

The Radar Equation – Smooth Surface

$$P_R = P_T \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi} \right)^2 G_T G_R \frac{1}{\left[2 \left(h + \frac{z}{n} \right) \right]^2} T^2 L^2 B^2 \rho \Gamma$$

P_T = transmit power

λ = wavelength in air

G_T = transmitting antenna gain

G_R = receiving antenna gain

h = radar clearance above surface

z = depth to target below surface

n = refractive index of subsurface

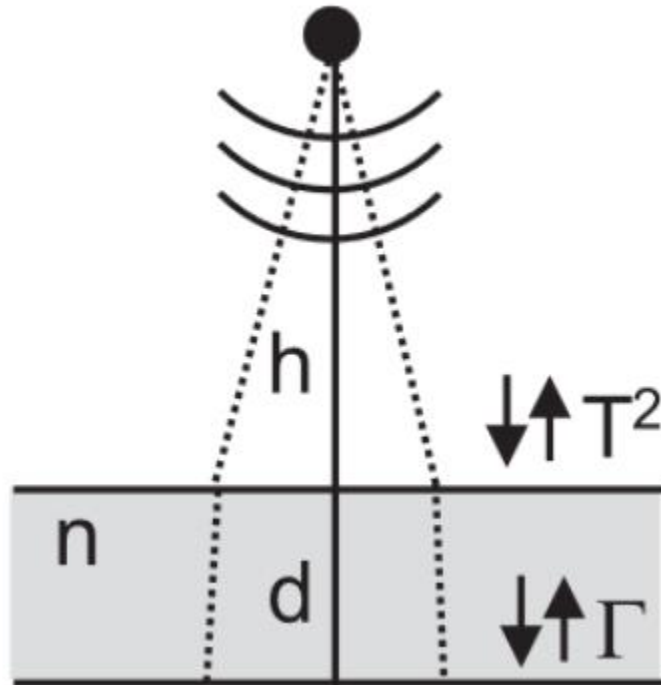
T = surface transmission coefficient

L = one-way attenuation through ice

B = one-way birefringence loss

ρ = roughness loss factor

Γ = reflection coefficient of target



The Radar Equation – Rough Surface

$$P_R = P_T \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^3} G_T G_R \frac{1}{\left(h + \frac{z}{n}\right)^4 n^2} T^2 L^2 B^2 \sigma^0 A$$

P_T = transmit power

λ = wavelength in air

G_T = transmitting antenna gain

G_R = receiving antenna gain

h = radar clearance above surface

z = depth to target below surface

n = refractive index of subsurface

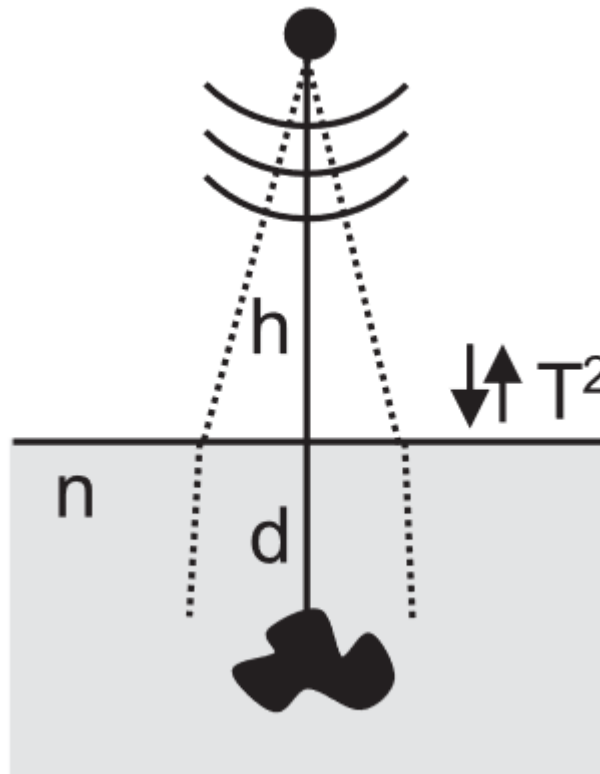
T = surface transmission coefficient

L = one-way attenuation through ice

B = one-way birefringence loss

σ^0 = normalized radar cross-section

A = area of target (max area is radar resolution)



Simplified Radar Equation

$$P_R = \underbrace{P_T \left(\frac{\lambda}{4\pi} \right)^2 G_T G_R}_{S} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\left[2 \left(h + \frac{z}{n} \right) \right]^2}}_G \underbrace{T^2 L^2 B^2 \rho \Gamma}_{A} \underbrace{\rho \Gamma}_R$$

S Radar system properties
 G Geometric spreading loss
 A Attenuation
 R Reflectivity
 T Transmission Loss
 B Birefringence Loss

$$P_R = SGTABR$$

The Radar Equation – In dB

$$[P]_{dB} = 10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{P}{1W} \right)$$

Received echo power

$$\overbrace{[P_R]_{dB}}^{\text{Received echo power}} = \underbrace{[S]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Radar system} \\ \text{properties} \\ \text{(including} \\ \text{transmit power)}}} + \underbrace{[G]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Geometric} \\ \text{spreading loss}}} + \underbrace{[T]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Transmission} \\ \text{Loss}}} + \underbrace{[A]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Englacial} \\ \text{Attenuation}}} + \underbrace{[B]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Birefringence} \\ \text{Loss}}} + \underbrace{[R]_{dB}}_{\substack{\text{Material} \\ \text{Reflectivity}}}$$

Theoretical Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR)

$$SNR = \frac{P_R}{N}$$

$$N = kTB F_n$$

k = Boltzmann constant (1.38e-28 J/K)

T = electronics operating temperature (~290 K)

B = radar bandwidth

F_n = noise factor – additional noise in the receiver

$$[SNR]_{dB} = [P_R]_{dB} - [N]_{dB} + [G_R]_{dB} + [G_A]_{dB}$$



Range
compression
gain

Azimuth
processing
gain

The Radar Equation for Ice Sheet Analysis

We want to estimate the values for one of more these parameters because they tell us about physical properties of the ice sheet.

We measure this

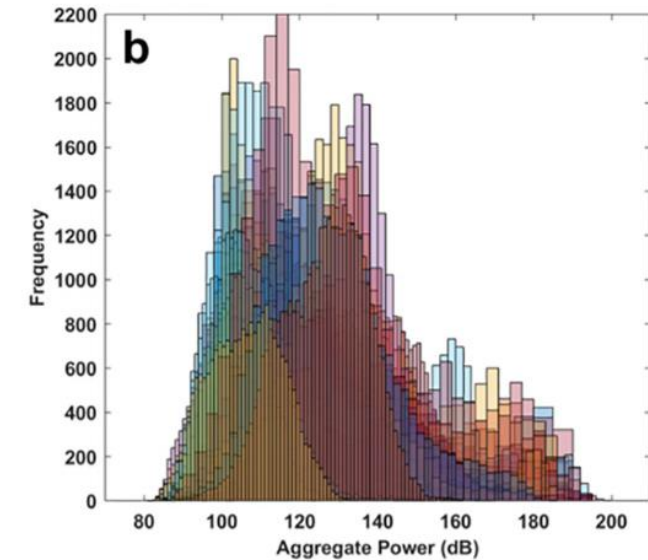
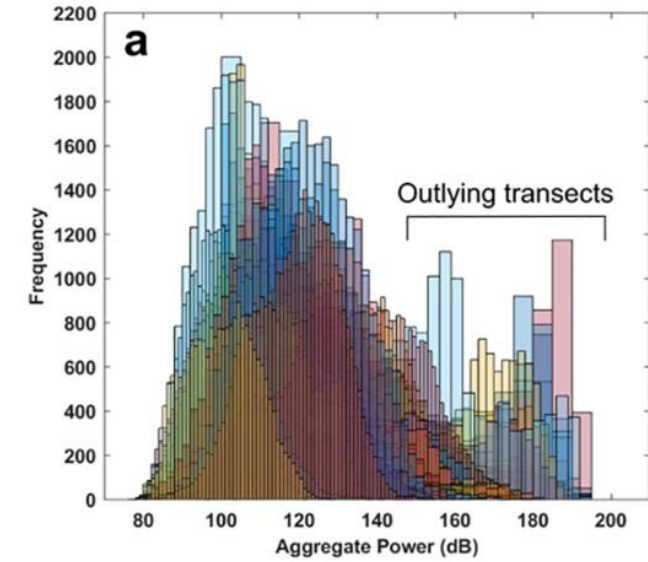
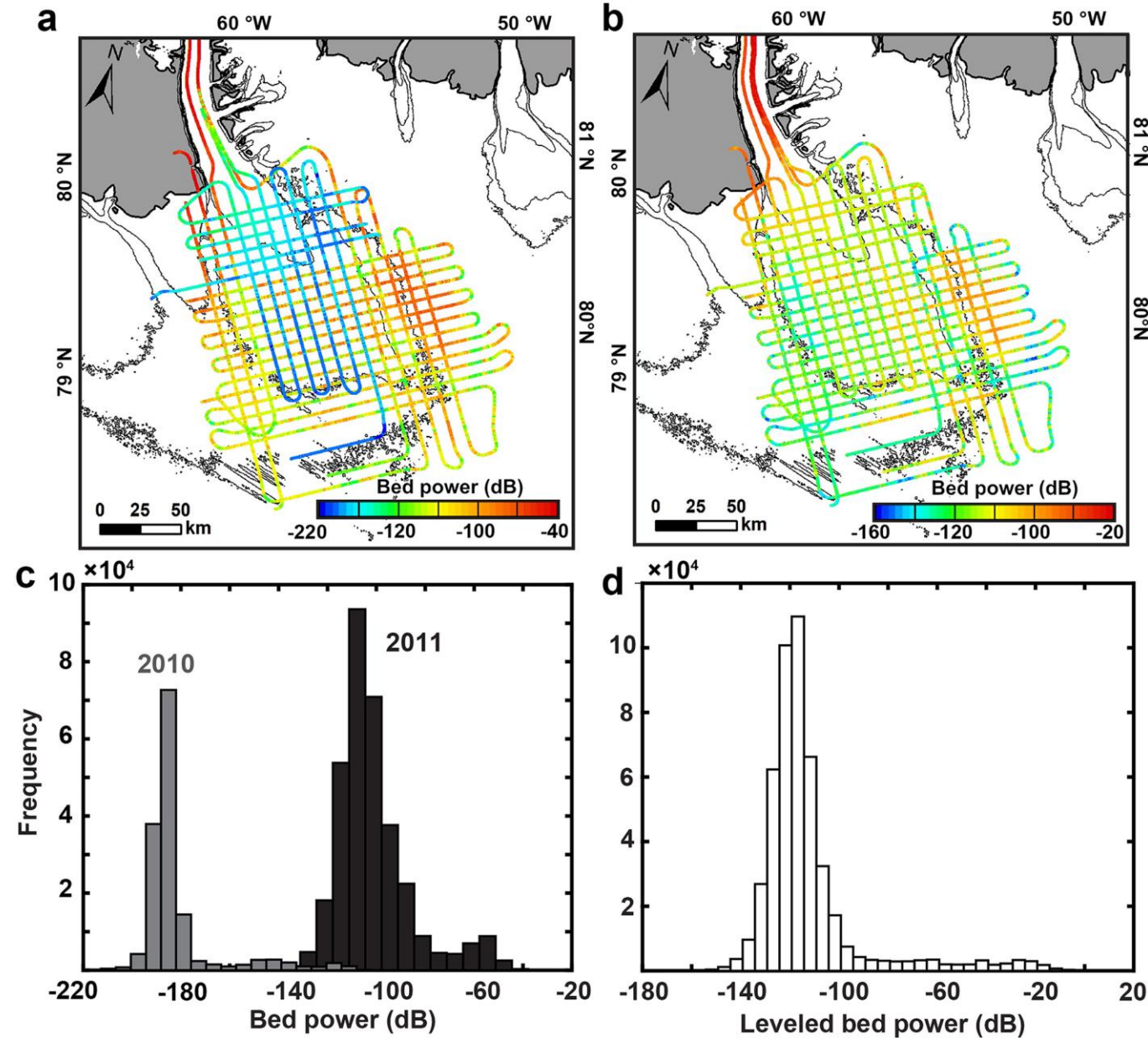
$$\overline{[P_R]_{dB}} = \overline{[S]_{dB}} + \overline{[G]_{dB}} + \overline{[T]_{dB}} + \overline{[A]_{dB}} + \overline{[B]_{dB}} + \overline{[R]_{dB}}$$

Find a way to empirically calibrate this out

Calculate this from known position of the aircraft

Calculate this from estimated surface density

Calibrating out System Properties



Geometric Spreading Correction

$$P_{corr} = P_R \left[2 \left(h + \frac{z}{n} \right) \right]^2$$

OR

$$[P_{corr}]_{dB} = [P_R]_{dB} + 20 \log_{10} \left[2 \left(h + \frac{z}{n} \right) \right]$$

RESAnalysisTools: GeometricCorrection.py

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corrected = GeometricPowerCorrection(surface, time, radar_data, n)
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Surface Transmission Loss Correction

$$P_{corr} = \frac{P_R}{\left(1 - \left|\frac{n_{air} - n_{surf}}{n_{air} + n_{surf}}\right|^2\right)^2}$$

OR

$$[P_{corr}]_{dB} = [P_R]_{dB} - 20 \log_{10} \left[1 - \left|\frac{n_{air} - n_{surf}}{n_{air} + n_{surf}}\right|^2 \right]$$

Note: You only need to make this correction if you want to compare observed radar power to simulations OR you think there is a big spatial gradient in surface density across your study area.