Supplemental material to

Snow Depth and Air Temperature Seasonality on Sea Ice Derived From Snow Buoy Measurements

1. Overview of Snow Buoy network on Arctic and Antarctic sea ice

Figure S1 and Table S1 present an overview of the operational period of all buoys. Drift trajectories of all buoys are shown in Figure 3 and in more detail in Figures S4, S5, and S6.

Table S1. Summary of all Snow Buoys with their IMEI number and WMO identifier (ID), their region of deployment and lifetimes. Figure S1 also illustrates the measurement period for each buoy. Missing stop dates indicate ongoing activity (status: 15 September 2019). Drift trajectories of all buoys are shown in Figure 3. * Buoys were re-deployed after recovery; hence these IMEI numbers is listed twice with different names. ** Buoys were recovered from the ice.

| Name | IMEI number | WMO ID | Region | Date Start | Date Stop | Duration |
|---------|------------------|---------|--------------|------------|------------|----------|
| | | | | (dd.mm.yy) | (dd.mm.yy) | (days) |
| 2013S1 | 300234011691900 | | Neumayer III | 11.02.13 | **29.04.13 | 78 |
| 2013S2 | 300234011695900 | | Neumayer III | 11.02.13 | **12.07.17 | 1612 |
| 201353 | 300234011696880 | | Arctic Ocean | 09.04.13 | 13.06.13 | 66 |
| 2013S4 | 300234011699880 | | Alaska | 15.03.13 | **28.06.13 | 106 |
| 2013S6 | 300234060540730 | | Weddell Sea | 24.06.13 | 27.09.13 | 96 |
| 201357 | 300234060540780 | | Weddell Sea | 06.07.13 | 13.09.13 | 70 |
| 201358 | 300234060540740 | | Weddell Sea | 09.07.13 | 05.01.14 | 181 |
| 2014S9 | 300234060376490 | | Weddell Sea | 05.02.14 | 02.10.15 | 605 |
| 2014S10 | 300234060541850 | | Weddell Sea | 13.01.14 | 03.12.16 | 1056 |
| 2014S11 | 300234060545700 | | Weddell Sea | 29.01.14 | 02.06.15 | 490 |
| 2014S12 | 300234060543780 | | Weddell Sea | 17.01.14 | 02.02.16 | 747 |
| 2014S13 | 300234061610020 | | Arctic Ocean | 30.03.14 | 20.07.14 | 113 |
| 2014S14 | 300234061610030 | | Arctic Ocean | 01.04.14 | 16.12.15 | 625 |
| 2014S15 | 300234061519990 | | Arctic Ocean | 29.08.14 | 31.12.14 | 125 |
| 2015S16 | 300234062428050 | 6400973 | Arctic Ocean | 19.09.15 | 20.12.16 | 459 |
| 2014S17 | 300234062424020 | 7100236 | Weddell Sea | 20.12.14 | 01.02.15 | 43 |
| 2015S18 | 300234062324760 | 7100237 | Weddell Sea | 03.01.15 | 18.01.15 | 16 |
| 2015S19 | 300234062422060 | 7100238 | Weddell Sea | 03.01.15 | 15.07.15 | 194 |
| 2015S20 | 300234062328760 | 6400974 | Arctic Ocean | 14.09.15 | 19.04.16 | 219 |
| 2015S21 | 300234062423070 | 6400975 | Arctic Ocean | 25.09.15 | 10.08.16 | 321 |
| 2015S22 | 300234062424060 | 6400471 | Fram Strait | 01.03.15 | 06.05.15 | 67 |
| 2015S23 | 300234062426060 | 6400472 | Fram Strait | 20.04.15 | 11.06.15 | 53 |
| 2014S24 | 300234011691900* | | Neumayer III | 07.03.14 | 16.05.14 | 71 |
| 2014S25 | 300234011699880* | | Alaska | 28.09.14 | 27.08.15 | 334 |
| 2015S26 | 300234062311650 | | Fram Strait | 05.02.15 | **21.02.15 | 17 |
| 2015S27 | 300234062311650* | | Fram Strait | 23.04.15 | 09.06.15 | 48 |
| 2015S28 | 300234062426150 | | Fram Strait | 21.04.15 | 11.06.15 | 52 |
| 2015S29 | 300234062788470 | 6400976 | Arctic Ocean | 22.09.15 | **16.10.16 | 386 |
| 2015S30 | 300234062789420 | 6400477 | Arctic Ocean | 12.09.15 | 14.02.16 | 156 |
| 2016S31 | 300234062789480 | 7100750 | Weddell Sea | 16.01.16 | 25.01.17 | 376 |
| 2015S32 | 300234062782480 | 6400748 | Arctic Ocean | 10.09.15 | 28.04.16 | 232 |
| 2015S33 | 300234062784540 | 6400749 | Arctic Ocean | 07.09.15 | **08.08.16 | 337 |

| 2015S35 | 300234062785480 | 64751 | Arctic Ocean | 10.09.15 | 11.02.16 | 155 |
|---------|------------------|---------|-------------------|----------|------------|-----|
| 2016536 | 300234062788480 | 2600568 | Arctic Ocean | 15.09.16 | 25.08.17 | 344 |
| 2016537 | 300234062789460 | 7100752 | Weddell Sea | 18.01.16 | 24.12.16 | 347 |
| 2016S38 | 300234062783480 | 7100751 | Weddell Sea | 15.01.16 | 08.05.17 | 479 |
| 2015S39 | 300234062781450 | 7100254 | Weddell Sea | 23.12.15 | 13.02.16 | 53 |
| 2016S40 | 300234062780540 | 7100755 | Weddell Sea | 25.01.16 | 14.09.16 | 234 |
| 2015S41 | 300234062786180 | 7100756 | Weddell Sea | 30.12.15 | 11.04.16 | 104 |
| 2015S42 | 300234062782210 | 7100757 | Weddell Sea | 26.12.15 | 04.05.16 | 131 |
| 2017S43 | 300234063800160 | 6400777 | Svalbard | 09.03.17 | 02.05.17 | 54 |
| 2016S44 | 300234064010010 | 2600565 | Arctic Ocean | 06.10.16 | 05.06.17 | 242 |
| 2016S45 | 300234064011000 | 2600566 | Arctic Ocean | 21.09.16 | **31.05.17 | 252 |
| 2016S46 | 300234064015020 | 2600567 | Arctic Ocean | 17.09.16 | 26.01.17 | 132 |
| 2017S47 | 300234064016010 | 7100759 | Weddell Sea | 10.01.17 | 11.01.17 | 2 |
| 2017S48 | 300234064116480 | 7100758 | Atka Bay | 05.01.17 | 14.03.17 | 69 |
| 2017549 | 300234064500580 | 7101550 | Atka Bay | 30.05.17 | 02.10.17 | 125 |
| 2016S50 | 300234063227960 | 2600571 | Arctic Ocean | 02.10.16 | 23.05.17 | 233 |
| 2017S51 | 300234062788470* | 6400976 | Arctic Ocean | 25.03.17 | **17.04.17 | 23 |
| 2017S52 | 300234064770050 | 6400776 | Arctic Ocean | 18.04.17 | 22.04.17 | 5 |
| 2017S53 | 300234065725000 | 6401650 | Arctic Ocean | 07.06.17 | *12.07.17 | 35 |
| 2017S54 | 300234011695900* | | Neumayer III | 11.08.17 | | |
| 2018556 | 300234065741820 | | Neumayer III | 10.06.18 | | |
| 2018S57 | 300234065169560 | 7101551 | Weddell Sea | 16.02.18 | 24.04.18 | 67 |
| 2018558 | 300234065079570 | 7101552 | Weddell Sea | 19.02.18 | 10.06.18 | 111 |
| 2018559 | 300234065261080 | 7101554 | Weddell Sea | 11.02.18 | 25.04.19 | 438 |
| 2018S60 | 300234065268080 | 7101556 | Weddell Sea | 18.02.18 | 04.04.18 | 45 |
| 2018S61 | 300234065267070 | 7101558 | Weddell Sea | 26.02.18 | 26.12.18 | 303 |
| 2018S62 | 300234065061680 | 7101560 | Weddell Sea | 22.02.18 | 11.07.18 | 139 |
| 2018S63 | 300234065621410 | | Alert | 05.05.18 | **21.05.18 | 16 |
| 2018S64 | 300234065625400 | 6401654 | Arctic Ocean | 21.04.18 | 01.04.19 | 345 |
| 2018S65 | 300234065627390 | 6401655 | Nares Strait | 05.05.18 | 10.08.18 | 97 |
| 2018566 | 300234065628980 | 6301592 | Arctic Ocean | 02.09.18 | 18.03.19 | 197 |
| 2018S67 | 300234065629490 | 6301594 | Arctic Ocean | 16.08.18 | **25.08.18 | 9 |
| 2018568 | 300234065722000 | 6301596 | Arctic Ocean | 23.08.18 | 27.03.19 | 216 |
| 2018569 | 300234066340550 | 6301598 | Arctic Ocean | 27.08.18 | 09.04.19 | 225 |
| 2018S70 | 300234066341810 | 6301600 | Arctic Ocean | 06.09.18 | 04.06.19 | 271 |
| 2018S71 | 300234066342550 | 2501641 | East Siberian Sea | 15.09.18 | | |
| 2018S72 | 300234066342810 | 2501643 | East Siberian Sea | 13.09.18 | | |
| 2018S73 | 300234066347810 | 2501645 | East Siberian Sea | 11.09.18 | | |
| 2018S74 | 300234066347840 | 2501644 | East Siberian Sea | 14.09.18 | | |
| 2018S75 | 300234066342820 | 2501647 | East Siberian Sea | 13.09.18 | | |
| 2018S76 | 300234066343810 | 2501649 | East Siberian Sea | 15.09.18 | 27.04.19 | 224 |
| 2018S77 | 300234066345810 | 2501651 | East Siberian Sea | 11.09.18 | | |
| 2018S78 | 300234066348820 | 2501653 | East Siberian Sea | 15.09.18 | | |
| 2018S82 | 300234066344820 | | Arctic Ocean | 19.08.18 | | |
| 2018S83 | 300234066345560 | | Arctic Ocean | 21.08.18 | 14.09.18 | 24 |
| 2018585 | 300234065629490* | 6301594 | Arctic Ocean | 17.09.18 | 13.12.18 | 87 |



Figure S1. The lifetime of each buoy results from the beginning and end of its transmission of valid data. Numbers at the end of the lines give lifetimes for the main sensors of the buoy in days: T=position data, S=snow depth data (at least one sensor reporting useful data).

2. Comparison of surface height measurements with a reference station

In addition to the results section of the main manuscript, here we give more details on the setup and the measurements to compare the snow height measurements from Snow Buoy 2013S2 with the laser altimeter mounted on the weather mast of the trace gas observatory at the Neumayer III wintering station (Ekström Ice Shelf, Antarctica). This location allows yearround access to the buoy from the nearby station. The weather mast carries a laser distance sensor to derive snow accumulation, which is used as the reference measurement here (König-Langlo and Raffel, 2017). Horizontal distance between both sensors is approx. 10 m (Figure 1d), and care was taken to ensure the smallest possible interference with other measurements or obstacles. The buoy had to be repaired once after static issues (failure on 15 July 2013, maintenance and redeployment on 13 August 2013), but otherwise all components remained unchanged, e.g. no battery replacement or sensor maintenance. Due to the strong snow accumulation over the timespan of more than four years, the buoy had to be lifted four times: On 05 July 2013 by 1.0 m, on 28 April 2015 by 1.2 m, on 14 April 2016 by 0.60 m, and on 20 March 2017 by 0.80 m. By now, 2013S2 shows the longest time series of all buoys. It is particularly remarkable that the batteries and mechanical construction performed well over the long time (1613 days), given the harsh and stormy conditions during Antarctic winters. Figure S2 (red line) shows that the surface height evolution on the ice shelf near Neumayer III is mostly characterized by discrete snow accumulation events during the Antarctic winter (April to November), and periods of no changes or slight compaction and surface melt in Antarctic summer (December to March, see van den Broeke et al. (2009)). The Snow Buoy dataset generally agrees well with the reference laser measurements (blue line), in particular the distinct accumulation events are well reproduced. A surface height reduction due to compaction processes is more pronounced in the laser data, and especially visible during summer, when compaction is strongest. This is explained by the fact that the weather mast is anchored deep in the firn, while the Snow Buoy moves downwards with the snow surface during compaction. In addition to the complete time series, Figure S2 shows the partial time series for each re-deployment after lifting the buoy. At that time, the offset due to different compaction effects is re-set. Hence, the differences are smaller over time. These subgraphs also highlight the increase in difference between Snow Buoy and weather mast over the summer months. Overall, the comparison of the buoy surface height measurements with the reference laser shows that the fully autonomous method is very reliable, even under extremely unfavorable conditions and over extended periods of time.



Figure S2. Daily means of surface height of Snow Buoy 2013S2 (red) at Neumayer III and the reference laser at Neumayer III (blue, see photo in Figure 1d). The same time series are shown (orange and cyan) for each re-deployment after lifting the Snow Buoy. Then, both start at 0, the actual surface, again. X-axis labels are given as mm/yy.

3. Comparison of air temperature and barometric pressure measurements with reference stations

In addition to the results section of the main manuscript, we here present the time series data of air temperature and barometric pressure comparison of Snow Buoy 2013S2 and the BSRN station at Neumayer III. The data cover three full years of measurements, from January 2013 to January 2016.



Figure S3. Data comparison between the Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN) station and Snow Buoy 2013S2 at Neumayer III. The distance between the Snow Buoy and the BSRN station is 1.4 km. Given the large and comparably flat and smooth ice shelf in that region, we assume identical synoptic conditions between both stations. a) Air temperature from BSRN data (2 m height) and Snow Buoy 2013S2 (up to 1.5m height). b) Differences in measured air temperature, color-coded by air temperature. c) Barometric pressure from BSRN data and Snow Buoy 2013S2. Please note that both measurements are taken at different heights. d) Differences in measured barometric pressure, color-coded by wind speed measured at BSRN station.

4. Drift maps of buoy collections

Given the large number of 79 buoys it is not possible to label all single trajectories in Figure 3, hence they were only color coded based on their times of operation. Figures S4, S5, and S6 show the drift maps of those buoy collections that are discussed in more detail and presented in Section 4 of the main manuscript.



Figure S4: Drift trajectories of two sets of Snow Buoys deployed in the Arctic during the expedition PS94 in autumn 2015 (rainbow colors) and PS101 in autumn 2016 (grey tones). Dots show the last positions of the buoys. Colors of the trajectories match the colors of the data plots in Figures 8 and 9 (plates a and b). An exemplary sea ice concentration map (30 December 2015) is shown in the background.



Figure S5: Drift trajectories of two sets of Snow Buoys deployed in the Arctic during the expedition T-ICE with Akademik Tryoshnikov (rainbow colors) and the expedition AO18 with the Oden (grey tones) in autumn 2018. Dots show the last positions of the buoys. Colors of the trajectories match the colors of the data plots in Figures 8 and 9 (plates c and d). An exemplary sea ice concentration map (31 October 2018) is shown in the background.



Figure S6: Drift trajectories of two sets of Snow Buoys deployed in the Weddell Sea, Antarctic, during the expedition PS96 in summer 2015/16 (rainbow colors) and PS111 in summer 2017/18 (grey tones). Dots show the last positions of the buoys. Colors of the trajectories match the colors of the data plots in Figures 6 and 7. An exemplary sea ice concentration map (15 September 2018) is shown in the background.

5. References

König-Langlo, G. and Raffel, B.: High resolved snow height measurements at Neumayer Station, Antarctica, 2013 - 2015. PANGAEA, 2017.

van den Broeke, M., König-Langlo, G., Picard, G., Munneke, P. K., and Lenaerts, J.: Surface energy balance, melt and sublimation at Neumayer Station, East Antarctica, Antarctic science, doi: doi:10.1017/S0954102009990538, 2009. 2009.