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*[Geophysical Research Letters]*

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Supporting Information for

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**Greenland Ice Sheet ice slab expansion and thickening**

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N. Jullien<sup>1</sup>, A. J. Tedstone<sup>1</sup>, H. Machguth<sup>1</sup>, N. B. Karlsson<sup>2</sup>, V. Helm<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Geosciences, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland

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<sup>2</sup>Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Copenhagen, Denmark

9

<sup>3</sup>Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Sciences, Bremerhaven, Germany

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**16 Introduction**

17 In the following we provide additional information on the processing and interpretation  
18 of accumulation radar data in 2002-03 and 2010-18. We provide additional figures that  
19 are discussed in the main manuscript as well as in text S1, S2, S3 and S4.

20

## 21 **Text S1. Ice content identification in 2002-2003**

### 22 Dataset preparation

23 We downloaded all accumulation radar (AR) data acquired over the GrIS. We added  
24 coordinates to each radargram by matching the timestamps from the radargram with  
25 those provided in the flight path dataset. Radargrams were detrended in the logarithmic  
26 domain by the provider (J. Paden, personal communication 2020). We refer to the data in  
27 the radargrams as 'signal strength', in the unit of decibels.

### 28 Surface picking

29 We picked the ice sheet surface following the approach used by MacFerrin et al. (2019).  
30 First, we manually identified the surface at the start of each radargram. Then, for each  
31 trace in the radargram, the surface identification uses a vertical 100-pixel 3-standard  
32 deviation pseudo-Gaussian kernel mask over a 40 vertical pixels search window (150  
33 vertical pixels search window in MacFerrin et al. (2019)), centered on the proposed  
34 surface. The identified surface of that trace corresponds to the index of the largest value  
35 from the convolution between the kernel mask and the radar signal in the search  
36 window. The index of the identified surface is then used as a suggested surface in the  
37 next trace, and so on until the end of the radargram is reached. When the algorithm  
38 failed to identify the surface then we picked the surface manually. The surface picking  
39 procedure was smoothed similarly to MacFerrin et al. (2019) by comparing the surface  
40 slope in each trace with the average surface slope of the 10 preceding traces. If the slope  
41 difference was larger than 5 vertical pixels or was 50% higher than the average slope of  
42 the 10 preceding traces, we considered the 20 traces ahead and found the trace whose  
43 slope is within 10% the mean slope of the 10 preceding traces. We then calculated the  
44 surface location by linear interpolation between the surface pixel before the jump and  
45 the next matching trace. We inspected all resulting surface picks manually.

46 As the firn column is considered to be dry during the springtime airborne radar  
47 campaigns, we used the speed of the electromagnetic signal through refrozen ice within  
48 firn derived by MacFerrin et al. (2019) to retrieve depth in each radargram. For further

49 details on the discussion of the speed of the electromagnetic signal in such a medium,  
50 we refer the reader to MacFerrin et al., (2019).

### 51 Ice content identification

52 We identified ice content via expert manual classification of the uppermost 30 m of each  
53 radargram. Each radargram was inspected using a histogram stretch between the 2.5%  
54 and 97.5% percentiles of the radar signal strength distribution from all the radargrams of  
55 the corresponding year. As these data have been detrended in the logarithmic domain  
56 we are limited to quantifying ice layer and slab extent only, leaving thickness estimates  
57 possible only occasionally.

58 Depending on the surface regime (i.e. ablation zone, percolation zone, dry snow zone),  
59 different characteristic features can be identified within the subsurface. Fig. 1 shows four  
60 radargrams (0-30 m) that represent different subsurface conditions. Radar returns in the  
61 ablation zone (Fig. 1b) are uniform with no major variations in signal strength. The  
62 percolation zone can show thin and sharp layering probably associated with decimeter-  
63 scale ice layers (Fig. 1c), but can also show meters-thick layering probably associated  
64 with ice slabs (Fig. 1d). The dry snow zone shows regular parallel layering associated with  
65 annual snow accumulation (Fig. 1e).

66 We considered whether the signal in Fig. 1c,d was indicative of ice content. Besides ice  
67 content, there are two other possibilities: (1) liquid water presence, and (2) wind-  
68 hardened, buried surface layers. To check the likelihood of these two other possibilities,  
69 we focus on a candidate radargram in SW Greenland (Fig. S1, similar to the one shown in  
70 Fig. 1d) where layers several meters thick are thought to correspond to ice. Liquid water  
71 was discounted as the return signal associated with liquid water shows typically a  
72 mirroring (peak on the opposite side) of the signal compared to the signal peak related  
73 to the surface (e.g. Fig. 18 in Karlsson et al. (2019)). This was not observed in the  
74 candidate radargram (Fig. S1b-e). Furthermore, liquid water would blind the radar signal  
75 below, but we do not see any evidence of this (Figs. 1d and S1b-e).

76 To investigate the possibility of a wind-hardened buried surface layer, we estimated the  
77 thickness of annual snowpack accumulation. Fettweis et al. (2020) indicate that mean  
78 annual snowfall ranges between 200 and 600 mm w. e. year<sup>-1</sup> with a spread of 0-150  
79 mm w. e. year<sup>-1</sup> in the area of interest. This gives a low and high end of yearly snowfall of  
80 50-750 mm w. e. year<sup>-1</sup>. Considering a firn density of 500 kg · m<sup>-3</sup> (Braithwaite et al.,  
81 1994) yields a plausible range of 0.1 to 1.5 m thickness for each buried surface layer. As  
82 the layers in the radargram are several meters thick it is therefore unlikely that the signal  
83 corresponds to a wind-hardened buried layer and so we conclude that the return signal  
84 is associated with ice slabs. We interpret thinner layers as indicative of ice layers (see thin  
85 layering in Fig. 1c).  
86

## 87 **Text S2. Ice content identification from 2010 to 2018**

88 With radar data acquired during 2010 to 2018 we had two goals: first, to identify  
89 changing ice slab extent for comparison to the extents found in the 2002-03 period, and  
90 second, to quantify changes in slab thickness. This second goal required us to be able to  
91 quantitatively compare successive radargrams, necessitating a rigorous semi-automated  
92 approach to ice content identification.

### 93 Dataset preparation

94 We identified ice slabs in the L1B radargrams collected by the Accumulation Radar (AR)  
95 within NASA's Operation IceBridge following a similar approach to MacFerrin et al.  
96 (2019). We reprocessed the same 2010-2014 data as were used by MacFerrin et al.  
97 (2019). To identify ice slabs in data acquired during 2017 and 2018, we applied a  
98 location-based matching between the new radargrams and the 2010-2014 ice slabs  
99 extent found by MacFerrin et al. (2019). We retained all coincident radargrams as well as  
100 the ones in the vicinity of the ice slabs extent to ensure any changes in the subsurface  
101 firn near the pre-existing ice slabs would be identified. We applied a logarithmic  
102 transformation to the L1B radargrams (but did not multiply it by 10 as in Carl et al.,  
103 (2011)) and refer to this as the 'signal strength' of the radargram, in the unit of decibels.

### 104 Surface picking and defining exclusions

105 From the log-transformed radargrams we picked the surface of the ice sheet following  
106 the approach used by MacFerrin et al. (2019) (Fig. S2a) . For 2017-2018 data, we  
107 manually identified the surface of the ice sheet at the start of each radargram and  
108 provided it to the algorithm. We then applied the surface pick to the radargram (Fig.  
109 S2b) and extracted the uppermost 100 m in order to carry out the corrections procedure  
110 outlined in the next step. We manually excluded areas with lakes and other obvious  
111 artefacts (i.e. signal failure) (Fig. S2c).

### 112 Correction for aircraft roll and signal attenuation with depth

113 We corrected the radar signal strength for the roll of the aircraft following MacFerrin et  
114 al. (2019) (Fig. S2d). On occasion, the roll correction failed, which was noticeable by

115 signal return strengths remaining much lower than following a successful roll correction.  
116 Such data were excluded from further analysis. In addition, much of the data collected in  
117 2018 were affected by a periodicity artefact caused by the radar beam being steered off  
118 nadir during data collection (J. Li, personal communication, 2021) which prevented roll  
119 correction and made them ineligible for further analysis.

120 To ensure that radar signal strength returned from the subsurface would be comparable  
121 between radargrams, we subtracted the average surface radar signal strength from the  
122 sub-surface signal, thereby removing the majority of the atmospheric influences upon  
123 the return signal (Fig. S2e) while retaining the physical dimension of the radar signal.  
124 Finally, we corrected for depth attenuation of the radar signal following a slightly  
125 modified version from MacFerrin et al. (2019) (we did not apply variance normalisation)  
126 (Fig. S2f), and clipped each radargram to the uppermost 30 m corresponding to the  
127 depth range which is expected to contain ice slabs in order to simplify later processing  
128 steps.

### 129 Re-scaling of radar signal

130 Fourteen of the 448 radargrams (3%) displayed little variation in their return signal,  
131 making it difficult to identify ice slabs. We therefore rescaled these depth-corrected  
132 radargrams by applying a histogram stretch using the 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> percentiles from the  
133 combined distribution of the other depth-corrected radargrams.

### 134 Initial comparison with MacFerrin et al., (2019)

135 Initially, we reprocessed the 2010-14 data using the same ice identification algorithm as  
136 MacFerrin et al. (2019). They used a relative threshold unique to each radargram to  
137 identify ice slabs in the uppermost 20 m, but we found that this approach did not reliably  
138 return identical ice features between individual successive radargrams. Hence, the  
139 original algorithm is not well-suited to compare ice thickness across individual years. We  
140 therefore developed a new algorithm to identify ice slabs in the uppermost 20 m, based  
141 on the application of a universal range of radar signal strengths extracted from a  
142 reference radargram.

143 Identification of ice content versus porous firn

144 **Identifying the return signal strength that is indicative of ice content.** We aimed to  
145 identify the range of radar signal strengths that enables differentiation between porous  
146 firn versus ice content across the entire dataset. In 2013, MacFerrin et al. (2019) collected  
147 in-situ ground penetrating radar data and firn cores coincident with an Operation  
148 IceBridge AR radargram during the same spring, which they used to validate the  
149 identification of ice slabs in airborne radar data. Here, we adopt this AR radargram as our  
150 “reference radargram” (see Fig. S3a).

151 We manually identified ice slabs in the depth-corrected AR reference radargram (Fig.  
152 S3b), referred as in-situ ice content. We adopted a conservative approach, seeking to  
153 include ice which was positively identified in ground-based in-situ GPR data by  
154 MacFerrin et al., (2019), easily distinguishable from porous firn, and continuous. Next, we  
155 used this mask to extract the distributions of signal strength from the reference  
156 radargram for (a) porous firn and (b) ice content (Fig. S4). The overlap in the signal return  
157 strength between the two facies means that a single threshold to fully differentiate  
158 porous firn and ice content cannot be defined. Instead, we developed an algorithm using  
159 a range of thresholds based on the quantiles of the ice content signal distribution to  
160 distinguish between ice content and porous firn.

161 Fig. S3c illustrates the performance of the new algorithm on the reference radargram in  
162 detecting ice content for quantile 0.65 of the ice content distribution (our lower  
163 threshold), and Fig. S3d for quantile 0.79 (our upper threshold). Quantile 0.65 is the  
164 highest quantile for which the algorithm correctly identifies ice without erroneously  
165 including firn (see Tab. S1), at the cost of missing some ice content (see Fig. S3c). Above  
166 this threshold, some areas that have been mapped to be porous firn start to be falsely  
167 identified as ice. These facies correspond to an intermediate state between porous firn  
168 and ice slabs (see Fig. 2b,c in MacFerrin et al. (2019)), most likely several ice layers within  
169 firn. By quantile 0.80 (not shown), porous firn unlikely to contain numerous ice layers  
170 starts to be identified as ice. We therefore applied thresholds in the quantile range 0.65

171 to 0.79 from the ice content distribution to detect ice presence. We discuss accuracy  
172 further below.

173 **Extracting ice content.** For each radargram, we extracted ice content across the range  
174 of thresholds described above in 0.01 increments, corresponding to retrievals at 15  
175 individual thresholds. Following MacFerrin et al. (2019), we removed small-scale noise by  
176 applying a filter to each ice content retrieval to remove small individual ice features 1-2  
177 pixels wide, and a continuity threshold to retain only pixels which were spatially  
178 continuously connected to at least 350 other pixels. We show the resulting ice content  
179 identification for quantile 0.65 in Fig. S2h and quantile 0.79 in Fig. S2i. The ice features  
180 identified in each individual quantile is referred to ice slabs.

181 **Ice content likelihood.** We computed an ice content likelihood for each radargram as  
182 the percentage of the 15 different levels of ice content in which each pixel was identified  
183 as containing ice (Fig. S2g).

184 **Post-processing and verification.** In some radargrams we found that some porous firn  
185 areas were wrongly identified as ice, probably because of the significant overlap of the  
186 two distributions (Fig. S4). We therefore manually excluded these areas from the final  
187 results (Fig. S2j). The list of exclusions is provided in the code repository.

### 188 Accuracy assessment

189 We considered the accuracy of the extreme end members of the quantile range (quantile  
190 0.65 and quantile 0.79). Tables S1 and S2 show the two contingency tables given by  
191 quantiles 0.65 and quantile 0.79 with respect to the in-situ ice content. As could be  
192 expected from the ice content and porous firn signal strength distributions (Fig. S4), a  
193 lower threshold quantile performs better in correctly identifying porous firn but performs  
194 less well in correctly identifying ice. Conversely, a higher threshold quantile performs  
195 better in identifying ice compared to a lower threshold but at the cost of a poorer  
196 performance in correctly identifying porous firn. Overall, the total accuracy is higher for  
197 the highest quantile.

198 Ice slab extent

199 As described in the main text, we defined ice slabs as present in areas with at least 1 m  
200 of subsurface ice content by the end of the study period. Following MacFerrin et al.  
201 (2019), we only mapped ice slabs above the long-term ELA (i.e. where firn exists), and so  
202 our lower ice slabs bounds match theirs.

203 Final comparison with MacFerrin et al. (2019)

204 At higher elevations, our ice slab identification yielded some differences with the  
205 identification by MacFerrin et al. (2019). Indeed, inspection of individual radargrams  
206 revealed that MacFerrin et al. (2019) incorrectly identified ice slabs in some areas,  
207 especially in the NE towards the high boundary. As a result, our final ice slab extent  
208 differs slightly from MacFerrin et al. (2019). The largest differences are found in the NW,  
209 NO and NE (Fig. S12). For example, our 2010-2018 upper ice slabs limit extends less  
210 inland compared to the 2010-2014 extent from MacFerrin et al., (2019) in-between  
211 upstream of Petermann glacier and Qaanaaq Mitarfik (Thule Air Base) in the NW and NO.  
212 The similar is observed upstream of Nioghalvfjærdsbrae (79 N Glacier) in the NE. Overall,  
213 MacFerrin et al., (2019) estimated ice slabs extended over 64'800-69'400 km<sup>2</sup> in 2014; we  
214 find ice slabs extended over 60'400-73'500 km<sup>2</sup> in 2018.

215 **Text S3. Distinction between, ‘in-initiation’, ‘in-development’ and ‘well-**  
216 **developed’ ice slabs**

217 We analyze the ice content change from the start to the end of the studied period. We  
218 identify three stages in ice slab development corresponding to their changes in  
219 thickness:

- 220 i. In the ‘in-initiation’ stage, the firm was free of ice slabs at the start of the studied  
221 period, and had developed new ice slabs by the end of the studied period.
- 222 ii. In the ‘in-development’ stage, ice slabs experienced substantial (metres)  
223 thickening during the studied period.
- 224 iii. In the ‘well-developed’ stage, the thickness of the ice slab was already large (i.e.  
225 larger than 10 m thick) at the start of the studied period; its thickness often  
226 increased further during the studied period.

227 In Fig. S5 we illustrate these different categories by splitting transect F (Fig. 3f) into  
228 corresponding sectors. Note that we did not set the maximum boundary of ice thickness  
229 to be 16m for this analysis; ice thickness can thus reach 20 m.

230 In the “well-developed” sector, the median ice content stayed roughly the same in 2017  
231 compared to 2010 (14 m and 15 m respectively) (Fig. S5b), with negligible overall change  
232 (-2% in 2017 compared to 2010) (Fig. S5e).

233 In the “in-development” sector, the median ice content increased from 4.2 m to 11.5 m  
234 (Fig. S5c, see also the quantiles 0.25 and 0.75 in Table S3), equivalent to an increase of  
235 194% from 2010 to 2017 (Fig. S5f).

236 In the “in-initiation” sector, no ice slab was identified in 2010, but a new ice slab had  
237 developed by 2017 (Fig. S5g) whose median ice content was 5 m in 2017 (Fig. S5d).

238 We performed the same analysis for transects C and D (Fig. 3c,d) and we present the  
239 results in Table S3. We conclude similar patterns as in transect F are taking place in  
240 transects C and D.

241 **Text S4. Ice accretion**

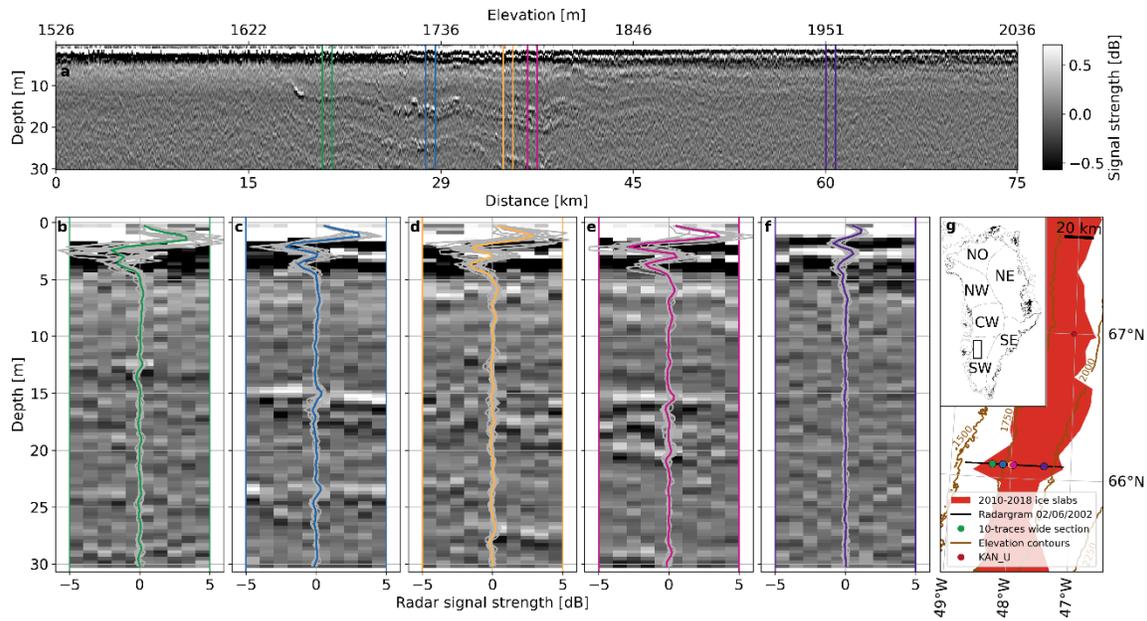
242 We differentiate between top-down ice accretion versus accretion on the undersides of  
243 ice slabs (Fig. 4d). From spring 2012 to spring 2018, both top-down and underside  
244 accretion took place, which is clearly identifiable once it has been separated from lateral  
245 and vertical displacement of the ice slab.

246 (i) **Lateral displacement:** Using local surface velocities measured from 2009 to  
247 2013, we estimate that the ice was displaced laterally by ~312 m (Doyle et al.,  
248 (2014)). This agrees well with the ~360 m that we estimate by comparing the  
249 distribution of ice content located between 15.93 and 16.52 km in 2012 with  
250 its corresponding location in 2018.

251 (ii) **Vertical displacement:** The bottom of the “double-layered” ice slab (from  
252 13.8 to 15.6 km) in 2012 was found to be roughly 2.6 m lower by 2018, while  
253 the ice slab from 16.5 to 17.7 km was found 3m deeper (Fig. 4d). This  
254 apparent movement is due to subsequent accumulation. We estimated the  
255 burial of the ice slab bottom from 2012 to 2018 using ice cores collected  
256 previously (Rennermalm et al., (2021)). Due to extreme melting in summer  
257 2012 (Fig. S6), the ice slab surface was exposed (Machguth et al., 2016),  
258 meaning that any firn pore space remaining from 2011-12 accumulation was  
259 minimal or non-existent. We were therefore able to estimate the lower  
260 boundary of the ice slab at KAN\_U in 2013 and 2017, concluding that the  
261 bottom of the thick ice slab that developed in summer 2012 was buried by  
262 roughly 1.7 m from 2013 to 2017. We lack cores from 2018 and thus cannot  
263 estimate potential firn replenishment from spring 2017 to spring 2018.  
264 Nevertheless, this estimate of 1.7 m burial between 2013 and 2017 seems a  
265 reasonable lower bound approximation for 2012-2018 firn replenishment.

266 (iii) **Top-down accretion** took place on top of the slab, thickening the ice slab by  
267 2.9 m from 2012 to 2018 in-between 16.5 and 17.7 km (Fig. 4d).

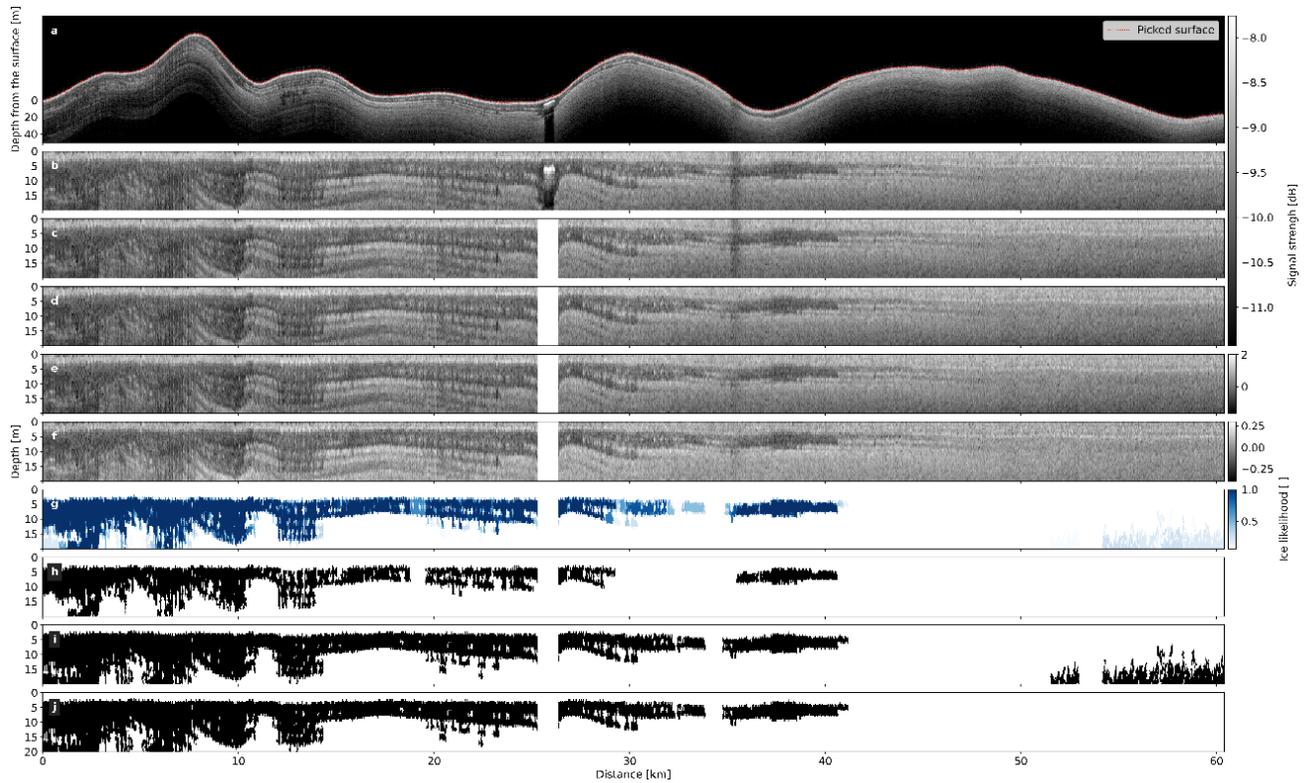
268 (iv) **Ice accretion on the undersides of ice slab** also occurred between 2012 and  
269 2018 between 13.8 and 15.6 km, commencing at 11-13 m below the surface  
270 and extending to 20 m deep (Fig. 4d).  
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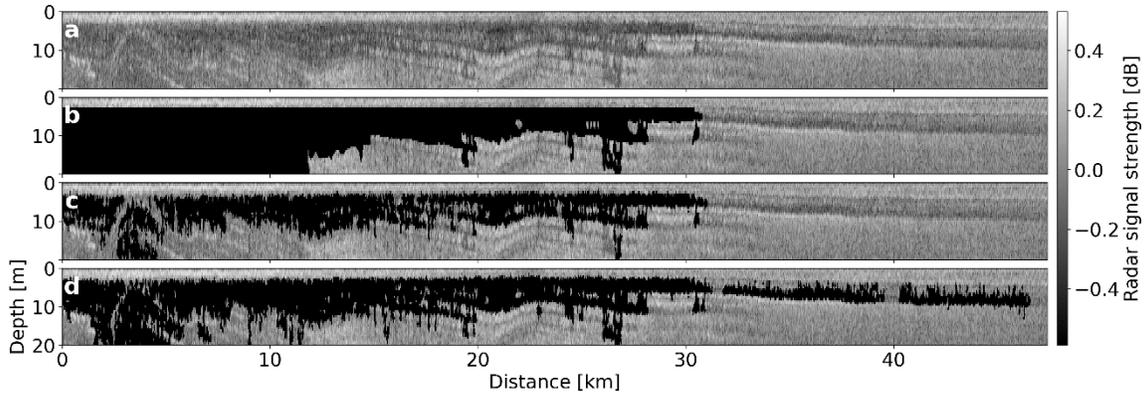
273 **Figure S1. Examples of ice content in 2003-03 data.** (a) Radargram acquired in SW  
 274 Greenland on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 (background) and 10-traces wide limits of radar signal  
 275 strength with color coding corresponding to panels b-f. (b-f) Individual trace signal  
 276 profile (grey lines), average over the 10 traces of interest (color), and 10-traces  
 277 radargram on the background. (b) An ice layer at 12-13 m depth. (c) Ice slabs are present  
 278 between 14 m and 17 m depth and between 23 m and 25 m depth, (d) between 10 m  
 279 and 20 m depth and at 27m depth, (e) in-between 15-21 m depth as well as at 29 m  
 280 depth. (f) Porous firn without ice layers nor slabs. (g) Location of radargram compared to  
 281 2010-2018 ice slabs extent.

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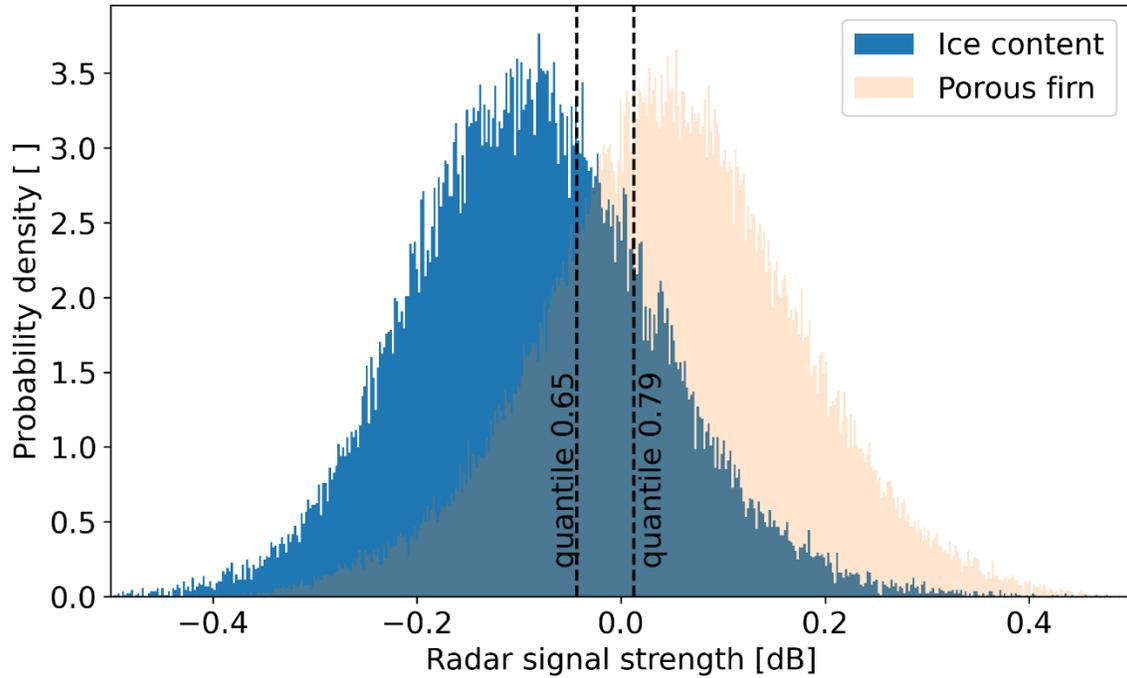
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284 **Figure S2. Processing steps to identify ice content from airborne accumulation**  
 285 **radar data**, illustrated using radargram 20140416\_05\_007\_009. (a) raw airborne  
 286 accumulation radar (AR) data before surface identification with the identified surface (red  
 287 dotted line). (b) AR data after surface picking. (c) AR data after screening for areas to be  
 288 excluded. (d) AR data after correction for the roll of the aircraft. (e) AR data after the  
 289 removal of the average surface signal strength. (f) AR data after correction for the  
 290 attenuation of the signal with depth. (g) Ice content likelihood, ranging from 0 to 1. (h)  
 291 Ice content presence where each cell was mapped as ice at quantile 0.65. (i) Ice content  
 292 presence where each cell was mapped as ice at quantile 0.79, corresponding to a  
 293 likelihood of 1. (j) Final ice content at quantile 0.79, following manual porous firn  
 294 exclusion.  
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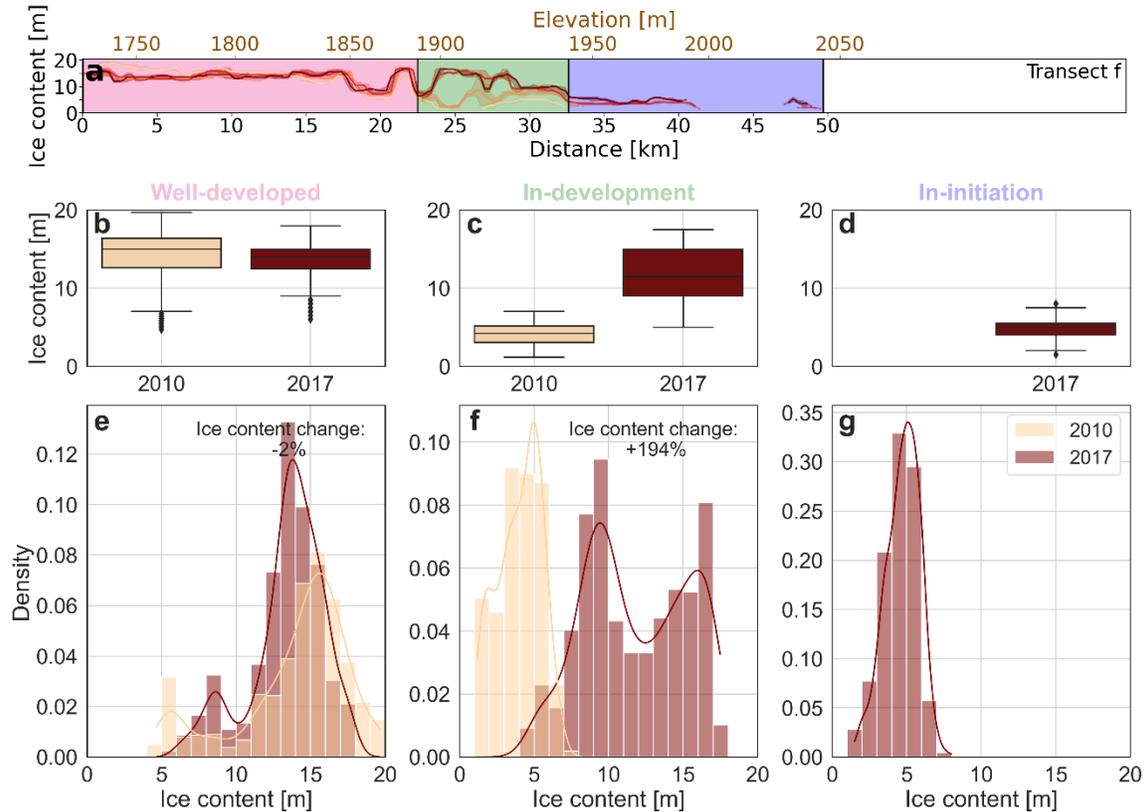
297 **Figure S3. Extraction of characteristic radar return strength from reference**  
 298 **radargram.** (a-d) Depth corrected data for the reference radargram derived from AR  
 299 data. (b) in-situ ice content mask (black). (c) Ice content retrieval using quantile 0.65 of  
 300 the ice content distribution signal strength derived by applying the in-situ ice content  
 301 mask (b) to the data in panel a. (d) As for panel c, using quantile 0.79.  
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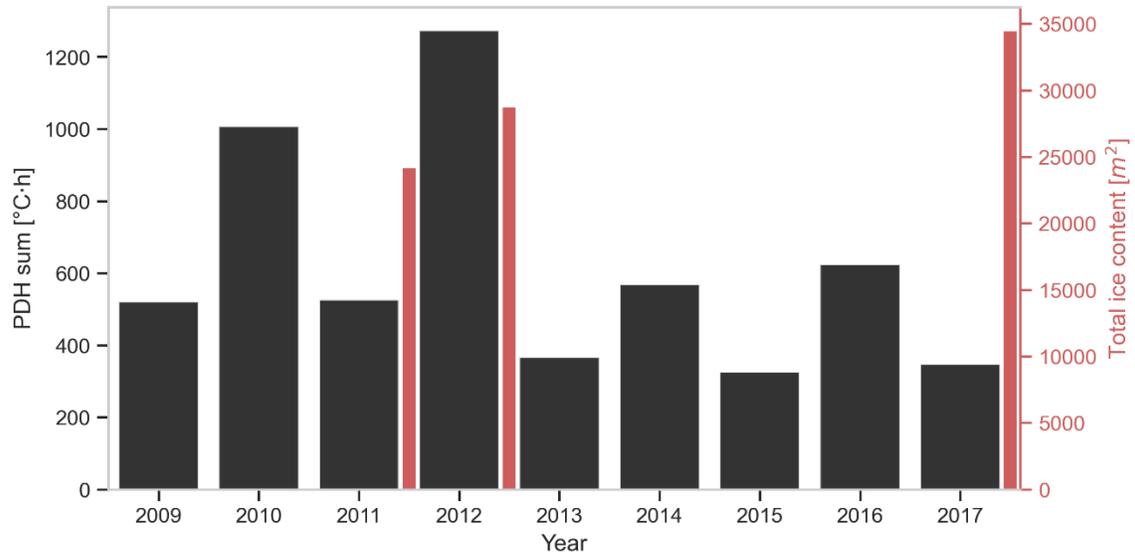
304 **Figure S4. Porous firn versus ice content signal strength distribution.** Calculated  
 305 according to in-situ ice content in the depth-corrected reference radargram. The vertical  
 306 dashed lines correspond to the quantile 0.65 and quantile 0.79 of the ice content  
 307 distribution.

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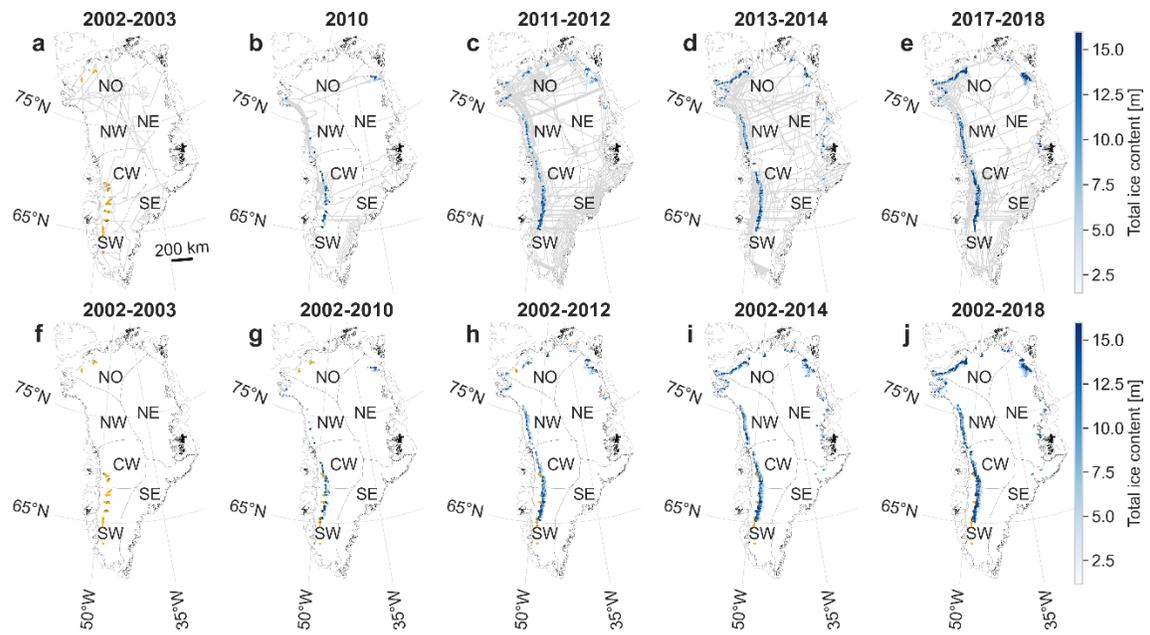
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**Figure S5. Ice content change along transect F.** (a) Ice content change from 2010 to 2017 (colored lines, same as in Fig. 3f) along the transect. The different sectors of changes in ice slabs thickness are indicated by the background shading: well-developed (pink), in-development (green), in-initiation (blue). (b-d) Boxplot of ice content in 2010 and 2017 in the three sectors. (e-f) Distribution of ice content in 2010 and 2017 in the three sectors. Lines denotes the kernel density estimate of the distributions. Percentage change indicate the relative change in total ice content in the sector of interest in 2017 compared to 2010.



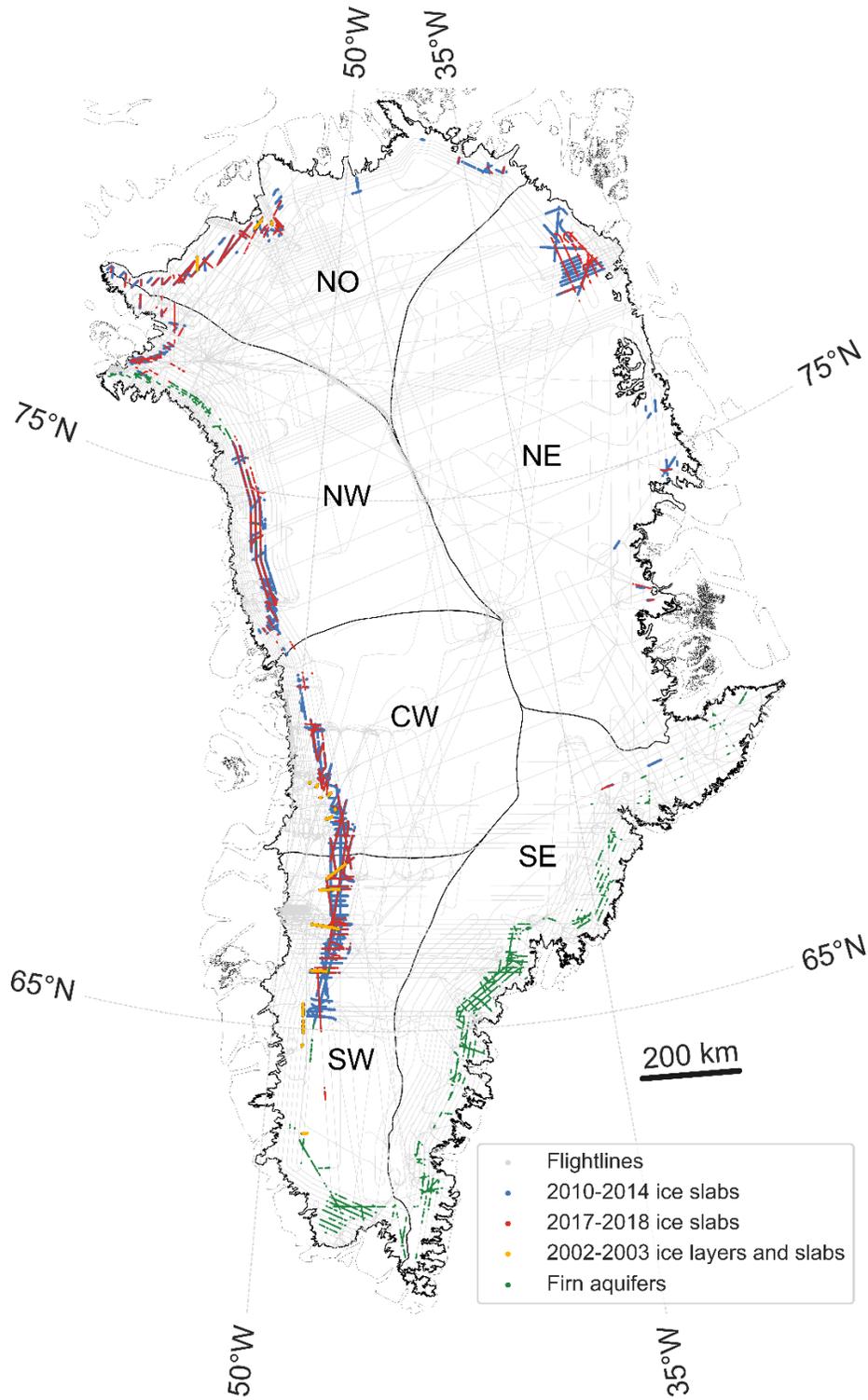
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**Figure S6. Melt potential at KAN\_U.** Positive Degree Hour sum [°C · h] during each summer (black) and total ice content according to radargrams each spring (red) within the area delimited by thick dashed lines in Fig. 4 (from 13.8 to 17.7 km).



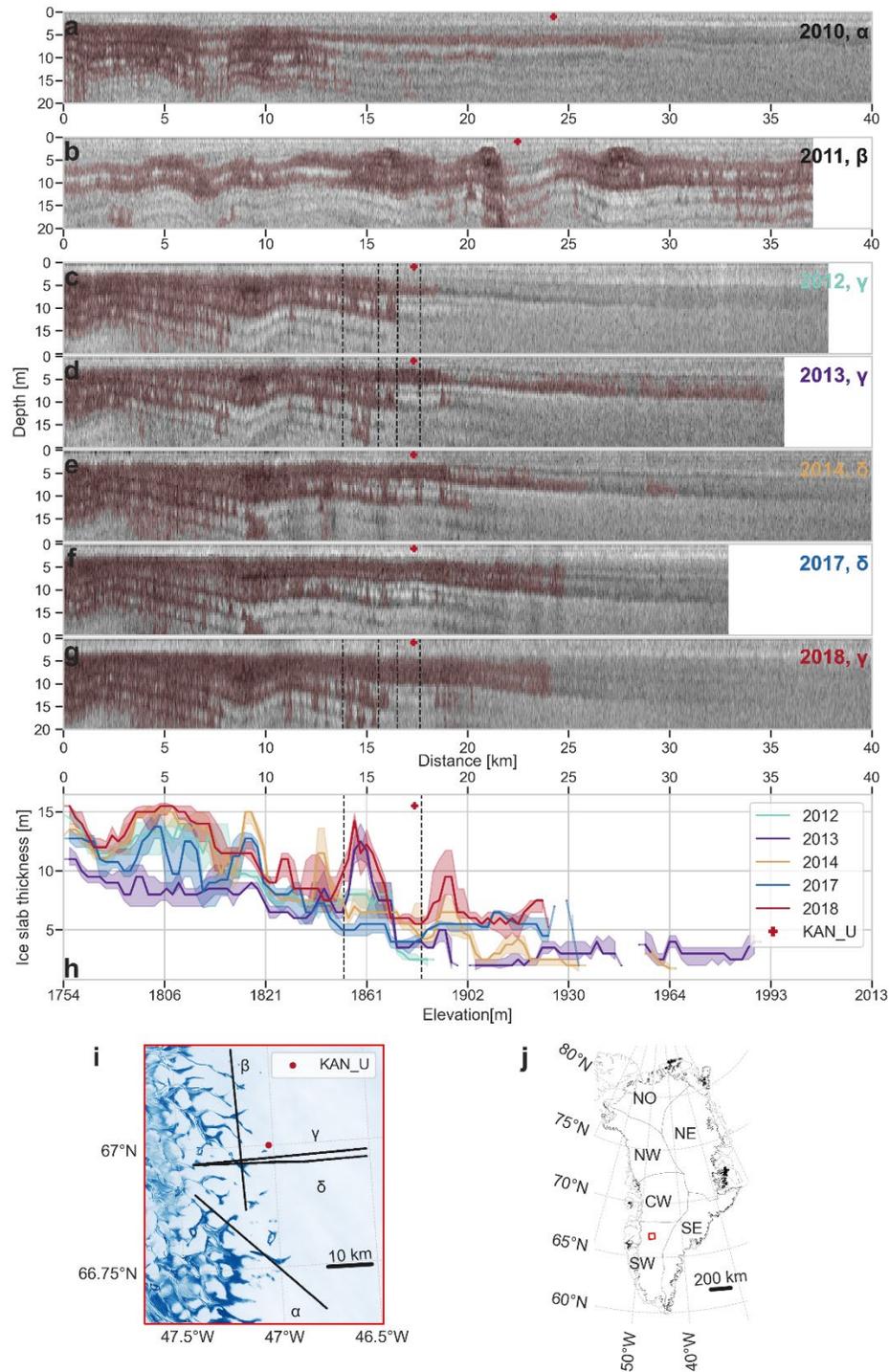
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**Figure S7. Ice slab mapping and growth over time.** (a-e) Ice slabs mapped during each time period (color) and flight line (gray). (f-j) Cumulative ice slabs mapping (color) over successively longer time periods.

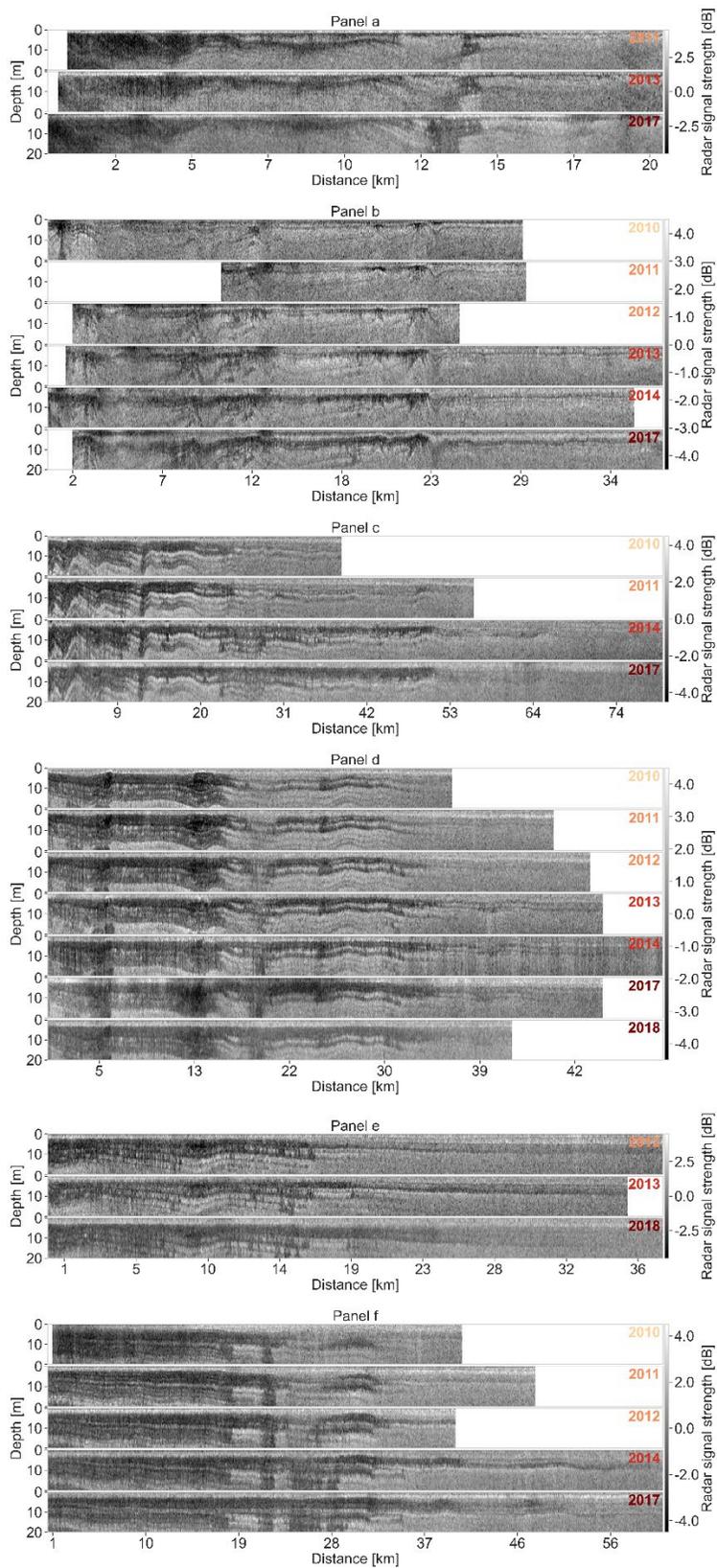


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**Figure S8. Combined ice slab presence from 2002 to 2018.** Ice layers and slabs mapped in 2002-03 (orange), 2010-14 (blue) and 2017-18 (red), firm aquifers in 2010-2014 (Miège et al., 2016) (green). Flight lines associated with 2002-2018 ice slabs are displayed in the background in grey.

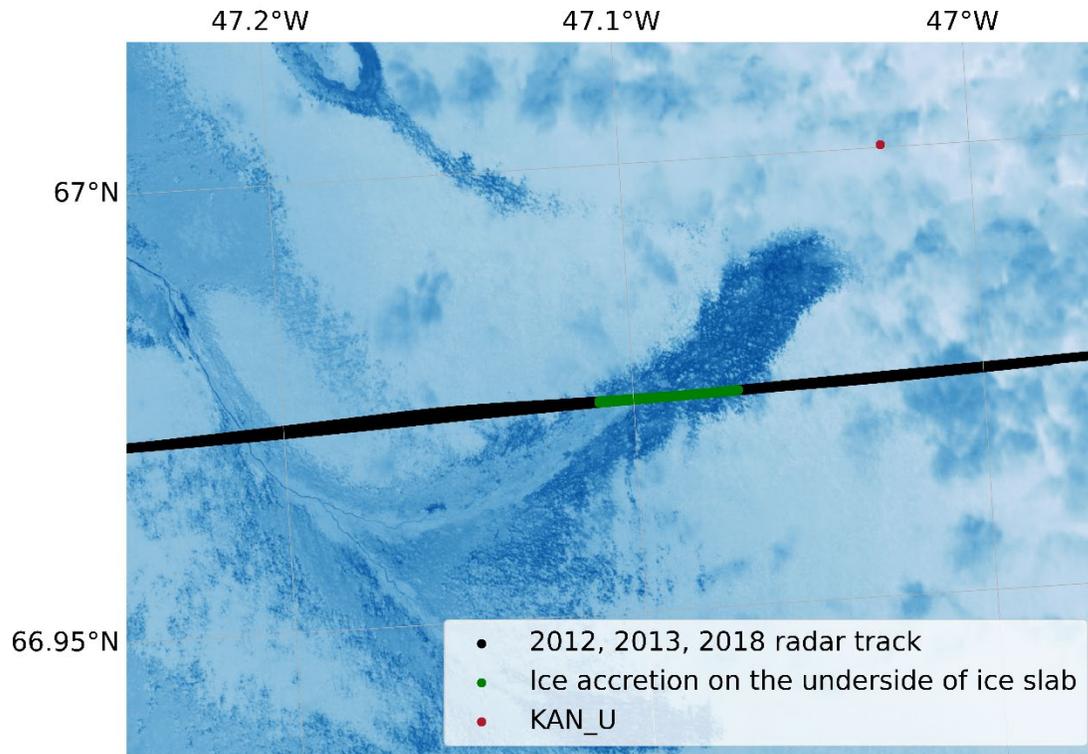


335  
 336 **Figure S9. Ice thickness through time** along a transect close to KAN\_U (red marker in  
 337 each panel). (a-g) Radargrams in greyscale and resulting maximum likely ice content  
 338 (quantile 0.79) in red. Dashed vertical lines delineate the areas discussed in the text. (h)  
 339 Ice slab thickness in uppermost 20 m of radargrams (from 2012 onwards). Equivalent  
 340 elevation (m above WGS84 ellipsoid) on lower x axis. (i) Near-infrared (band 8) Sentinel-2  
 341 image acquired on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, with radargram locations. (j) Transect location on  
 342 the GrIS (red square).



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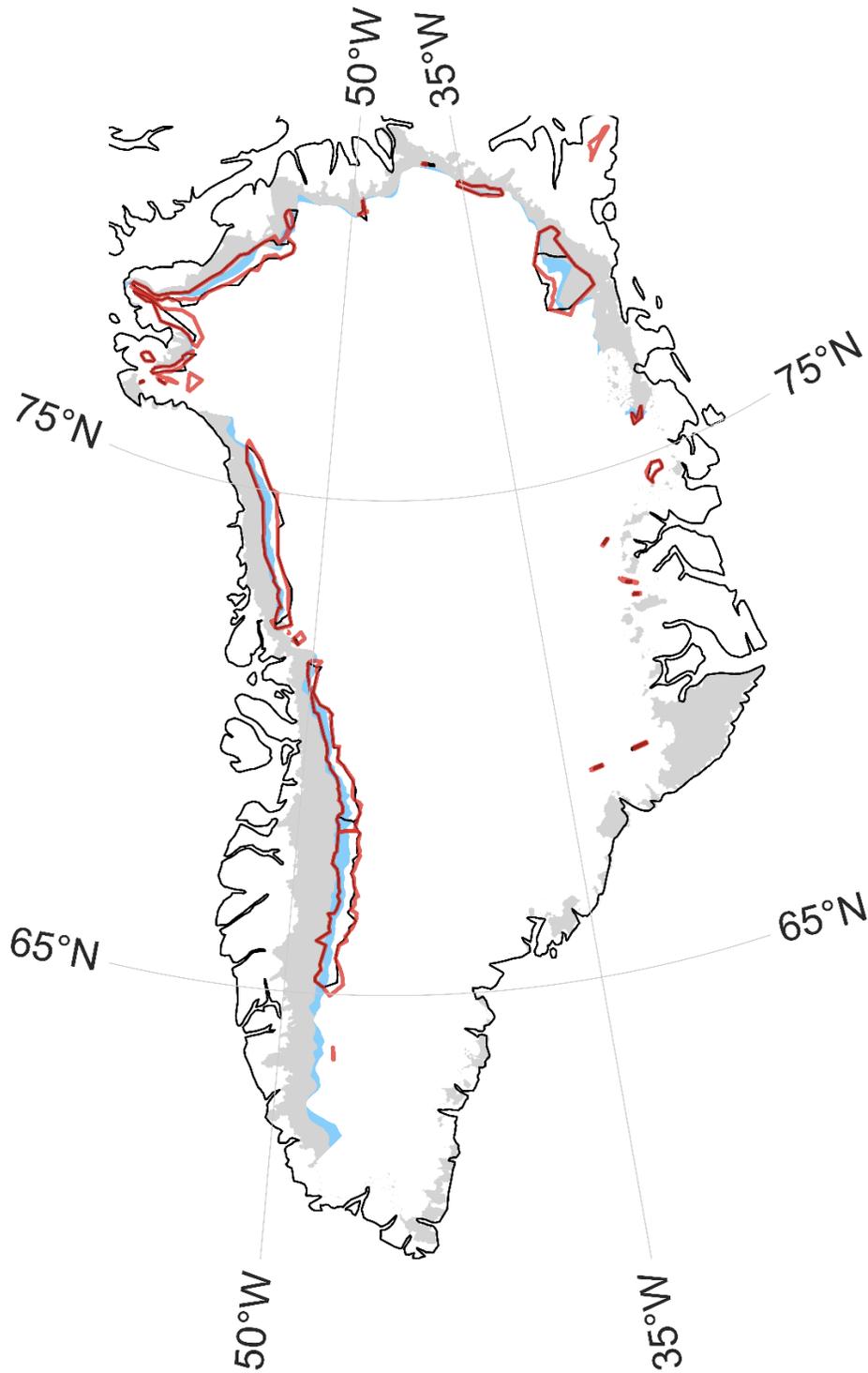
344 **Figure S10. Yearly radargrams of transects used in Fig. 3**



345

346 **Figure S11. Coincident surface hydrology and ice slab accretion.** Near-infrared (band  
 347 8) Sentinel-2 image acquired on August 24th, 2016. Dark blue corresponds to slush  
 348 fields. A developed hydrological network is seen in the lower left. Clouds are visible in  
 349 the upper right. Radargrams (black) acquired in 2012, 2013 and 2018 (same as Fig. 4b,d).  
 350 Radargrams with ice accretion on the underside of ice slab (green) identified by  
 351 comparing 2012 with 2013 and 2018 radargrams (13.8 to 15.6 km in Fig. 4). KAN\_U is  
 352 indicated by the red dot.

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**Figure S12. Comparison between visible surface runoff area and ice slab extent.** Visible surface runoff area in 1985-1992 (grey shading) and expansion in 2013-2020 (blue shading) from Tedstone & Machguth (2022). Ice slabs extent in 2010-2014 from MacFerrin et al. (2019) (black). Ice slabs extent at quantile 0.79 in 2010-2018 in this study (red).

	<b>Firn (Q 0.65)</b>	<b>Ice (Q 0.65)</b>	<b>Sum</b>	<b>Producer acc.</b>
<b>Firn (in situ)</b>	<b>98894</b>	413	99307	99.58%
<b>Ice (in situ)</b>	19426	<b>21897</b>	41323	52.99%
<b>Sum</b>	118320	22310	<b>140630</b>	
<b>User acc.</b>	83.58%	98.15%		<b>Overall acc.</b> <b>85.89%</b>

361 **Table S1.** Contingency table summarizing the performance of the algorithm in correctly  
362 retrieving porous firn and ice using quantile 0.65 of the ice content distribution as the  
363 threshold differentiating between porous firn and ice compared to the in-situ ice content  
364 being the reference. Values are in pixels. The producer's accuracy (producer acc.) relates  
365 to omission errors, e.g. not retrieving ice when it is ice, while the users' accuracy (user  
366 acc.) relates to commission errors, e.g. retrieving porous firn as ice. The overall accuracy  
367 (overall acc.) relates to how well the algorithm performs in correctly retrieving both ice  
368 and porous firn compared to the reference radargram.

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	<b>Firn (Q 0.79)</b>	<b>Ice (Q 0.79)</b>	<b>Sum</b>	<b>Producer acc.</b>
<b>Firn (in situ)</b>	<b>92999</b>	6308	99307	93.65%
<b>Ice (in situ)</b>	11001	<b>30322</b>	41323	73.38%
<b>Sum</b>	104000	36630	<b>140630</b>	
<b>User acc.</b>	89.42%	82.78%		<b>Overall acc.</b> <b>87.69%</b>

370 **Table S2.** As Table S1, using quantile 0.79 of the ice content distribution as the  
371 threshold.

	Year	Well-developed		In development		In initiation	
		[Q <sub>0.25</sub> ; Q <sub>0.5</sub> ; Q <sub>0.75</sub> ]	Change	[Q <sub>0.25</sub> ; Q <sub>0.5</sub> ; Q <sub>0.75</sub> ]	Change	[Q <sub>0.25</sub> ; Q <sub>0.5</sub> ; Q <sub>0.75</sub> ]	Change
<b>C</b>	2010	[7.7 ; 10.5 ; 13.6]	<b>+2%</b>	[3.7 ; 4.6 ; 5.1]	<b>+62%</b>	-	-
	2017	[6.0 ; 10.0 ; 15.0]		[5.0 ; 6.5 ; 8.5]		[4.5 ; 5.5 ; 6.0]	
<b>D</b>	2010	[11.5 ; 13.3 ; 15.5]	<b>+11%</b>	[2.6 ; 3.5 ; 4.4]	<b>+101%</b>	-	-
	2018	[12.5 ; 15.0 ; 16.5]		[5.0 ; 6.5 ; 9.0]		[4.5 ; 5.5 ; 6.0]	
<b>F</b>	2010	[12.6 ; 15.0 ; 16.4]	<b>-2%</b>	[3.0 ; 4.2 ; 5.1]	<b>+194%</b>	-	-
	2017	[12.5 ; 14.0 ; 15.0]		[9.0 ; 11.5 ; 15.0]		[4.0 ; 5.0 ; 5.5]	

372 **Table S3.** Summary statistics table of ice content on three transects in Fig. 3 (transects C,  
373 D, F), for the three stages of ice slab development at the start and end of the studied  
374 period. Q<sub>0.25</sub> , Q<sub>0.5</sub> , Q<sub>0.75</sub> correspond to quantiles 0.25, 0.5 and 0.75 of ice content  
375 respectively. The ice content change represents the relative change of ice content by  
376 2017 compare to 2010.