Detection of melting and Rain-On-Snow of ice sheets by Microwave observation

Nuerasimuguli Alimasi[1], Hiroyuki Enomoto[1,2] Naohiko Hirasawa[1,2]
[1]*National Institute of Polar Research, 10-3, Midori-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-8518 Japan*
[2] *Graduate University of Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI,) 10-3 Midori-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-8518, Japan*

This study presents the temporal and spatial variation of ice sheet melting on the slopes of Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets, based on satellite microwave observations. The research in Antarctica focused on the coastal marginal zone and inland traverse route near Syowa Station, Antarctica, from the S17 site (608 m a.s.l.) to the H128 site (1376 m a.s.l.). Melting was detected using diurnal amplitude variation (DAV). Data from AMSR-E, for 2002–2012, and AMSR2, for 2012–2017, showed a variation in DAV over time. The greatest extent of melting was estimated to have occurred during the 2003/2004 summer. DAV rose inland, until the H92 site (1268 m a.s.l). In contrast, DAV decreased in the case of rain, which was reported by the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition in 2004 and 2012. This is due to the rise of nighttime brightness temperature (TB). The signal from rain was limited to the area between the S17 and H24 sites (832 m a.s.l.). Coastal zones showed a low TB locally around S17. The refrozen ice lenses under the coastal snow layers seem to have caused the low coastal emissions. The DAV can be significant as daytime and nighttime contrast increase from this low TB.

This study compares the research in the Greenland Ice Sheet. We set the transect from the coast to ridge area in the northen region and the central regions.

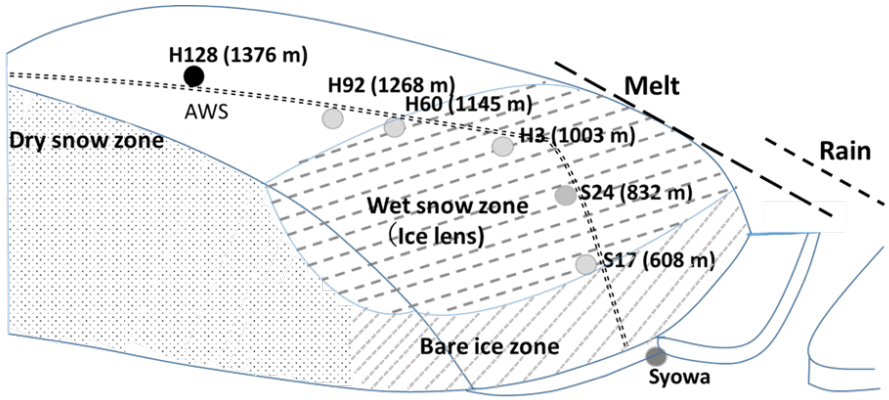

Figure 1. Melting and raining observation at the slope region of ice sheet (example of the Antarctica).

References

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