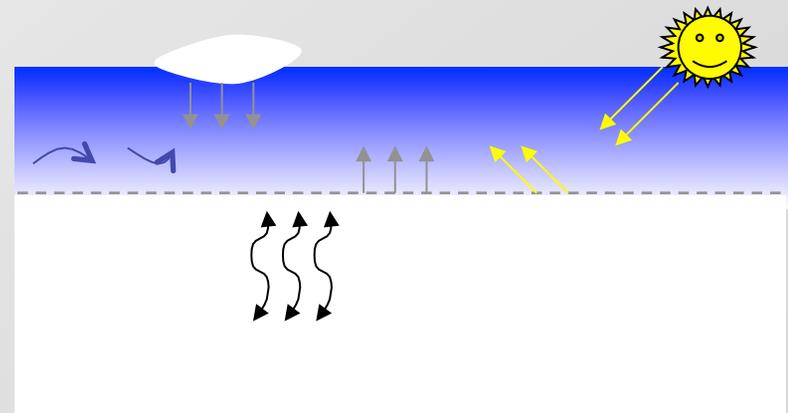


# Using the surface energy balance to understand the Antarctic stable boundary layer.

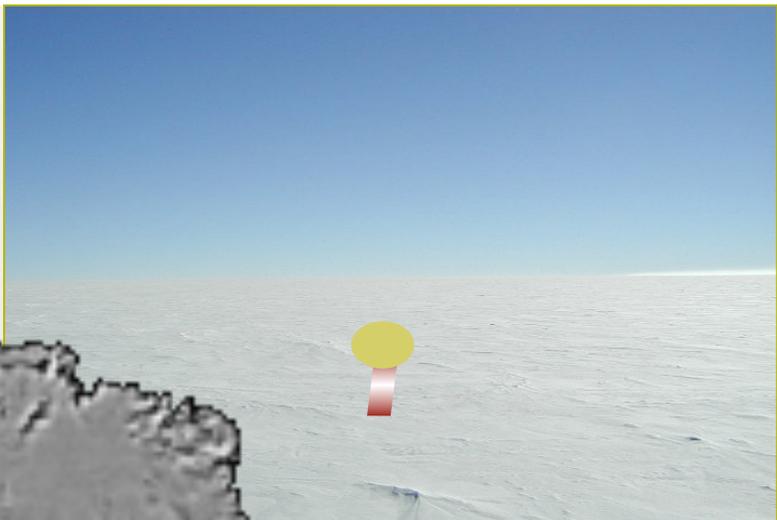
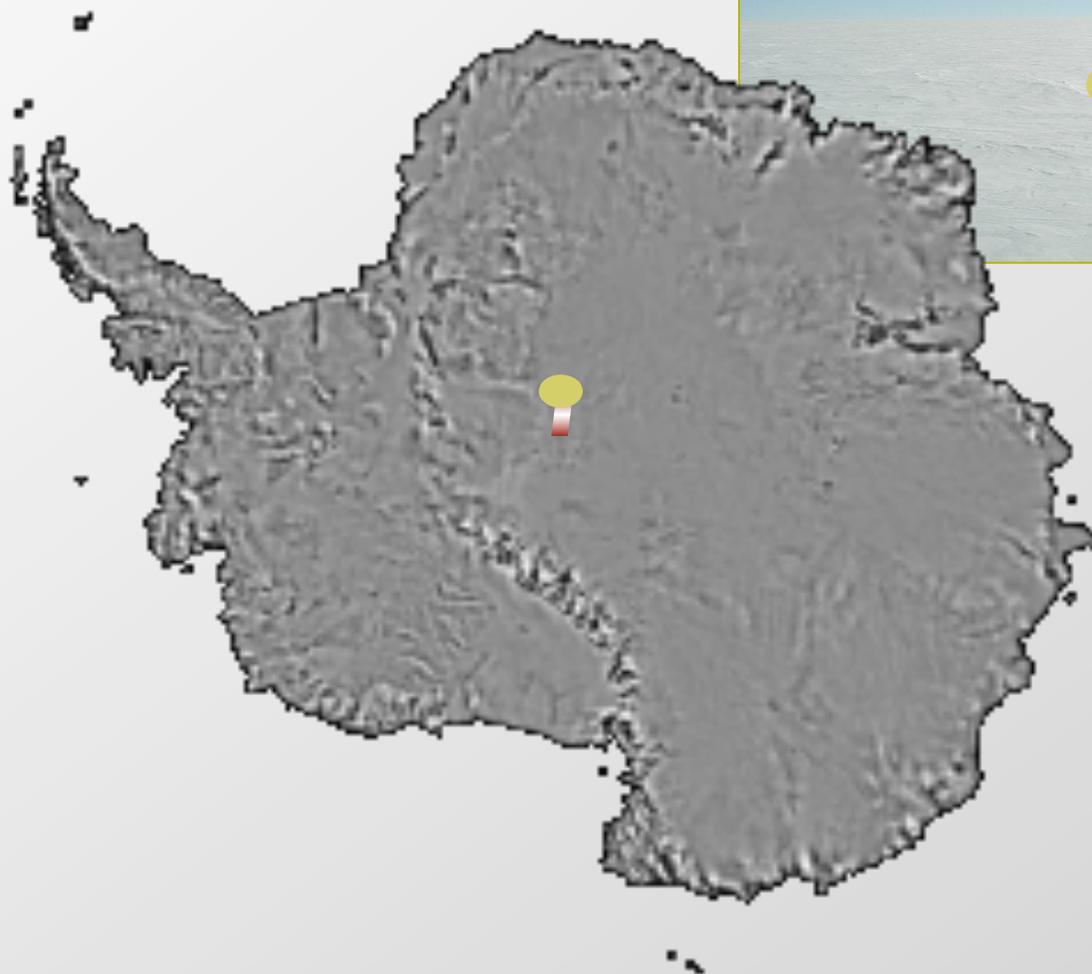
Michael S. Town<sup>1</sup>, Von P. Walden<sup>2</sup>, and Stephen G. Warren<sup>1</sup>

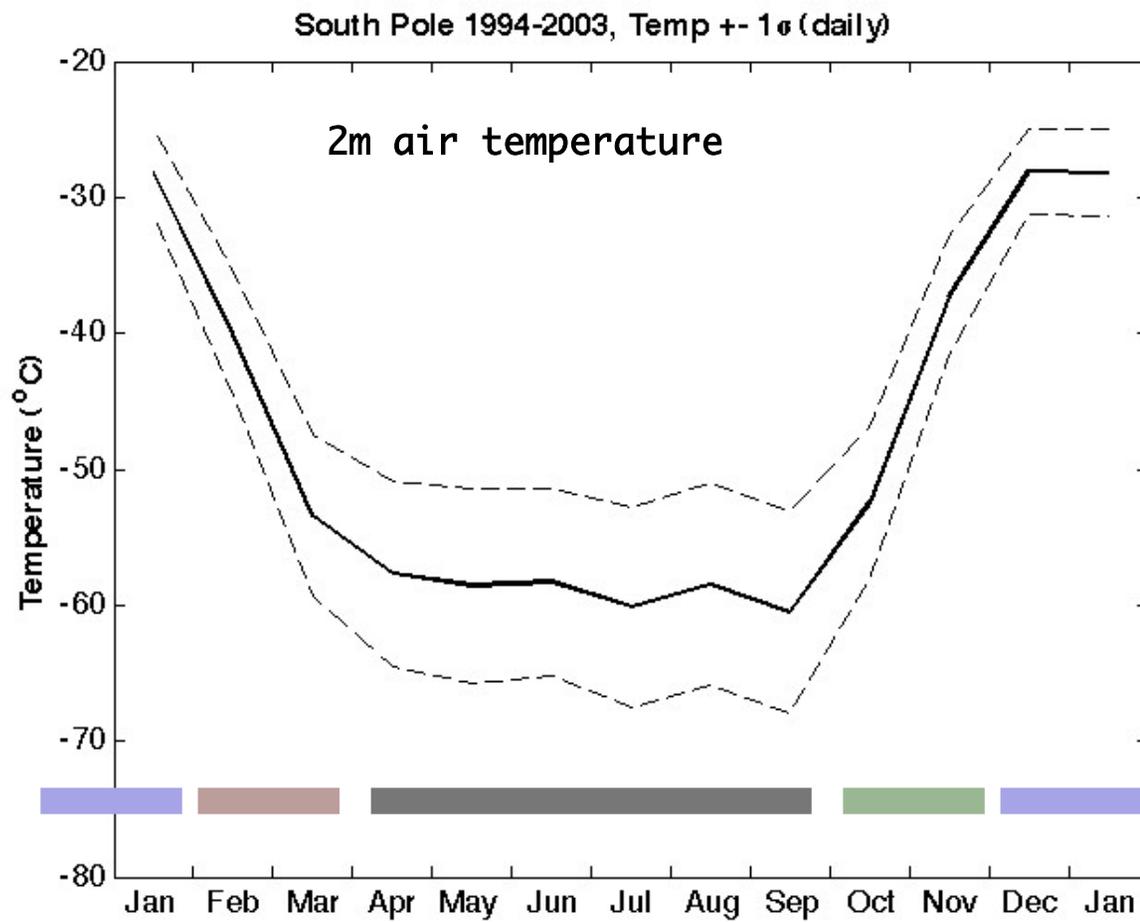
<sup>1</sup>University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA

<sup>2</sup>University of Idaho, Moscow, ID USA



Session 5. Science using ground-based and satellite measurements  
AMOMWF 2007, Rome, Italy.





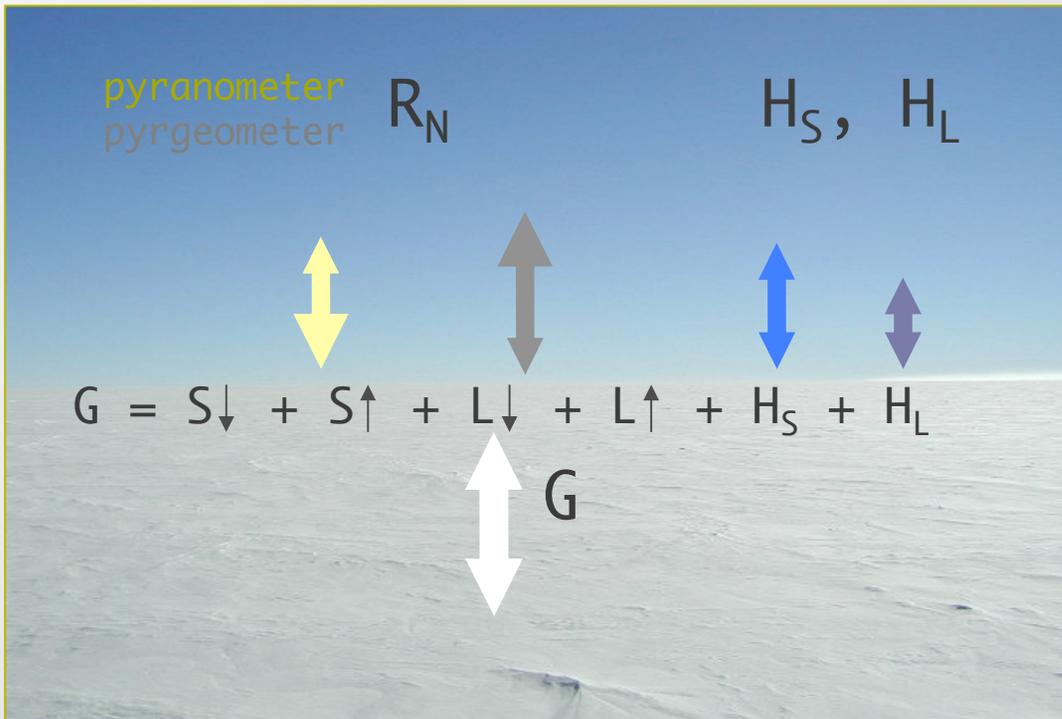
energy transfer over South Pole



$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

net radiation  $\rightarrow R_N$   
 latent heat  $\rightarrow H_L$   
 sensible heat  $\rightarrow H_S$   
 subsurface heat  $\rightarrow G$

positive fluxes are directed downward

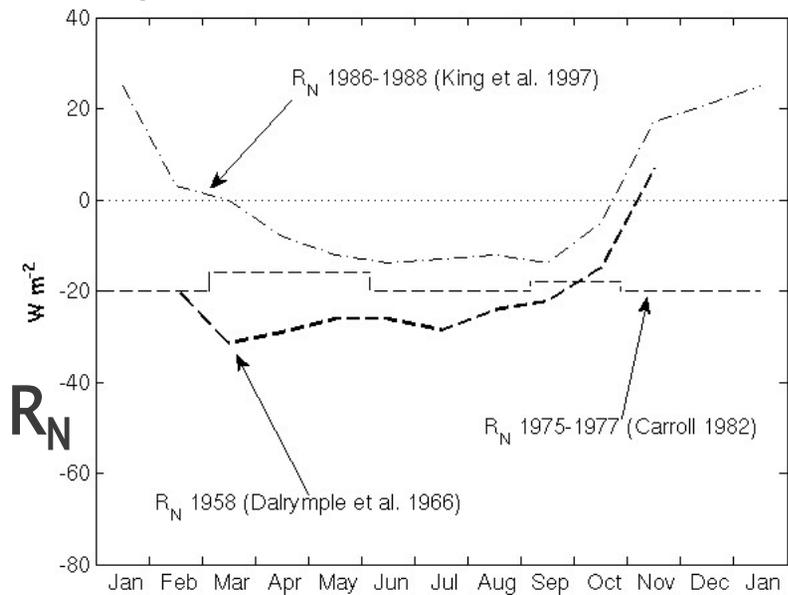


$u_{10}, T_S, T_2, T_{2f}$   
Andreas (2002)

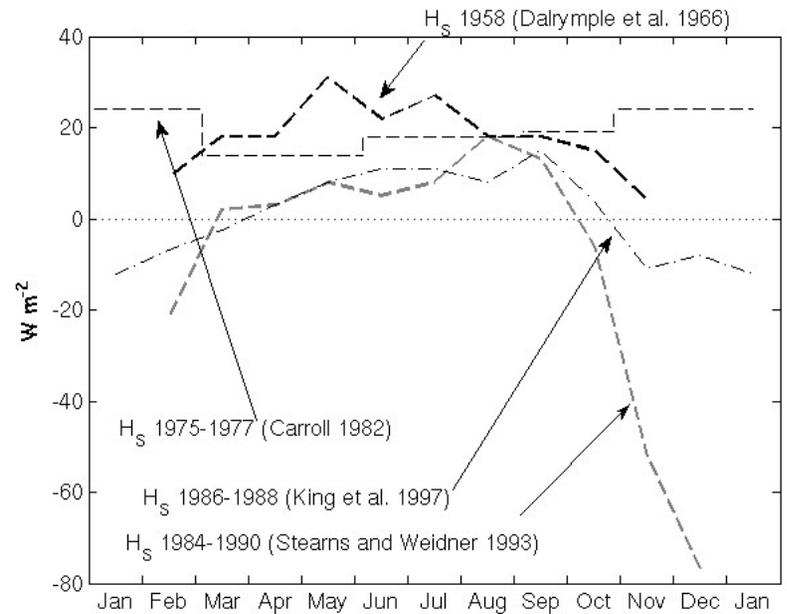
$\uparrow$  pyrgeometer  $\rightarrow T_{sfc}$

finite-volumes  
numerical heat transfer model  
Patankar (1982)

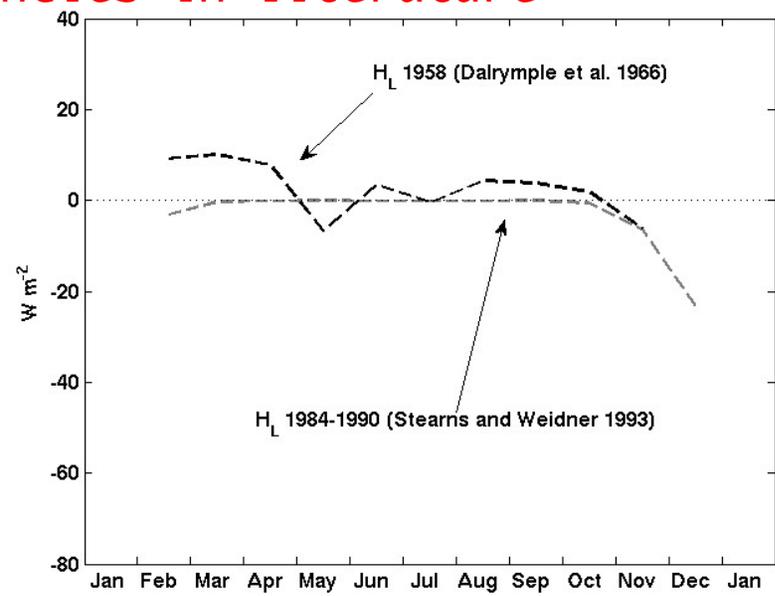
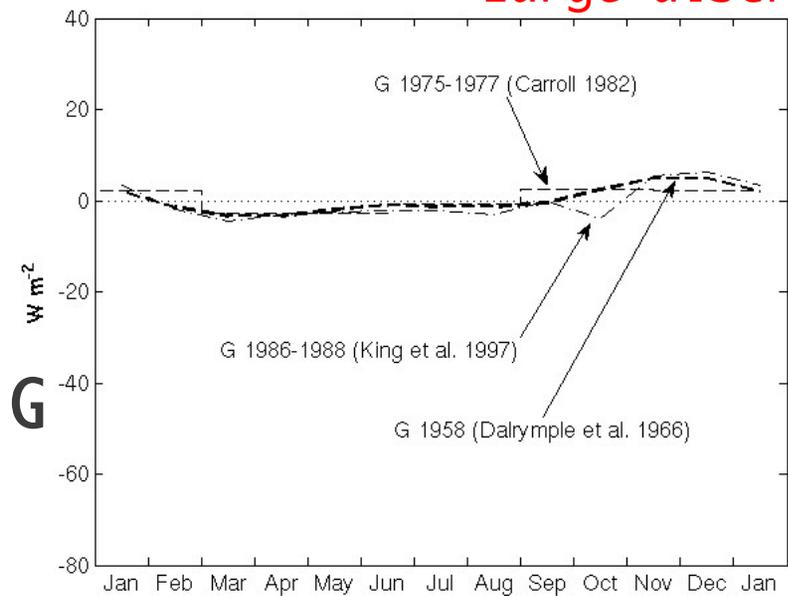
# monthly means: prior work



# energy transfer over South Pole



Large discrepancies in literature



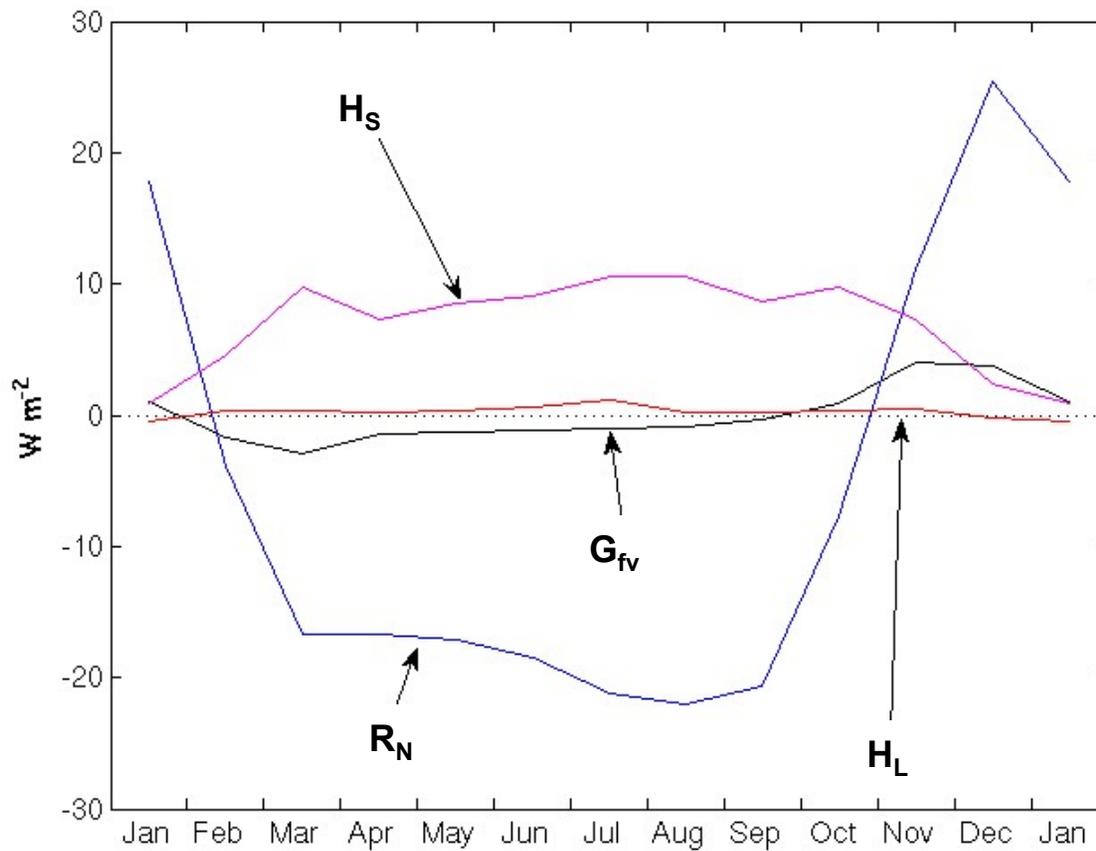
$H_S$

$H_L$

monthly means:  
energy balance?

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

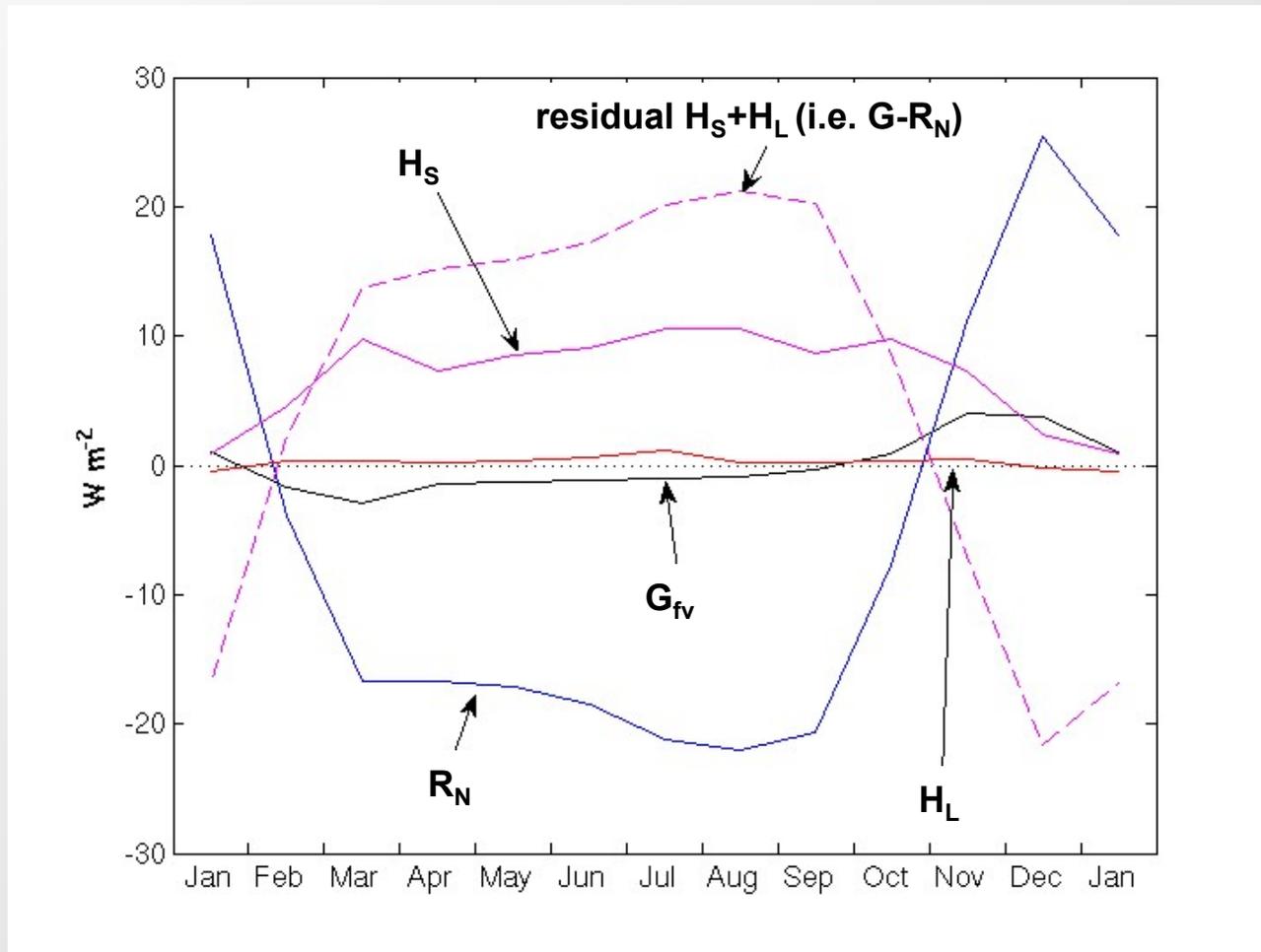


monthly means:  
energy balance? *no.*

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$

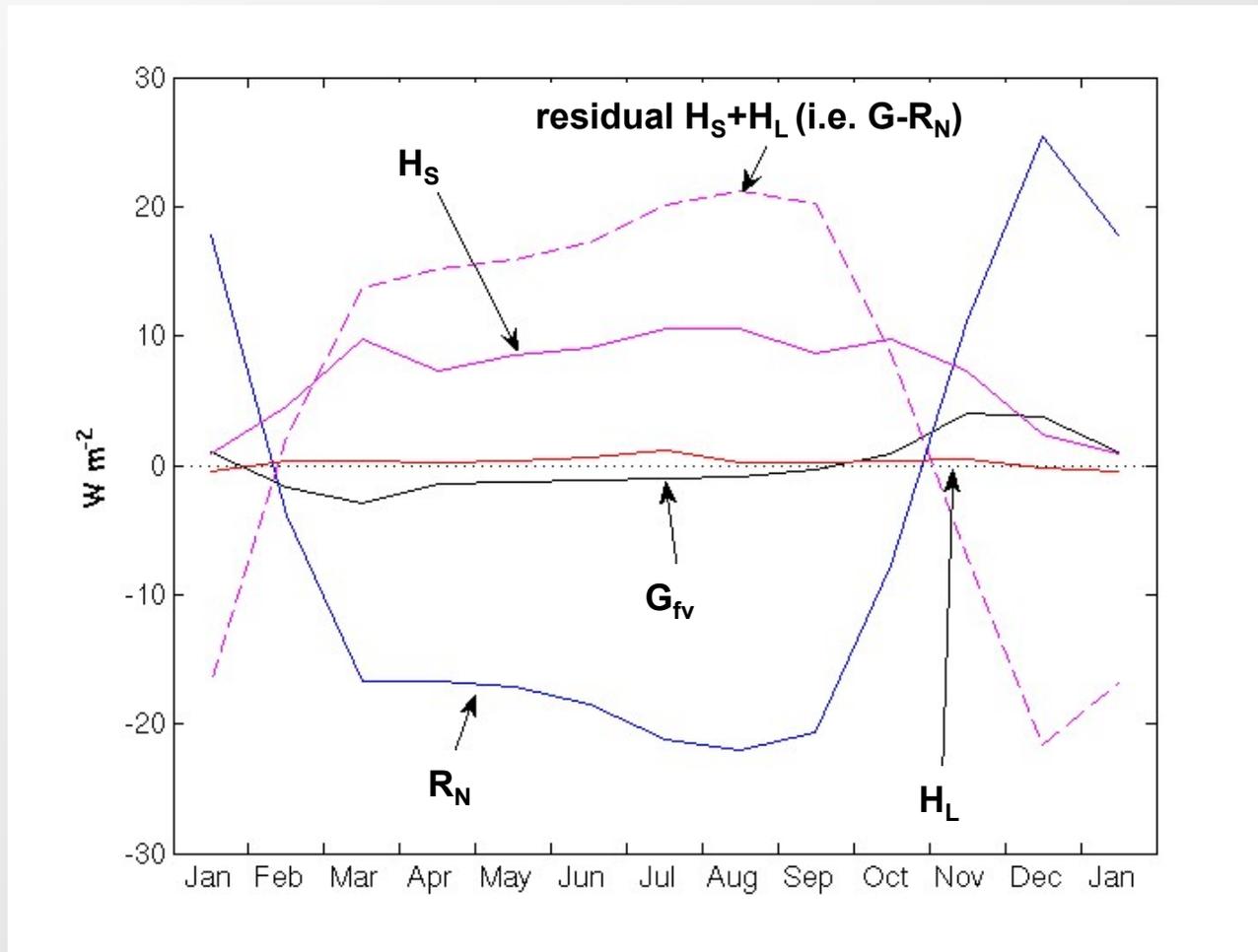


monthly means:  
energy balance? *no.*

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$



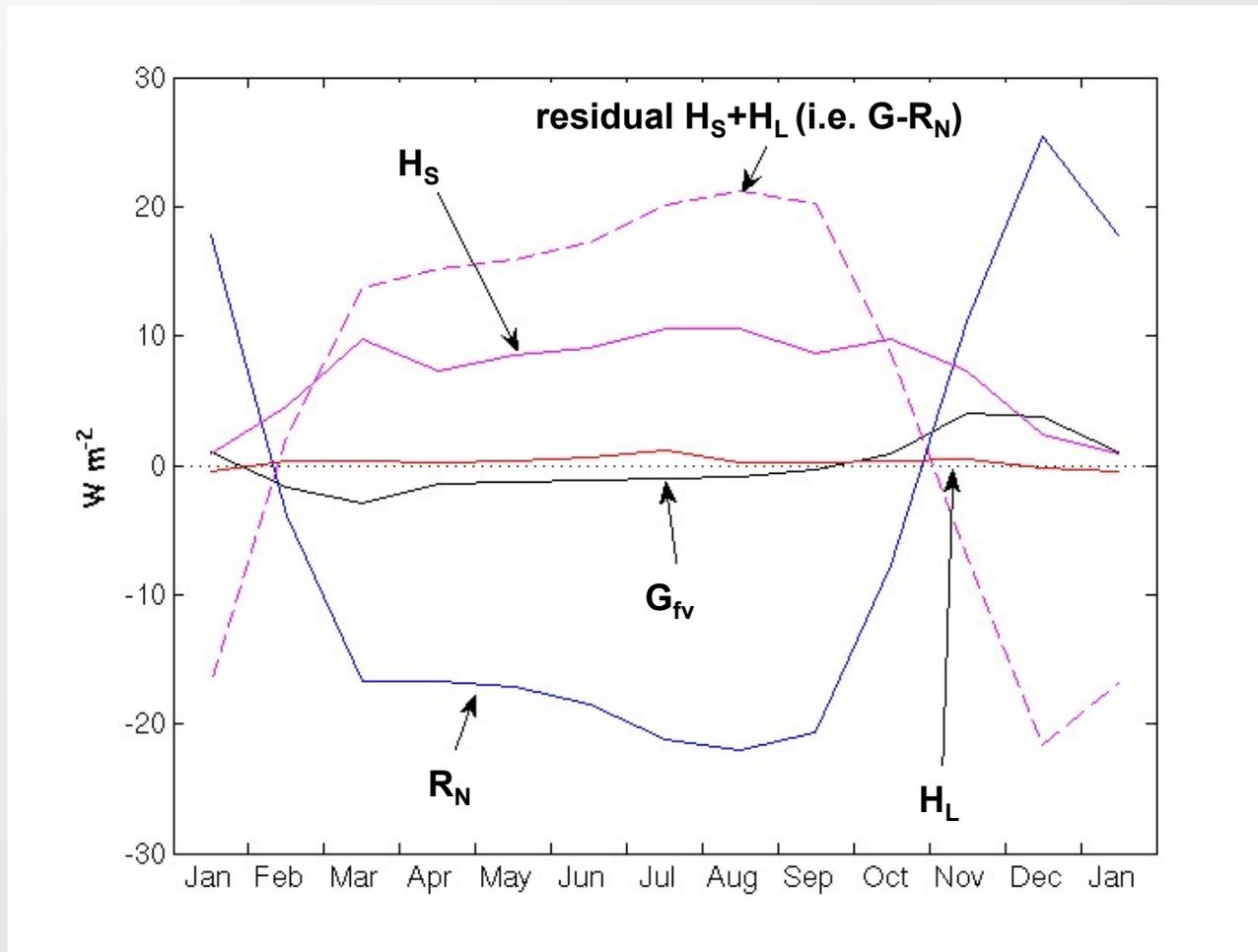
$H_S$  magnitude is underestimated by M0 theory over South Pole, probably.

monthly means:  
energy balance? *no.*

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$



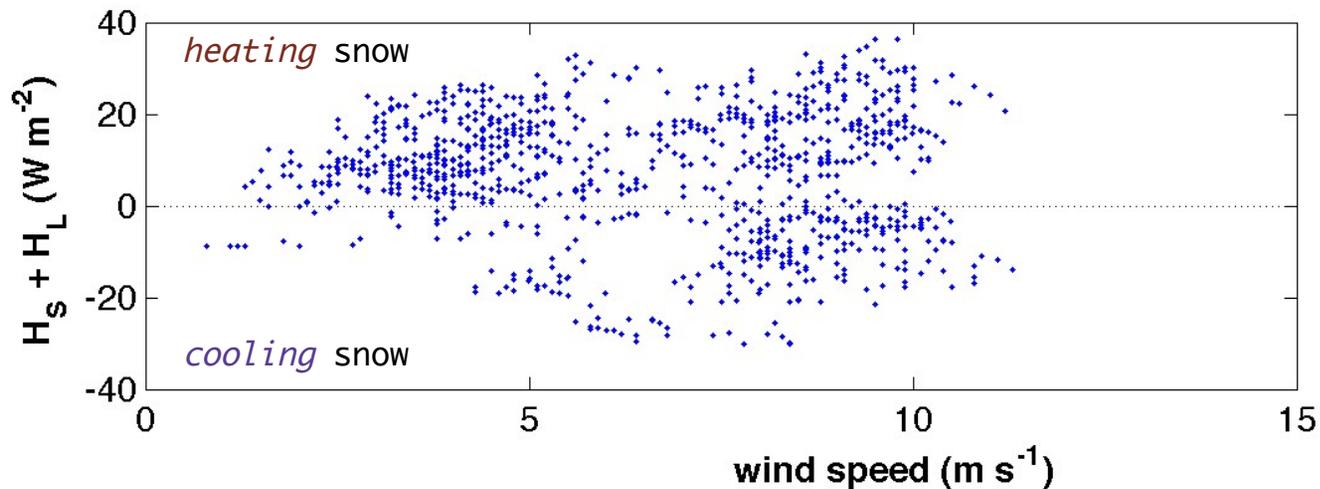
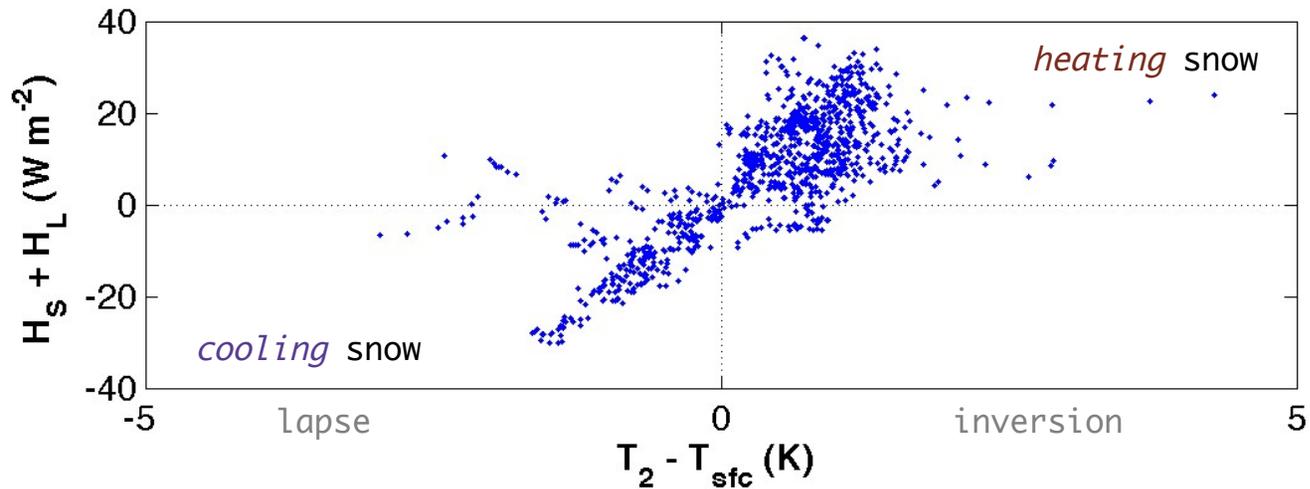
$H_S$  is sensitive to skin-surface temperature derivation (from LUF).

stable boundary layer:  
solution?

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$

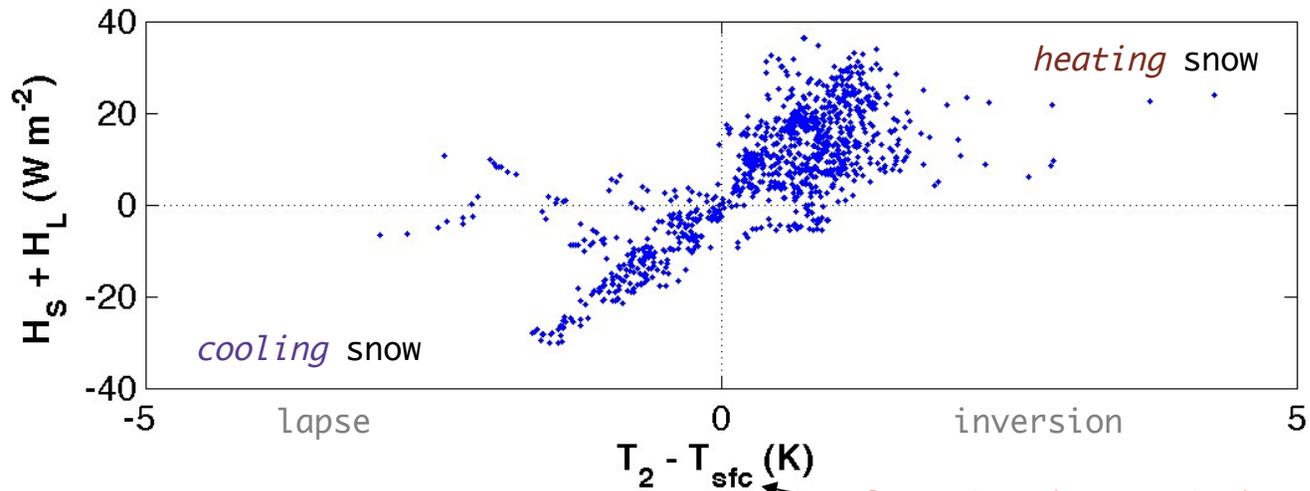


stable boundary layer:  
solution?

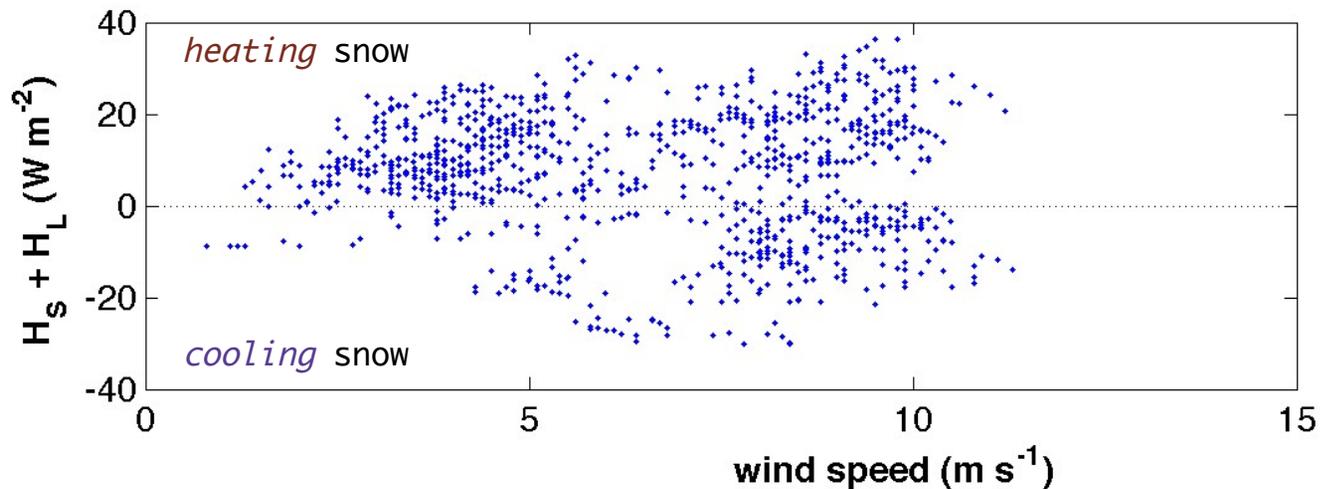
energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$



from thermistors during 2001 (not LUF)



energy transfer over South Pole



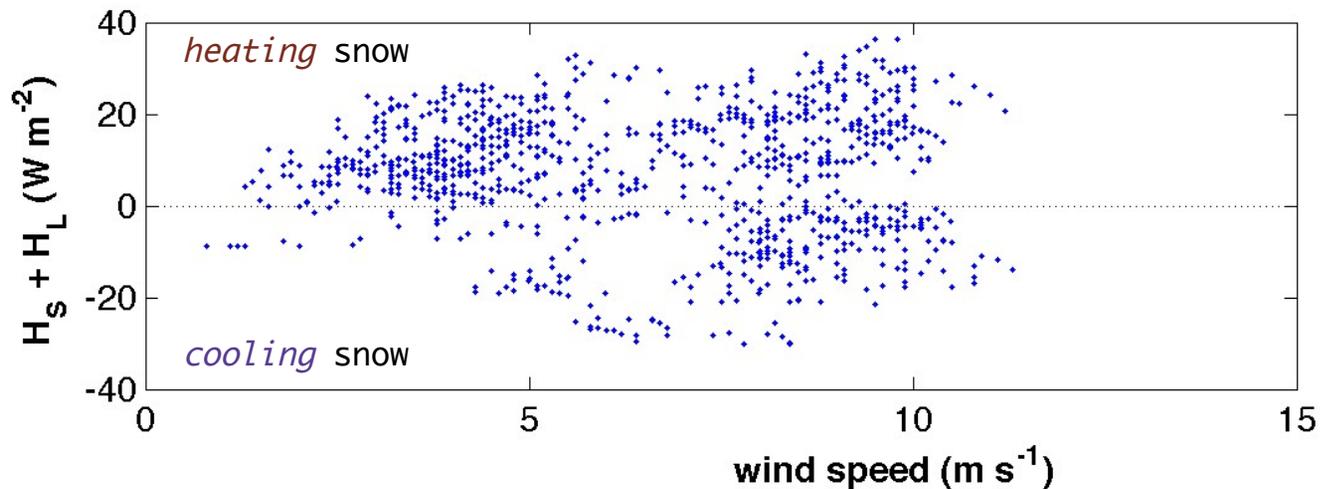
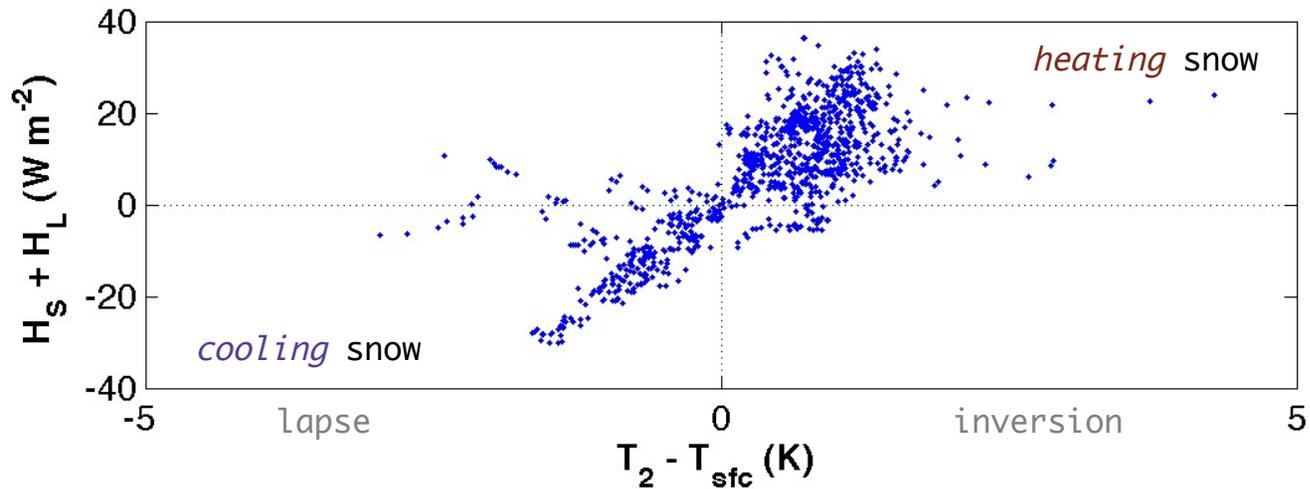
stable boundary layer:

solution? *maybe.*

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

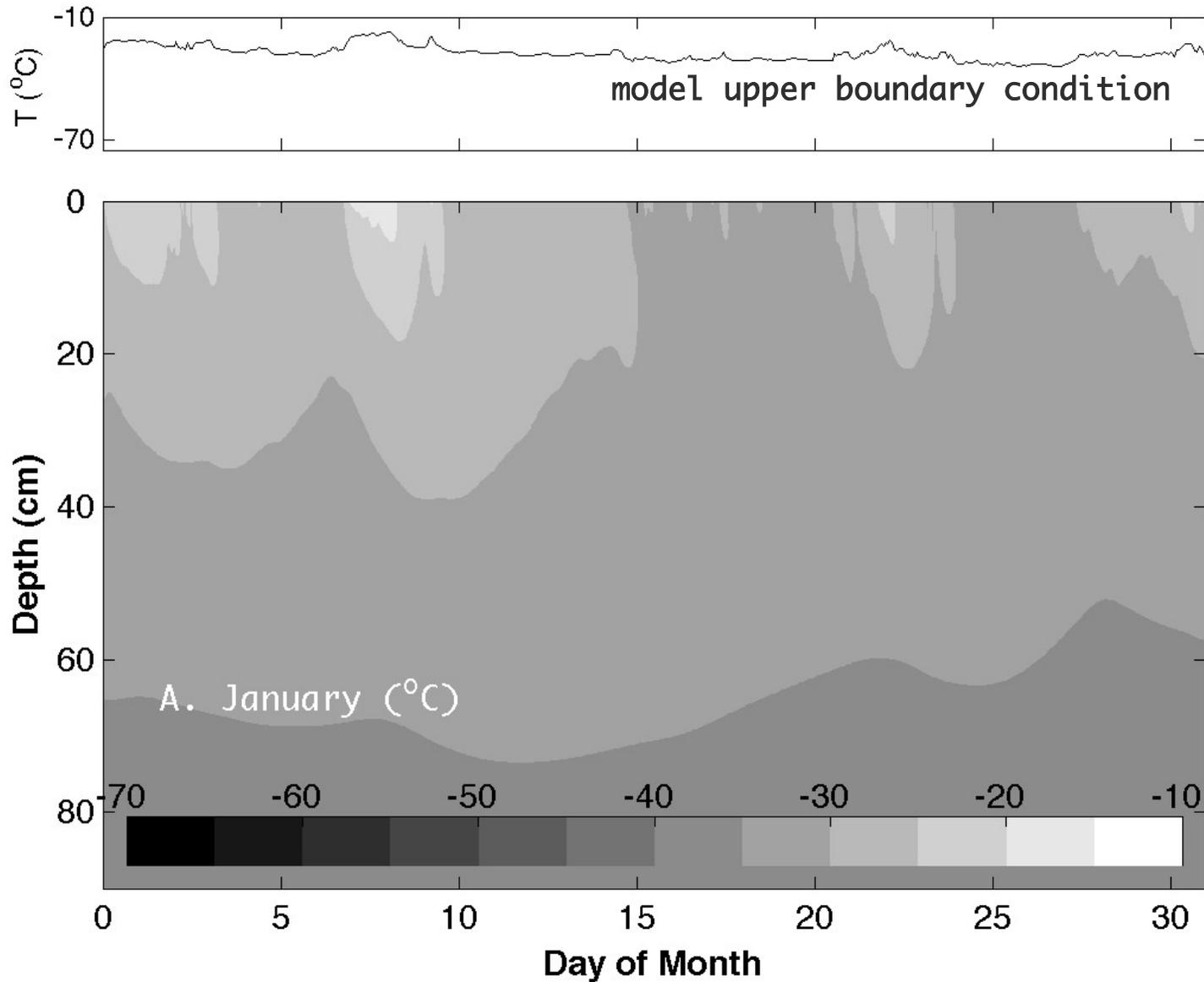
$$G - R_N = H_S + H_L$$

find empirical relationship between  $G - R_N$ ,  $T_{inv}$ , WS, ...



# short time scales: subsurface temperatures

heat transfer in snow pack

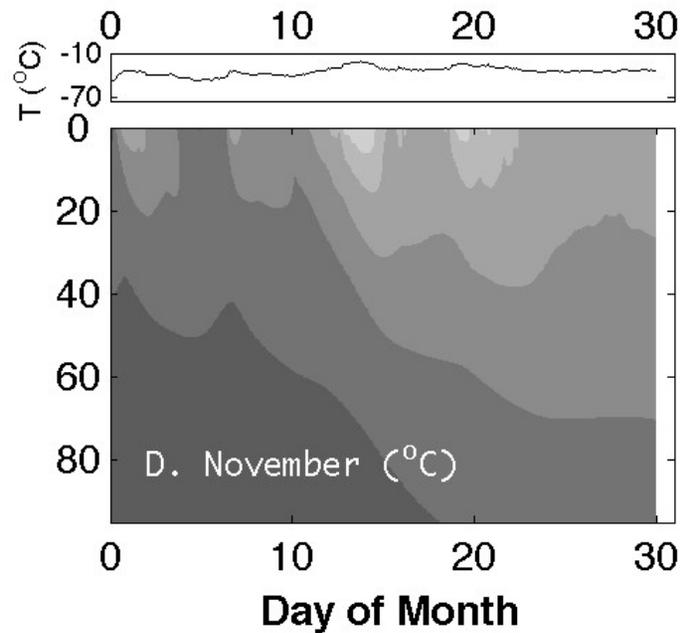
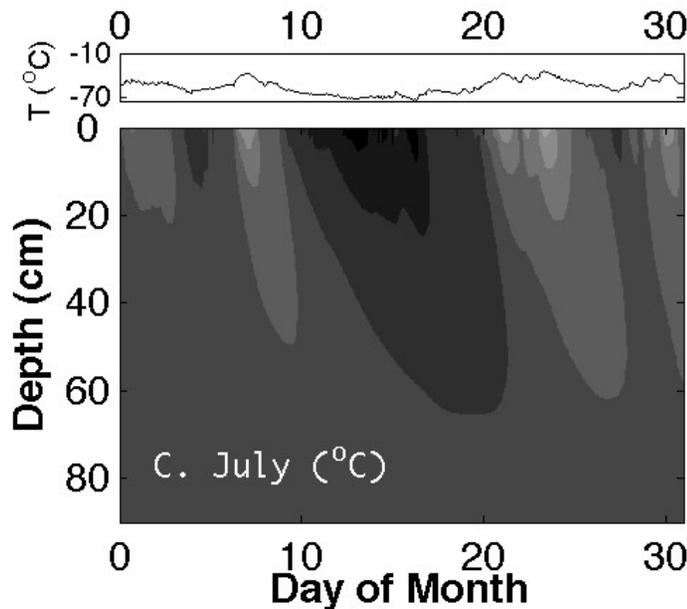
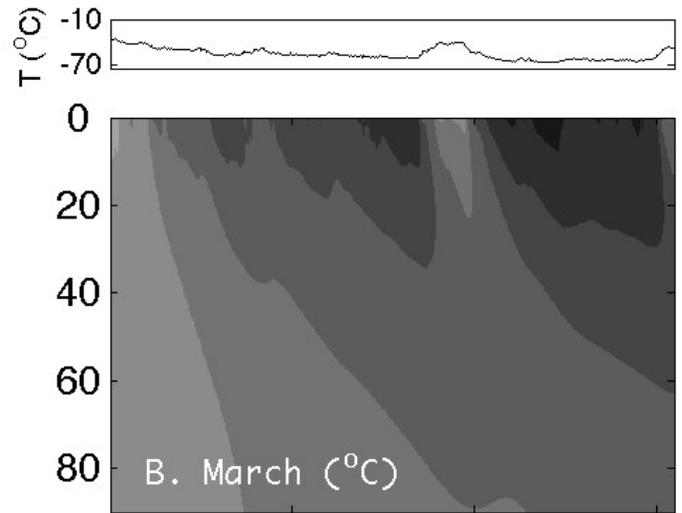
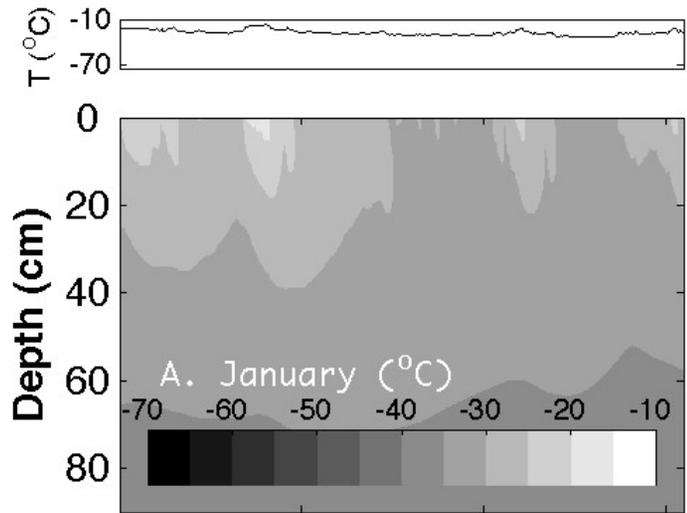


# short time scales: subsurface temperatures

heat transfer in snow pack



high variability in subsurface temperatures during winter



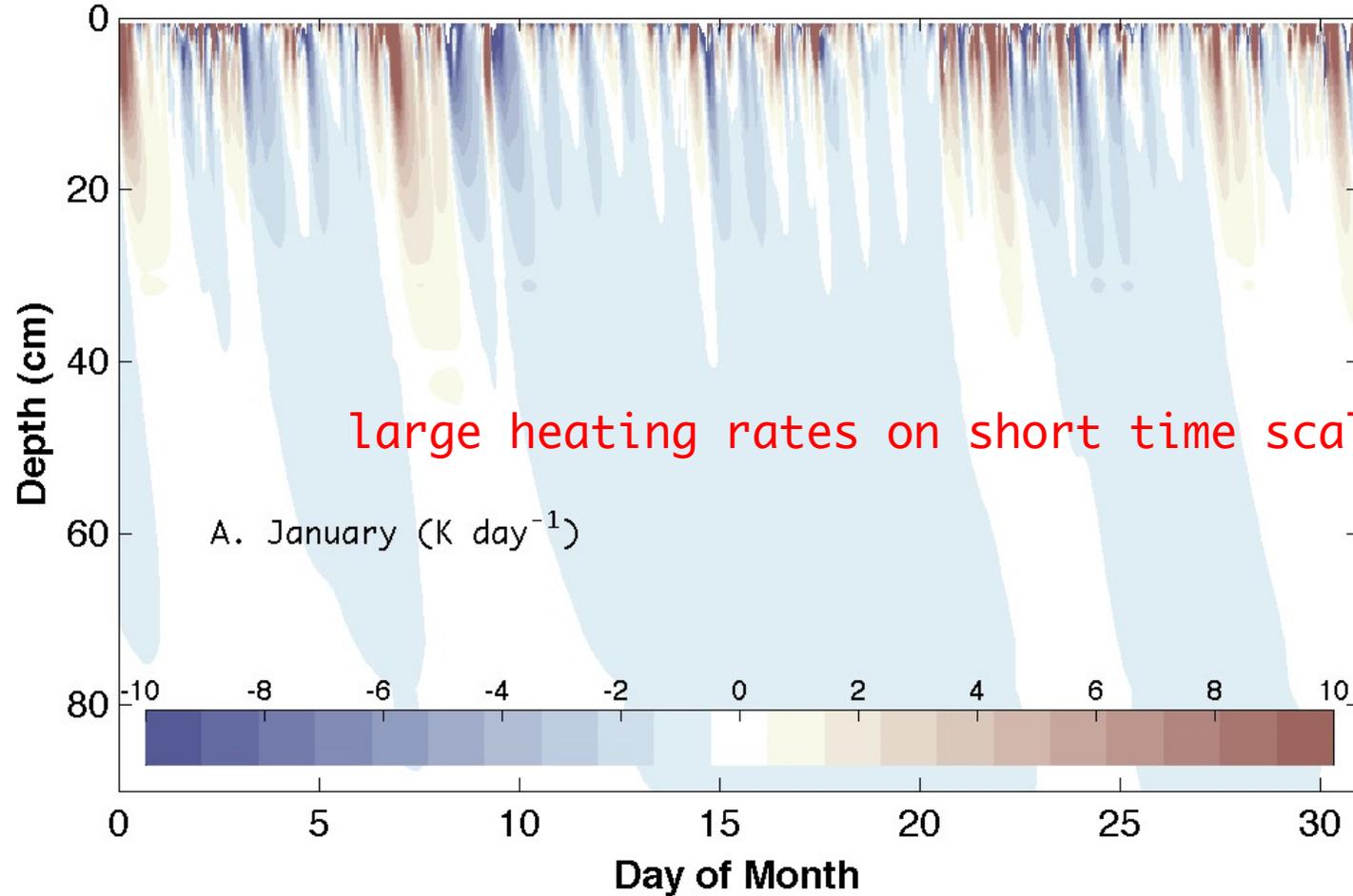
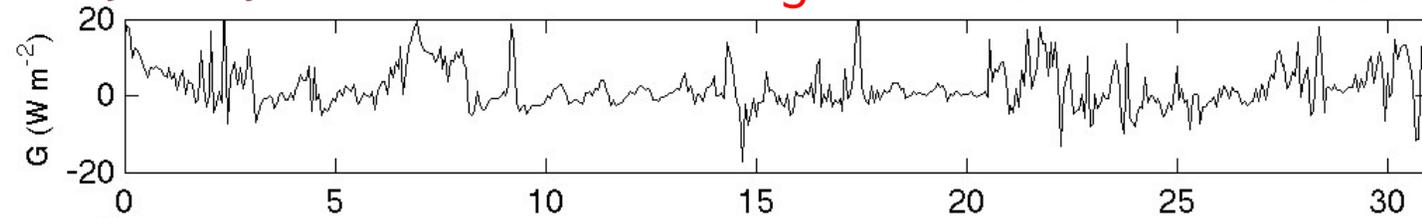
# short time scales: subsurface heating rates

heat transfer in snow pack



January Monthly MEAN  $G = 1 \text{ W m}^{-2}$

large  $G$  on short time scales

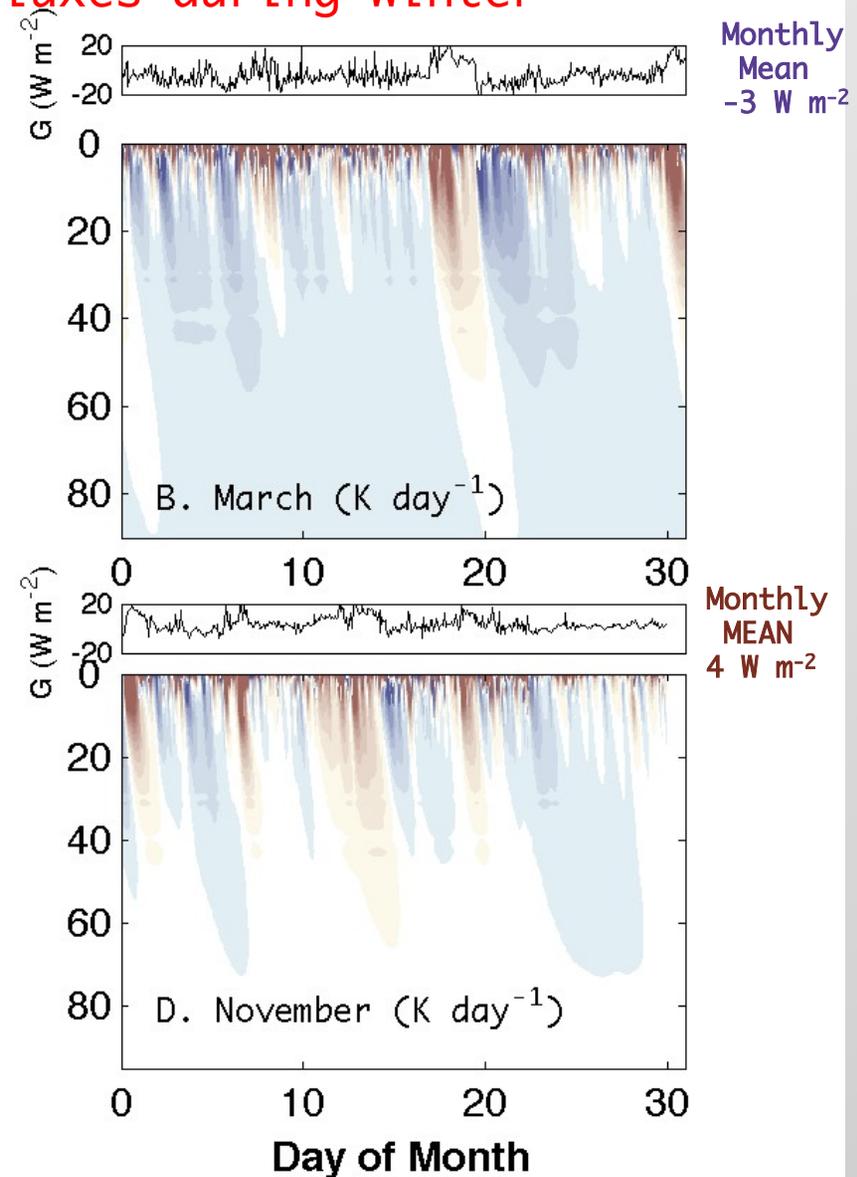
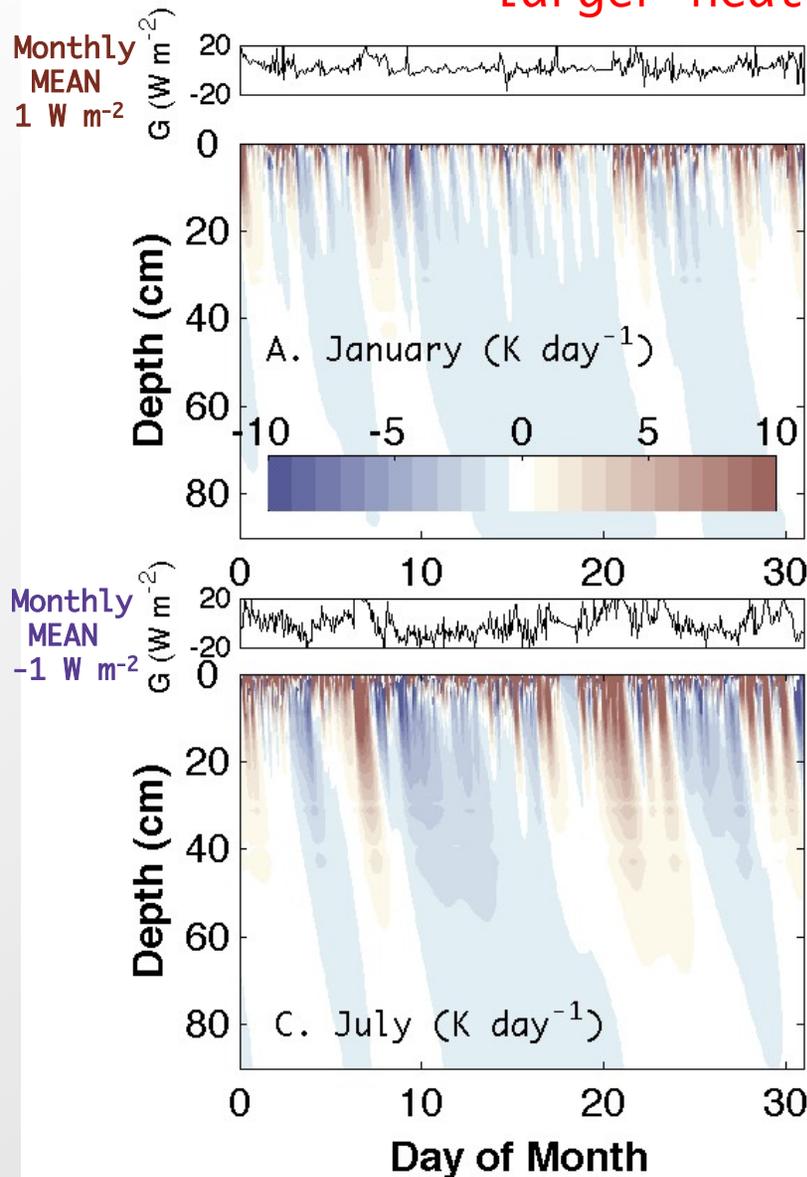


# short time scales: subsurface heating rates

## heat transfer in snow pack



larger heat fluxes during winter

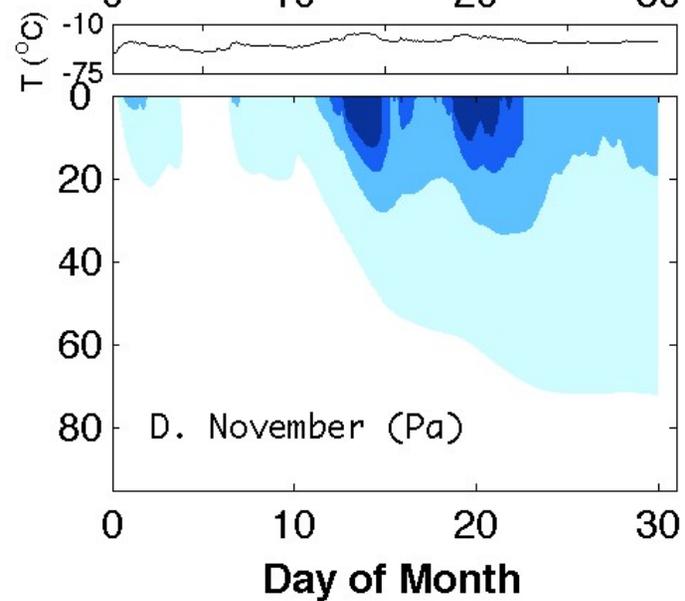
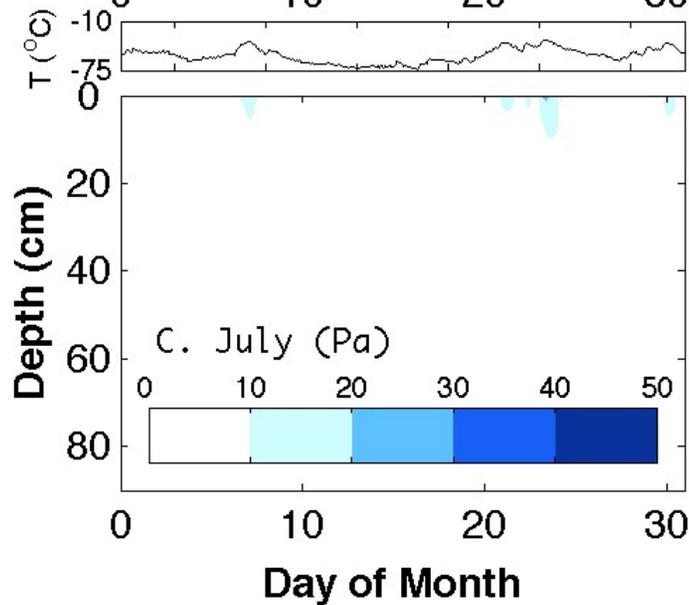
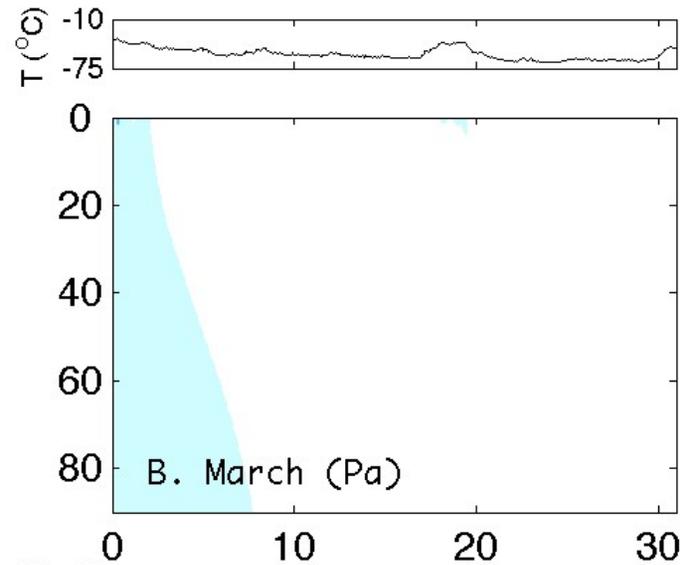
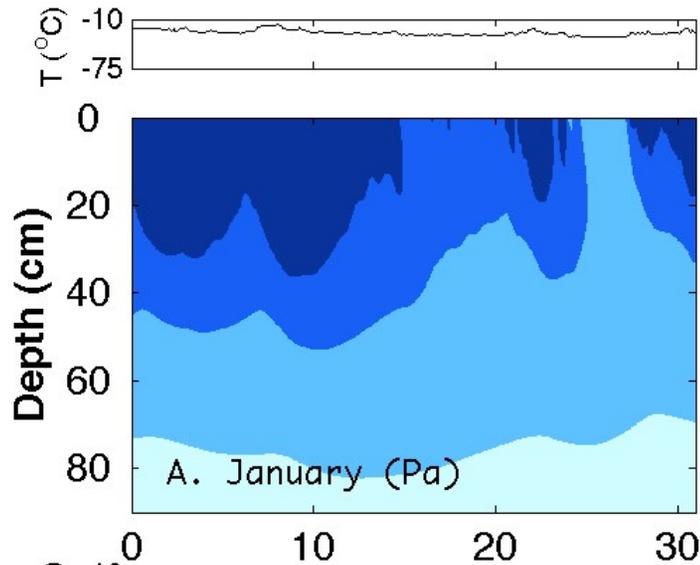


# short time scales: subsurface vapor pressures

heat transfer in snow pack



subsurface vapor pressures higher during summer



energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



## conclusions:

No energy balance.  $H_S$  is probably larger in the monthly mean (by  $10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) than predicted by MO theory.

May be possible to develop empirical relationship for  $H_S + H_L$ .

No significant frost deposition at the South Pole.

Snow surface temperatures at the South Pole result in interface heat fluxes of up to  $20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  on daily time scales.

Episodic sustained heating rates of greater than  $10 \text{ K day}^{-1}$  occur in the near-surface snow at South Pole.

Snow temperature gradients and heat fluxes important for depth hoar formation and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (or  $\delta\text{D}$ ) fractionation.



## acknowledgements:

*Ed Waddington* of UW for help with the finite-volume model.

*Ells Dutton* and *Tom Mefford* of NOAA-GMD, and the BSRN for data and advice.

*Shelley Knuth* and *Matt Lazzara* at the AMRC for data.

*Kathie Hill* at Raytheon Polar Services for data.

NSF Office of Polar Programs for general support and travel funds.

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



## conclusions:

No energy balance.  $H_S$  is probably larger in the monthly mean (by  $10 \text{ W m}^{-2}$ ) than predicted by M0 theory.

No significant frost deposition at the South Pole.

Snow surface temperatures at the South Pole result in interface heat fluxes of up to  $20 \text{ W m}^{-2}$  on daily time scales.

Episodic sustained heating rates of up to  $3 \text{ K day}^{-1}$  occur in the near-surface snow at South Pole.

Heat plumes puncture deeper into the snow during winter than summer.

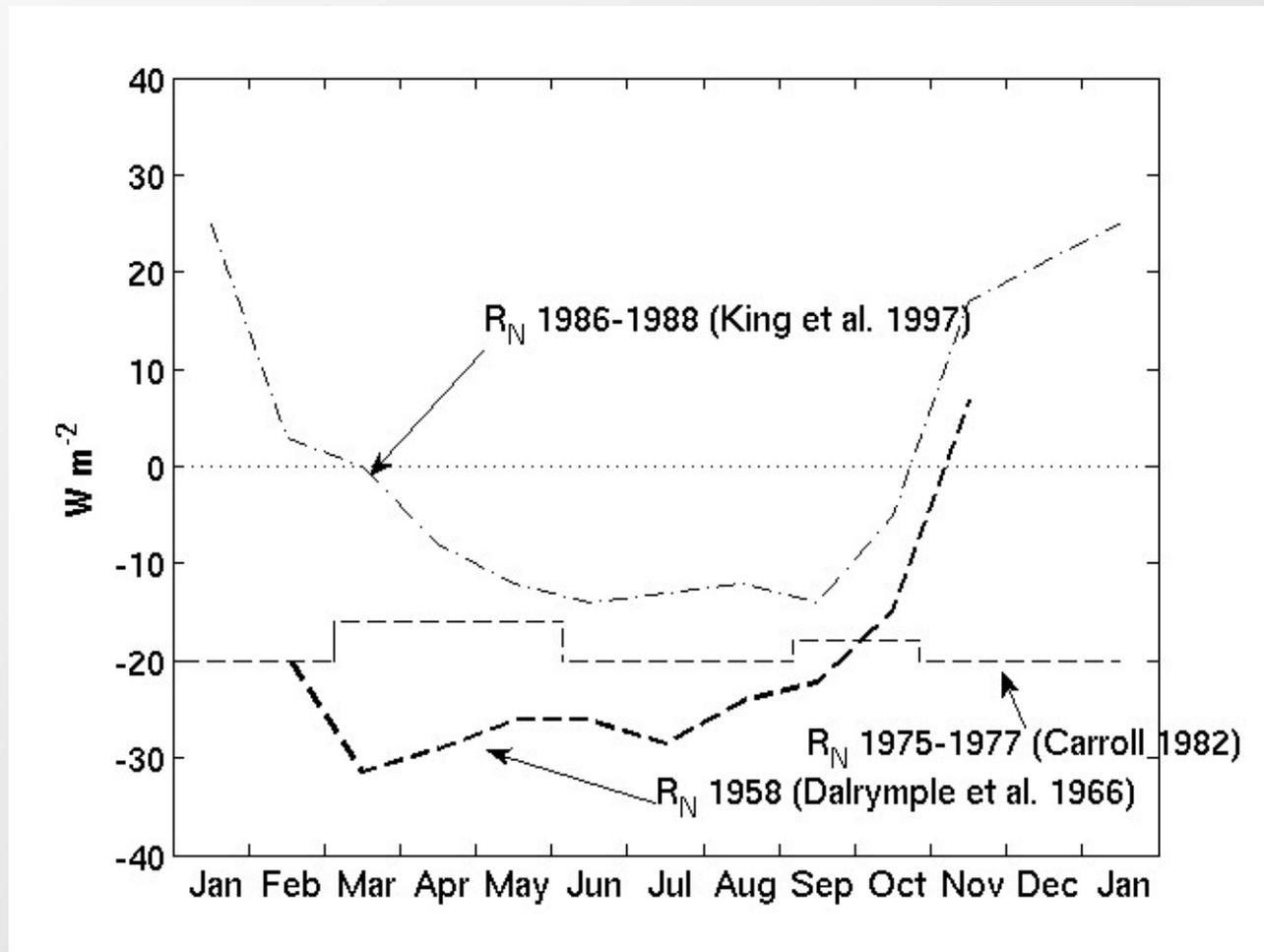
Snow temperature gradients and heat fluxes important for depth hoar formation and  $^{18}\text{O}_2$  fractionation.

energy transfer over South Pole



monthly means:  
prior work on  $R_N$  (net radiation)

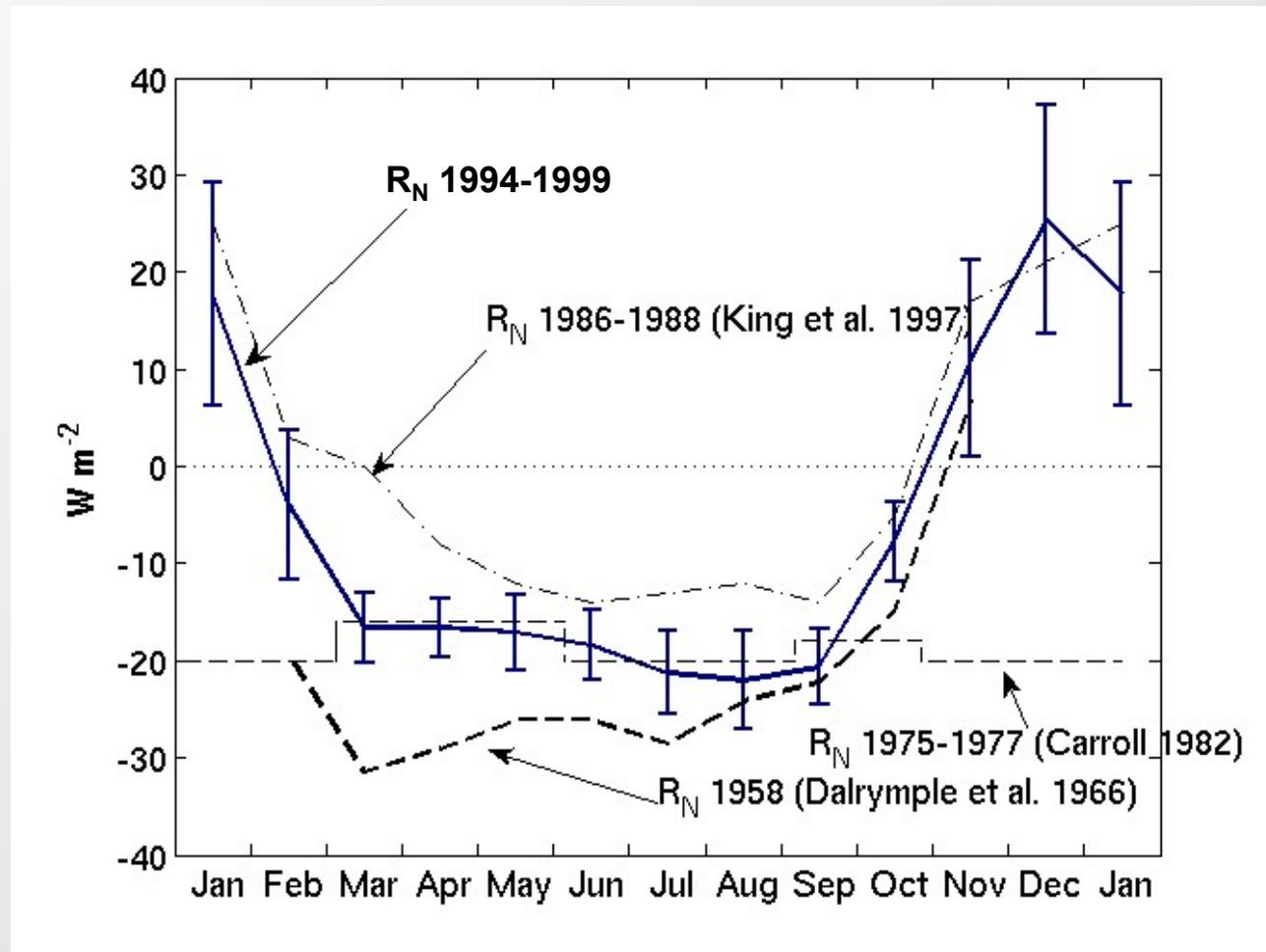
$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



monthly means:  
 $R_N$  (net radiation)

energy transfer over South Pole

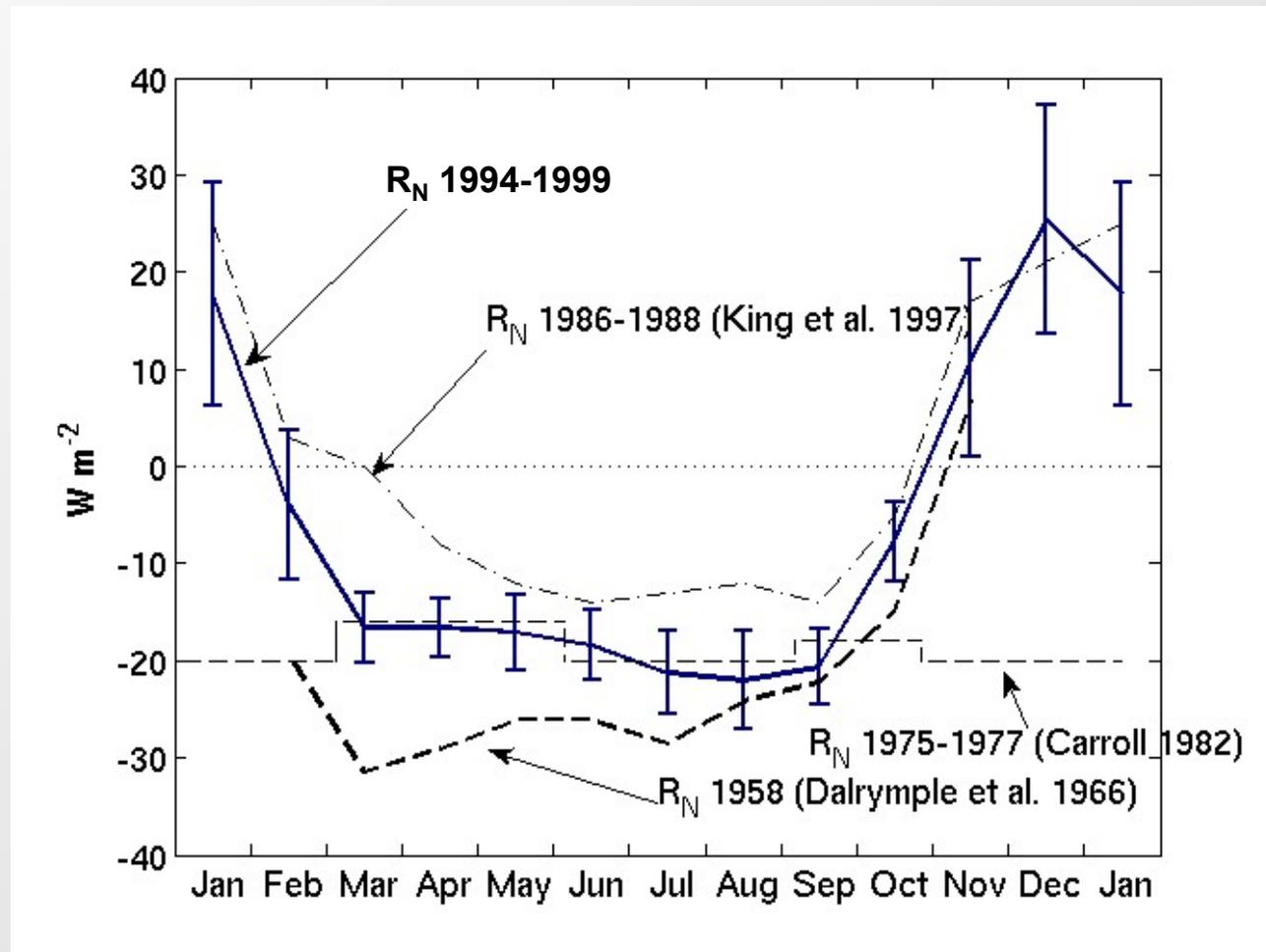
$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



monthly means:  
 $R_N$  (net radiation)

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

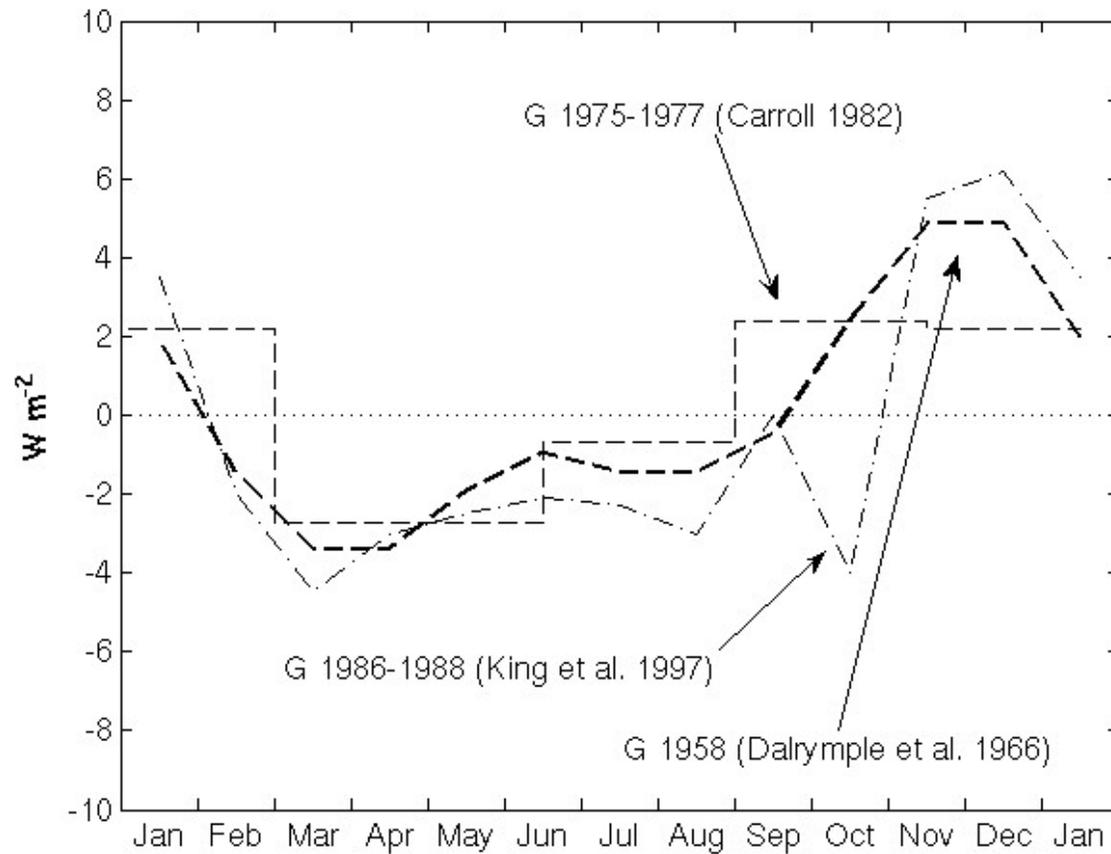


More interannual variability during Summer  
likely due to effect of clouds on solar radiation.

monthly means:  
G (subsurface heat flux)

energy transfer over South Pole

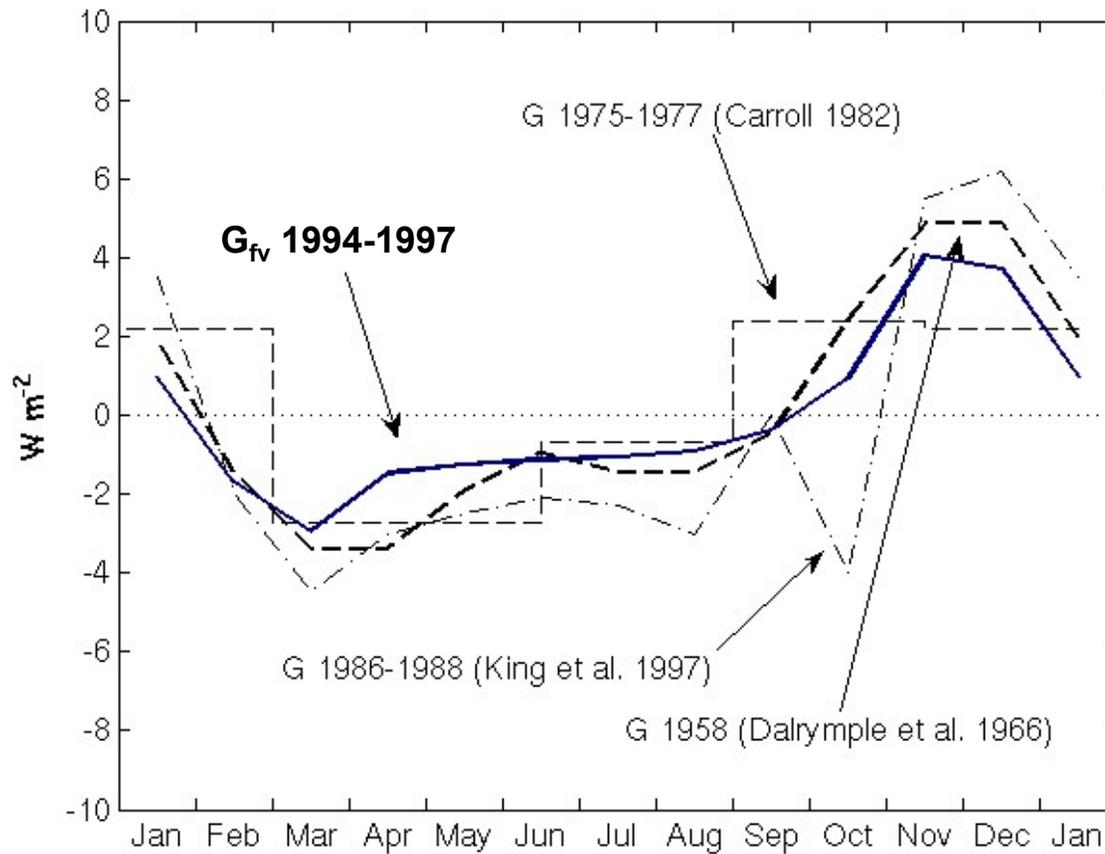
$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



monthly means:  
G (subsurface heat flux)

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



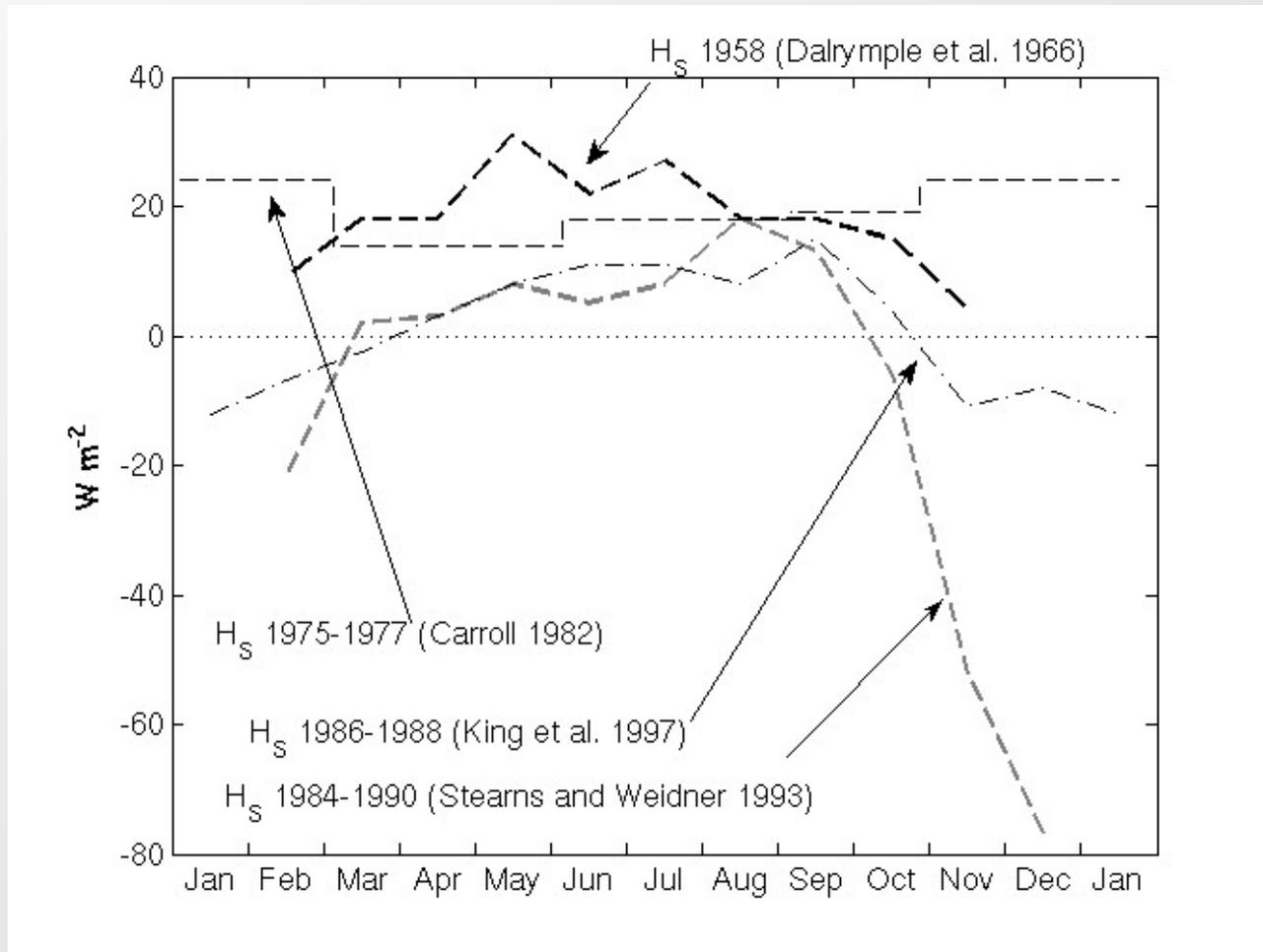
energy transfer over South Pole



monthly means:

prior work on  $H_S$  (sensible heat flux)

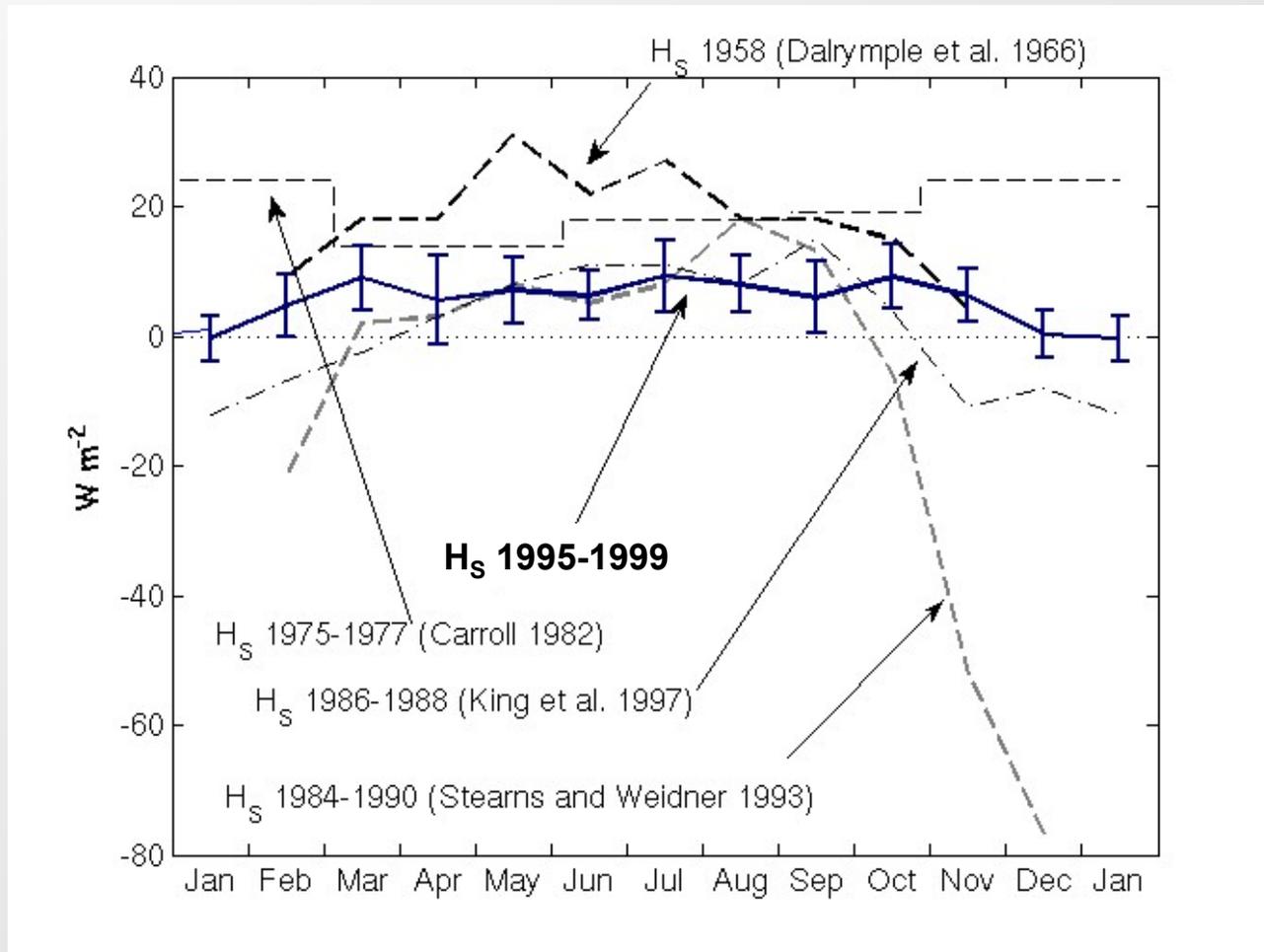
$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$



monthly means:  
 $H_S$  (sensible heat flux)

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

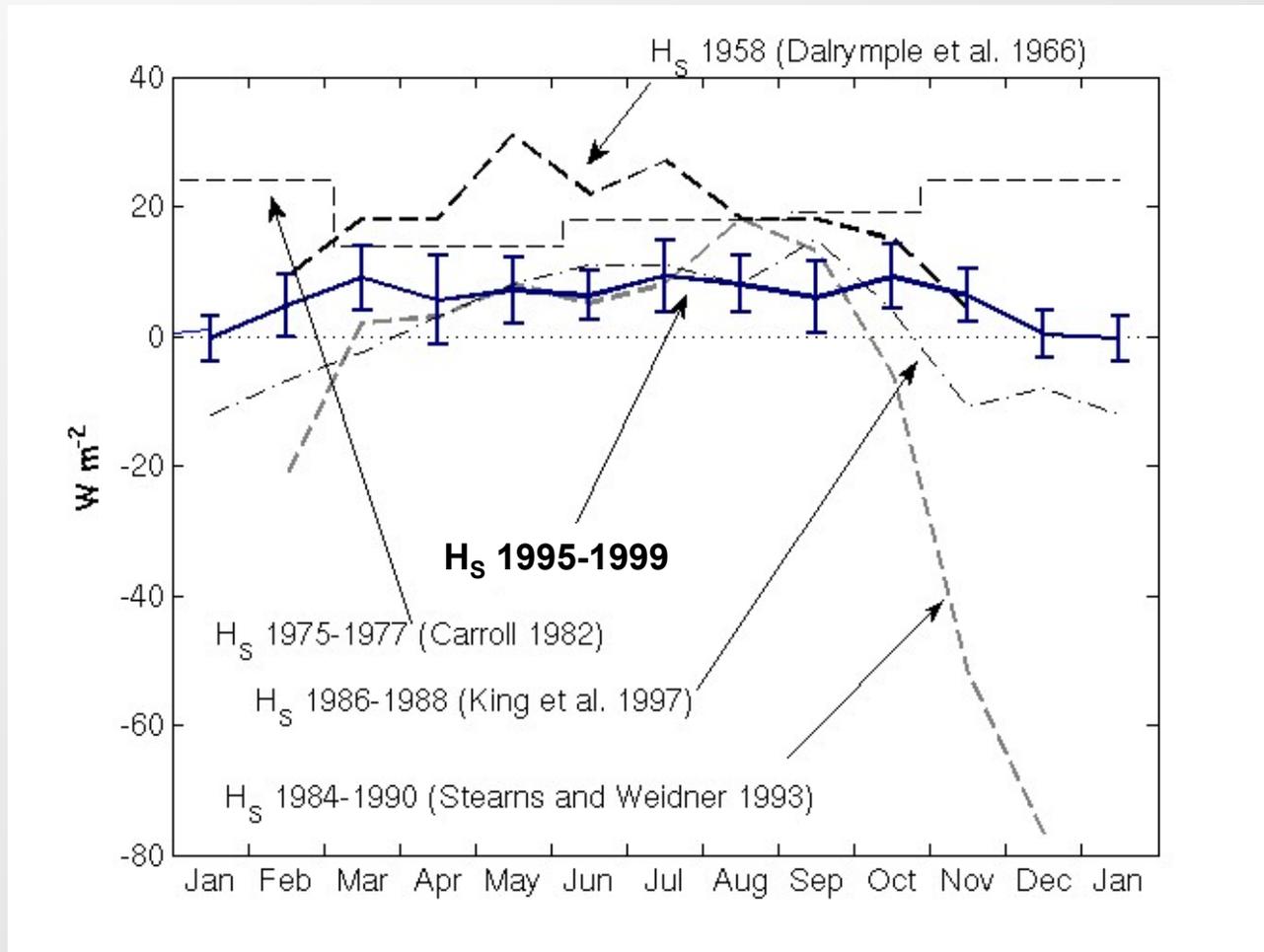


energy transfer over South Pole



monthly means:  
 $H_S$  (sensible heat flux)

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

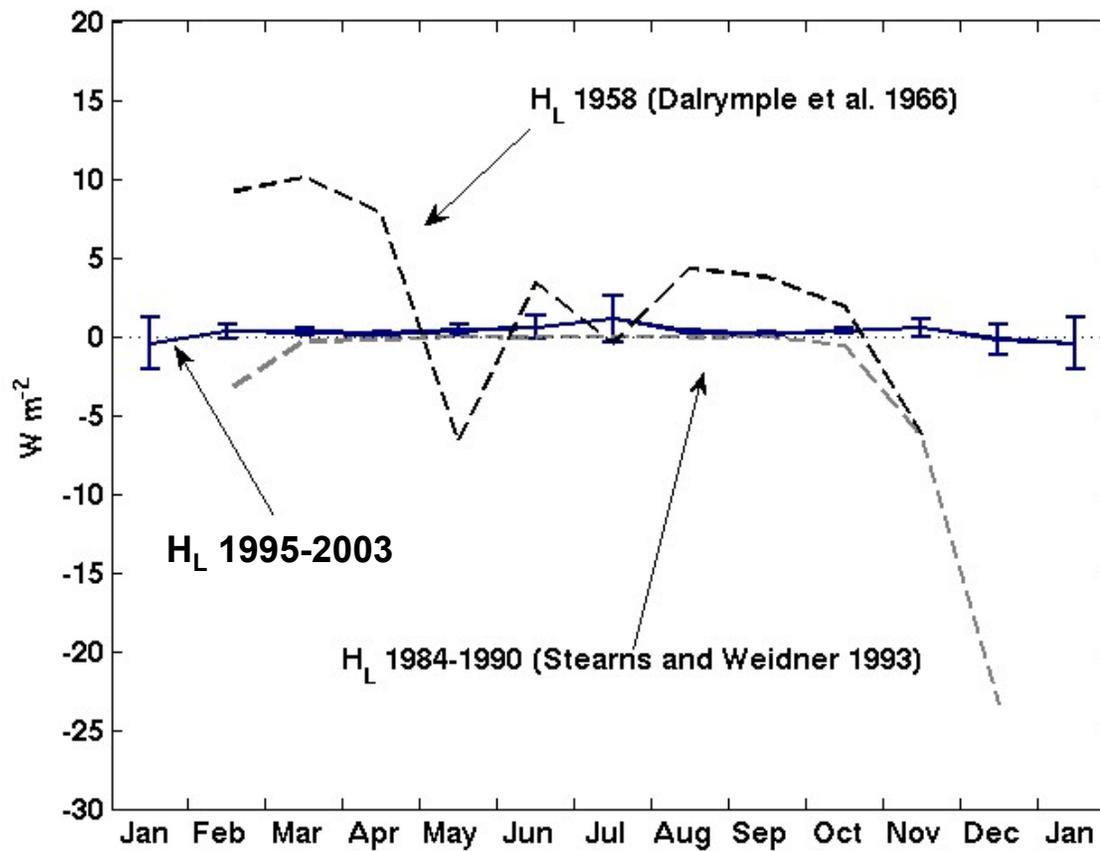


monthly mean  $H_S$  from M0 theory is almost always directed toward surface

monthly means:  
 $H_L$  (latent heat flux)

energy transfer over South Pole

$$G = R_N + H_S + H_L$$

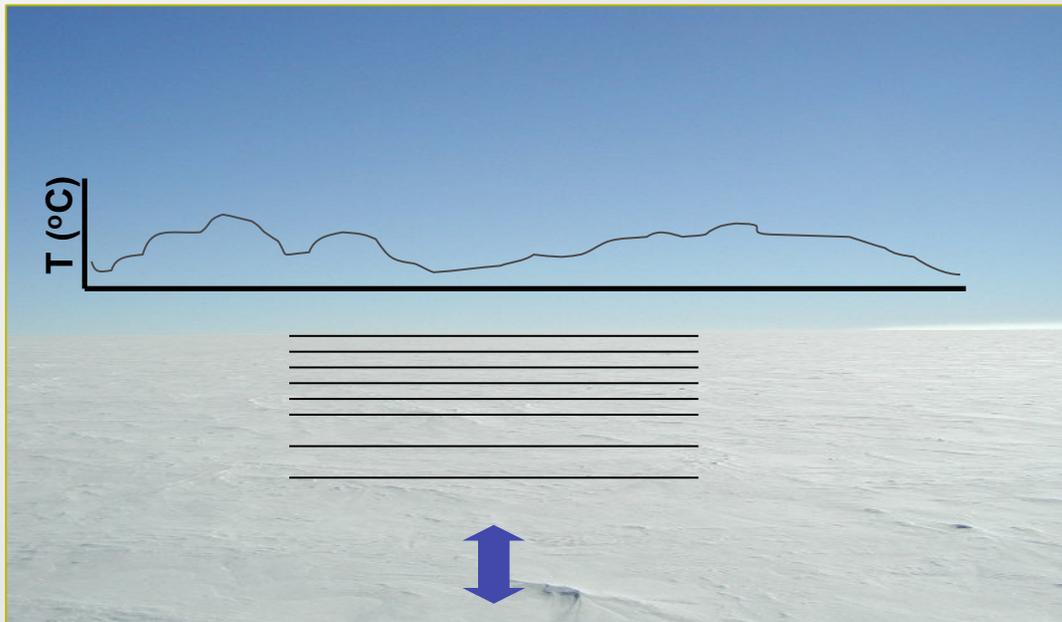
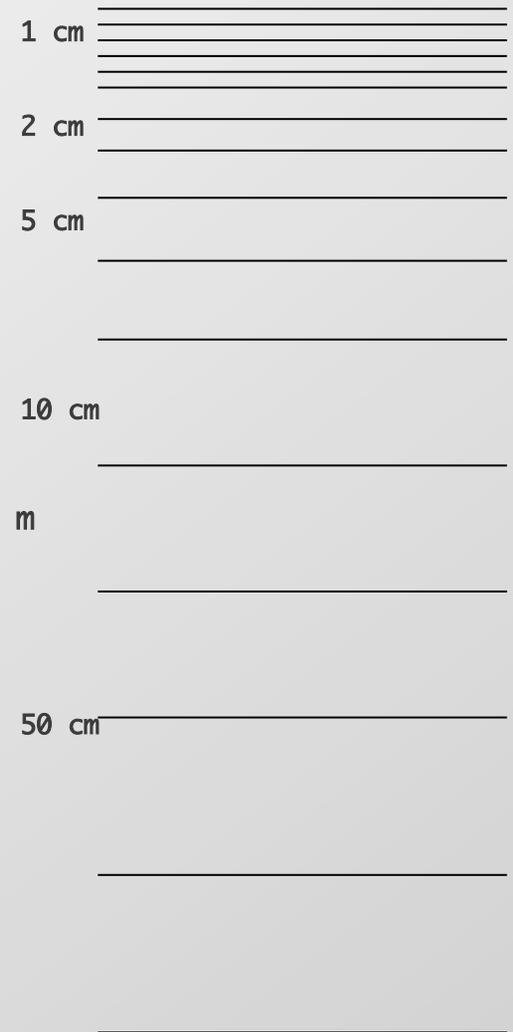




# heat transfer model:

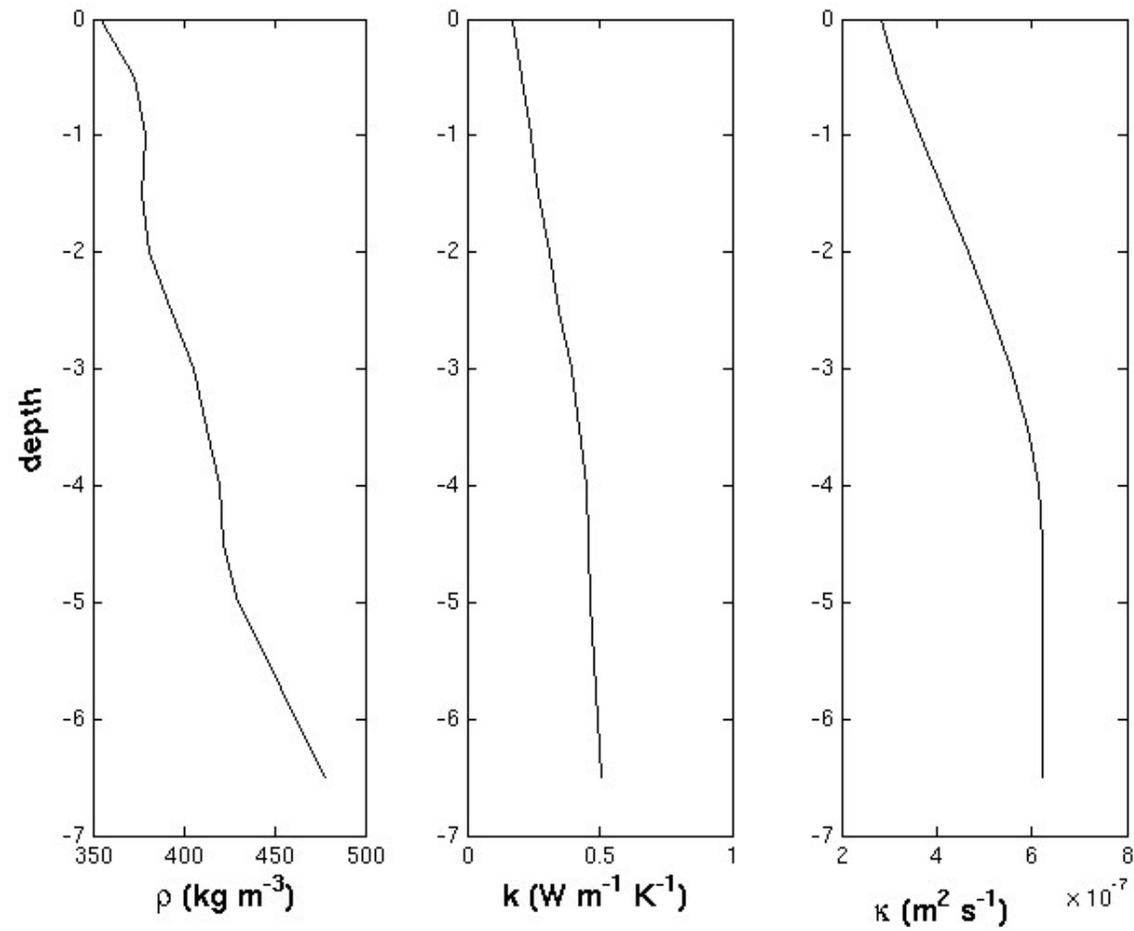
finite volumes (Patankar 1982)  
variable levels  
no accumulation (no advection)  
no sources (solar, wind pumping, ...)

boundary conditions:  
top: variable surface T (1-3 min)  
bottom: seasonal T gradient





# G Model properties: Dalrymple et al. (1966)



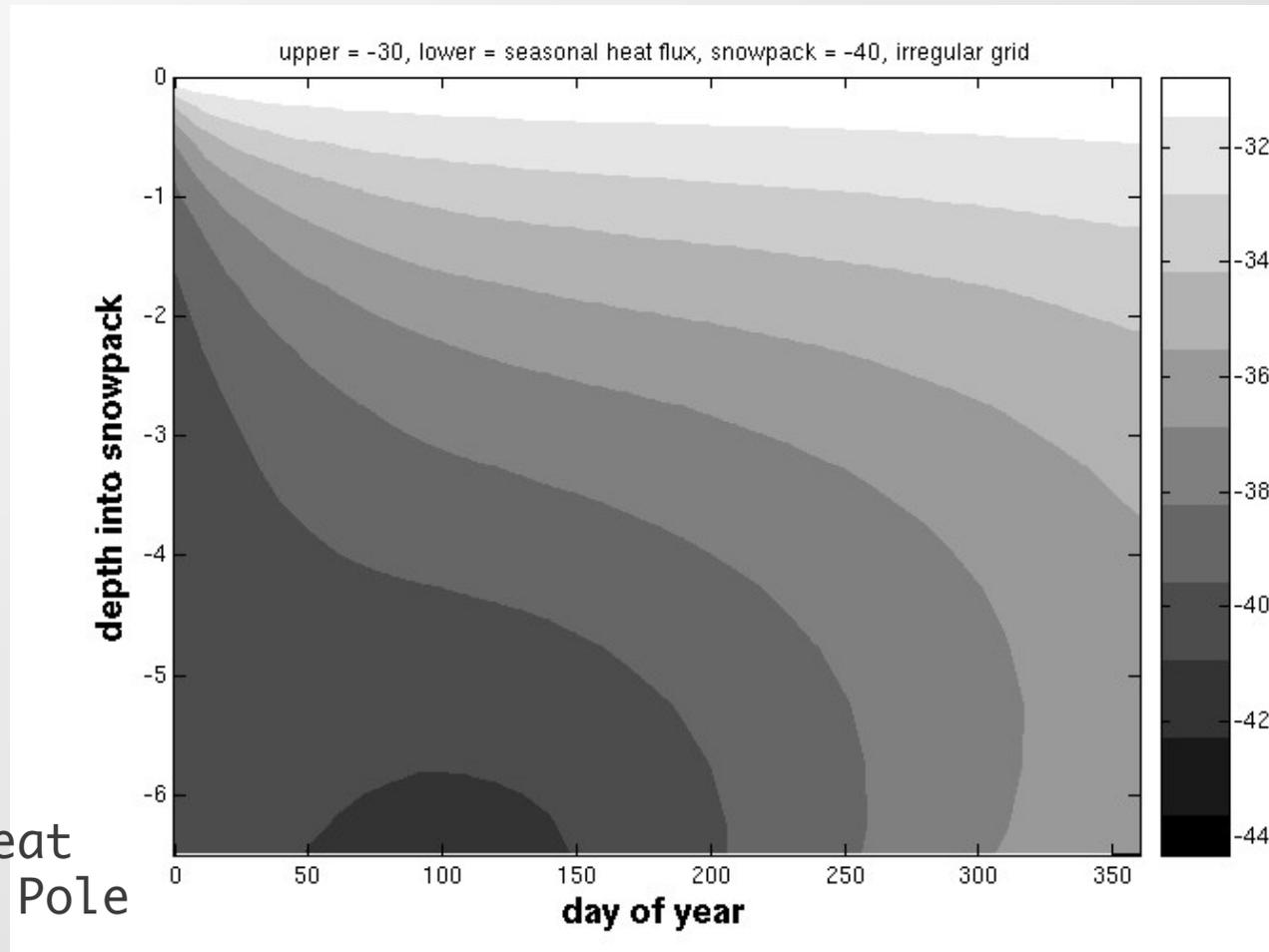


# G Model validation: Carslaw and Jaeger (1959)

surface set  
at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$

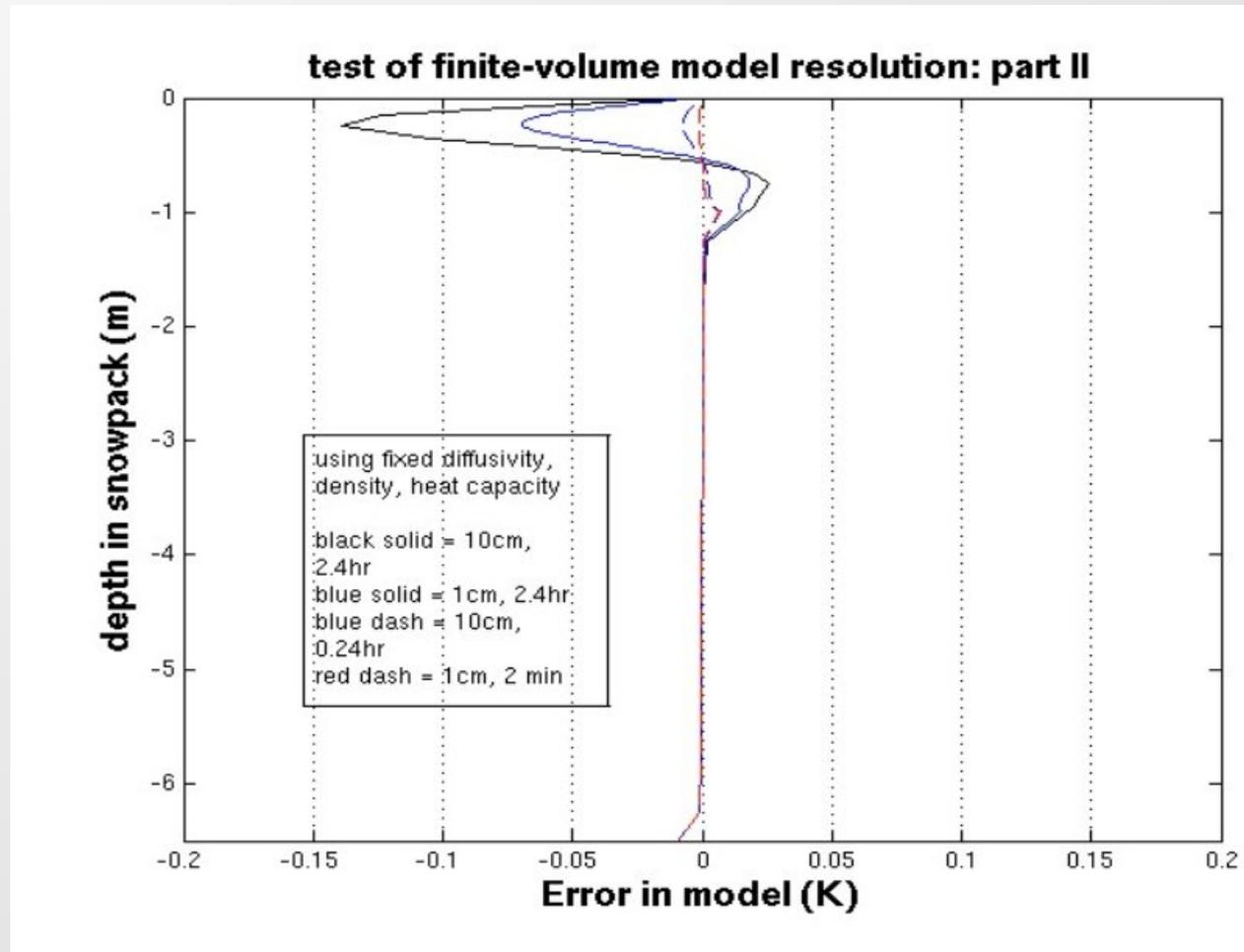
snow pack  
set at  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$

bottom set  
to seasonal heat  
flux at South Pole





# G Model validation: Carslaw and Jaeger (1959)





# Effect of clouds on $R_N$ :

