

1 Supporting Information for

2  
3 **Relationships between Greenland Ice Sheet melt season surface speeds and modeled**  
4 **effective pressures**

5  
6 Laura A. Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Ian J. Hewitt<sup>3</sup>, Sarah B. Das<sup>4</sup>, and Mark D. Behn<sup>4</sup>

7  
8 <sup>1</sup>Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Program in  
9 Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering, Woods Hole, MA 02543, USA

10 <sup>2</sup>now at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, NY 10964, USA

11 <sup>3</sup>Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

12 <sup>4</sup>Department of Geology and Geophysics, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole,  
13 MA, USA

14  
15  
16  
17 **Contents of this file:**

18  
19 Text S1–S3

20 Table S1

21 Figures S1–S16

22 References

23  
24  
25  
26

27 **Text S1. Subglacial Hydrology Model Governing Equations**

28 The subglacial water flow model is the two-dimensional model of the subglacial drainage system  
 29 used by *Banwell et al.* [2016] and originally developed by *Hewitt* [2013]. The model routes ice  
 30 sheet surface meltwater input into a continuous “sheet” connected to discrete “channels” melted  
 31 upwards into the base of the ice sheet [*Hewitt*, 2013]. A schematic of model parameters is given  
 32 in Fig. 2. Water moves between the continuous sheet of some average thickness  $h$ , and flux,  $\mathbf{q}_s$   
 33 (vector quantity); channels of cross-sectional area  $S$  and discharge  $Q$ ; and englacial storage  $\Sigma$ , to  
 34 maintain a continuous hydraulic potential  $\phi$  given by

$$35 \quad \phi = \rho_w g b + p_w, \quad (S.1)$$

36 where  $\rho_w$  is the water density,  $g$  is the gravitational acceleration,  $b$  is the basal elevation, and  $p_w$   
 37 is the water pressure. Water flux in the sheet  $\mathbf{q}_s$  is dependent on sheet thickness  $h$ , through

$$38 \quad \mathbf{q}_s = -\frac{K_s h^3}{\rho_w g} \nabla \phi, \quad (S.2)$$

39 where  $K_s$  is the sheet flux coefficient controlling the sheet permeability, making  $K_s h^3$  an effective  
 40 hydraulic transmissivity.

41 Water in the sheet is further divided into two components: a cavity sheet of thickness  $h_{cav}$   
 42 and an elastic sheet of thickness  $h_{el}$ . The sum of the height of the cavity and elastic sheet is equal  
 43 to total sheet thickness:  $h = h_{cav} + h_{el}$ . The thickness of the cavity sheet represents the height of  
 44 water-filled cavities [*Creyts and Schoof*, 2009; *Schoof et al.*, 2012], and is a balance between the  
 45 combined effects of basal ice melt and basal sliding opening cavities, and ice creep closing cavities  
 46 according to

$$47 \quad \frac{\partial h_{cav}}{\partial t} = \frac{\rho_w}{\rho_i} m + \frac{U_b (h_r - h_{cav})}{l_r} - \frac{2A}{n^n} h_{cav} |N|^{n-1} N, \quad (S.3)$$

48 where  $\rho_i$  is the ice density,  $m$  is the basal melting rate,  $U_b$  is the basal sliding speed,  $h_r$  is the bed  
 49 roughness height scale,  $l_r$  is the bed roughness length scale,  $A$  is the creep parameter in Glen’s  
 50 law,  $n$  is the creep exponent in Glen’s law, and  $N$  is the effective pressure ( $N = p_i - p_w$ ). The  
 51 magnitude of basal sliding speed  $U_b$  (scalar quantity) is prescribed everywhere to be  $100 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$ ,  
 52 which is not ideal as winter surface ice velocities in the region range from  $\sim 50\text{--}250 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$  (Fig.  
 53 1c) and exhibit variability in speedup during the melt season (Fig. 1e) [*Joughin et al.*, 2013]. The  
 54 fixed value of  $U_b$  is not ideal, as it results in a fixed rate of subglacial cavity opening (Eq. S.3).  
 55 However, as most of the water flux is accommodated by channels during the melt season, a fixed  
 56  $U_b$  likely has minimal effect on model output.

57 Basal melting rate in the sheet,  $m$ , is prescribed everywhere to be  $0.0059 \text{ m yr}^{-1}$  based on  
 58 an average geothermal heat flux,  $G$ , beneath Greenland of  $0.063 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  [*Rogozhina et al.*, 2012]  
 59 according to the equation

$$60 \quad m = \frac{G}{\rho_w L}, \quad (S.4)$$

61

71 where  $L$  is the latent heat of melting.

72

73 The elastic sheet is included to represent the elastic uplift or “hydraulic jacking” of ice  
74 where  $p_w > p_i$ . Here  $h_{el}$  is related to effective pressure,  $N = p_i - p_w$ , through

75

$$76 \quad h_{el} = \begin{cases} -C_{el} \left( N - \frac{1}{2} N_0 \right), & N < 0 \\ C_{el} \frac{(N_0 - N)^2}{2N_0}, & 0 < N < N_0 \\ 0, & N > N_0 \end{cases} \quad (S.5)$$

77

78 where  $C_{el}$  is the uplift compliance and  $N_0$  is a small regularizing pressure used to smooth this  
79 relationship. Based on this form,  $h_{el}$  is zero when  $N$  is positive ( $p_i > p_w$ ), but increases rapidly  
80 when  $p_w$  approaches or exceeds  $p_i$  ( $N \leq 0$ ). A constant value for  $C_{el}$  of  $1.02 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m Pa}^{-1}$  is set  
81 for all model runs, resulting in 1 m of uplift for 100 m of excess hydraulic head (There is a typo in  
82 the value of  $C_{el}$  in *Banwell et al.* [2016]). While this treatment of  $h_{el}$  allows for the injection of  
83 a large amount of meltwater into the subglacial drainage system without generating unrealistically  
84 large water pressures in the cavity layer or channels, elastic bending stress in the ice is not  
85 accounted for. For example, a non-zero  $h_{el}$  at one node does not necessarily cause its neighboring  
86 nodes to also become hydraulically jacked. Rather, the activation of the elastic sheet affects the  
87 pressure gradient between neighboring nodes. As stated above, the sum of the height of the cavity  
88 and elastic sheet is the total sheet thickness, which drives discharge in the sheet (Eq. S.2).

89

90 Water in the sheet is connected to discrete channels. Water discharge in the channels,  $Q$ , is  
91 given by

92

$$93 \quad Q = -K_c S^{\frac{5}{4}} \left| \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial s} \right|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial s}, \quad (S.6)$$

94

95 where  $K_c$  is a turbulent flow coefficient for channel flow, and  $S$  is the cross-sectional area of  
96 channel at a distance along the channel  $s$ . The growth and decay of channel cross-sectional area is  
97 a competition between the melt back and creep closure of channel walls given by

98

$$99 \quad \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \frac{\rho_w}{\rho_i} M - \frac{2A}{n^n} S |N|^{n-1} N, \quad (S.7)$$

100

101 where  $M$  is the melting rate. The melting rate  $M$ , is expressed as

102

$$103 \quad M = \frac{|Q \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial s}|}{\rho_w L} + \frac{\lambda_c |q \cdot \nabla \Phi|}{\rho_w L}, \quad (S.8)$$

104

105 where  $\lambda_c$  is the incipient sheet width contributing to channel melting (the length scale over which  
106 ice melting contributes to channel formation). The first term is the channel melting rate as a  
107 function of channel discharge and hydraulic potential along the channel, and the second term  
108 should be viewed as a parameterization of how small channels emerge from a sheet flow [*Hewitt*  
109 *et al.*, 2012]. The appropriate value for  $\lambda_c$  is rather uncertain and discussed in Section 4.4.1.

110

111 Finally, mass conservation is expressed as a balance between the sheet, channels, and  
 112 englacial storage with basal melting, channel wall melting, and surface runoff inputs  $R$  according  
 113 to

$$114 \left[ \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{q}_s \right] + \left[ \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial s} \right] \delta(x_c) + \frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial t} = m + M\delta(x_c) + R, \quad (\text{S.9})$$

116 where  $\Sigma$  is englacial storage, which represents the additional water storage in connected englacial  
 117 void space [Harper *et al.*, 2010; Bartholomaus *et al.*, 2011; Hewitt, 2013]. Englacial storage is  
 118 related to water pressure through  
 119

$$120 \Sigma = \sigma \frac{p_w}{\rho_w g} + A_m \frac{p_w}{\rho_w g} \delta(x_m), \quad (\text{S.10})$$

122 where  $\sigma$  is the connected void fraction of the ice and  $A_m$  is the cross-sectional area of the moulin.  
 123 For Eqs. S.9 and S.10, the delta functions only apply at the line positions of the channels,  $x_c(s)$ ,  
 124 and the point positions of moulins,  $x_m$ .

126  
 127

### 128 **Text S2. Numerical procedure**

129 The subglacial hydrology equations above are discretized onto a two-dimensional, regular  
 130 rectangular mesh and solved using a finite difference approach [Hewitt, 2013]. Nodes are spaced  
 131 900-m apart. The continuous variables hydraulic potential  $\phi$ , water sheet thickness  $h$ , and water  
 132 pressure  $p_w$  are discretized onto the nodes of the grid. Every node on the grid is the center of a  
 133 finite volume square over which flux in the sheet,  $\mathbf{q}_s$ , is calculated. Eight potential channels  
 134 connect every node to its closest surrounding eight nodes. Moulins are defined on a selection of  
 135 the nodes  $x_m$  chosen based on the surface runoff forcing as discussed in Section 4.3.2.4. The non-  
 136 linear system for the evolution of  $p_w$ ,  $h$ , and  $S$  described in Eqs. (S.1–S.10) is solved at each  
 137 timestep using an iterative Newton method with variable time step length based on the success of  
 138 the last iteration. The maximum time step the model can take is set to one day, with time steps  
 139 decreasing to only a couple hours during periods of high surface runoff during the melt season.

140  
 141

### 142 **Text S3. Coherence and spectral estimation.**

143 We employ coherence estimates to compare goodness of fit between surface speeds, static  
 144 variables, and model output effective pressures. Coherence is a bivariate statistic in the spectral  
 145 domain that is analogous to correlation in the spatial domain [Simons *et al.*, 2000]. Coherence  
 146 measures the phase relationship between two signals, with high coherence values indicating  
 147 constructive interference at wavenumbers where the two signals are correlated [for review, see  
 148 Kirby, 2014]. For geophysical problems, one-dimensional coherence was first used by Forsyth  
 149 [1985] to estimate flexural rigidity of the lithosphere through coherence between topography and  
 150 gravity anomalies along transects across continental rift valleys [Forsyth, 1985]. The approach  
 151 was expanded by Simons *et al.* [2000] to investigate two-dimensional lithospheric loading from  
 152 the coherence between two-dimensional fields of topography and gravity anomalies [Simons *et al.*,  
 153 2000, 2003]. The coherence estimation between two two-dimensional fields yields information in  
 154 the spectral, spatial, and azimuthal domains, which provides the wavelength, spatial, and  
 155 directional dependence of the coherence between the two fields, respectively [Simons *et al.*, 2003].

156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163

We follow the methodology and analysis routines of *Simons et al.* [2000] for estimating two-dimensional coherence of stationary fields. For two stochastic fields (*e.g.*, surface ice velocity ( $X$ ) and bedrock topography ( $Y$ )) defined on  $\mathbf{d}$  in the spatial domain and  $\mathbf{k}$  in the Fourier domain, the coherence-square function between the two fields,  $\gamma_{XY}^2$ , is the ratio between the magnitude of the fields' cross-spectral density,  $S_{XY}$ , and the power spectral density of the individual fields,  $S_{XX}$  and  $S_{YY}$ :

$$\gamma_{XY}^2(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{|S_{XY}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k})|^2}{S_{XX}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k})S_{YY}(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{k})}. \quad (\text{S.11})$$

164  
165  
166  
167  
168

Like correlation estimates, coherence-square estimates range from  $0 < \gamma_{XY}^2 < 1$ , with  $\gamma_{XY}^2 = 1$  indicating an entirely consistent phase relationship between both fields [*Simons et al.*, 2003].

169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180

Some amount of averaging in the wavenumber domain must be completed prior to calculating  $\gamma_{XY}^2$  to prevent the ratio of periodograms expressed in Eq. S.11 from always yielding  $\gamma_{XY}^2 = 1$  [*Bendat and Piersol*, 1993]. Following *Simons et al.* [2000], we use multitaper spectral estimation [*Thomson*, 1982] with two-dimensional Slepian tapers [*Slepian*, 1978] on a Cartesian plane to perform this wavenumber averaging. A weighted average of the spectra is created by multiplying the data by a set of several chosen tapers, taking the two-dimensional Fourier transform of these data-taper products, and finally taking an average in wavenumber space of the resulting power spectra [*Kirby*, 2014]. The result is a coherence-square estimation over the wavenumber domain,  $\gamma_{XY}^2(\mathbf{k}_X, \mathbf{k}_Y)$ . Isotropic coherence-square estimates,  $\gamma^2(|\mathbf{k}|)$ , are calculated by averaging over  $360^\circ$  of azimuth around logarithmically-spaced annuli in the wavenumber domain [*Kirby*, 2014]. A coherence-square estimation of synthetic data is provided in Figure S4 to illustrate this methodology.

181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188

The number and bandwidth of the chosen set of tapers determines the wavenumber resolution and variance of the coherence-square estimate [*Simons et al.*, 2000]. A higher number of tapers and/or a wider taper bandwidth reduces the variance in the coherence-square estimate and reduces the waveband resolution [*Kirby*, 2014]. Most studies choose taper bandwidths to be the width of 2–5 wavenumber bands [*Simons et al.*, 2000; *Kirby*, 2014]. For this study, we set the taper bandwidth,  $NW$ , to 3 and the number of tapers  $K$  to 4 for all coherence-square estimates.

189  
190  
191

As the coherence-square estimate is a statistic, the variance of the isotropic coherence-square estimate is calculated following the Cramer-Rao lower bound:

$$\sigma^2\{\gamma^2(|\mathbf{k}|)\} = \frac{2\gamma^2(1-\gamma^2)^2}{J\Lambda}, \quad (\text{S.12})$$

192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199

which is a measurement of variance determined by maximum likelihood estimates [*Seymour and Cumming*, 1994; *Simons et al.*, 2003], where  $J$  is the number of uncorrelated spectral estimators over which the coherence-square estimate is made [*Simons et al.*, 2003], and  $\Lambda$  is the number of points in the wavenumber annuli [*Simons et al.*, 2000]. In our two-dimensional case,  $J = K^2$  [*Simons et al.*, 2003]. As we have set  $K = 4$ ,  $J = K^2 = 16$  uncorrelated spectral estimators. Error estimates of  $\gamma^2(|\mathbf{k}|)$  presented throughout the paper are two standard deviations,  $2\sigma$ . With  $J = 16$ ,

200 the  $2\sigma$  values across all possible  $\gamma^2(|\mathbf{k}|)$  values increases with increasing wavelength, from a  
201 minimum of 0.025 at 2 km wavelength to maximum of 0.96 at 30.9 km wavelength.

202

203 Finally, the range of wavelengths we can investigate in the spectral domain is set by our  
204 data length,  $(N_x, N_y)$ , and data spacing,  $(dx, dy)$ , in the spatial domain. Our coherence-square  
205 estimates are constrained by surface velocity data from single-look complex TerraSAR-X radar  
206 images, which have  $dx = dy = 0.1 \text{ km}$ ,  $N_x = 309$  data points, and  $N_y = 552$  data points. The  
207 longest resolvable wavelength (the Rayleigh wavelength,  $\lambda_R$ ) is set by the shorter  $x$  dimension to  
208 be  $\lambda_{Rx} = N_x dx = 30.9 \text{ km}$ . The shortest resolvable wavelength in either direction is the Nyquist  
209 wavelength,  $\lambda_N = 2 dx = 0.2 \text{ km}$ .

210 **Table S1: Values and ranges used for model parameters.**

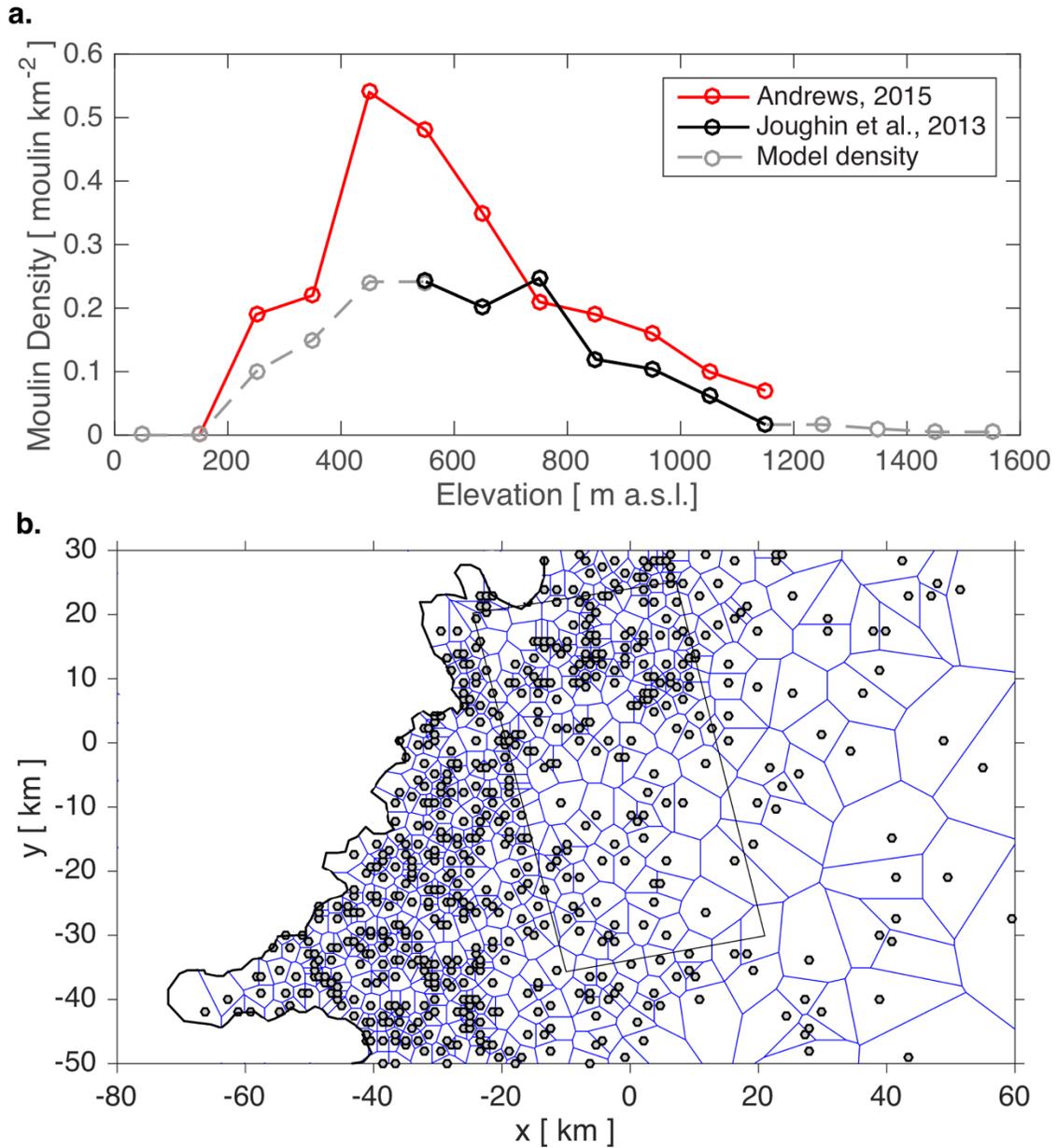
211

$\rho_w$	Water density	1000 kg m <sup>-3</sup>
$\rho_i$	Ice density	910 kg m <sup>-3</sup>
$g$	Gravitational acceleration	9.8 m s <sup>-2</sup>
$A$	Glen's law fluidity coefficient	$6.8 \times 10^{-24}$ Pa <sup>-3</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
$n$	Glen's law exponent	3
$L$	Latent heat of melting	$3.5 \times 10^5$ J kg <sup>-3</sup>
$G$	Greenland geothermal heat flux	0.063 W m <sup>-2</sup> **
$\sigma$	Englacial void fraction	[10 <sup>-4</sup> , 10 <sup>-3</sup> , 10 <sup>-2</sup> ]
$K_c$	Turbulent flow coefficient for channel flow	0.1 m s <sup>-1</sup> Pa <sup>-1/2</sup>
$K_s$	Sheet flux coefficient (sheet permeability)	[10 <sup>-4</sup> , 10 <sup>-3</sup> , 10 <sup>-2</sup> ] m <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> *
$\lambda_c$	Sheet width contributing to melting	[100; 1000; 5000] m *
$c$	Specific heat capacity of water	4200 J kg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup>
$\beta$	Melting point pressure gradient	$7.8 \times 10^{-8}$ K Pa <sup>-1</sup>
$h_r$	Bed roughness height scale	0.1 m
$l_r$	Bed roughness length scale	10 m
$U_b$	Basal sliding speed	100 m yr <sup>-1</sup>
$C_{el}$	Uplift regularization rate	$1.02 \times 10^{-6}$ m Pa <sup>-1</sup>
$A_m$	Moulin cross-sectional area	10 m <sup>2</sup>

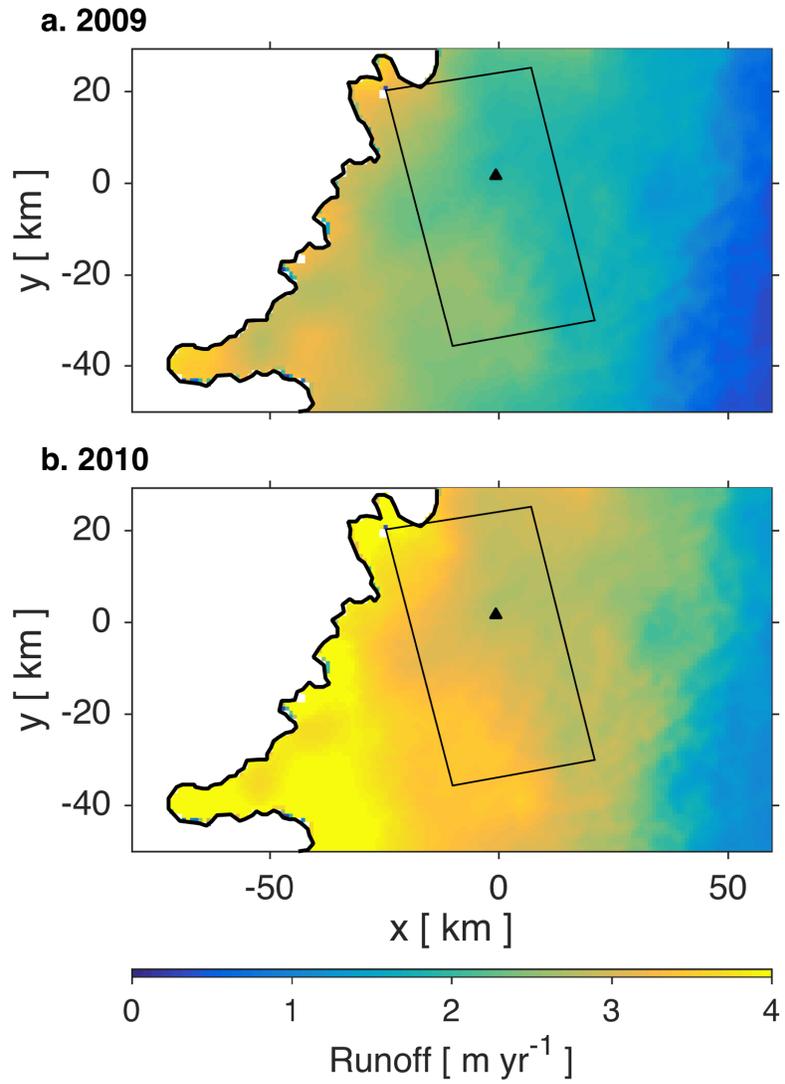
212 \* range of values that differs from *Banwell et al.* (2016)

213 \*\* value from *Rogozhina et al.* [2012]

214

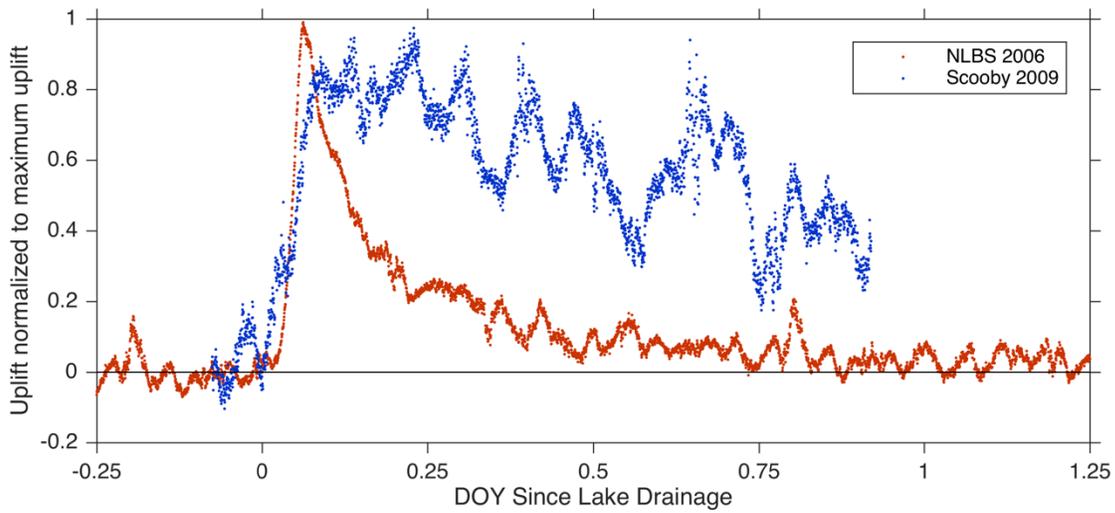
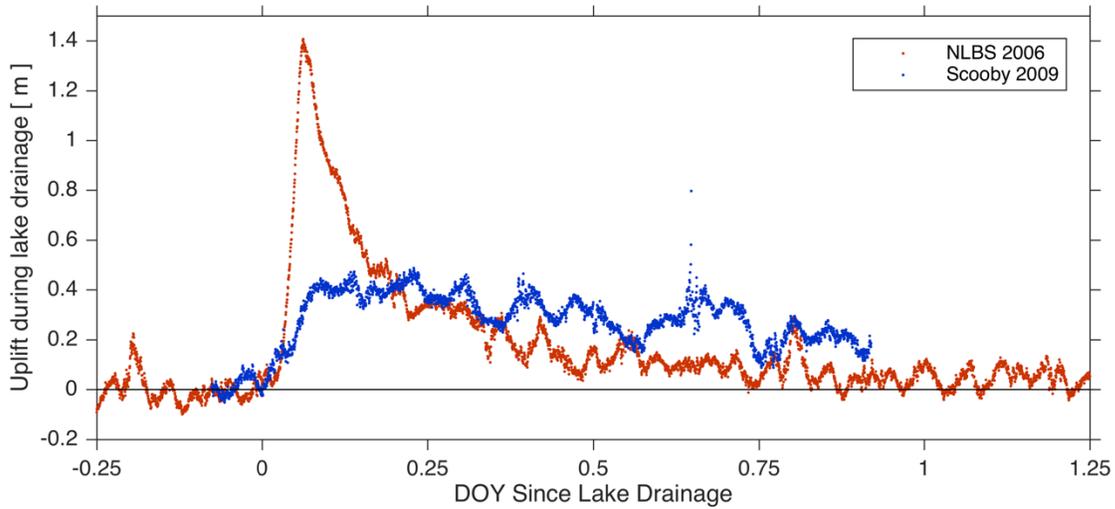


215  
 216 **Figure S1. Moulin density and discrete surface runoff catchment delineation.** (a) Moulin  
 217 density versus elevation from *Joughin et al.* [2013] map (black), the Paakitsoq region (red) (from  
 218 *Andrews* [2015]), and the model domain (grey). (b) Voronoi cells calculated for discrete moulin  
 219 locations  $\mathbf{x}_m$  (grey circles).

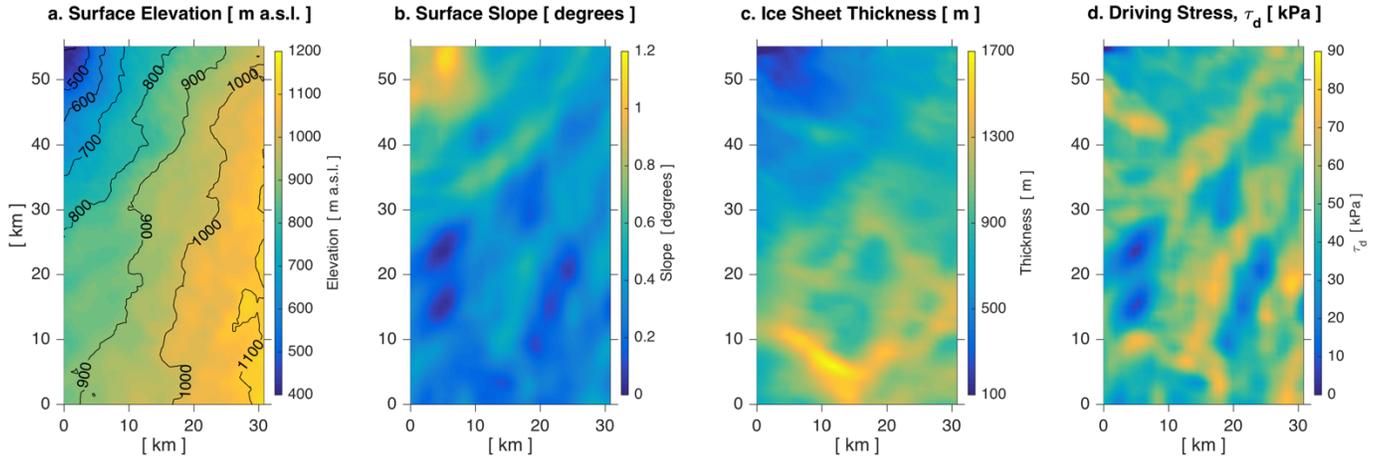


220  
221  
222  
223

Figure S2. Total runoff across the model domain in (a) 2009 and (b) 2010.

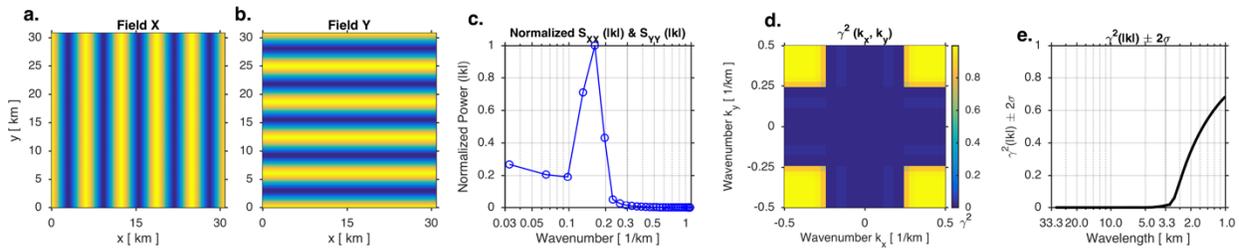


224  
 225 **Figure S3: Surface ice displacement during the rapid drainage of North Lake on 2006 DOY**  
 226 **210 and 2009 DOY 168. (a)** Uplift of NLBS GPS station in 2006 (red) and “Scooby” GPS station  
 227 in 2009 (blue) during North Lake rapid drainage events. Both stations are located at 68.74° N  
 228 49.50° W, roughly 1.5 km north of the lake margin. **(b)** Uplift of the same two stations normalized  
 229 to their maximum uplift during respective North Lake rapid drainage events.



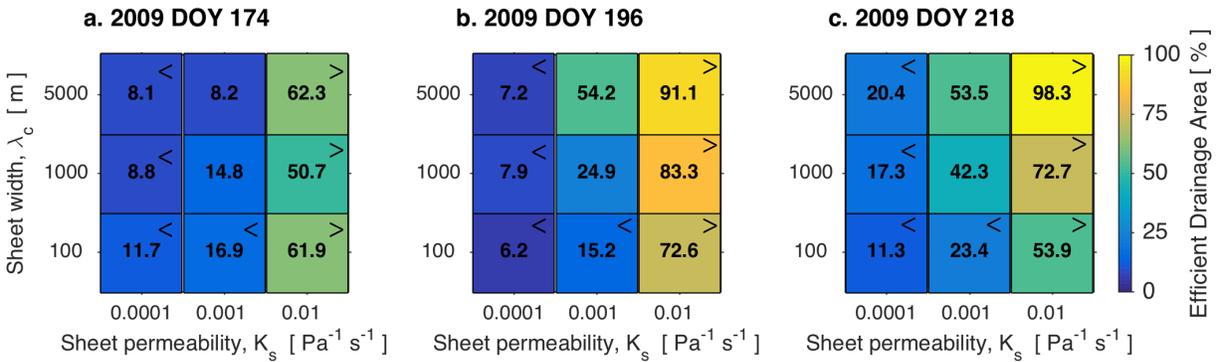
231  
231 **Figure S4: Surface elevation, surface slope, ice sheet thickness, and driving stress  $\tau_d$  for the**  
232 **TerraSAR-X region.**

233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241

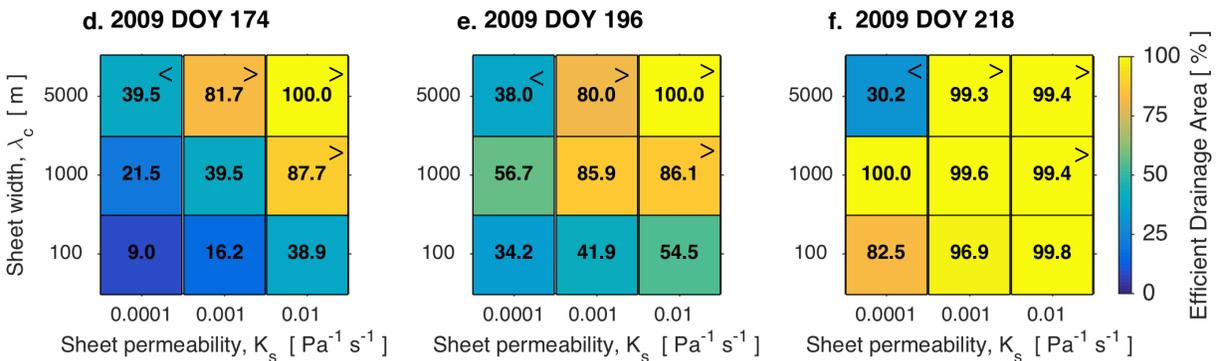


242  
243  
244 **Figure S5. Coherence-square estimation of synthetic data.** 2-dimensional, 6-km wavelength  
245 sine wave along the (a) x-axis and (b) y-axis. (c) Isotropically averaged power of the two fields'  
246 power spectral densities,  $\mathbf{S}_{XX}$  and  $\mathbf{S}_{YY}$ , plotted by wavenumber. Power is plotted normalized to the  
247 maximum value in each fields' isotropically averaged power. Power for each field peaks at  $0.1\bar{6}$   
248 wavenumber, which is at 6-km wavelength (wavenumber = 1/wavelength). (d) The coherence-  
249 square estimates between fields X (a) and Y (b) in wavenumber space,  $\gamma^2(\mathbf{k}_X, \mathbf{k}_Y)$ , where the  
250 smallest wavenumbers (largest, Rayleigh wavelengths) plot in the center of plot ( $\mathbf{k}_X = \lambda_R$ ,  $\mathbf{k}_Y =$   
251  $\lambda_R$ ), and the largest wavenumbers (smallest, Nyquist wavelengths) plot at the edges of the plot.  
252 The scale for the  $\mathbf{k}_X$  and  $\mathbf{k}_Y$  axes are linear in wavenumber. Wavenumber axis is log scale. Zero  
253 coherence is observed along the  $\mathbf{k}_X$  and  $\mathbf{k}_Y$  axes where the two fields have destructive interference.  
254 Coherence between the two fields switches to 1 at wavenumbers above 0.25 and wavelengths  
255 smaller than 4 km. (e) The isotropically averaged coherence-square estimate,  $\gamma^2(|\mathbf{k}|) \pm 2\sigma$ ,  
256 between fields a and b. The log x-axis is equivalent to the axis in panel c, but x-axis tickmarks are  
257 now labeled in wavelength.

Distributed Surface Input ( $\sigma=0.01$ )



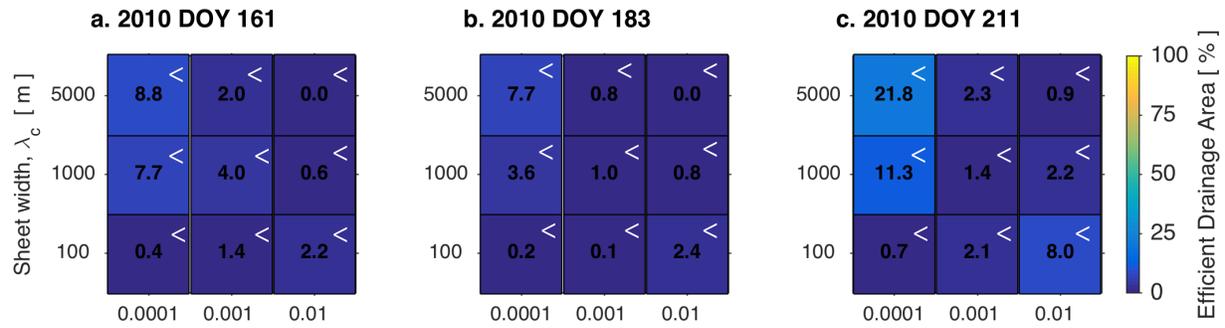
Distributed Surface Input ( $\sigma=0.0001$ )



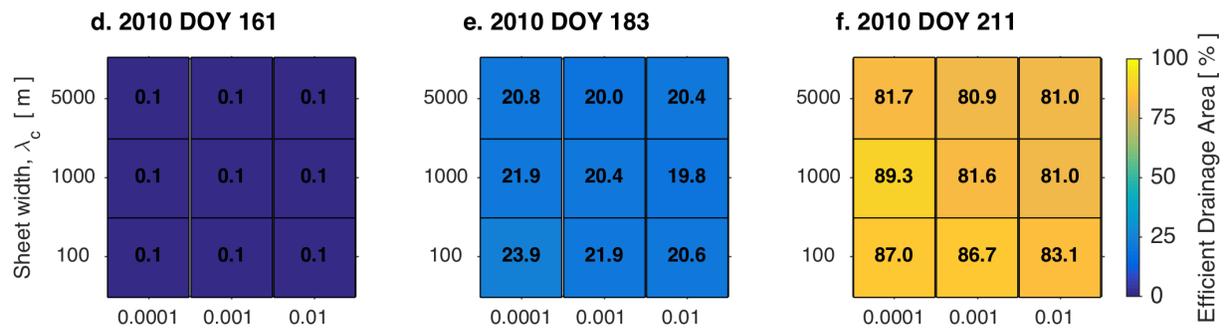
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266

**Figure S6. Region of efficient drainage area for 2009 distributed surface runoff input at  $\sigma = 0.01$  and  $\sigma = 0.0001$ .** Percentage of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space for distributed surface input models on DOY (a) 174, (b) 196, and (c) 218 of 2009 with  $\sigma = 0.01$ . Percentage of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space for distributed surface input models on DOY (d) 174, (e) 196, and (f) 218 of 2009 with  $\sigma = 0.0001$ . Efficient drainage area is defined as the area within the TerraSAR-X region where  $N > 0$  and  $q > 0.001 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . “>” mark models that channelize too quickly with an EDA  $> 40\%$  on DOY 174 2009. “<” mark models that channelize too slowly with an EDA  $< 40\%$  on DOY 218 2009.

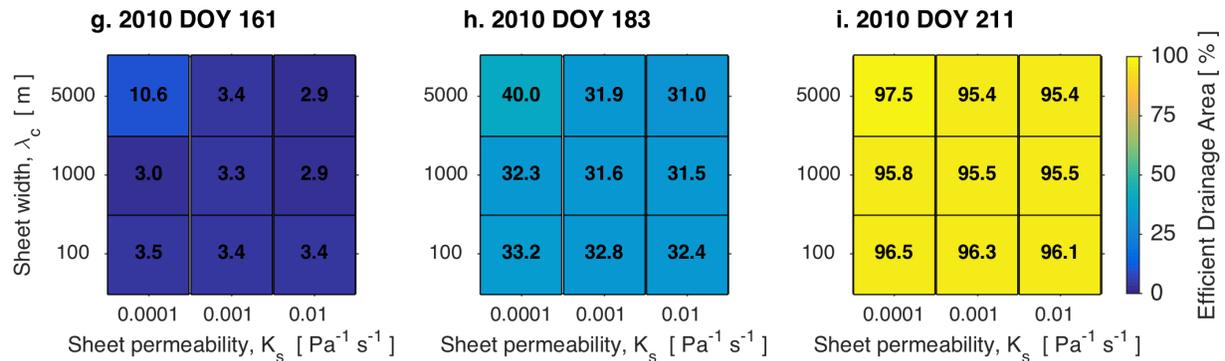
High Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.01$ )



Medium Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.001$ )



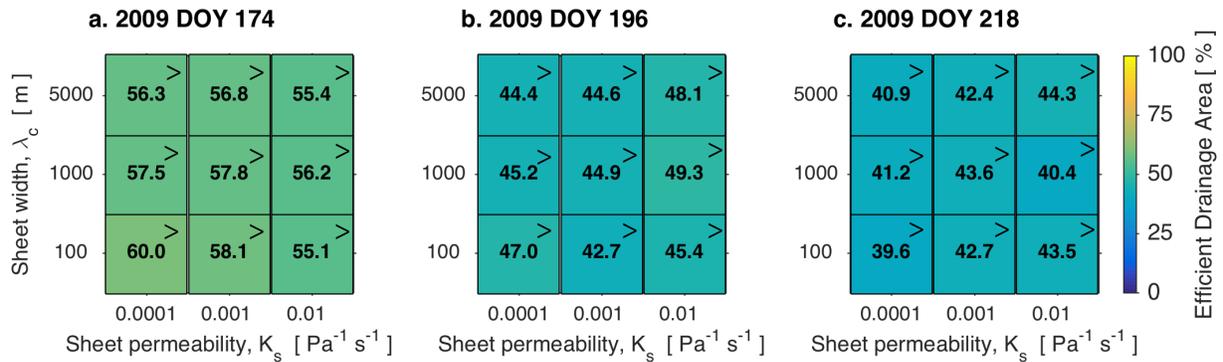
Low Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.0001$ )



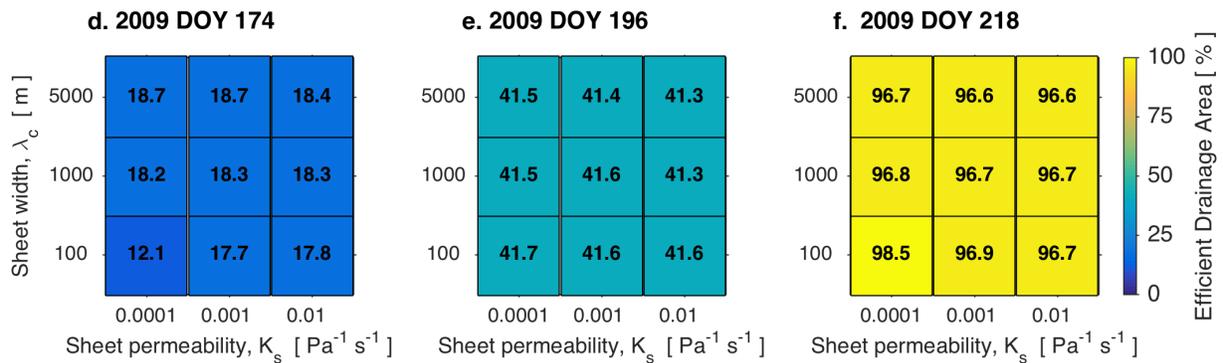
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275

**Figure S7. Region of efficient drainage area for 2010 distributed surface runoff input.** Percentage of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space for distributed surface input models on DOY 161, 183, and 211 of 2010. Efficient drainage area (EDA) is defined as the area within the TerraSAR-X region where  $N > 0$  and  $q > 0.001 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Englacial void fraction  $\sigma$  decreases down the three rows of the figure from  $\sigma = 0.01$  (a–c), to  $\sigma = 0.001$  (d–f), to  $\sigma = 0.0001$  (g–i). “<” mark models that channelize too slowly with an EDA < 40% on DOY 211 2010.

Discrete (Moulin) Surface Input ( $\sigma=0.01$ )



Discrete (Moulin) Surface Input ( $\sigma=0.0001$ )

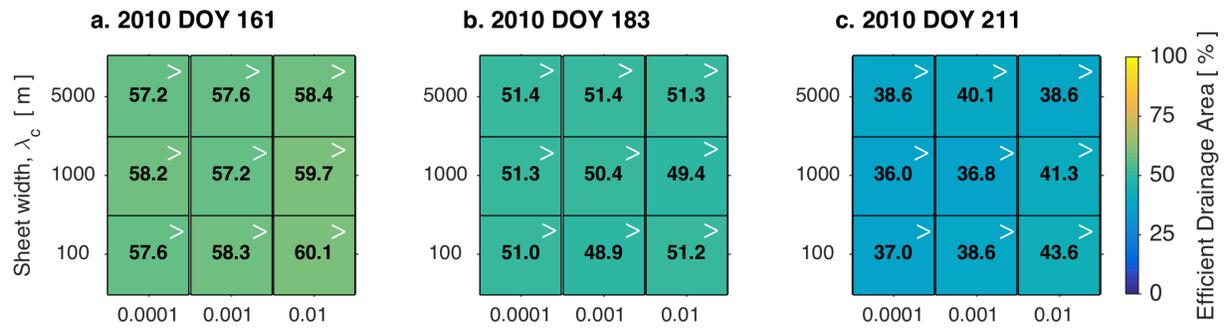


276  
277

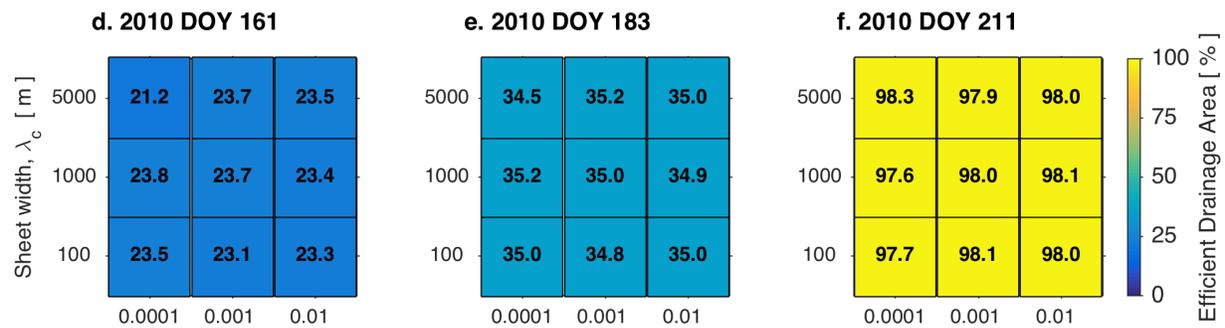
278 **Figure S8. Region of efficient drainage area for 2009 discrete surface runoff input at  $\sigma =$**   
 279  **$0.01$  and  $\sigma = 0.0001$ .** Percentage of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space  
 280 for discrete surface input models on DOY (a) 174, (b) 196, and (c) 218 of 2009 with  $\sigma = 0.01$ .  
 281 Percentage of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space for discrete surface input  
 282 models on DOY (d) 174, (e) 196, and (f) 218 of 2009 with  $\sigma = 0.0001$ . Efficient drainage area is  
 283 defined as the area within the TerraSAR-X region where  $N > 0$  and  $q > 0.001 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . “>” mark  
 284 models that channelize too quickly with an EDA > 40% on DOY 174 2009.

285  
286  
287

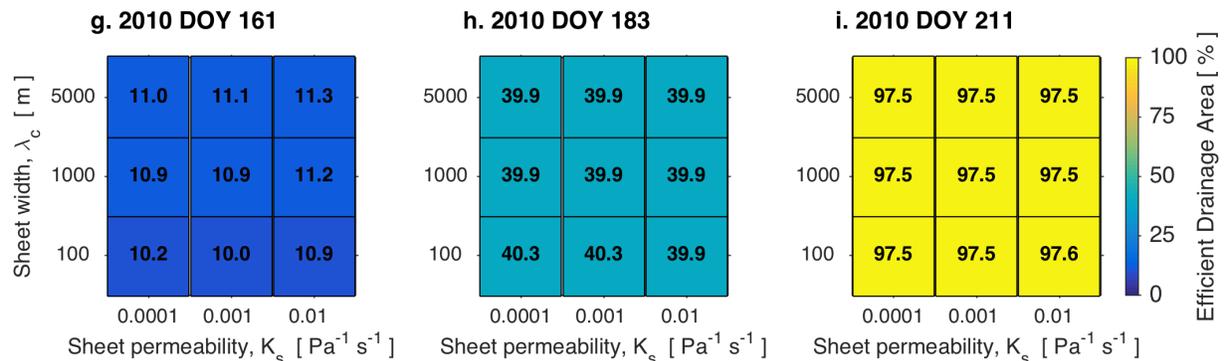
High Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.01$ )



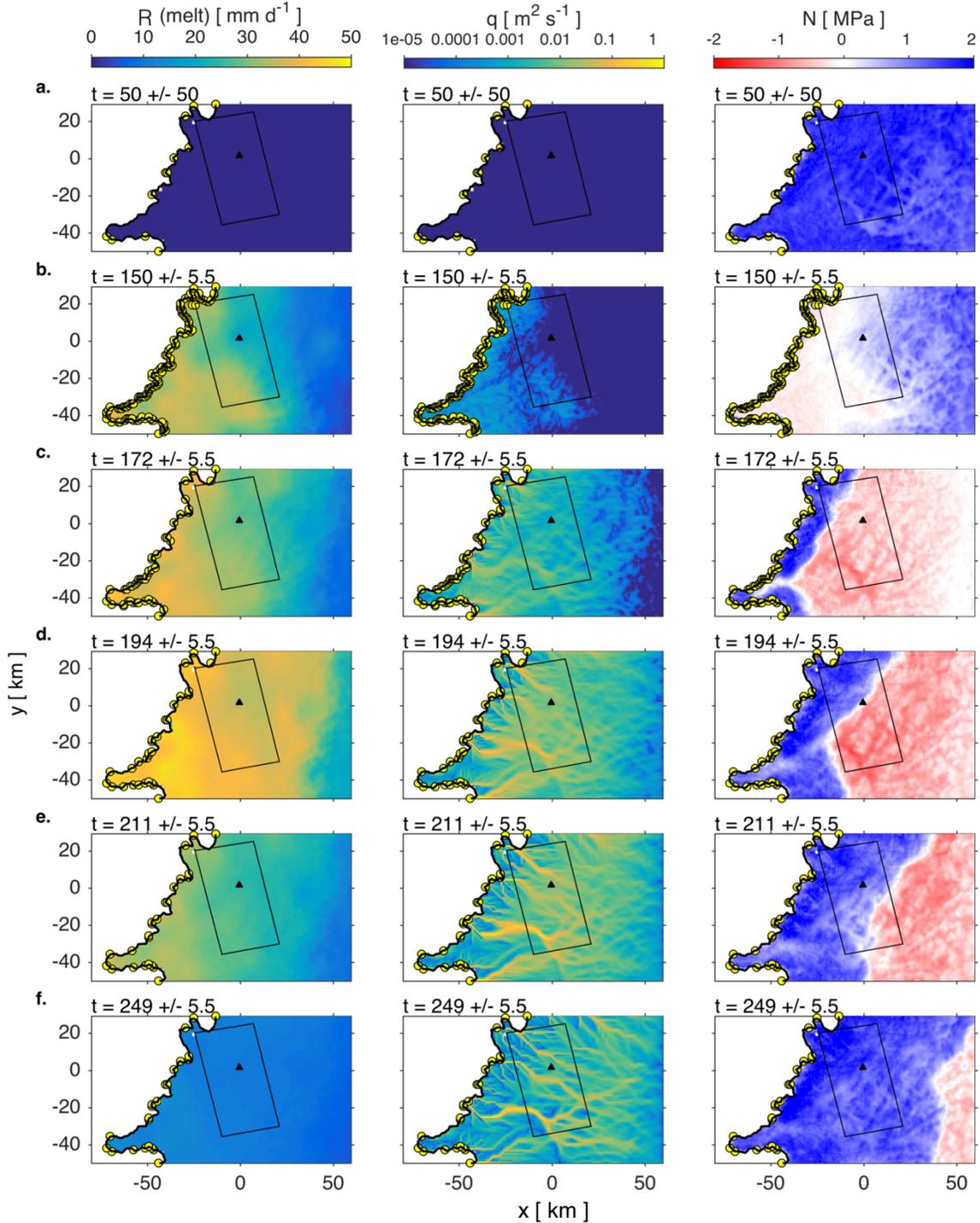
Medium Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.001$ )



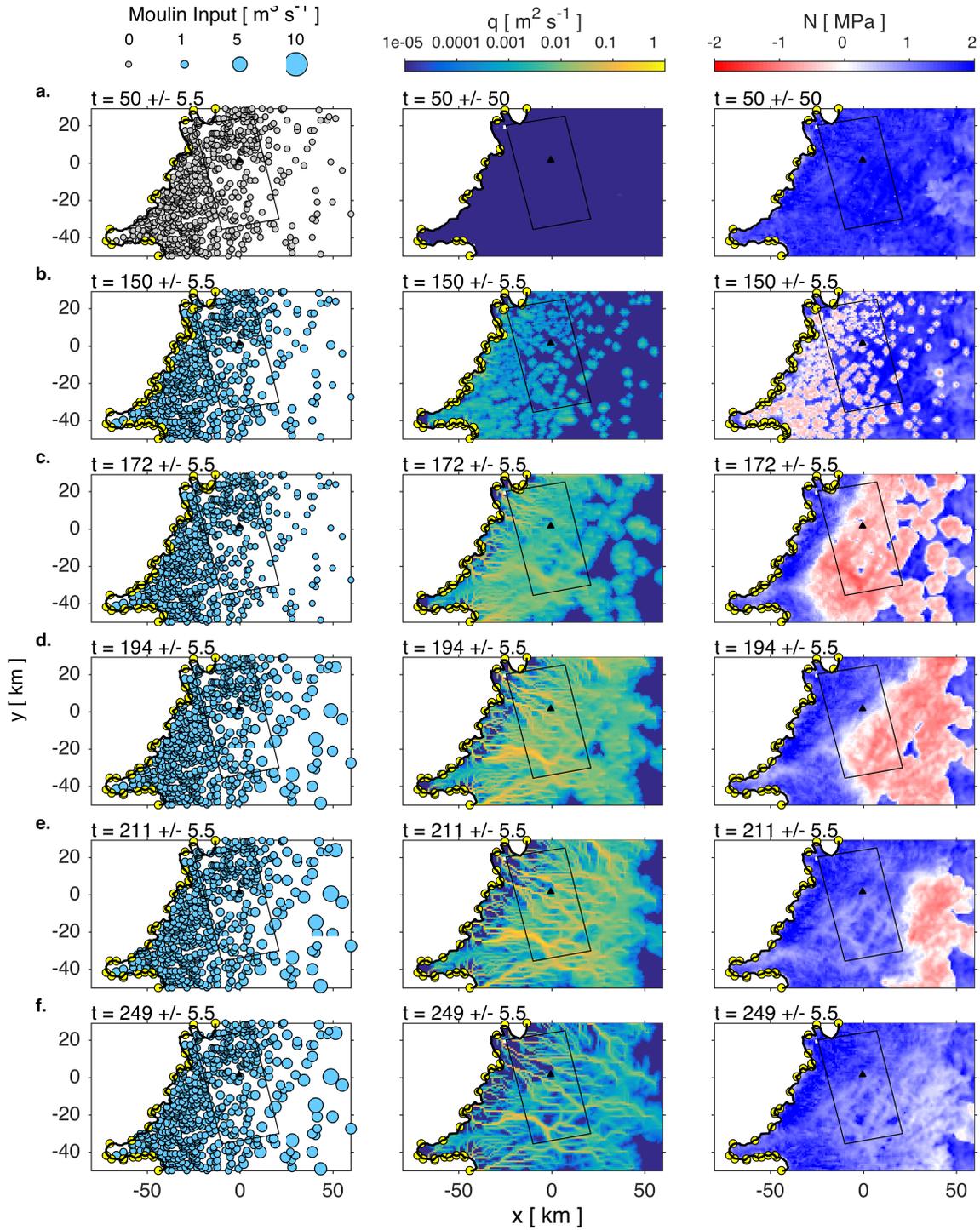
Low Englacial Storage Volume ( $\sigma=0.0001$ )



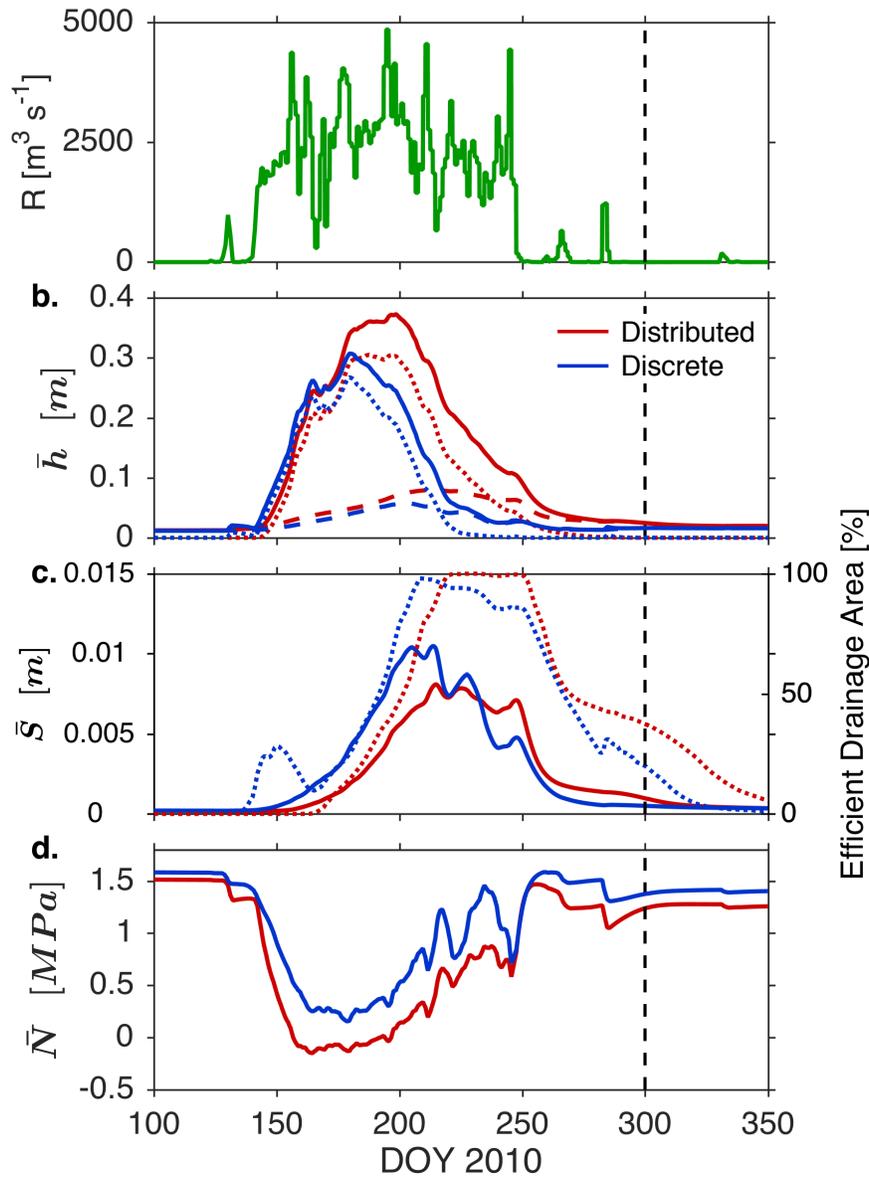
288  
 289 **Figure S9. Region of efficient drainage area for 2010 discrete surface runoff input.** Percentage  
 290 of efficient drainage area across  $K_s$  and  $\lambda_c$  parameter space for discrete surface input models on  
 291 DOY 161, 183, and 211 of 2010. Efficient drainage area (EDA) is defined as the area within the  
 292 TerraSAR-X region where  $N > 0$  and  $q > 0.001 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Englacial void fraction  $\sigma$  decreases down  
 293 the three rows of the figure from  $\sigma = 0.01$  (a–c), to  $\sigma = 0.001$  (d–f), to  $\sigma = 0.0001$  (g–i). “>”  
 294 mark models that channelize too quickly with an EDA > 40% on DOY 161 2010.



295  
 296 **Figure S10.** Averages of surface melt forcing,  $R$  ( $\text{mm day}^{-1}$ ) (left column), subglacial water flux,  
 297  $q$  ( $\text{m}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ ) (middle column), and effective pressure,  $N$  (MPa) (right column) at each node over the  
 298 2010 melt season for a distributed surface input scenario. The date at the top of the panel  
 299 corresponds to the central date for the interval over which the model outputs were determined.  
 300 Parameters used in this model run are:  $K_s = 0.001 \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma = 0.001$ , and  $\lambda_c = 1000 \text{ m}$ . Black  
 301 rectangle is the area outline of the ice flow maps in Figs. 1c-e. Black triangle marks the location  
 302 of North Lake. Yellow circles mark discharge outlet locations along the ice sheet margin.

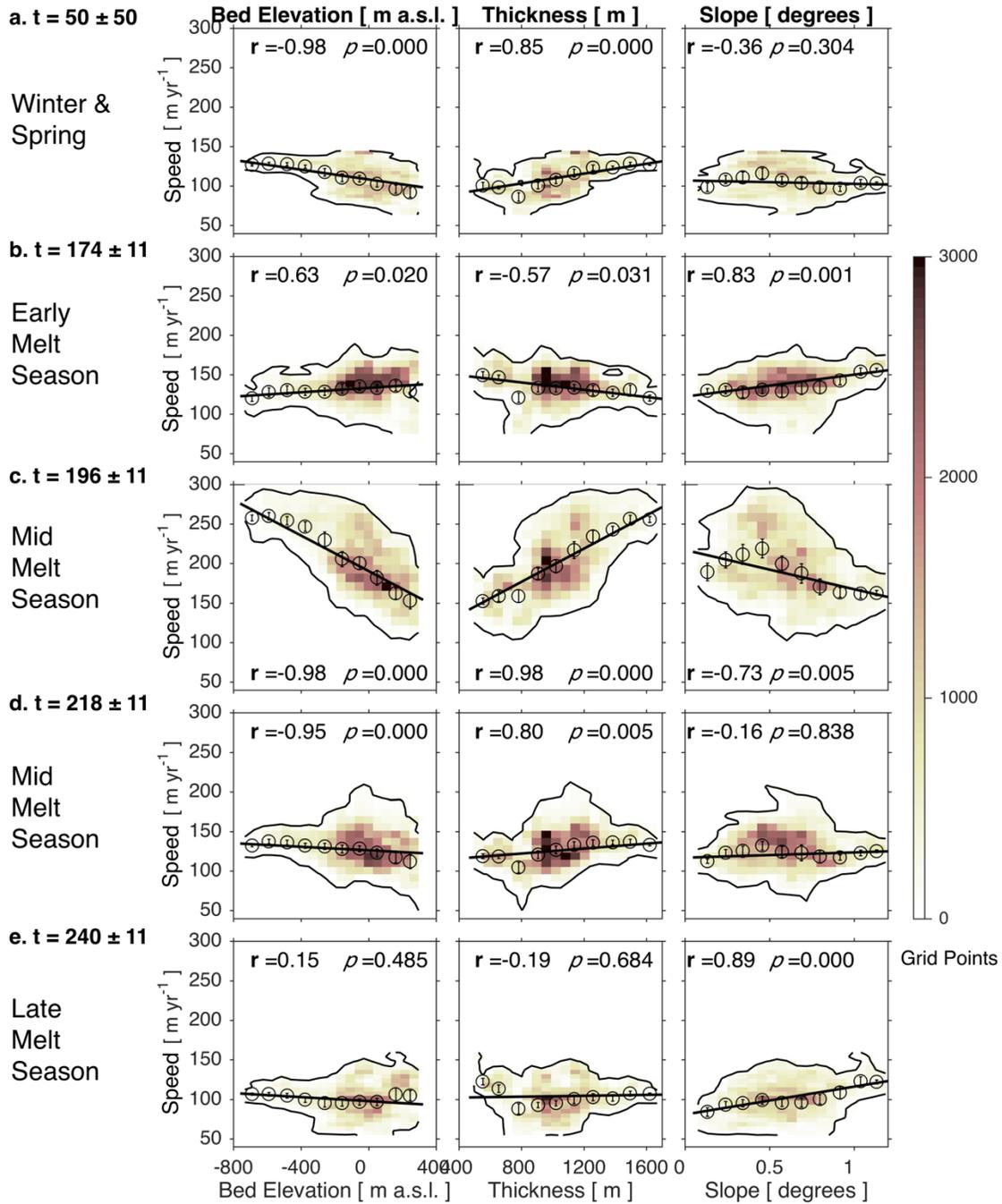


303  
 304 **Figure S11.** The same as Figure S9 but for a discrete surface input scenario in 2010. Left column  
 305 is average moulin input ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ).



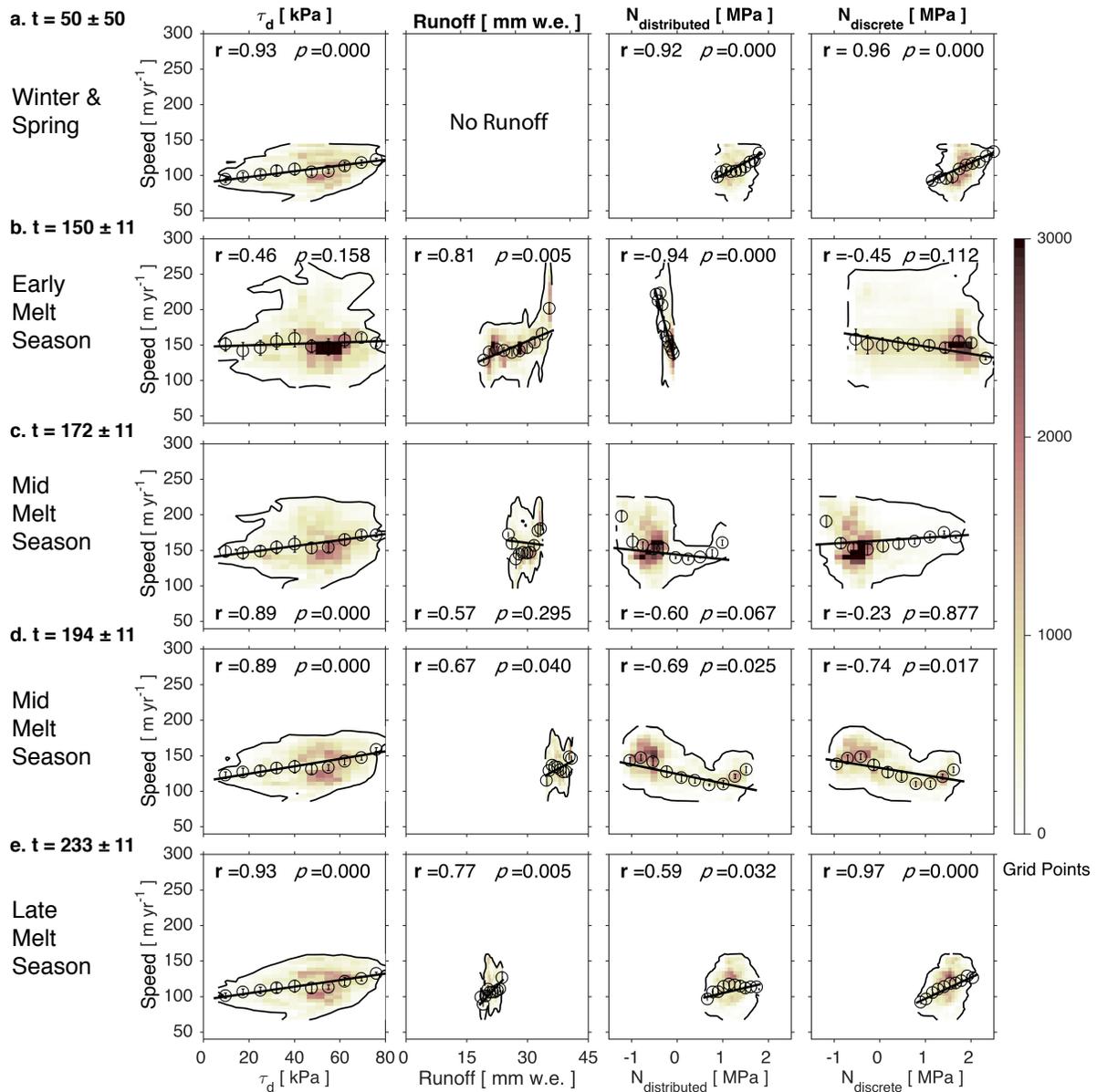
306  
 307  
 308  
 309  
 310  
 311  
 312  
 313  
 314  
 315  
 316  
 317

**Figure S12. Differences in area-integrated model variables between the 2010 distributed (red) and discrete (blue) surface runoff input scenarios.** (a) Surface runoff input integrated across the domain. (b) Average sheet height  $\bar{h}$  across domain, with additional lines showing the contribution from the average cavity sheet height  $\bar{h}_{cav}$  (dashed) the and average elastic sheet height  $\bar{h}_{el}$  (dotted). (c) Average equivalent height of the channel layer  $\bar{S}$  across the domain (solid lines) and the percentage of efficient drainage area of the TerraSAR-X region (dotted lines). Efficient drainage area (EDA) is defined as the area within the TerraSAR-X region where effective pressure  $N > 0$  MPa and total flux  $q > 0.001 \text{ m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . (d) Area-averaged effective pressures  $N$  across the domain. Vertical dashed line through all plots marks the limit of the 2009 timeseries shown in Fig. 7.



318  
 319  
 320  
 321  
 322  
 323  
 324  
 325  
 326  
 327

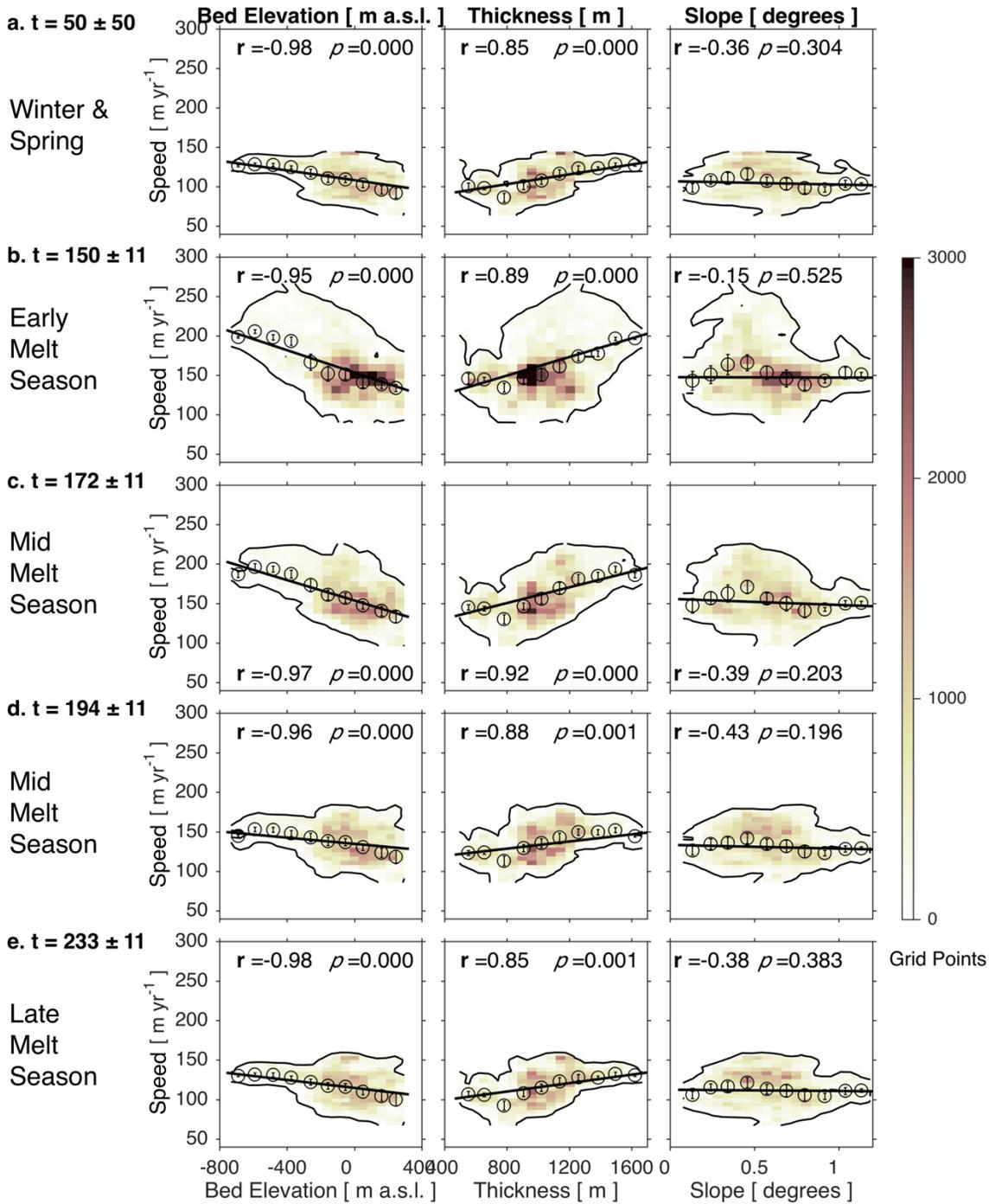
**Figure S13. Correlations with bed elevation, ice sheet thickness, surface slope, and surface speeds through the 2009 melt season.** Ice sheet thickness and surface slope against the winter RADARSAT and melt-season TerraSAR-X surface speed measurements. Data are linearly binned along the x- and y-axis, and the color of the bin represents the number of model grid points within that bin. Black contour surrounds data region with more than 10 model grid points. Surface speeds are averaged within each x-axis bin (circles), and are fit with a weighted linear regression (black line), where the y-value weights are 2 standard deviations (error bars). The weighted correlation coefficient  $r$  and the  $p$ -value are derived from the weighted linear regression.



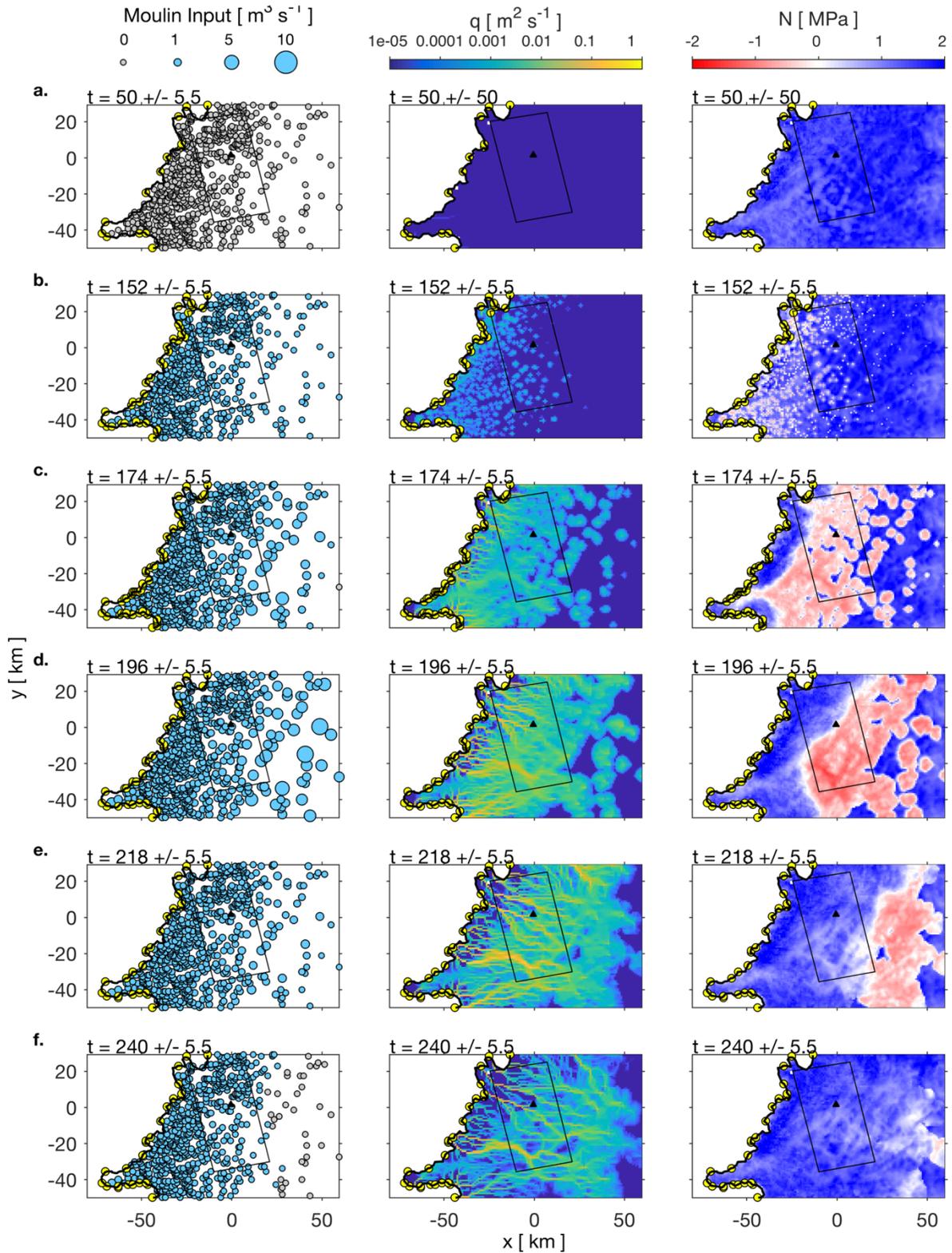
328  
329

330 **Figure S14. Correlations with surface speeds evolve through the 2010 melt season.** Runoff,  
 331 Driving stress  $\tau_d$ , and model-derived 11-day averages of effective pressure  $N$  for a distributed and  
 332 discrete input of surface forcing against the winter RADARSAT and melt-season TerraSAR-X  
 333 surface speed measurements. Data are linearly binned along the x- and y-axis, and the color of the  
 334 bin represents the number of model grid points within that bin. Black contour surrounds data region  
 335 with more than 10 model grid points. Surface speeds are averaged within each x-axis bin (circles),  
 336 and are fit with a weighted linear regression (black line), where the y-value weights are 2 standard  
 337 deviations (error bars). The weighted correlation coefficient  $r$  and the  $p$ -value are derived from the  
 338 weighted linear regression. Inset in effective pressure row a panels shows detail view of 50–150  
 339  $\text{m yr}^{-1}$  winter surface speeds and 0–0.1 MPa effective pressures.

340  
341

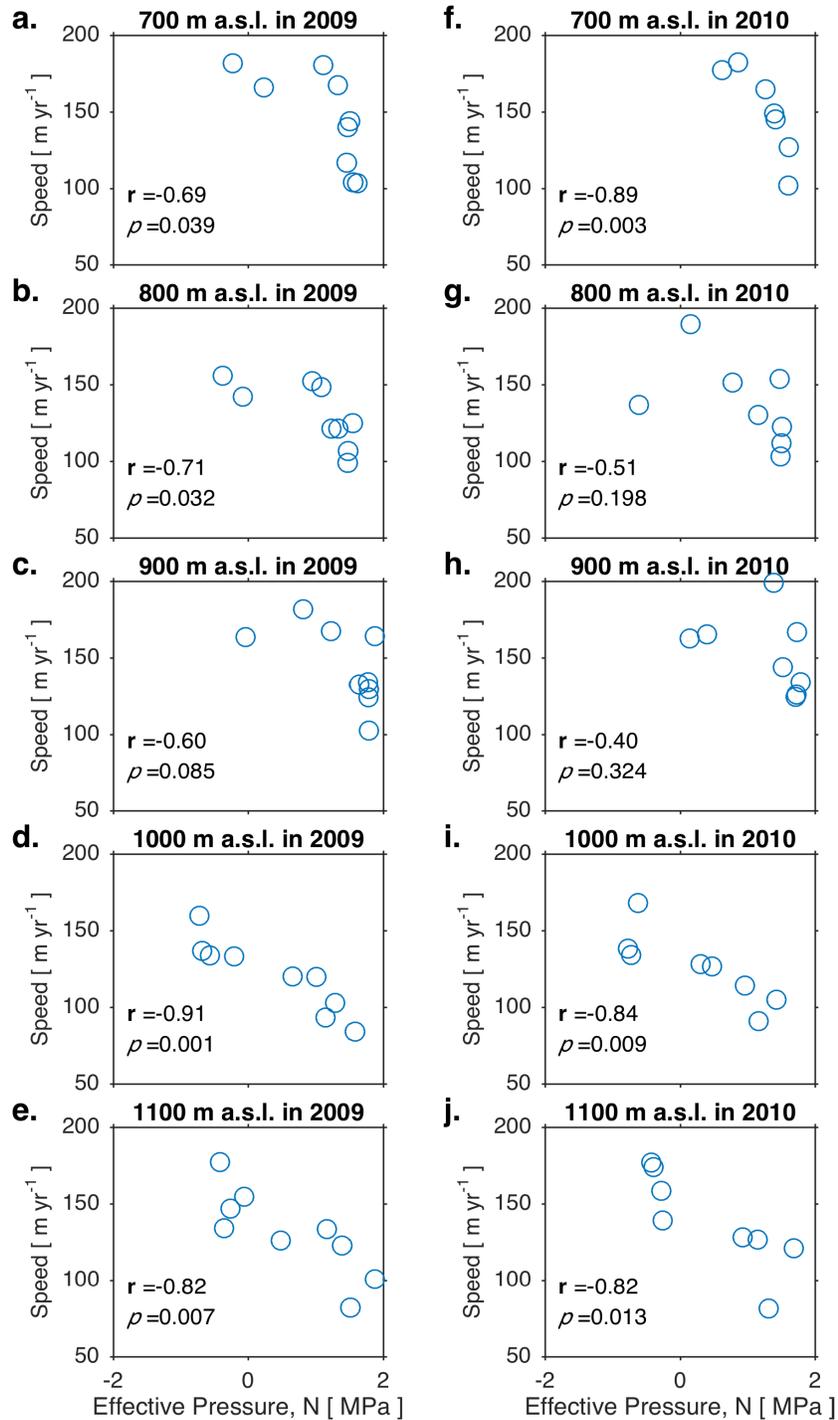


342  
 343 **Figure S15. Correlations with bed elevation, ice sheet thickness, surface slope, and surface**  
 344 **speeds through the 2010 melt season.** Ice sheet thickness and surface slope against the winter  
 345 RADARSAT and melt-season TerraSAR-X surface speed measurements. Data are linearly binned  
 346 along the x- and y-axis, and the color of the bin represents the number of model grid points within  
 347 that bin. Black contour surrounds data region with more than 10 model grid points. Surface speeds  
 348 are averaged within each x-axis bin (circles), and are fit with a weighted linear regression (black  
 349 line), where the y-value weights are 2 standard deviations (error bars). The weighted correlation  
 350 coefficient  $r$  and the  $p$ -value are derived from the weighted linear regression.



351  
 352  
 353  
 354

**Figure S16.** The same as Figure 4 but for a discrete surface input scenario with a pressure-dependent melting point. Left column is average moulin input ( $\text{m}^3 \text{s}^{-1}$ ). Parameters used in this model run are:  $K_s = 0.001 \text{ Pa}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma = 0.001$ , and  $\lambda_c = 1000 \text{ m}$ .



355  
356

357 **Figure S17.** Scatter plot of 11-day averages of model-derived effective pressure  $N$ , versus 11-day  
 358 TerraSAR-X speed observations for individual locations within the TerraSAR-X footprint.  
 359 Locations are chosen at 100-m elevation contours from 700 m a.s.l. (a) to 1100 m a.s.l. (e). Left  
 360 column depicts values for 2009 (a–e), and right column depicts values for 2010 (f–i). Average  
 361 model-derived effective pressures are calculated from the models shown in Figure 5 (a–e, 2009)  
 362 and Figure S11 (f–i, 2010).

363 **References**

364

365 Banwell, A., I. Hewitt, I. Willis, and N. Arnold (2016), Moulin density controls drainage  
366 development beneath the Greenland Ice Sheet, *J. Geophys. Res. Earth Surf.*, *121*, 2248–2269,  
367 doi:10.1002/2015JF003801.

368 Bartholomaeus, T. C., R. S. Anderson, and S. P. Anderson (2011), Growth and collapse of the  
369 distributed subglacial hydrologic system of Kennicott Glacier, Alaska, USA, and its effects  
370 on basal motion, *J. Glaciol.*, *57*(206), 985–1002.

371 Bendat, J. S., and A. G. Piersol (1993), *Engineering Applications of Correlation and Spectral*  
372 *Analysis*, 2nd ed., John Wiley, New York.

373 Creyts, T. T., and C. G. Schoof (2009), Drainage through subglacial water sheets, *J. Geophys. Res.*  
374 *Earth Surf.*, *114*(4), 1–18, doi:10.1029/2008JF001215.

375 Forsyth, D. W. (1985), Subsurface loading and estimates of the flexural rigidity of continental  
376 lithosphere, *J. Geophys. Res. Planets*, *90*(B14), 12623–12632,  
377 doi:10.1029/JB090iB14p12623.

378 Harper, J. T., J. H. Bradford, N. F. Humphrey, and T. W. Meierbachtol (2010), Vertical extension  
379 of the subglacial drainage system into basal crevasses., *Nature*, *467*(7315), 579–582,  
380 doi:10.1038/nature09398.

381 Hewitt, I. J. (2013), Seasonal changes in ice sheet motion due to melt water lubrication, *Earth*  
382 *Planet. Sci. Lett.*, *371*, 16–25, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2013.04.022.

383 Hewitt, I. J., C. Schoof, and M. A. Werder (2012), Flotation and free surface flow in a model for  
384 subglacial drainage. Part 2. Channel flow, *J. Fluid Mech.*, *702*, 157–187,  
385 doi:10.1017/jfm.2012.166.

386 Joughin, I., S. B. Das, G. E. Flowers, M. D. Behn, R. B. Alley, M. a. King, B. E. Smith, J. L.  
387 Bamber, M. R. van den Broeke, and J. H. van Angelen (2013), Influence of ice-sheet  
388 geometry and supraglacial lakes on seasonal ice-flow variability, *Cryosph.*, *7*(4), 1185–1192,  
389 doi:10.5194/tc-7-1185-2013.

390 Kirby, J. F. (2014), Estimation of the effective elastic thickness of the lithosphere using inverse  
391 spectral methods: The state of the art, *Tectonophysics*, *631*(C), 87–116,  
392 doi:10.1016/j.tecto.2014.04.021.

393 Rogozhina, I., J. M. Hagedoorn, Z. Martinec, K. Fleming, O. Soucek, R. Greve, and M. Thomas  
394 (2012), Effects of uncertainties in the geothermal heat flux distribution on the Greenland Ice  
395 Sheet: An assessment of existing heat flow models, *J. Geophys. Res.*, *117*, F02025,  
396 doi:10.1029/2011JF002098.

397 Schoof, C., I. J. Hewitt, and M. A. Werder (2012), Flotation and free surface flow in a model for  
398 subglacial drainage. Part 1. Distributed drainage, *J. Fluid Mech.*, *702*, 126–156,  
399 doi:10.1017/jfm.2012.165.

400 Seymour, M. S., and I. G. Cumming (1994), Maximum likelihood estimation for SAR  
401 interferometry, *Proc. Int. Geosci. Remote Sens. Symp.*, *4*, 2272–2275.

402 Simons, F. J., R. D. van der Hilst, and M. T. Zuber (2003), Spatiospectral localization of isostatic  
403 coherence anisotropy in Australia and its relation to seismic anisotropy: Implications for  
404 lithospheric deformation, *J. Geophys. Res. Earth*, *108*(B5), 2250,  
405 doi:10.1029/2001JB000704.

406 Simons, J., M. T. Zuber, and J. Korenaga (2000), Isostatic response of the Australian lithosphere:  
407 Estimation of effective elastic thickness and anisotropy using multitaper spectral analysis, *J.*  
408 *Geophys. Res.*, *105*(B8), 19163–19184.

409 Slepian, D. (1978), Prolate spheroidal wave functions, Fourier analysis, and uncertainty. V-The  
410 discrete case, *ATT Tech. J.*, 57(5), 1371–1430, doi:10.1002/j.1538-7305.1978.tb02104.x.  
411 Thomson, D. J. (1982), Spectrum estimation and harmonic analysis, *Proceeding Ieee*, 70, 1055–  
412 1096.  
413