

The Disappearing Arctic Sea Ice and the Role of the Atmosphere

Ola Persson

2-3 m (7'-10') thick

COSEE Collaborative Workshop - Atmosphere and Sea Ice May 9, 2009 Boulder, Colorado

Late summer sea ice from 25,000'

leads

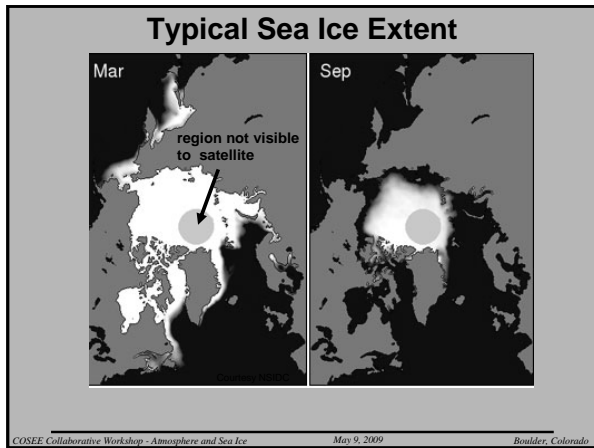
Ice floe
~1-5 km

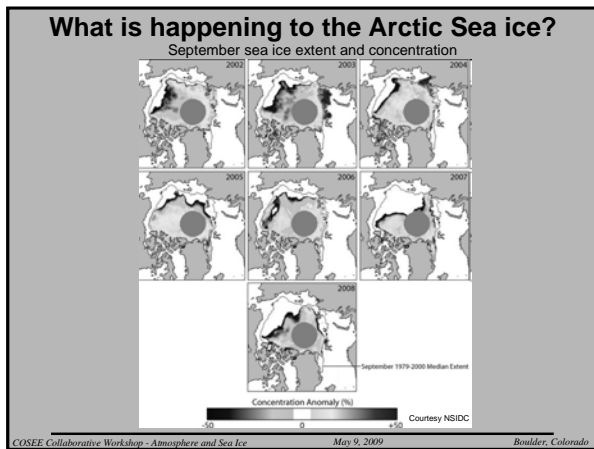
O. Persson

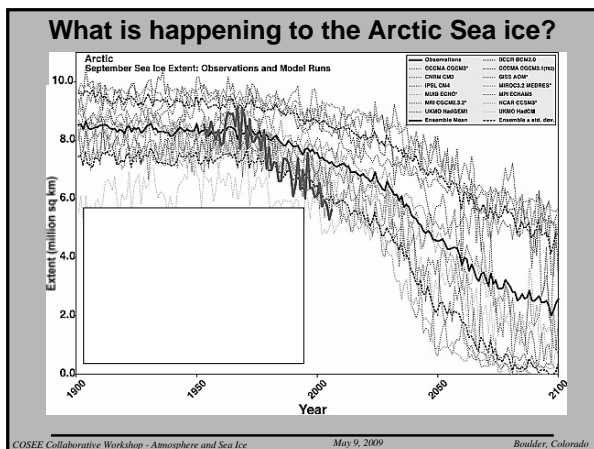
OUTLINE

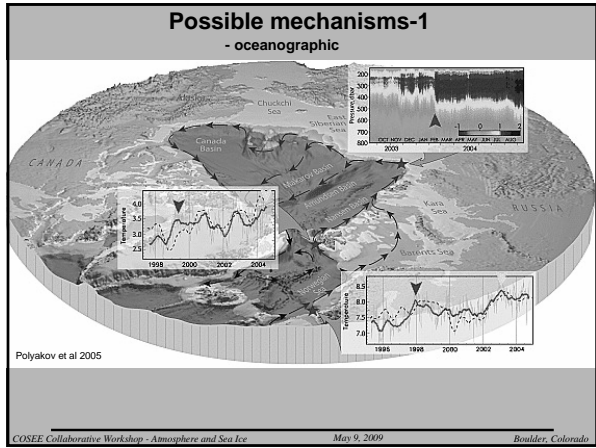
- **1) What is happening to the Arctic Sea ice?**
- **2) Possible mechanisms for changing sea ice**
 - oceanographic, ice circulation, atmospheric thermodynamic processes
- **3) Review basic laws of radiation**
- **4) Atmospheric thermodynamic effects on sea ice**
 - Arctic energy balance
 - surface energy fluxes
 - direct radiative effects from "greenhouse" gases (GHG)
 - ice albedo (reflectivity) feedback
 - cloud radiative forcing
 - role of cloud properties
- **5) Manned scientific Arctic expeditions, 1893-2008**
 - science issues being addressed by each
 - instrumentation
 - life on an Arctic research field campaign

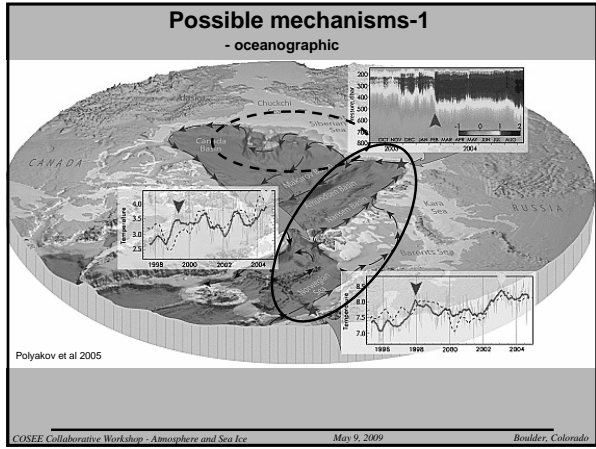
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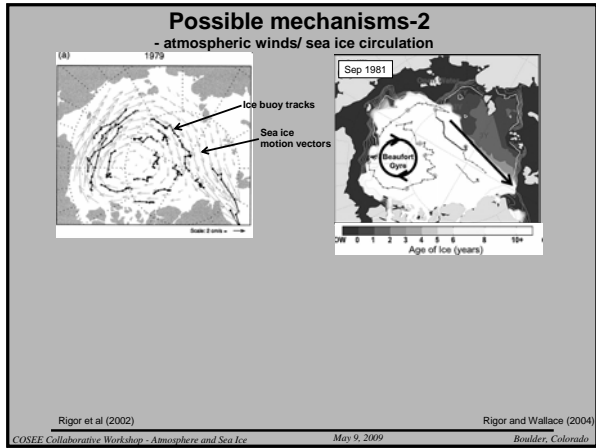


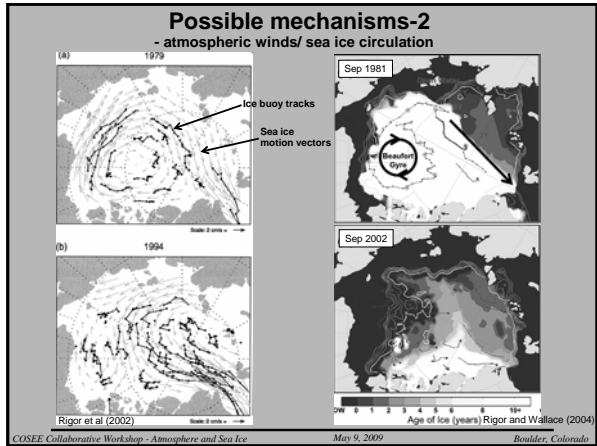


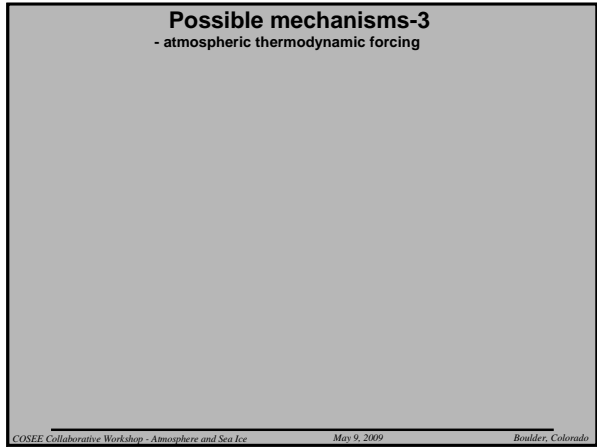








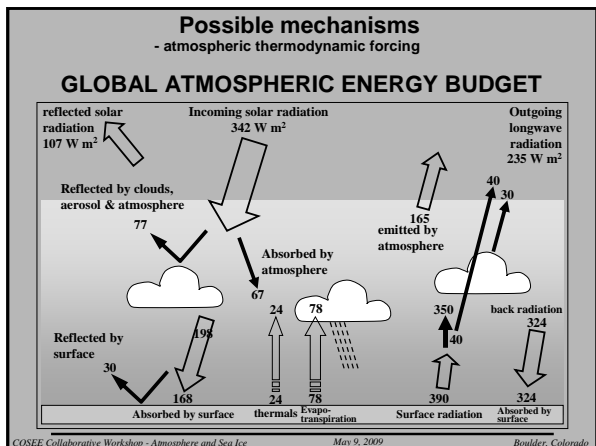


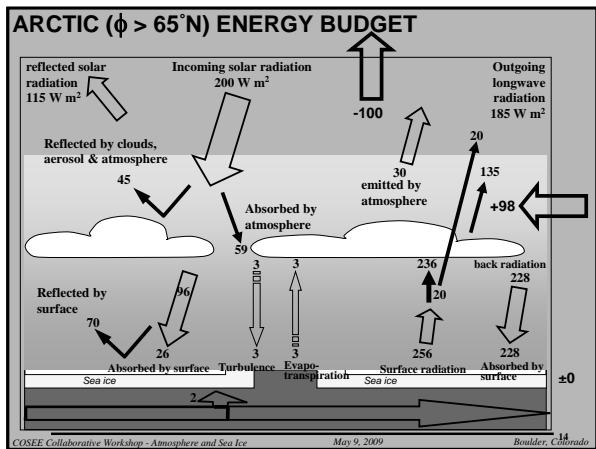


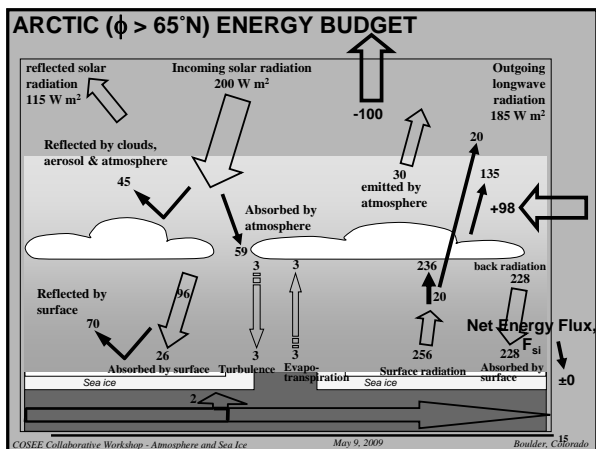
Review of Basic Laws of Radiation

- All objects emit radiant energy
- Hot objects emit more energy than cold objects.
Stefan Boltzmann Law: $F = \sigma T^4$ (**Blackbody radiation**)
F = flux of energy (W/m²)
T = temperature (K)
 $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}^4$ (a constant)
- Hotter objects emit at shorter wavelengths than colder objects
sun ~ 6000 K – emits in the visible light portion of spectrum (shortwave radiation)
earth ~ 300 K – emits in the infrared (heat) portion of spectrum (longwave radiation)
- Emissivity, ϵ , measure of how closely an object approximates a blackbody:
blackbody $\epsilon = 1$;
greybody $\epsilon < 1$ and $F = \epsilon \sigma T^4$
- Albedo, a , is a measure of an object’s reflectivity (0-1)

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F_{si} Magnitude Significance

Annual Energy Flux Required to Melt 1 Meter (~ 3 feet) of Ice:

$$F_{si} = L_f \rho_{ice} \Delta Z / t$$

$$= (3.34 \times 10^5 \text{ J kg}^{-1}) (0.917 \times 10^3 \text{ kg m}^{-3}) (1 \text{ m}) / (3.154 \times 10^7 \text{ s})$$

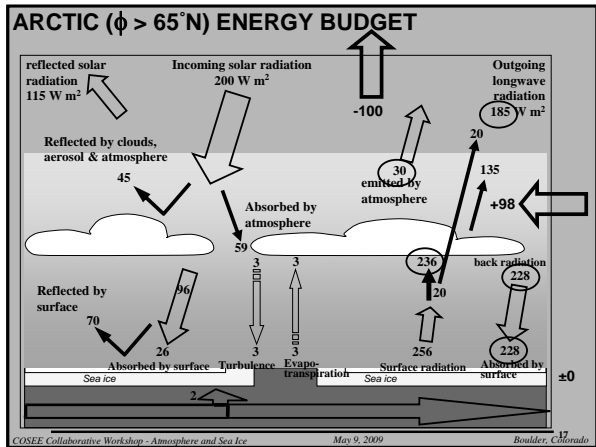
$$\approx 10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$$

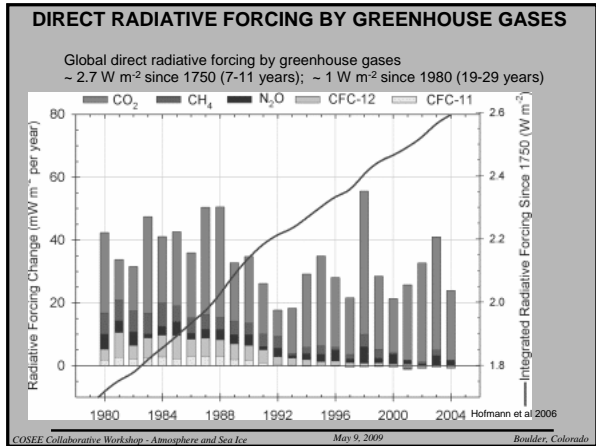
F_{si} = net sea-ice energy flux
t = 1 year = 3.154 x 10⁷ s – time over which energy flux change applied
L_f = 3.34 x 10⁵ J kg⁻¹ – latent heat of fusion of ice
ρ_{ice} = 0.917 x 10³ kg m⁻³ – density of ice at 0° C
ΔZ = 1 m - thickness of ice melted

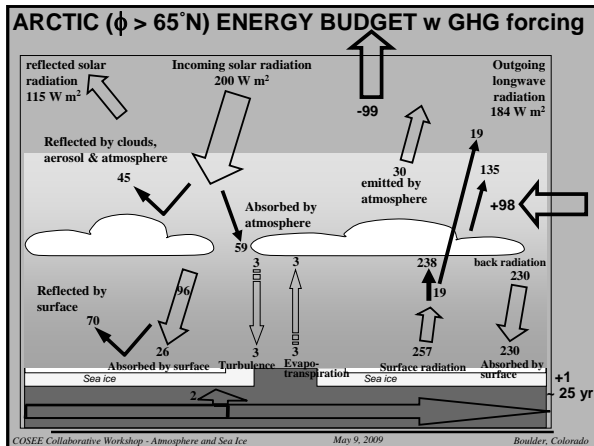
Current Sea Ice Thickness ~ 2 - 3 meters

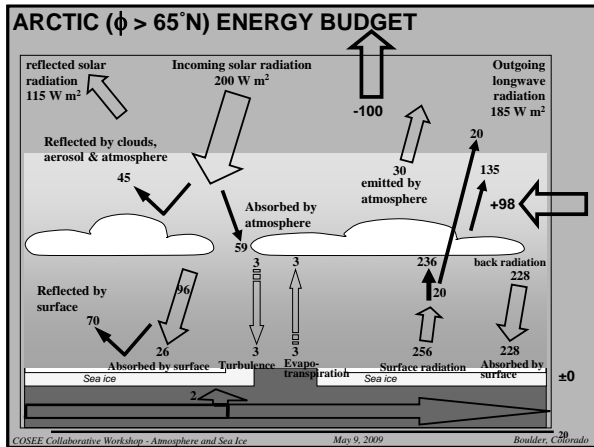
F_{si} = 10 W m⁻² \Rightarrow Sea ice melts in 2 – 3 years
F_{si} = 1 W m⁻² \Rightarrow Sea ice melts in 20 – 30 years

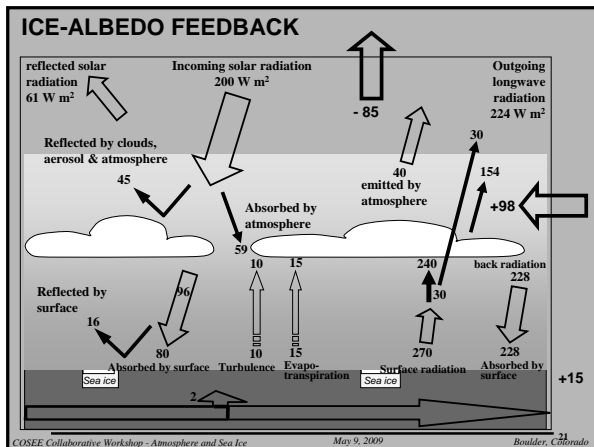
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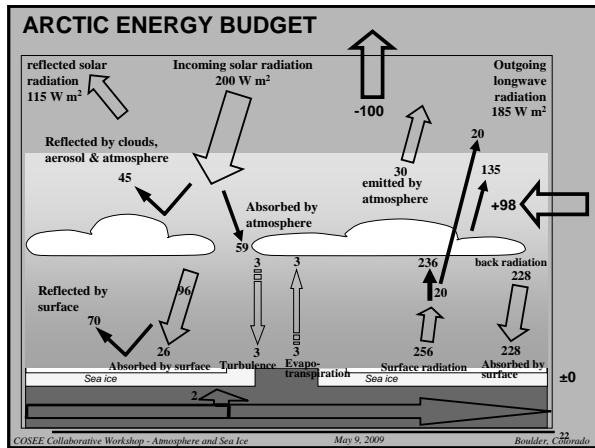


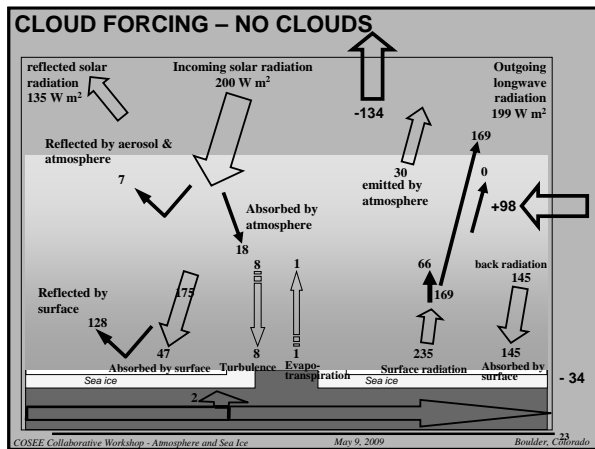


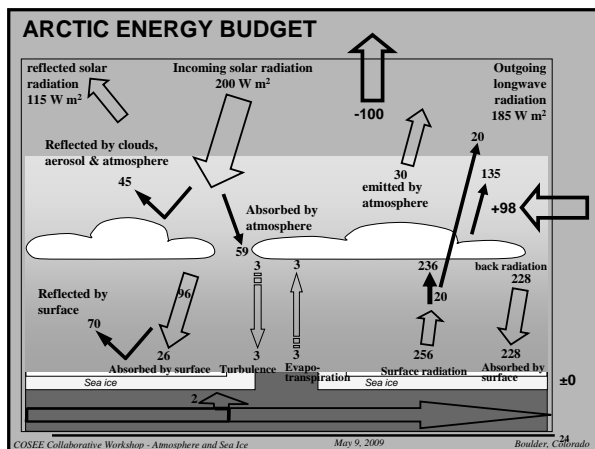












Possible mechanisms-3
- atmospheric thermodynamic forcing

We have seen that Arctic system is sensitive to

- 1) Albedo of sea ice
- 2) Longwave and shortwave radiative characteristics of the clouds
- 3) Turbulent heat transfer

A possible atmospheric cause of decreasing sea ice:
Characteristics of the atmosphere or clouds are changing to increase the longwave radiative forcing of the surface, decreasing sea-ice. Ice-albedo feedback then accelerates the sea-ice decrease.

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Current research address key elements of the Arctic energy system

- 1) processes affecting albedo of sea ice (melt ponds, snow cover, soot)
- 2) processes affecting cloud formation and cloud radiative characteristics (cloud phase, cloud emissivity, cloud condensation nuclei)
- 3) turbulent energy transfer processes

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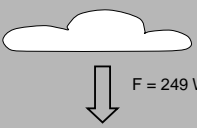
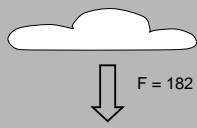
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Impact of cloud phase, emissivity

Stefan-Boltzmann Law for a greybody
 $F = \epsilon \sigma T^4$

both at $T = -13^\circ\text{C}$ (260 K)

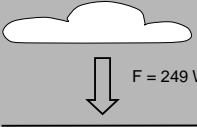
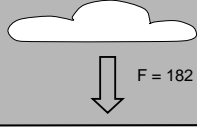
<p>water cloud $\epsilon = 0.96$</p>  <p>$F = 249 \text{ W m}^{-2}$</p>	<p>ice cloud $\epsilon = 0.70$</p>  <p>$F = 182 \text{ W m}^{-2}$</p>
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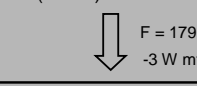
Impact of cloud phase, emissivity, and temperature

Stefan-Boltzmann Law for a greybody
 $F = \epsilon \sigma T^4$

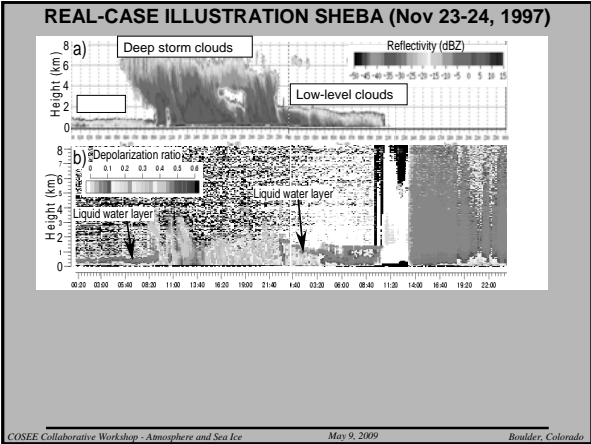
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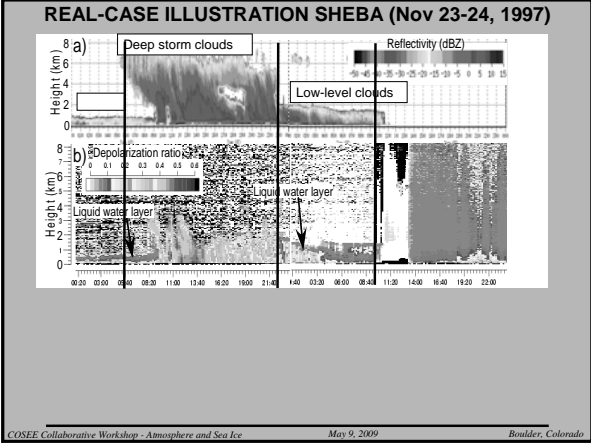
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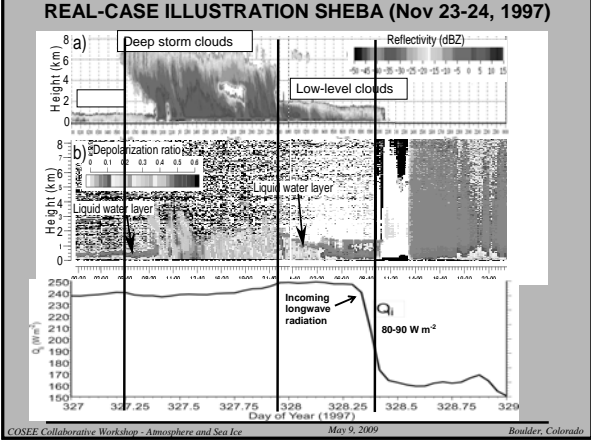
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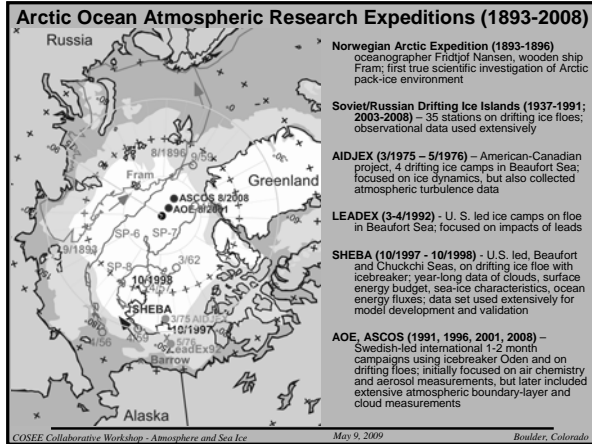
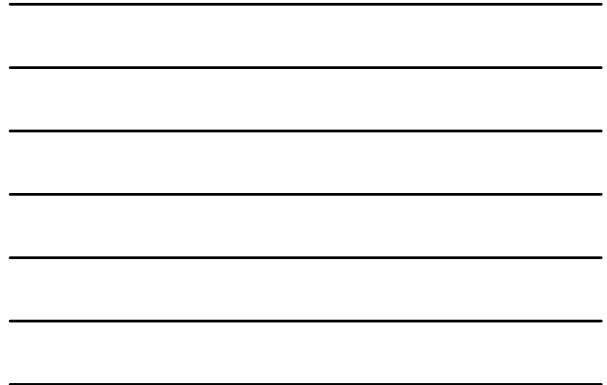
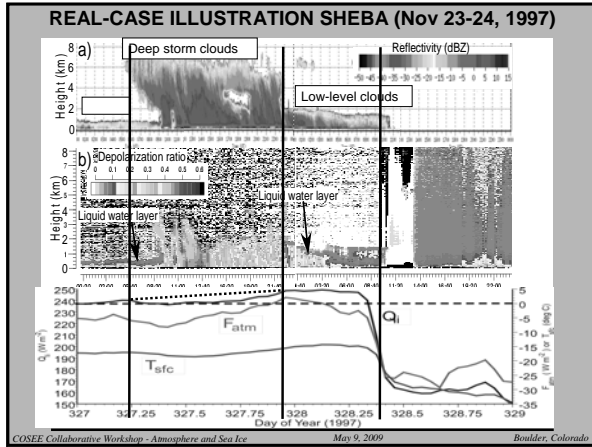
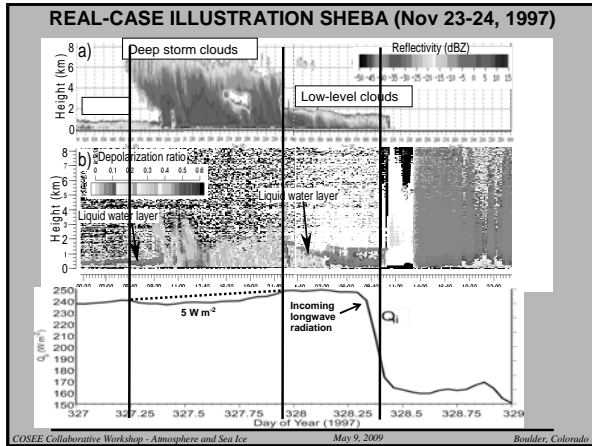
 <p>$F = 245 \text{ W m}^{-2}$</p>	 <p>$F = 179 \text{ W m}^{-2}$</p>
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Near-surface Instrumentation and Data Collection

Johansen making wind readings, March 6, 1894

Thermometer box, 1894. Three years of hourly observations without electronic data loggers

Automated observation station, SHEBA

Temperature, wind, and turbulence measured and logged on tower at SHEBA

Nansen reading the oceanic temperature profile

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Near-surface Instrumentation and Data Collection

AIDJEX turbulence masts

Profiles of turbulence, temperature, humidity, and wind at AOE-2001

Profiles of turbulence, temperature, humidity, and wind at SHEBA

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Surface-based Remote Sensing

Radiometers

60 GHz Scanning Radiometer ASCOS

Air Chemistry sampling (U of Stockholm & others)

449 MHz Wind Profiler

Lidar (Italian)

S-band Cloud and Precipitation Radar

Real-time Microwave Radiometer

Millimeter Wave/90 GHz Cloud Radar (MWR)

Lidar

SHEBA


Ka-band Cloud Radar SHEBA

S-band Cloud/Precip Radar ASCOS


Microwave radiometer ASCOS

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Airborne Data Collection




NCAR C-130 at SHEBA 7/1998




ASCOS/AMISA 2008
87.5°N, 5°W
Aug 15, 2008

NASA DC-8 at ASCOS 8/2008



Helicopter profiling, AOE 8/2001


Inlet for aerosols and gases




Tethersonde, AOE, 8/2001

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MOTHER NATURE IS IN CHARGE – Measurement problems



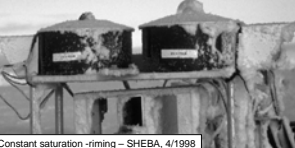
Lead crushes automated station - SHEBA, 11/1997



Kipp & Zonen CM21 pyranometer




Eppley pygeometer




Constant saturation -riming - SHEBA, 4/1998

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MOTHER NATURE IS IN CHARGE – Ice movements




Fram wedged in the ice pack, 1894



Lead under kitchenmess hall, AIDJEX, 10/1975
"People did not linger over dinner" - Untersteiner et al 2007



Lead opens up between instrumentation tents, SHEBA, 2/1998



Lead closes suddenly, lofting snowmobile tent, SHEBA, 3/1998

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Beauty and Surprises



Azure blue meltponds – D. Perovich at SHEBA
O. Persson



The End

Logistical Concerns - dark, visibility, cold, bears

Bears interrupted and hindered on-ice work – AOE-2001



Lack of visibility sometimes mandated special safety regulations
AOE-2001



Bears mandated firearm training and special safety regulations – O. Persson at SHEBA



SHIP AS HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

- time to focus on science rather than personal needs and safety

Fram, March 1894



Desgrossieller, 1998



French-Canadian cuisine, Desgrossieller, 1998



Oden, 2001



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