

Source: [https://thwaitesglacier.org/themes/contrib/cires/images/ice\\_banner.png](https://thwaitesglacier.org/themes/contrib/cires/images/ice_banner.png)

# Modelling ice-ocean interactions using Firedrake

Will Scott<sup>1,2</sup>, Stephan Kramer<sup>1</sup>, Benjamin Yeager<sup>3</sup>, Paul Holland<sup>4</sup>, Keith Nicholls<sup>4</sup>, Martin Siegert<sup>1,2</sup>, Matthew Piggott<sup>1,2</sup> and recently Dorothee Vallot (Swedish Met Office/Grenoble/St Andrews)

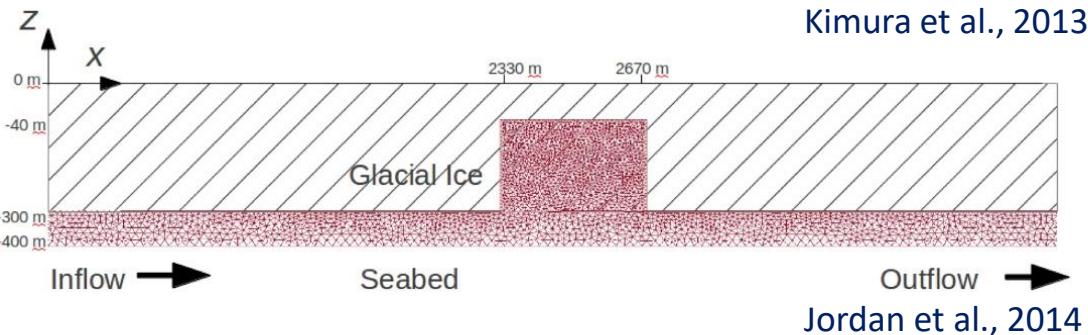
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# Why Finite Elements?

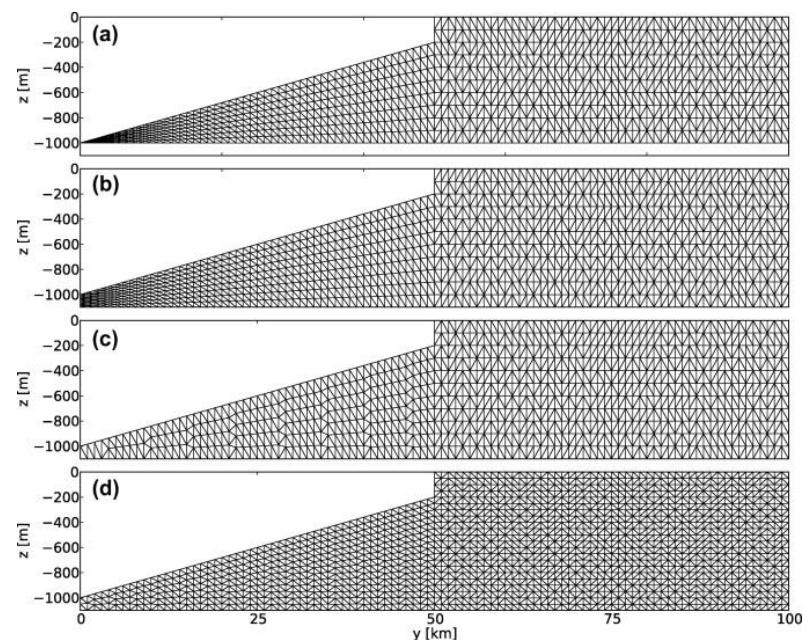
- Finite Elements on unstructured meshes
  - Good at fitting complicated geometries
  - Mesh resolution where you need it
- Fluidity project (Kimura et al. 2013, 2015, Jordan et al. 2014, 2015, Yeager, 2018)
  - Retain full physics so that order one aspect ratio is possible
  - DG Finite Elements
- Firedrake: abstraction is useful
  - Automatic adjoint



Firedrake



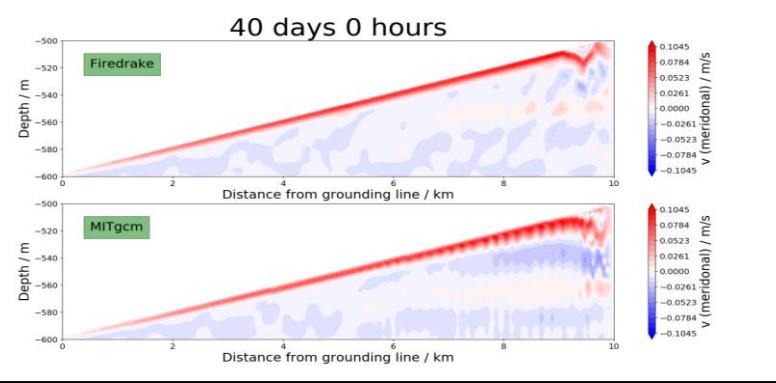
Kimura et al., 2013



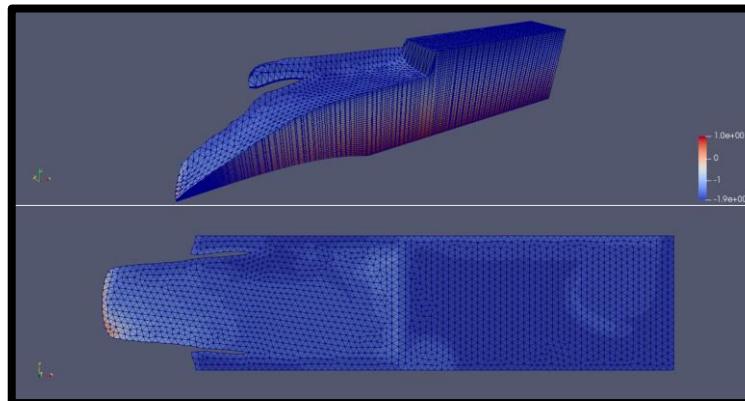
Jordan et al., 2014

# Selected highlights so far...

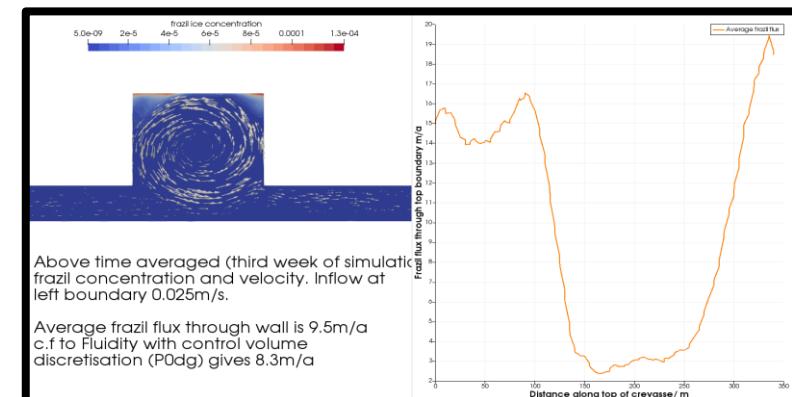
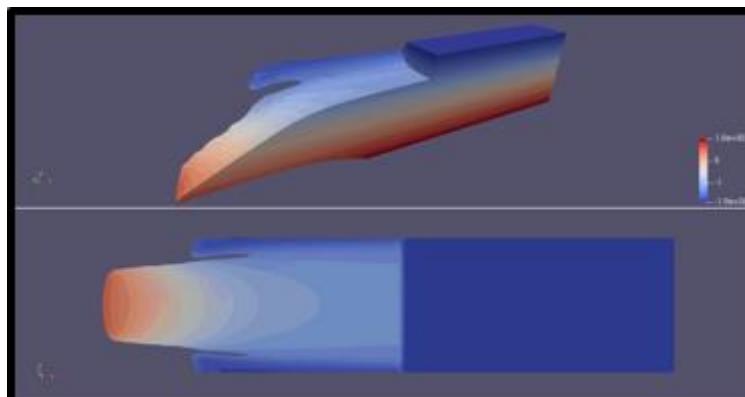
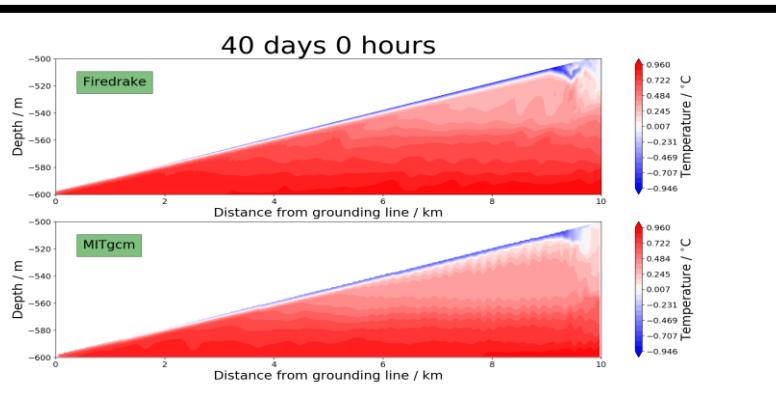
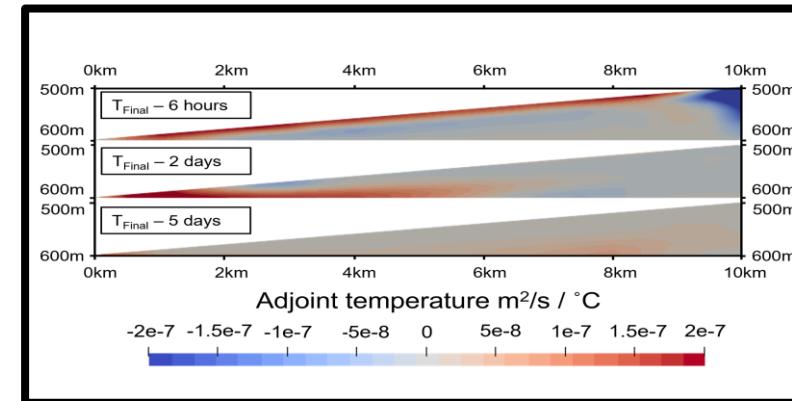
2d!



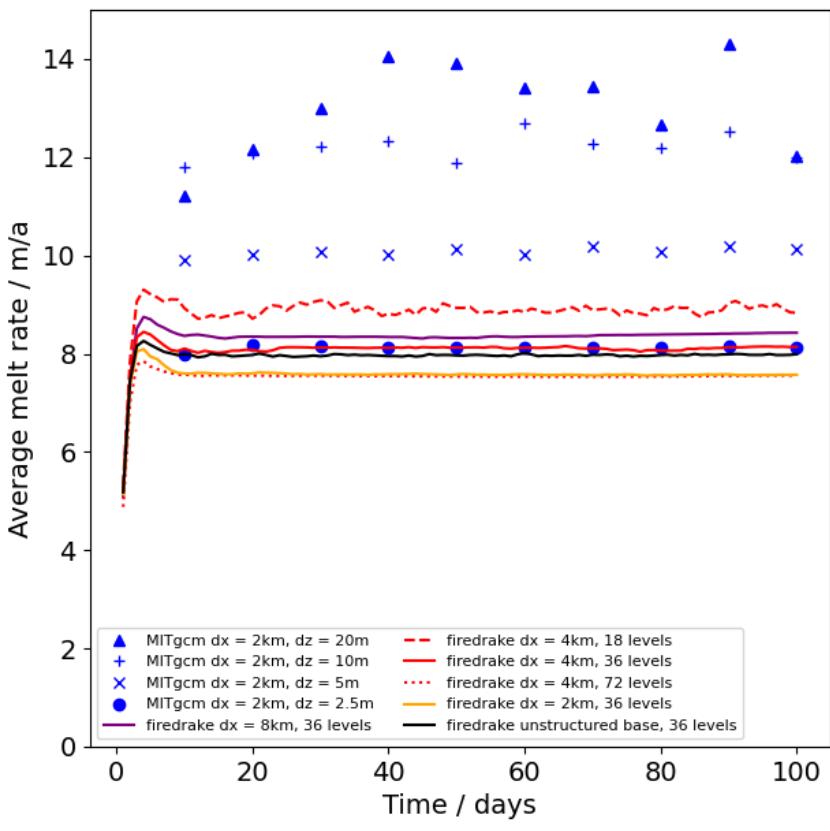
3d!



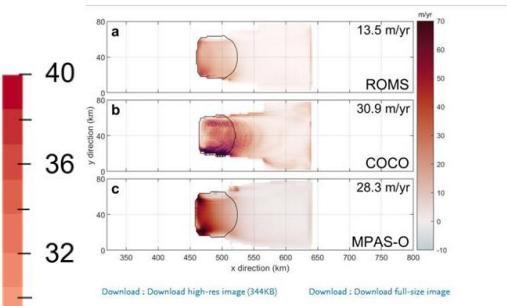
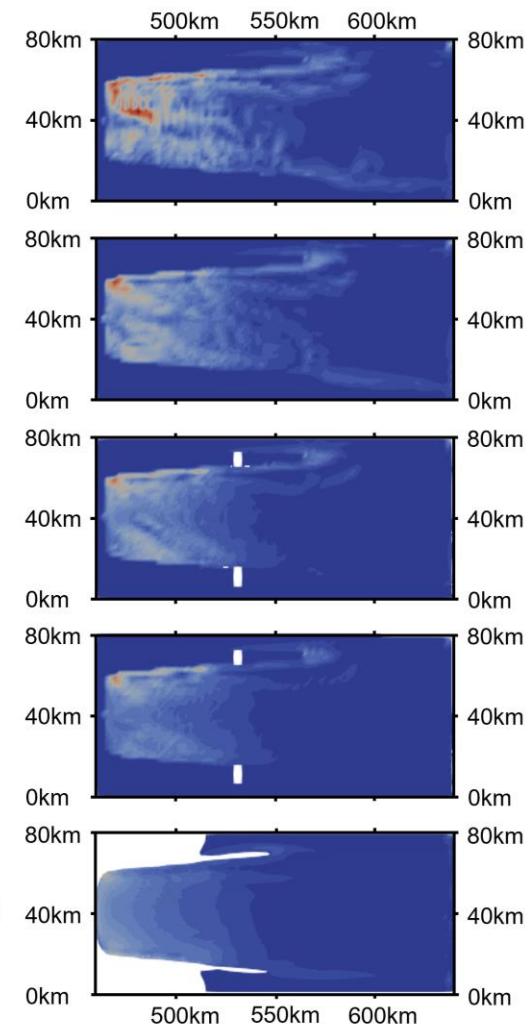
Adjoints and crevasses!



# 3d ISOMIP+: Melt sensitive to grid resolution

MITgcm ( $dz = 20\text{m}$ )MITgcm ( $dz = 10\text{m}$ )MITgcm ( $dz = 5\text{m}$ )MITgcm ( $dz = 2.5\text{m}$ )

Firedrake (36 vertical levels)

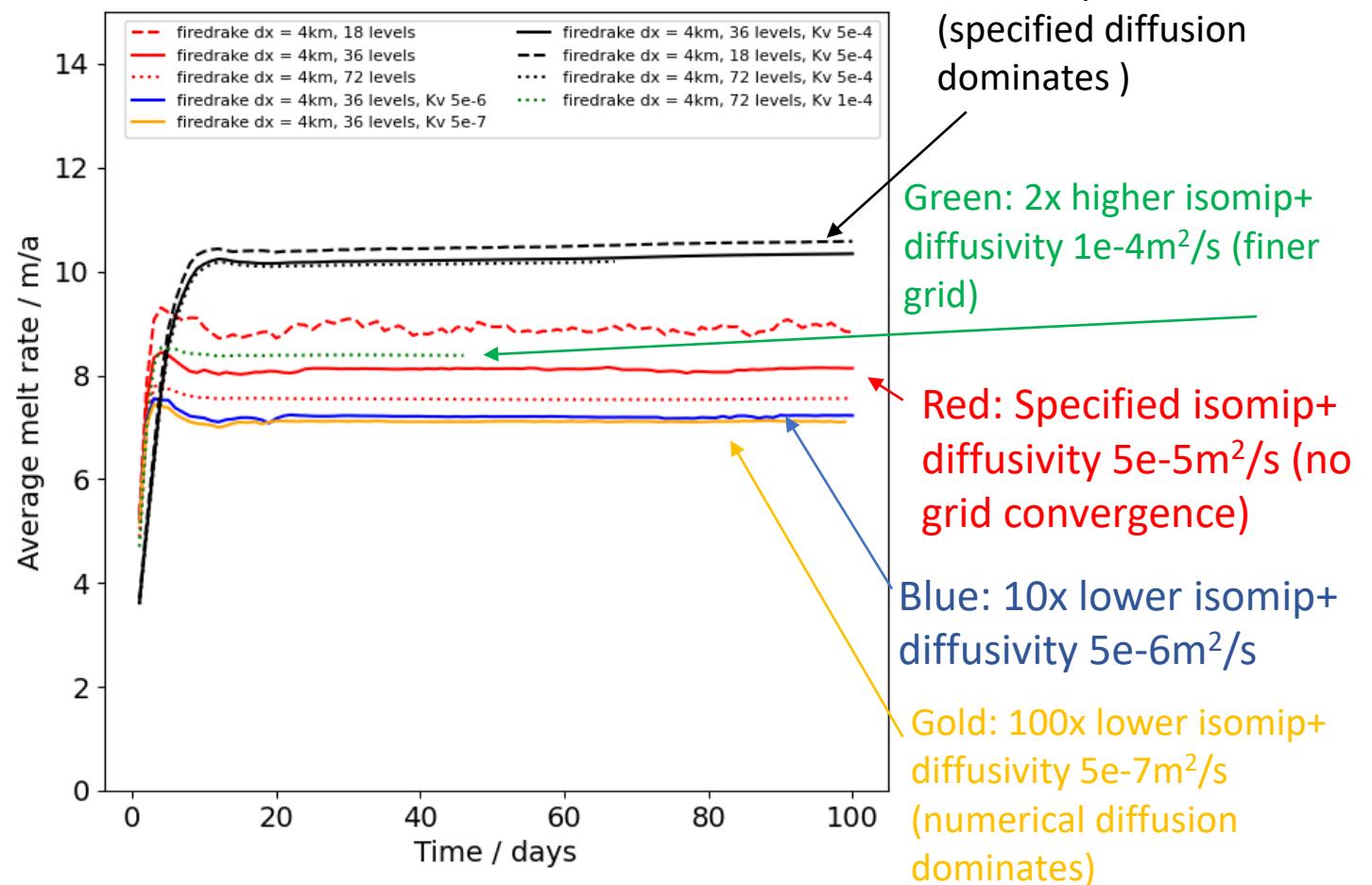


Melt rate / m/a

Gwyther  
et al  
2020

# Numerical vs specified diffusivity

- Melting leads to stratification at ice boundary -> insulates boundary
- Trade off between:
  - Grid type (z 'steps' vs sigma 'layers')
  - specified diffusivity vs numerical diffusion (function of grid size)
  - Tuning turbulent exchange coefficients in melt parameterisation
- Specified diffusion must dominate numerical diffusion for grid convergence





# Next steps and longer term aims

- Crevasse geometry experiment – is rotation important?
- Adjoint sensitivity and optimisation
  - Focus on boundary mixing: parameterised turbulent exchange coefficients and modelled diffusivity
  - Demonstration on an idealised small problem
- Subglacial discharge / Basal channels
- Turbulence
  - GLS vs isotropic (vertical)
  - LES in horizontal
- Free surface
  - plus wetting and drying to investigate tidal problem
- Ice model coupling

