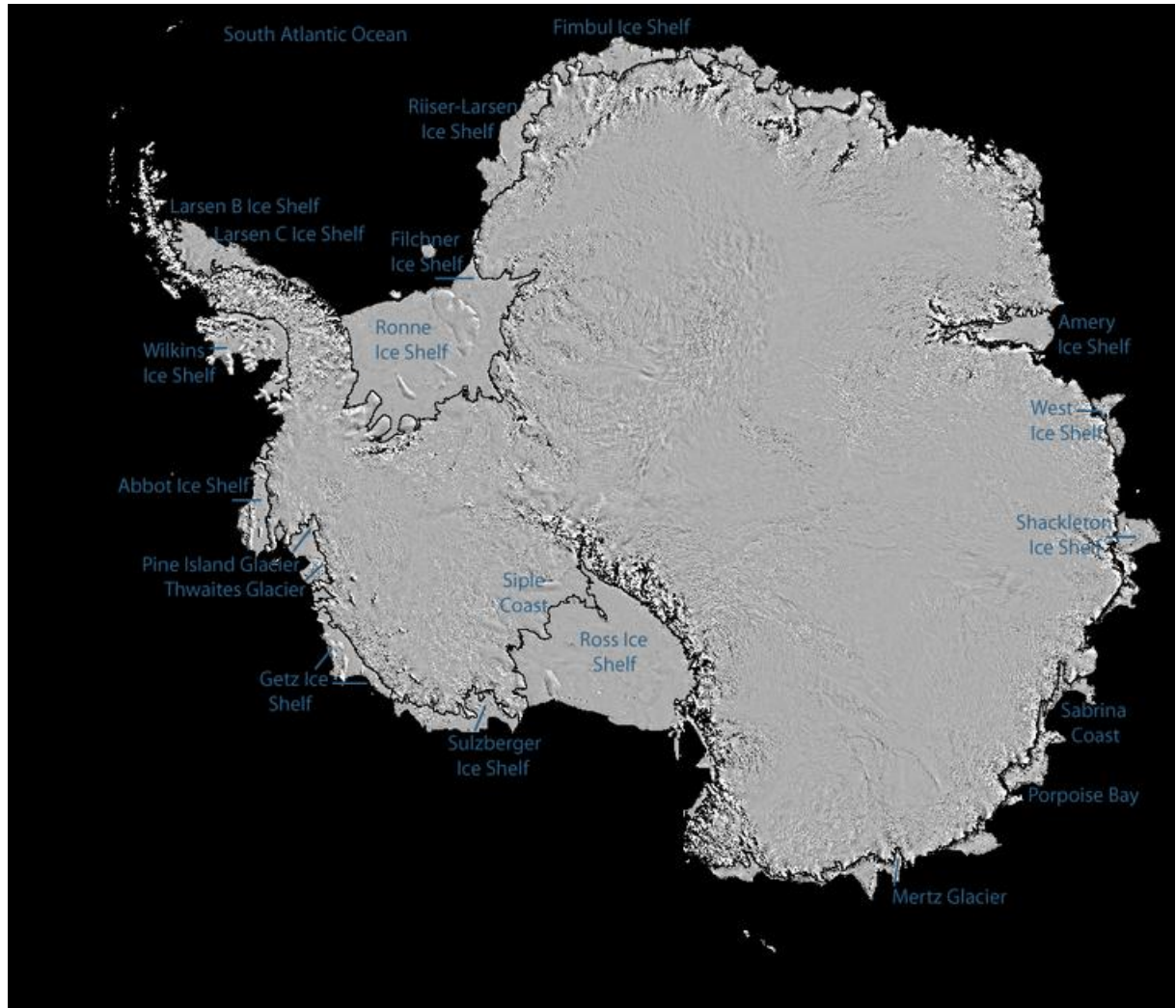


Figure 4.6. The picture is from the Antarctic and comes from <http://nsidc.org/>.

To get an idea of how the ice shelves are situated and the values of the different parameters, some equations are being used. The length of the calving front in the Antarctic has been computed. The calving front length L can be seen as

$$L=L_1+L_c,$$

where L_c is the cordal length and hence $L_1 \geq 0$. When approximating the true calving length the smooth calving length S is being computed, which can be seen as

$$S=S_1+L_c,$$

and hence $S_1 \geq 0$.

To find reasonable values the wiggleness must be taken into account. The wiggleness is computed from

$$W=L/S,$$

and hence $W \geq 1$.

Together these equations give that

$$L_1=W*S-L_c=W*(S_1+L_c) - L_c,$$

and

$$S_1=L/W - L_c.$$

The wiggleness can hence be written as

$$W = \frac{L_1+L_c}{S_1+L_c},$$

and this makes L_c

$$L_c = \frac{S_1*W+L_1}{1-W}.$$

Different models have been compared to one another to find a good model that shows the relationship between the different parameters and the calving length, L , and the smooth calving length, S , respectively. $\text{Log}(S_1)$ and $\text{Log}(L_1)$ are being used to make sure that the results are being realistic with $L \geq L_c$ and $S \geq L_c$. Standardising P_j around its mean for $j=1, \dots, 5$ for the parameters, reduces the dependence between B_{i0} , B_{i1} , ... B_{i5} , for $i=1$ or 2 , where 1 stands for the regression with the calving length L and 2 stands for the smooth calving length, S . This makes prior independence of the different B values more plausible (Spiegelhalter [1996, p. 27]). The estimate of B_{i0} is more simple and well known when using P minus the arithmetic mean of the values of P , instead of P alone. This makes B_{i0} independent of B_{i1}, \dots, B_{i5} . The B_{i1}, \dots, B_{i5} are still the same (Blom et al. [1998, p. 151-152, 227, 246]).

The following model was the best, since it had lowest DIC value and realistic solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}(L_1) = & B_{10} + B_{11}(P_1 - \text{Mean}(P_1)) + B_{12}(P_2 - \text{Mean}(P_2)) + B_{13}(P_3 - \text{Mean}(P_3)) \\ & + B_{14}(P_4 - \text{Mean}(P_4)) + B_{15}(P_5 - \text{Mean}(P_5)) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log}(S_1) = & B_{20} + B_{21}(P_1 - \text{Mean}(P_1)) + B_{22}(P_2 - \text{Mean}(P_2)) + B_{23}(P_3 - \text{Mean}(P_3)) \\ & + B_{24}(P_4 - \text{Mean}(P_4)) + B_{25}(P_5 - \text{Mean}(P_5)), \end{aligned}$$

where Log is the natural logarithm. P_1 - P_5 are measured values for the Antarctic.

$\text{Log}(L_1)$ is assumed to be

$$\text{Log}(L_1) \sim N(\text{Mean}(\text{Log}(L_1)), 0.653),$$

where $\text{Mean}(\text{Log}(L_1))$ is computed in OpenBUGS using the equations above and 0.653 is the computed precision, which is $1/\text{Var}(L_1)$.

Similarly $\text{Log}(S_{r1})$ for the rectangular model is assumed to be

$$\text{Log}(S_{r1}) \sim N(\text{Mean}(\text{Log}(S_{r1})), 0.123),$$

and $\text{Log}(S_{t1})$ for the triangular model is accordingly assumed to be

$$\text{Log}(S_{t1}) \sim N(\text{Mean}(\text{Log}(S_{t1})), 0.156).$$

4.4 The Antarctic Results

Two sequences with Antarctic data are being performed in order to estimate how long the burn-in period should be. The initial values for the two sequences are chosen to be a bit higher and a bit lower than what could be expected values from doing a test simulation.

4.4.1 Rectangular Ice Shelf Shapes in the Antarctic

Two sequences have been simulated with 100 000 burn-in and a total number of 200 000 for each sequence. To decrease the dependence between nearby values in the simulation the results are based on every 10th value. Different models have been compared using the DIC value. The best model among those tested was with the following values of B_{ij} . The prior have the distribution

$$B_{ij} \sim N(A, \text{Tau}),$$

and

$$A \sim N(0, 1),$$

and

$$\text{Tau} \sim \text{Ga}(0.01, 0.01).$$

B_{i0} have the distribution

$$B_{i0} \sim N(A_{i0}, \text{Tau}),$$

where A_{10} is the mean value of $\text{Log}(L_1)$ and A_{20} is the mean value of $\text{Log}(S_1)$ for the rectangular shape.

OpenBUGS simulated the following values with the priors above

	B₁₀	B₁₁	B₁₂	B₁₃	B₁₄	B₁₅
Mean	5.401	0.0001789	0.03042	0.1604	-1.524	-1.013
Sd	0.2217	0.0002669	0.3941	0.1561	0.7438	1.152

Table 4.1.

	B₂₀	B₂₁	B₂₂	B₂₃	B₂₄	B₂₅
Mean	2.378	0.00009641	0.1514	0.1377	-2.576	-1.797
Sd	0.428	0.0006124	0.7763	0.3454	1.827	2.534

Table 4.2.

Those simulations yield the following DIC value:

	Dbar	Dhat	DIC
LogL1	46.26	41.27	51.26

Table 4.3.

The evaluated parameters B_{ij} from the rectangular shape of the Antarctic ice shelves are then being used to find approximated calving lengths in the Arctic, which could have prevailed in MIS 6.

4.4.2 Triangular Ice Shelf Shapes in the Antarctic

A similar simulation as in 4.4.1 has been performed with the triangular ice shelf shape. Different models have been compared using the DIC value. The best model among those tested was with B_{ij} having the same prior distribution as the model for rectangular ice shelf shape.

OpenBUGS simulated the following values with the priors above. The values of $B_{10} - B_{15}$ were the same as for the rectangular variant. The values of $B_{20} - B_{25}$ can be seen in table 4.4

	B₂₀	B₂₁	B₂₂	B₂₃	B₂₄	B₂₅
Mean	1.817	0.0002108	0.4522	0.02747	-2.636	-1.934
Sd	0.3878	0.0005542	0.7174	0.3129	1.657	2.404

Table 4.4.

Those simulations yield the following DIC value:

	Dbar	Dhat	DIC
LogL1	46.26	41.27	51.26

Table 4.5.

Using different initial values gives the same results. The evaluated parameters $B_{i0}, B_{i1}, \dots, B_{i5}$ from the triangular shape of the Antarctic ice shelves are then being used to find approximated calving lengths in the Arctic, which could have prevailed in MIS 6.

5 The Arctic

5.1 Ice Shelves in the Arctic in MIS 6

The values of P_1, P_3 and P_4 are known if there actually was an ice shelf there. The values of P_2 are not known and in the computations it is assumed that P_2 is normally distributed with the same mean and precision as was found in the Antarctic data. The values of P_5 , the water temperature close to the calving front, are not known. The water temperature close to the ice is not necessarily close to its freezing-point. The freezing-point depends on the content of salt in the water. It could have been different 140 000 years ago. Since there is no information available about those water temperatures, it is assumed that P_5 are normally distributed and have the same mean and precision as was found in the Antarctic data. The tested values are given in the appendix. The B_{ij} are assumed to be normally distributed with mean and precision similar to the values from the Antarctic computations.

The approximated ice shelves are seen in table 5.1 where the segments starts and ends in points A-E which can be seen in figure 3.4.

Approximated ice shelves are numbered 1-7	Segment
	(A-B)
1	B-C
2	C-D
3	D-E
4	A-C
5	A-E-embayed
6	A-E-open
7	B-E

Table 5.1.

5.1.1 Rectangular Ice Shelf Shapes in the Arctic in MIS 6

With the approximate regression from the Antarctic computations the same model is being used in the Arctic MIS 6 computations. Now is L and S unknown variables and the B_{ij} is approximated from the Antarctic data.

Two sequences of simulations have been performed with 100000 burn-in and a total number of 200000 for each sequence. To decrease the dependence between nearby values in the sequences the results are based on every 10th value. The values of L_1 and S_{r1} are computed and then added to the cordal length to get the values of L and S_r . This is done for the mean and for the 75th, 90th and 95th percentile to get an idea of how it might have been.

Segment	Mean L (km)	L-75%	L-90%	L-95%
1	1225,1	1448,1	1820,8	2144,6
2	823,1	1087,7	1450,9	1742,2
3	1000,2	1346,2	1766,7	2126,6
4	1210,3	1509,8	1921,4	2230,4
5	3600,0	4472,5	5228,0	5802,3
6	3914,3	4863,8	5823,6	6564,6
7	2428,6	3119,3	3794,1	4318,7

Table 5.2.

Segment	Mean Sr (km)	Sr-75%	Sr-90%	Sr-95%
1	1148,5	1151,4	1165,8	1190,4
2	704,6	720,7	781,5	861,3
3	854,2	873,9	941,1	1030,2
4	1061,7	1065,7	1083,5	1112,7
5	2262,7	2275,6	2342,2	2452,3
6	2267,9	2343,5	2628,8	3037,0
7	1529,3	1567,5	1703,3	1890,0

Table 5.3.

Comparing the computed values of L and S_r for the rectangular shape in table 5.2 and 5.3 with the cordal lengths in table 7.8, show that the computed means are not much higher than the cordal lengths. The values of L are higher than S_r , which is a sign of the cape- and bay-like structure of the calving length L. This means that the model suggests that the Arctic ice shelves in MIS 6 on average are like Filchner, Ronne, Ross and Dotson ice shelves in the Antarctic.

5.1.2 Triangular Ice Shelf Shapes in the Arctic in MIS 6

A similar simulation as in 5.1.1 has been performed with the triangular ice shelf shape. The results can be seen in table 5.4 and 5.5.

Segment	Mean L	L-75%	L-90%	L-95%
1	1225,1	1452,6	1848,2	2162,6
2	826,2	1102,2	1494,8	1800,9
3	1002,3	1356,7	1818,3	2154,9
4	1214,4	1531,0	1963,6	2303,9
5	3737,8	4666,2	5487,9	6055,2
6	4100,9	5080,5	6135,7	7021,9
7	2522,5	3257,2	3978,1	4512,2

Table 5.4.

Segment	Mean St	St-75%	St-90%	St-95%
1	1148,5	1150,6	1161,4	1180,5
2	704,6	719,0	772,2	845,2
3	853,8	868,2	922,5	995,2
4	1061,6	1064,4	1078,0	1098,1
5	2262,8	2273,6	2328,9	2427,9
6	2269,4	2343,9	2625,1	3059,0
7	1530,8	1573,8	1708,2	1908,3

Table 5.5.

Comparing the mean values of L and S_t in table 5.4 and 5.5 with the cordal lengths in table 7.8 show that the values from the triangular computations lead to similar results as the rectangular computations.

5.1.3 Ice Shelf Distance Outside the Cordal Length

For the rectangular shape of the ice shelves the longest orthogonal distance from cordal length to calving front is the same along the ice shelf. It can be computed from

$$\text{Longest distance} = \frac{S_r - L_c}{2}.$$

The longest orthogonal distance can be seen for different sizes of the ice shelves in table 5.6.

Segment	Rectangular – Mean Distance (km)	Sr-75%	Sr-90%	Sr-95%
1	0,117	1,56	8,75	21,0
2	0,697	8,73	39,1	79,0
3	0,828	10,7	44,3	88,8
4	0,188	2,18	11,1	25,7
5	0,407	6,87	40,2	95,2
6	3,00	40,8	183,4	387,6
7	2,02	21,1	89,0	182,3

Table 5.6.

For the triangular shape of the ice shelves the longest orthogonal distance outside the cordal length is the length between the point E and the cordal length in figure 4.1. This can be computed from the Pythagorean theorem with the following equation

$$\text{Longest distance} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{S_t}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{L_c}{2}\right)^2}.$$

The longest orthogonal distance can be seen for different sizes of the ice shelves in table 5.7.

Segment	Mean distance E-Lc (km)	75%	90%	95%
1	11,1	36,7	86,9	136,9
2	22,2	75,1	159,5	234,5
3	23,7	82,2	176,3	256,8
4	13,2	40,7	94,4	141,0
5	31,9	115,3	277,3	441,2
6	92,4	307,3	666,2	1029,7
7	64,9	193,9	384,5	573,4

Table 5.7.

5.2 Plowmarks From Ice Shelves?

The plowmarks found on the seafloor in the Arctic, which can be seen in figure 3.4 C, might have come from ice shelves about 140 000 years ago. The main part of those

plowmarks lies between point N at 85°19N and 15°30W and the point W at 85°17N and 15°00W.

Distance between the points (km)	N	W
A	2166	2172
B	2476	2481
C	1544	1549
D	870	876
E	179	180

Table 5.8.

The plowmarks in figure 3.4 C are closest to point E in table 5.8 and if the ice shelf reaches those plowmarks it must reach more than 180 km outside the cordal length from point E, in the right direction. Comparing the distances in table 5.8 with the ice shelves highest orthogonal distances outside the cordal lengths in table 5.6 and 5.7 show that on average the ice shelves do not reach the plowmarks. The segments 1-4 does not reach E and does not reach the plowmarks within the 95th percentile for both shapes of the ice shelves.

For the rectangular shape it needs to be outside the 90th percentile to reach over 180 km from the cordal length. The triangular shape of the ice shelves reach further from the cordal length but that is in the middle of the cordal length, in this model. In reality the highest orthogonal distance need not be in the middle. For the triangular shape it needs to be outside the 75th percentile to reach over 180 km from the cordal length.

6 Conclusion

6.1 The Model

Using 17 ice shelves from the Antarctic are not an ideal base for the simulations of the Arctic in MIS 6, but can still give some conclusions about possible ice shelves. Ideally there would have been more ice shelves today to investigate. It is also possible that the model could have been more realistic with more variables, but since the MIS 6 data are approximations this would also include more uncertainty. The model would also have been more realistic if the Antarctic and possible Arctic MIS 6 ice shelves had been very similar in size and other

characteristics. There are some crucial differences though, which can be seen in table 7.9 and 7.10. For instance are P_1 , the grounding line length, much longer in the Arctic data.

If more knowledge about the Arctic during MIS 6 is available in the future a model like this one could make better approximations. It is still valuable to make a statistical analysis to get information about the relationships between the parameters.

6.2 The Arctic in MIS 6

Those evaluations suggest that if those plowmarks came from an ice shelf like one of the suggested segment 1 – 7, it must have been an extreme event. This conclusion is in accordance with Kirchner et al. [2012]. The computations here, still suggest that there were ice shelves in the Arctic in MIS 6. This supports the ideas in Kirchner et al. [2011], [2012] and Jakobsson et al. [2008].

Many things might have been different 140000 years ago and we will never know for certain what it was like then. It is still very important to try to understand it better, since the global warming is changing the basis for the ice shelves in the world.

7 Appendix

7.1 Tables

Below is the parameter data for the different ice shelves in Antarctic.

	Calving length of front (km) R1	Area with ice rises(km ²)	len.grounding P1	max.thick P2 (m)	nr.rises P3	class P4	temp P5
abbot	1032	47265	901	1500	7	0	-1,3588
amery	473	62984	2404	3000	5	1	-1,7184
brunt	664	30759	471	1800	0	0	-1,7458
dotson	61	4675	501	2200	0	1	-1,6276
drygalski	359	2503	158	4500	0	0	-1,83
ekstrom	282	7116	480	1500	1	1	-1,8604
filchner	287	109271	2190	2800	3	1	-2,0137
fimbul	1075	44273	893	1700	6	0	-1,7723
getz	1191	46499	1154	1500	8	0	-1,4943
mertz	383	5976	336	2500	0	0	-1,5779
ninnis	123	1130	146	2300	0	1	-1,7699
pine.island	54	3903	357	3200	0	1	-1,0441
riiser.larsen	656	48795	1256	1700	4	0	-1,6137
ronne	784	333352	4796	3300	5	1	-1,8836
ross	1398	488018	7011	3000	6	1	-1,7308
shackleton	946	35831	960	3300	6	0	-1,2901
west	784	17194	618	3000	2	0	-1,6274

Table 7.1. Antarctic data.

The coordinate of the first and last point of cordal lengths for each shelf ice in the Antarctic

Ice Shelf	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude
Abbot_Middle	-95.598240	-72.071003	-91.707152	-72.619902
Abbot_North	-90.748507	-72.742104	-89.436204	-72.637927
Abbot_South	-102.82001	-72.709191	-102.276320	-72.142008
Amery	70.195033	-68.495706	73.837546	-69.748496
Brunt	-26.64608	-76.09656	-21.97376	-74.11787
Dotson	-113.4089	-74.16670	-111.9007	-74.22683
Drygalski	162.2183	-75.39061	162.5725	-75.23853
Ekstrom	-9.984030	-70.91713	-6.445185	-70.43917
Filchner	-44.03762	-78.17137	-36.04372	-78.24080
Fimbul	-2.803716	-70.30025	7.413689	-70.20688
Getz_Middle	-124.0231	-73.85505	-123.3510	-73.83482
Getz_North	-120.3609	-73.81301	-115.1308	-74.09055
Getz_South	-134.7494	-74.60528	-127.2728	-73.72063
Mertz	144.6262	-67.18135	145.2665	-67.51422
Ninnis	147.0648	-68.03875	147.7238	-68.33795
Pine_Island	-101.7739	-75.08188	-101.2547	-74.72380
Riiser_Larsen	-20.62983	-73.58754	-12.02715	-71.66927
Ronne	-61.35003	-74.54698	-47.67821	-77.80562
Ross	164.4248	-78.08109	-158.6348	-77.87123
Shackleton	94.92873	-66.46938	102.53313	-65.88458
West	81.35531	-67.79402	88.74336	-66.77740

Table 7.2. Coordinates for the ice shelves in the Antarctic.

Ice shelf	Cordal length in km
Abbot Middle	145.3
Abbot North	45.1
Abbot South	65.9
Amery	201.3
Brunt	258.2
Dotson	46.4
Drygalski	19.7
Ekstrom	141.2
Filchner	182.5
Fimbul	385.1
Getz_Middle	21.0
Getz_North	164.3
Getz_South	248.1
Mertz	46.2
Ninnis	43.1
Pine_Island	42.7
Riiser_Larsen	357.3
Ronne	512.8
Ross	845.5
Shackleton	348.8
West	337.8

Table 7.3. Cordal length for the ice shelves in Antarctic.

In table 7.4 is a table of the Wiggleness for the ice shelves in Antarctic.

Ice shelf	Wiggleness triangle	Wiggleness rectangle
Abbot	2.3138	2.1804
Amery	1.9878	1.9618
Brunt	2.2275	2.0333
Dotson	1.3198	1.3199
Drygalski	2.0408	1.9962
Ekstrom	1.9686	1.8434
Filchner	1.5595	1.5403
Fimbul	2.7604	2.7207
Getz	1.9582	1.9034
Mertz	2.0869	2.0654
Ninnis	2.5195	2.1497
Pine Island	1.2683	1.2685
Riiser Larsen	1.8264	1.7854
Ronne	1.5333	1.5345
Ross	1.6013	1.5043
Shackleton	2.4744	1.9382
West	2.1167	2.0532

Table 7.4. Wiggleness (calving length divided by smooth calving line) for the ice shelves in Antarctic.

	Wiggleness triangle	Wiggleness rectangle
Mean	1.974306	1.870506
Variance	0.1773043	0.1773043

Table 7.5. The mean and variance of the wiggleness factor in Antarctic.

Figures for the Arctic

Segment	Length of grounding line P1 in km	Max. thick P2 Approximate figures in m	Number of ice rises P3	Ice shelf geometry P4	Water temperature Approximated value °C P5
A-B	1764	1000-4500	2	---	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
B-C=1	5310	1000-4500	0	Embayed=1	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
C-D=2	3606	1000-4500	0	open=0	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
D-E=3	2862	1000-4500	2	open=0	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
A-C=4	7056	1000-4500	2	embayed=1	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
A-E-e=5	13524	1000-4500	4	embayed=1	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
A-E-o=6	13524	1000-4500	4	open=0	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)
B-E=7	11778	1000-4500	2	Open=0	-1.0 - -2.5(3.0)

Table 7.6 Arctic data and approximate figures.

The coordinates for the points in Antarctic are being seen in table 7.7.

Point	Longitude	Latitude
A	-159:05	74:29
B	-151:48	71:21
C	-121:59	78:11
D	-93:48	82:42
E	-26:04	84:02

Table 7.7 Coordinates of the node points where possible ice shelves has been situated.

Segment	Distance (cordal length)
(A-B)	(424,7)
B-C	1148,3
C-D	703,2
D-E	852,5
A-C	1061,3
A-E	2261,9
A-E	2261,9
B-E	1525,3

Table 7.8. The data is given for Cordal lengths for different possible ice shelf segments in the Arctic. Segment A-B is not a probable ice shelf but is part of other segments.

Antarctic	Mean	Lowest value	Highest value
L	620.7059	54	1398
Ice shelf area	75855.53	1130	488018
P1	1448.941	146	7011
P2 (km)	2.517647	1.500	4.500
P3	3.117647	0	8
P4	0.4705882	0	1
P5	-1.644635	-2.0137	-1.0441

Table 7.9. The table shows the highest, lowest and mean values of different parameters in the Antarctic.

Arktis	Mean	Lowest value	Highest value
P1	8237.143	2862	13524
P3	2	0	4
P4	0.4285714	0	1

Table 7.10. The table shows the highest, lowest and mean value of different parameters in the Arctic.

7.2 Computer code

7.2.1 The Antarctic

The following computer code is the structure that has been used when computing the S1 and L1 for the Antarctic data. Here is the triangular variant.

```
model
{
  for (i in 1:N){
    LogL1[i]~dnorm(MuLogL1[i], 0.6526984)
    MuLogL1[i]<-B10 + B11*(P1[i]-MeanP1) + B12*(P2[i]-MeanP2) + B13*(P3[i]-
    3.117647)+ B14*(P4[i]-0.4705882)+B15*(P5[i]- -1.644635)
    LogSt1[i]~dnorm(MuLogSt1[i], 0.1564177)
    MuLogSt1[i]<-B20 + B21*(P1[i]-MeanP1) + B22*(P2[i]-MeanP2) + B23*(P3[i]-
    3.117647)+ B24*(P4[i]-0.4705882)+B25*(P5[i]- -1.644635)
    Lc2[i]~dnorm(MuLc2[i],0.00001903929)
    MuLc2[i]<-(Wt*exp(LogSt1[i])-exp(LogL1[i]))/(1-Wt)}

    B10~dnorm(5.39801,Tau100)
    B11~dnorm(A110,Tau110)
    B12~dnorm(A120,Tau120)
    B13~dnorm(A130,Tau130)
    B14~dnorm(A140,Tau140)
    B15~dnorm(A150,Tau150)
    Wt~dnorm(1.974306,5.6400211)
    A110~dnorm(0,1);
    A120~dnorm(0,1);
    A130~dnorm(0,1);
    A140~dnorm(0,1);
    A150~dnorm(0,1);
    Tau100~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
    Tau110~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
    Tau120~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
    Tau130~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
    Tau140~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
    Tau150~dgamma(0.01,0.01);

    B20~dnorm(1.818989,Tau200)
    B21~dnorm(A210,Tau210)
    B22~dnorm(A220,Tau220)
    B23~dnorm(A230,Tau230)
    B24~dnorm(A240,Tau240)
    B25~dnorm(A250,Tau250)
    A210~dnorm(0,1);
    A220~dnorm(0,1);
    A230~dnorm(0,1);
    A240~dnorm(0,1);
    A250~dnorm(0,1);
    Tau200~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
```

```

Tau210~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
Tau220~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
Tau230~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
Tau240~dgamma(0.01,0.01);
Tau250~dgamma(0.01,0.01);}

#Data:
list(
N=17,
P1=c(901, 2404, 471, 501, 158, 480, 2190, 893, 1154, 336, 146, 357, 1256, 4796, 7011,
960, 618),
MeanP1=1449,
P2=c(1.500, 3.000, 1.800, 2.200, 4.500, 1.500, 2.800, 1.700, 1.500, 2.500, 2.300, 3.200,
1.700, 3.300, 3.000, 3.300, 3.000),
MeanP2=2.517,
P3=c(7, 5, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3, 6, 8, 0, 0, 0, 4, 5, 6, 6, 2),
P4=c(0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0),
P5=c(-1.3588, -1.7184, -1.7458, -1.6276, -1.83, -1.8604, -2.0137, -1.7723, -1.4943, -
1.5779, -1.7699, -1.0441, -1.6137, -1.8836, -1.7308, -1.2901, -1.6274),
LogL1=c(6.378901, 5.604699, 6.005860, 2.681022, 5.826885, 4.947340, 4.649187,
6.536547,
6.400888, 5.819489, 4.380776, 2.424803, 5.699440, 5.602857, 6.314453, 6.392252,
6.100767),
LogSt1=c(1.1939225, 3.5929191, 3.7108855, -2.7806209, 5.0515917, 0.9707789,
0.8458683, 1.7715568, 2.9750192, 4.9233693, 1.7625023, -4.1997051, 1.1724821, -
0.5798185, 3.4384932, 3.5516269, 3.5219390),
Lc2=c(442.72,
201.61,257.21,46.156,19.639,140.61,181.71,383.55,588.62,46.065,42.992,42.563,355.94,
510.76, 841.87,347.45,336.53))

```

7.2.2 The Arctic

The following computer code is the structure that has been used when computing the S_1 and L_1 for the Arctic data for the triangular shape.

```

model
{
for (i in 1:N){
LogL1[i]~dnorm(MuLogL1[i], 0.6526984)
MuLogL1[i]<-B10 + B11*(P1[i]- 8237.143) + B12*(P2- 2.517647) + B13*(P3[i]-2)+
B14*(P4[i]- 0.4285714)+B15*(P5- -1.644635)
LogSt1[i]~dnorm(MuLogSt1[i],0.1564177)
MuLogSt1[i]<-B20 + B21*(P1[i]- 8237.143) + B22*(P2- 2.517647) + B23*(P3[i]-2)+
B24*(P4[i]- 0.4285714)+B25*(P5- -1.644635)
Lc[i]~dnorm(MuLc[i],0.000002434303)
MuLc[i]<-(Wt*exp(LogSt1[i])-exp(LogL1[i]))/(1-Wt)}

B10~dnorm(5.401,20.34551)
B11~dnorm(0.0001789,14037920)
B12~dnorm(0.03042,6.438536)

```

```
B13~dnorm(0.1604,41.03876)
B14~dnorm(-1.524,1.807539)
B15~dnorm(-1.013,0.7535204)
Wt~dnorm(1.974306,5.6400211)
P2~dnorm(2.517647, 1.390735)
P5~dnorm(-1.644635,2.0784299)
```

```
B20~dnorm(1.817, 6.649430)
B21~dnorm(0.0002108, 3255869)
B22~dnorm(0.4522, 1.943020)
B23~dnorm(0.02747,10.21384)
B24~dnorm(-2.636,0.3642126)
B25~dnorm(-1.934,0.1730339)}
```

```
list(
N=7,
#kända variabler
P1=c(5310, 3606, 2862, 7056, 13524, 13524, 11778),
P3=c(0, 0, 2, 2, 4, 4, 2),
P4=c(1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0),
Lc=c(1148.3,703.2,852.5,1061.3,2261.9,2261.9,1525.3))
```

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