



A decade of glaciological and meteorological observations in the Arctic (Werenskioldbreen, Svalbard)

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Abstract. The warming of the Arctic climate is well documented, but the mechanisms of Arctic amplification are still not fully understood. Thus, monitoring of glaciological and meteorological variables and the environmental response to accelerated climate warming must be continued and developed in Svalbard. Long-term meteorological observations carried out in situ on glaciers in conjunction with glaciological monitoring are rare in the Arctic and significantly expand our knowledge about processes in the polar environment. This study presents the unique glaciological and meteorological data collected in 2009-2020 in southern Spitsbergen (Werenskioldbreen). The meteorological data are comprised of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, shortwave and longwave upwelling and downwelling radiation on 10 minutes, hourly and daily timescale (2009-2020). The snow dataset includes 49 sampling points from 2009-2019 with the snow depth, snow bulk density and SWE data. The glaciological data consist of point and surface annual winter, summer and net balance for 2009-2020. The paper also includes modelling of the daily glacier surface ablation (2009-2020) based on the presented data. The high-quality and long-term datasets are expected to serve as accurate forcing data in hydrological and glaciological models and validation of remote sensing products. The datasets are available from the and Polish Polar Database (<https://ppdb.us.edu.pl/>) and Zenodo (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5791748>, Ignatiuk, 2021a; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5792168>, Ignatiuk, 2021b).

1 Introduction

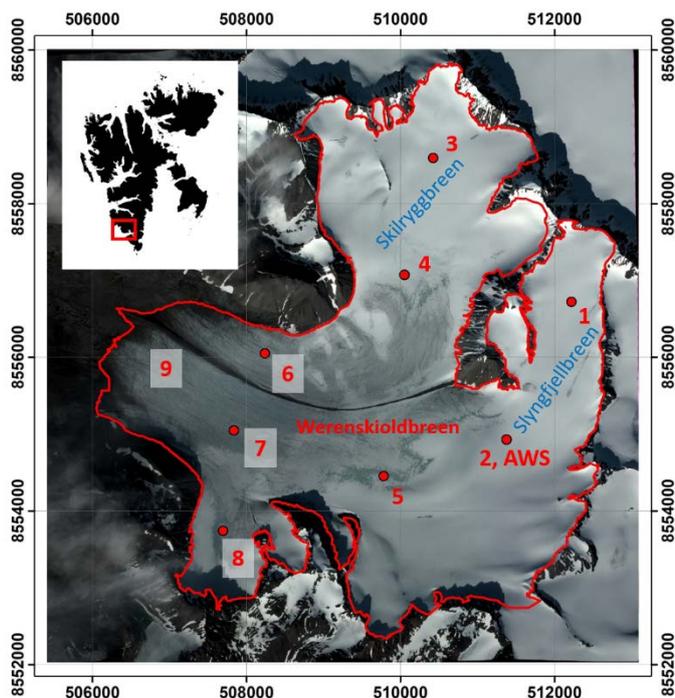
Long-term meteorological observations carried out in situ on glaciers in conjunction with glaciological monitoring are rare in the Arctic and significantly expand our knowledge about processes in the polar environment. Terrestrial meteorological monitoring alone does not always adequately address the needs of validation and calibration of numerical models or satellite products regarding glaciers. The warming of the Arctic climate is well documented, but the mechanisms of Arctic amplification are still not fully understood (IPCC, 2019). Both climate and ocean variables have fluctuated in Svalbard in the last decades (Isaksen et al., 2016; Walczowski et al., 2017, Nordli et al., 2014; Osuch and Wawrzyniak, 2017, Wawrzyniak and Osuch, 2020), which causes progressive and ongoing changes in the cryosphere (Nuth et al., 2019; Box et al., 2018; Błaszczyk et al., 2013; Błaszczyk et al. 2021; Grabiec et al., 2018; Wawrzyniak et al., 2016; van Pelt et al., 2019; Schuler et al., 2020). 2020



was the year with the warmest summer in the history of instrumental observations in Svalbard (the mean JJA temperature was 7.2°C, about 3°C above the climatological normal at the Svalbard Airport meteorological station). In Hornsund the same summer months mean was 4.8°C (only 1.2°C higher than the local normal). The hottest max air temperature ever was recorded on July 25th, 2020: 21.7°C and 16.5°C at Svalbard Airport and the Polish Polar Station in Hornsund, respectively (SIOS data access portal <https://sios-svalbard.org/>, Meteorological bulletin Spitsbergen-Hornsund, <https://hornsund.igf.edu.pl/weather/>). Moreover, the sea ice area on the Arctic Ocean reached the second minimal extent in the history of satellite measurements since 1979. While the summer of 2021 was colder and the minimal Arctic sea ice extent significantly larger, acceleration of the climate warming trend is proved despite interannual variations (Hanssen-Bauer et al., 2019). Such acceleration causes significant changes in the cryosphere of Svalbard and is particularly reflected in the faster melting of glaciers and thawing of the permafrost. It also stimulates faster energy and mass exchange between the atmosphere, cryosphere and ocean. The above examples of disparities in meteorological parameters demonstrate regional differences in climate warming and subsequently response of other environmental components. Thus, monitoring of such parameters and the environmental response to accelerated climate warming must be continued and developed in Svalbard. Long-term observations allow for better quantification of observed changes and facilitate their more profound understanding. This study presents the unique Arctic glaciological and meteorological data collected in 2009-2020 in southern Spitsbergen.

2 Study Area

Werenskioldbreen is well-studied, polythermal glacier located in South Spitsbergen (Svalbard) (Baranowski, 1982; Pälli et al., 2003; Grabiec et al., 2012; Ignatiuk et al., 2014; Stachnik et al., 2016a; Stachnik et al., 2016b; Sułowicz et al., 2020). This valley-type glacier covers an area of 27.1 km² in 2008 (Ignatiuk et al., 2014) and 25.7 km² in 2017 (current study) in a catchment area of 44 km². Werenskioldbreen is divided by a medial moraine into Slyngfjellbreen and the main stream of Werenskioldbreen flowing down from Skilryggbreen accumulation area (Figure 1). The internal marginal zone of the glacier is closed by a distinct arc of the ice-cored terminal moraine with one river gorge. Such a hydrological system allows the glacier basin to be treated as a closed research laboratory for many hydrological and interdisciplinary studies (Majchrowska et al., 2015; Stachnik et al., 2016b; Łepkowska and Stachnik, 2018; Gwizdała et al., 2018; Stachnik et al., 2019). The glacier is situated 15 km to the north from the Polish Polar Station Hornsund. The Stanisław Baranowski Spitsbergen Polar Station (University of Wrocław), a small field station is located at the southern edge of the Werenskioldbreen terminal moraine. Both facilities greatly simplify the accessibility and logistics of research and monitoring projects.



60 **Figure 1: Location of mass-balance stakes (1-9) in 2009-2020 and the automatic weather station (AWS) on Werenskioldbreen (background: GeoEye, 2010/08/10)**

3 Instruments and methodology:

3.1 Meteorological monitoring

The automatic weather station (AWS) is located at an altitude of 380 m above sea level (Figure 1), close to the average
65 equilibrium line altitude (ELA) for the years 1959 – 2008 (Noël et al, 2020). The station was installed on the glacier on 15
April 2010. The AWS was mounted on a long steel mast placed in the ice drilling hole (ca. 6 m deep). In the following years,
as ablation progressed, the sensors were lowered or the mast was replaced with a new one in close proximity to the original
location. The recording of variables (air temperature, humidity, wind speed, shortwave and longwave radiation) has started on
17 April 2010 (Table 1). The CNR4 net radiometer was replaced in 2016 by the CMP3 pyranometers, which resulted in
70 shortwave radiation measurements being continued and longwave radiation measurements being ceased. The Kipp & Zonnen
CNR4 consists of two CM3 pyranometers, two CG3 pyrgeometers and temperature sensors (PT100). Pyranometers (180° solid
angle) have a glass dome and measure radiation in the range from 300 to 2 800 nm. One of the pyranometers directed upwards
measures downwelling radiation, and the second one upwelling which measures solar radiation reflected from the earth's
surface. Pyrgeometers (150° solid angle), has silicone windows, which allow radiation measurements in the range from 4 500
75 to 42 000 nm. Like the pyranometers, the pyrgeometers point in opposite directions (upwards and downwards). One of the



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pyrgeometers measures the long-wave radiation coming from the atmosphere, the second one the long-wave radiation from the ground surface. In 2016, the A100R cup anemometer was replaced with the Gill WindSonic sensor, which allowed for measuring wind direction and speed. Changes in snow depth were recorded using an ultrasonic sensor SR50/SR50A developed by Campbell Scientific Ltd. This sensor is based on a 50 kHz acoustic signal, applied with a temperature correction, and records the distance between the ground and the sensor level. Damaged sensors were systematically replaced to maintain data continuity.

Table 1. Automatic weather station (AWS) sensors specification (Werenskioldbreen, Svalbard)

Variable	Sensor/producer	Operating range	Accuracy	Period of operation
Air temperature	107/Campbell Scientific	-40 – 50°C	± 0.2°C	04/2010 – 05/2016
Air temperature	HMP155 (PT100)/Vaisala	-80 – 60°C	-80° – 20°C	05/2016 – 05/2020
Relative humidity	HMP45AC/HOBO	0 – 100% RH	± 2% (0 – 90%) ± 3% (90 – 100%)	03 – 09/2011
Relative humidity	HMP155 (HUMICAP R2)/Vaisala	0 – 100% RH	± 0.6% RH (0 ... 40% RH) ± 1.0% RH (40 ... 95% RH) ± 0.1 m/s (0.3 – 10 m/s);	5/2016 – 12/2019
Wind speed	A100R/Vector Instruments	0 – 75 m/s	± 1% (10 – 55 m/s); ± 2% (> 55 m/s)	09/2010 – 05/2016
Wind speed	WindSonic-1 / Gill Instruments	0 – 60 m/s	± 2% (at 12 m/s)	05/2016 – 12/2019
Wind direction	WindSonic-1/Gill Instruments	0 – 359°	± 3° (at 12 m/s)	05/2016 – 05/2020
Radiation			Pyranometer: Uncertainty in daily total < 5%	
- shortwave: downwelling and upwelling	CNR4 /Kipp&Zonen	Shortwave: 300 – 2 800 nm	Pyranometer: Uncertainty in daily total < 10%	09/2010 – 05/2016
- longwave: downwelling and upwelling		Longwave: 4 500 – 42 000 nm	± 6% (-40 – 80°C) ± 25 W m ⁻² at 1 000 W m ⁻²	
Downwelling shortwave radiation	SP1110/Skye Campbell Scientific	350 – 1 100 nm	± 5% (typically < 3%)	05/2016 – 05/2020
Datalogger	CR1000/Campbell Scientific	-40 – 50°C		04/2010 – 05/2020
Ablation and accumulation	SR50/Campbell Scientific	0.5 – 10 m	± 1 cm or 0.4%	9/2010 – 12/2019



In the 2010/2011 season, data recording by the logger was performed every 1 min. Due to high energy demand during the polar night, the sampling time was changed to an instantaneous measurement every 10 minutes. Calibration and testing of sensors were performed regularly during spring expeditions based on the infrastructure of the Polish Polar Station Hornsund.

3.2 Glaciological monitoring

In 2009-2010, nine mass-balance stakes were installed on the Werenskioldbreen. The location was chosen to cover all the glacial zones as well as to create longitudinal profiles along the northern and southern parts of the glacier (Figure 1). The stakes net covered the glacier zones from 117 m a.s.l. to 515 m a.s.l. The stakes, 6 to 8 meters long, were embedded in the glacier by a steam drilling rig or by Kovacs Ice Coring System. The mass-balance stakes were measured twice a year (spring-autumn, 2009-2013) during the winter maximum accumulation (April-May) and at the end of the ablation season or once a year (spring, since 2014). The amount of winter accumulation was determined during the spring campaigns. The parameters of snow cover (bulk snow density, snow depth, SWE - snow water equivalent) were measured in snow pits (a 100 cm³ snow gauge by Winter Engineering was used to determine the snow density of subsequent layers) or shallow core boreholes (Kovacs). During the measurements, repeated soundings of the snow depth were also performed with avalanche probes. In the absence of the autumn campaign, boreholes have been drilled on each stake in order to accurately determine the amount of summer ablation and possible summer accumulation. In the case of availability of data from the SR50A sensor, ablation or accumulation corrections were also made if the winter or summer season ended later than the date of field observations. In the years 2009-2011, the positions of the stakes were measured with precise GNSS receivers LEICA 1230 to determine glacier velocity. A portion of the ablation stakes have been damaged every few years. They have been broken by wind, polar bears, melt out from the ice or been buried by snow. The network of ablation stakes was supplemented and renovated as part of ongoing research and projects. Unfortunately, recent years have resulted in large gaps in measurements due to the pandemic travel restrictions. Detailed information on the temporal availability of glaciological data is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Overview of mass balance and snow cover measurements on ablation stakes and infrastructure maintenance in years 2009-2020 on Werenskioldbreen (Svalbard), where: S – spring campaign (winter balance, April-May), A – autumn campaign (summer balance, August-September, can be performed next year spring), X – lack of stake, SP – snow pit (SWE data), KD – Kovacs drilling (SWE data), G – GPS measurements, SR50 – automatic measurements at AWS.

Stake no.	1	2 (+AWS)	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Coordinates (UTM 33N), height (geoid EGM_96)	8556724.663, 512219.566; 515	8554930.167, 510423.846; 384	8558594.6, 510423.846; 471	8557076.138, 510048.921; 392	8554448.524, 509786.006; 308	8556047.777, 508243.448; 188	8555045.023, 507837.608; 199	8553738.705, 507697.579; 277	506449.264, 8555956.882; 120
2009	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	X
2010	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SR50, G	S, A, G	S, A, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, G	S, A, SP, G
2011	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SR50, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, G	S, A, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, SP, G	S, A, G



2012	S, A	S, A, SP, SR50	S-X, A	S-X, A	S-X, A	S, A	S, A, SP	S, A	S, A
2013	S-X, A-X,	X, SR50	S,KD,A	S, KD, A	S-X, A-X,	S, KD, A	S, SP,	S, KD,	S-X, A
2014	S, A, SP,	X, SR50	S, A	S, A	S, A-X, SP	S, A	S, A, SP,	S, A	S, A-X
2015	S, A-X, SP,	X, SR50	S, A	S, A	S, A, SP	S, A	S, A	S, A-X	S, A-X, SP
2016	S, A-X, KD,	X, KD, SR50	S, A	S, A	S-X, A-X,	S, A-X	S, A	S, A	S-X, A-X
2017	S, A,	X, KD, SR50	S, A, KD	S, A, KD	S, A, KD	X, A	S, A, KD,	S, A	S, A-X, KD,
2018	S-X, A, KD,	X, KD, SR50	S, A, KD	S, A, KD	S, A	X,	S, A, KD,	X,	S, A, KD,
2019	X, KD	X, KD, SR50	S-X,	S, A	S, KD, A	X,	X, KD,	X,	S, A, KD,
2020	S	X	S	S	S	X	S,	X	S,

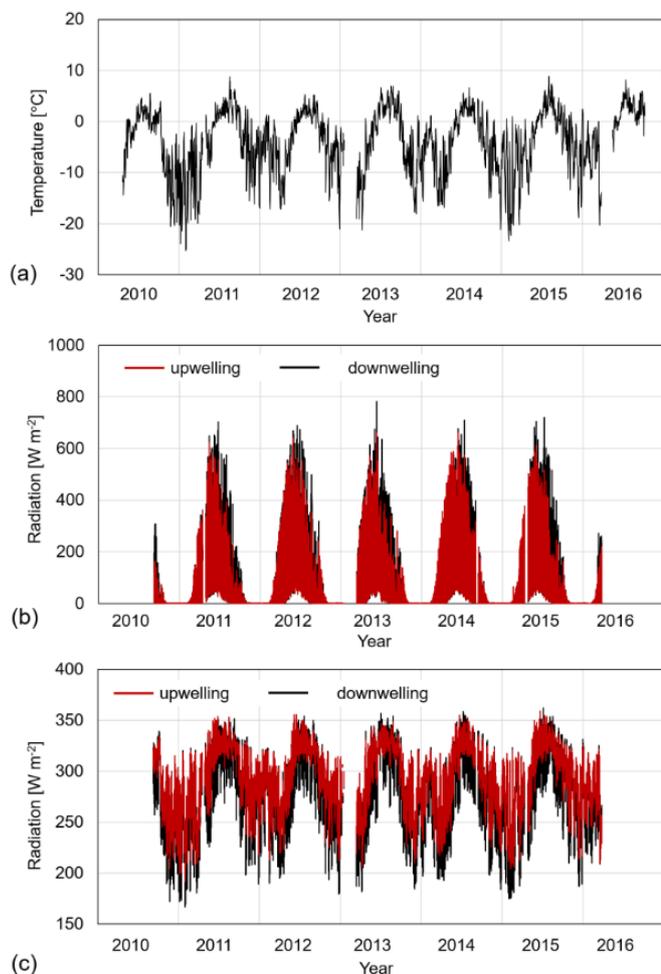
110 Based on the data collected, the following glaciological variables are available: annual and seasonal point ablation and accumulation, snow depth, bulk snow density and SWE (snow water equivalent) at the measuring points, surface mass balance and data from automatic measurements (AWS) of ablation and accumulation by the SR50 sonic distance sensor (Campbell Scientific, SR50-L and SR50A-L, <https://www.campbellsci.com/sr50>).

The analyses of the glacier's surface mass balance excepted field measurements were based on altitude zones determined from digital elevation models (DEM). Two DEMs with geoidal height (EGM2008) were used, one generated from SPOT image acquired on 1 September 2008 (Ignatiuk et al., 2014) and Pleiades high-resolution images taken on 20 August 2017 (Błaszczuk et al., 2019).

4 Meteorological observations

4.1 Air temperature and radiation

120 The air temperature data forms the most homogeneous series for 2010-2016 (Figure 2a). In 2017-2020 the data gaps were already significant due to failure of the instruments and the lack of servicing due to travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, for 2010-2016, net radiation balance data (short- and long-wave radiation) are available (Figure 2b,c). In 2017-2020, radiation data included only downwelling shortwave radiation.



125 **Figure 2: Time series of meteorological variables from 2010 to 2016 on Werenskioldbreen, including daily average air temperature**
(a), hourly average shortwave radiation (b) and hourly average longwave radiation (c) for downwelling (black line) and upwelling
(red line) radiation.

For years with full data continuity (Figure 2a), air temperature monthly and yearly averages were calculated and then compared
with the data from the Polish Polar Station Hornsund (Wawrzyniak and Osuch, 2020). The average difference in the annual
130 temperature (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015) on the glacier (380 m a.s.l.) and the Polish Polar Station Hornsund (8 m a.s.l.) was -
2.7°C, which gives an average temperature lapse rate 0.72/100 m. The air temperature increased by 0.09°C per year, which is
over five times faster than the global average of 0.17°C per decade (NOAA, 2020). More importantly, a twice as high trend of
0.2°C per year is recorded for the summer months (JJA) when glaciers melt most rapidly. Downwelling shortwave radiation
reaches its maximum during the middle of the polar day (June). Its annual course is governed by the occurrence of polar day
135 and night, while its daily course is governed by cloudiness and the height of the sun above the horizon. The reflected shortwave



radiation (upwelling) is a function of the surface albedo. In the spring and early summer, we observed the highest values of reflected radiation due to the presence of snow cover on the glacier. In the further part of the ablation season (July-August), we noticed a sudden decrease in reflected radiation (Figure 2b) as a result of the disappearance of snow cover at the measurement site (AWS) and the appearance of glacial ice on the surface. The decrease in upwelling shortwave radiation can be slight (e.g. 2012) when the melting of snow cover occurs mainly as a result of surface ablation or abrupt (e.g. 2015) when significant rainfall led to a sudden change in the albedo on the glacier. The maximum values of downwelling/upwelling longwave radiation (Figure 2c) usually occurred in summer and autumn. The values in winter and spring are lower, which in general shows similar patterns with the seasonal variations in air temperature.

4.2 Other variables

In 2009-2020, the AWS measured relative humidity, wind direction and speed, ablation and accumulation of snow. These sensors were installed at the station depending on the needs of the ongoing projects and doctoral dissertations. Not all of them could be connected to the datalogger at the same time. Due to their construction, these sensors are also less resistant to operation in polar conditions and to servicing only once a year, causing a higher failure rate for these sensors. Therefore, the data obtained for these variables are not continuous and not homogenous for the entire observation period. Nevertheless, these data are available and are of great value for solving specific scientific problems.

5 Glaciological observations

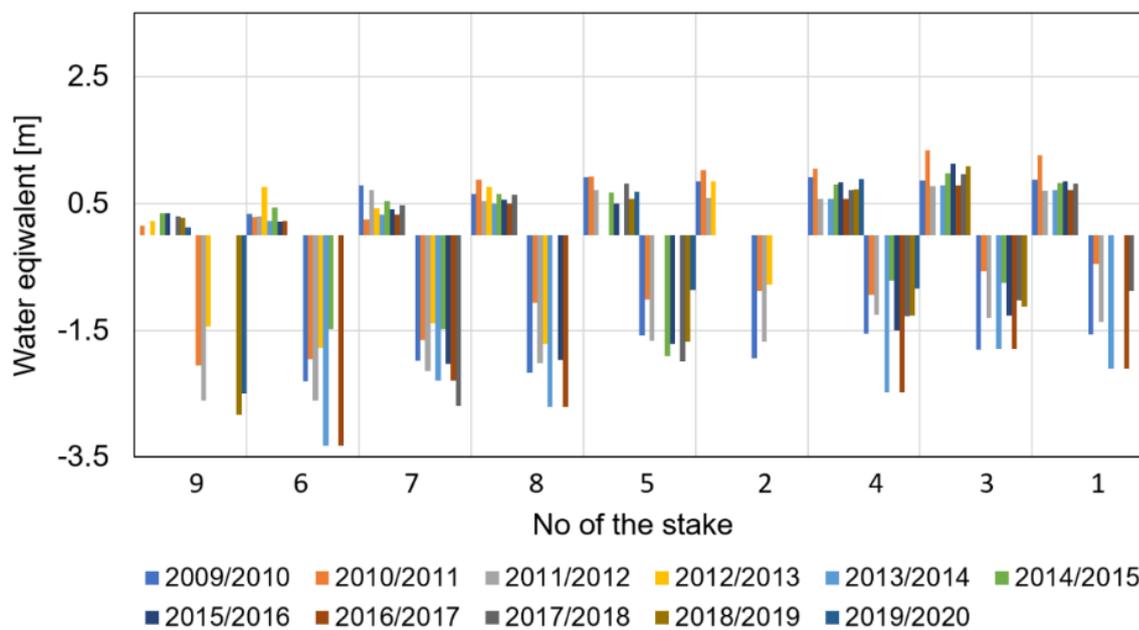
5.1 Point ablation and accumulation

Measurements on mass-balance stakes (Figure 1, Table 2) were performed in accordance with the recommendations and guidelines contained in the Glossary of Glacier Mass Balance and Related Terms (Cogley et al., 2011). After Cogley et al. (2011) it was assumed that accumulation is always positive, while ablation is negative. Therefore, the calculation of the point mass balance is Eq. (1):

$$b_a = c_a + a_a = b_w + b_s = c_w + a_w + c_s + a_s, \quad (1)$$

where: b_a – annual balance at a point, c_a – annual accumulation, a_a – annual ablation, b_w – winter balance, b_s – summer balance, c_w – winter accumulation, a_w – winter ablation, c_s – summer accumulation, a_s – summer ablation

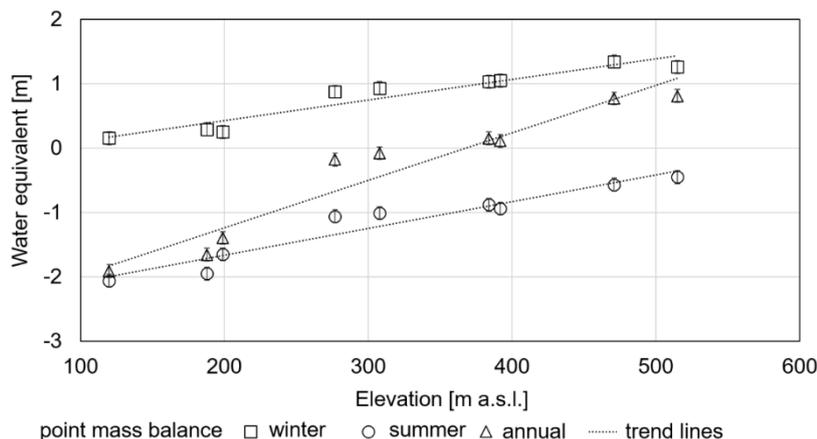
As it is difficult to measure the annual accumulation and annual ablation, the winter and summer balance were measured (including the winter and summer ablation and accumulation). The balance calculation was based on the physical parameters of snow and ice measured in the field (see Snow Water Equivalent). The error was estimated using the total differential function.



165 **Figure 3: Winter and summer balance at the point on 1-9 mass-balance stakes in years 2009-2020 For the location/elevation of the stake see Figure 1 and Table 2.**

The dataset includes point winter and summer mass balance measurements on mass-balance stakes in 2009-2020 and the calculated point annual mass balance. The data allow the analysis of the spatial and seasonal variability of accumulation and ablation at points on the glaciers at different altitudes. The analysis of the winter balance (Figure 3) shows the interannual fluctuations in snow accumulation in the entire altitude profile of the glacier. The analysis of point winter balance shows the smallest interannual fluctuations on the glacier snout (stake 9) and in the sheltered upper glacier cirque (stake 8). In the case of the point summer balance, the greatest interannual changes are observed in the middle zone of the glacier (200 – 400 m a.s.l.). This is due to a longer ablation period and higher temperatures not previously recorded at these altitudes.

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175 **Figure 4: Examples of winter, summer and annual point mass balance on Werenskioldbreen (season 2010/2011). Whiskers show an error.**

Each of the balance years can be considered separately (Figure 4). Winter accumulation in the analysed period was generally sparse. The last significant accumulation on Werenskioldbreen took place in 2011. A slight accumulation in the highest parts of the glacier was also observed in 2013, 2015 and 2020. Observations from 2020, however, may be biased by unqualified
 180 substitutive observers due to the pandemic situation. In all other years, the ELA was above the highest monitored stake, no 1 (Table 2). The data on point mass balance components are crucial for calculations of the general superficial mass balance of glaciers. These data have very high importance for different modelling purposes, e.g. hydrology and glacier drainage modelling, total water discharge from the glacier, sea level rise models and validation of remote sensing products.

5.2 Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)

185 In the years 2009-2019, 49 samplings (shallow drilling or snowpits) were made on the glacier during the spring measurement campaigns in order to determine the bulk snow density, and thus SWE. In the case of snowpit measurements, the density was measured for each homogeneous layer. The bulk snow density for the snow profile was then calculated based on a weighted average. Whereas the bulk snow density during the drilling of snow cores was calculated based on the length and weight of each core in the profile. The SWE was calculated after Sturm et al. (2010). The average density of snow cover ranges from
 190 386 to 447 kg m⁻³ (Table 3). The highest snow density values were noted in 2012. They are related to the extremely warm conditions in the winter season 2011/2012 with the heavy rainfall (Łupikasza et al., 2019) during the winter and caused probably by the inflow of warm Atlantic water (the fjords of south-west Spitsbergen did not freeze).

Table 3. Average snow depth and bulk snow density based upon data from sampling points (snow pits and drilling cores) on Werenskioldbreen in years 2009-2019.



Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Number of sampling	8	3	5	2	6	3	3	2	6	4	7
Average snow depth [m]	1.79	1.90	1.65	1.35	1.06	1.73	1.57	1.90	1.64	1.53	1.60
Average bulk snow density [kg/m ³]	434	415	412	447	386	391	387	407	427	419	410

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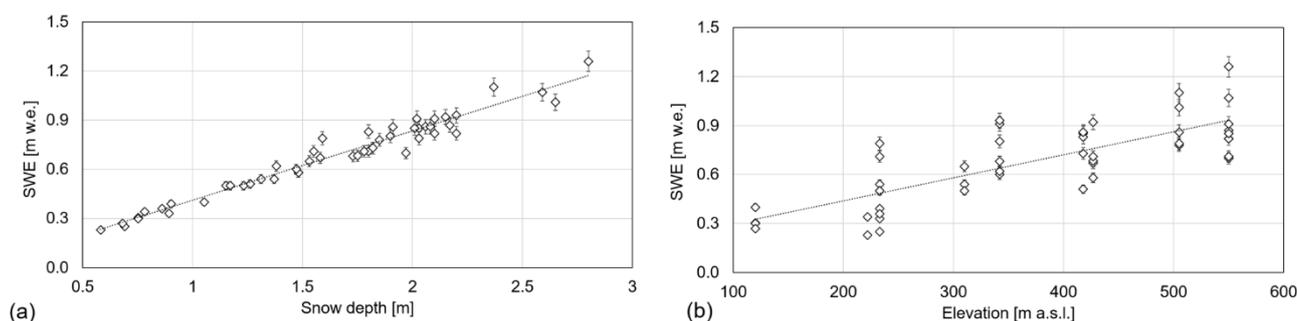


Figure 5: Relationship between SWE and snow depth (a) and SWE and elevation m a.s.l. (b). Whiskers show an error.

SWE values show a very high correlation with the snow depth ($R^2 = 0.96$, Figure 5a) and the altitude above sea level ($R^2 = 0.62$, Figure 5b). Uszczyk et al. (2019) found the relationship between the bulk snow density and the snow depth on Hansbreen located next to Werenskioldbreen. It was observed that the bulk snow density increases with snow depth. The long-term data collected on Werenskioldbreen has not confirmed this correlation. In fact, in some seasons it is the opposite, i.e. the low-thickness snow cover in the lower zones of the glacier has the highest bulk snow density. Seasonal variability can be explained by various meteorological conditions during the accumulation season. The differences between Werenskioldbreen and Hansbreen can most likely be explained by different orographic conditions and exposure, which affects snow blowing and snow deposition.

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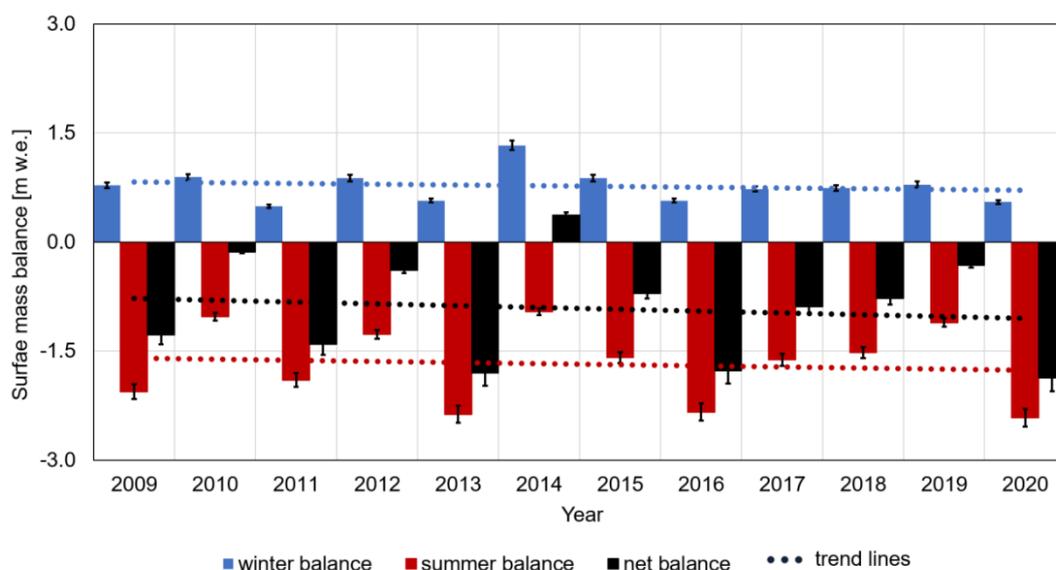
5.3 Surface mass balance (SMB)

While the mass balance is measured on many glaciers, the data series rarely exceeds 10 years (Schuler et al., 2020). Multi-year data series, such as those from Werenskioldbreen, represent a unique value for tracking long-term changes in the Arctic environment. Calculation of the SMB was based on point winter and summer balance analyses and digital elevation models. The point measurements are extrapolated over the glacier surface determining the balance as a function of altitude and

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averaging them, using the weights determined from the distribution of the glacier surface as a function of altitude (Cogley et al., 2011). The error was estimated using the total differential function.



215 **Figure 6: Annual surface mass balance and its components of Werenskioldbreen in 2009-2020. Blue bars - winter balance, red bars - summer balance, green bars - net balance. The results for 2019 may be understated (field measurements performed by the non-expert crew).**

The long-term trends in the summer and winter SMB indicate increasing summer ablation and decreasing winter accumulation. The largest fluctuations are observed in the summer balance, which depends on the interannual changes in the duration of the positive air temperatures and thus the length of the ablation season. The winter balance shows greater stability, however, over
220 the decade, the trend in the amount of snow accumulation is downward. This entails a negative trend in the SMB of Werenskioldbreen (Figure 6). Based on the trend lines, it can be concluded that winter balance decreases by 0.09 m w.e. per decade, while the summer balance increases by -0.14 m w.e. for a decade. This gives us an acceleration of the ablation (SMB) by 0.23 m w.e. for a decade on Werenskioldbreen.

Grabiec et al. (2012) has used monthly values of air temperature and precipitation from the meteorological station at Hornsund
225 and the reanalysis ERA-40 data to hindcast the mass balance of Werenskioldbreen for the years 1959-2002. The average winter SMB for 1959-2002, depending on the model, was 0.81 m water equivalent (w.e.) (ERA-40 data) and 0.87 m w.e. (meteorological data) which, compared to the last decade (average winter SMB 0.77 m w.e.), decreased by 5 and 12% respectively. The summer SMB increased by 37% in comparison to the meteorological model (from -1.23 m w.e. in 1959-2002 to -1.68 m w.e. in 2009-2020) and by 47% for the ERA-40 data model (from -1.14 m w.e. in 1959-2002). Detailed
230 analysis of summer SMB data from modelling (1979-2005) and observations (1999-2019) shows an increase in the average 10-year summer SMB from -1.16 m w.e. in 1979-1988, through -1.35 and -1.55 in 1989-1998 and 1999-2005, respectively, to



-1.68 in 2009-2020. A natural consequence of increasing the summer SMB is also a much more negative SMB in the last decade (-0.92 m w.e.) compared to the years 1959-2002 (-0.35 m w.e. for meteorological data model and -0.34 m w.e. for ERA-40 data model).

235 5.3 Daily surface ablation

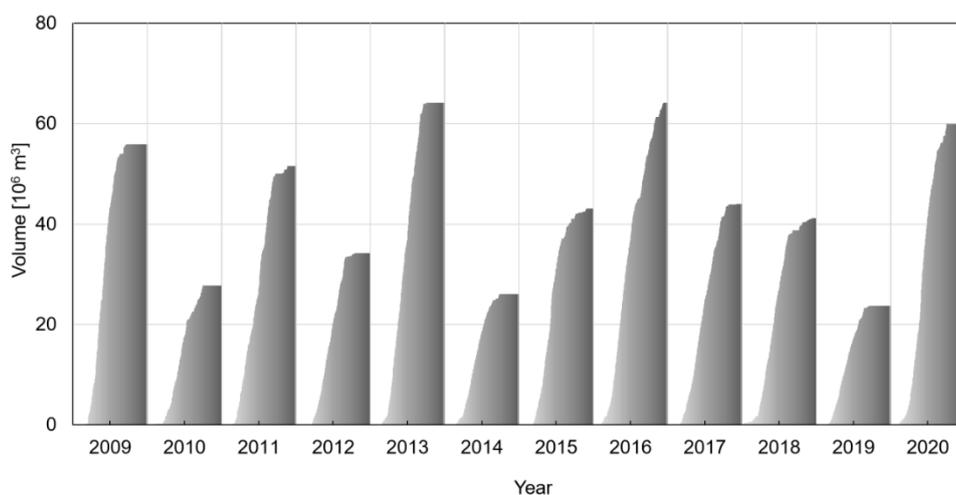
The influence of air temperature on the glacier surface ablation has been the subject of numerous studies. The coefficient of determination between the annual ablation and the sum of positive daily air temperature was calculated as 0.96 (R^2) by Braithwaite and Olsen (1989). High correlation is caused by the strong dependence between the air temperature and the components of the energy balance (Hock, 2003). Ohmura (2001) presented the physical basis for the application of temperature ablation models, the relationship between air temperature and long-wave radiation of the atmosphere, sensible heat and incident short-wave radiation. The basic temperature ablation model is given by the equation (Braithwaite, 1995):

$$\sum_{i=1}^n M = DDF \sum_{i=1}^n T^+ \Delta t, \quad (2)$$

$$DDF = \frac{M_m \rho}{T^+} \quad (3)$$

where T^+ – positive average daily temperature [K], DDF – the degree-day factor in $\text{mm d}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$, M_m - measured ablation [m],
 245 M – melting [m w.e.], ρ – density [kg m^{-3}]. Melting is assumed to be zero when the air temperature is $\geq 0^\circ\text{C}$.

On the basis of glaciological and meteorological data collected on Werenskioldbreen, daily surface ablation for May - November 2009-2020 was calculated (Figure 7). The error was estimated using the total differential function. In the case of gaps in meteorological data collected by the AWS on Werenskioldbreen, data from the Polish Polar Station located 16 km south-east were used (Wawrzyniak and Osuch, 2020).



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Figure 7: Calculated daily surface ablation [10^6 m^3] in May – November (2009 – 2020) for Werenskioldbreen.



Seasonal sums of surface ablation oscillate between about 23.7 ± 1.7 (2019) and $64.2 \pm 4.5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ (2013), with an average of $44.7 \pm 3.1 \cdot 10^6 \text{ m}^3$ for 2009-2020. The value in 2019 may be underestimated due to problems with field measurements caused by the pandemic travel restrictions. The length of the ablation season determines the size of ablative outflow. It varied in the analysed period from 134 days in 2014 to 203 days in 2016 (the average for 2009-2020 was 163 days). The surface ablation is affected by the decrease in the number of sunny days and the increase of days with precipitation and cloud cover (Wawrzyniak and Osuch, 2020). The amount of water produced by surface ablation is the largest component of the total runoff from the catchment but precipitation can also be an important element of the water balance (Majchrowska et al., 2015).

6 Quality control and data processing

Data quality assurance includes additional measurements and calibration of equipment performed during the observation period and post-processing of the collected data. The analysis differed for the meteorological data constituting the time series and for the glaciological data.

The first stage of quality control for meteorological data consisted in visualizing each of the measurement series and review to the disrupted data caused by interruptions in the operation of sensors. Due to its location, the automatic measurement station (AWS) operating on Werenskioldbreen could not be monitored with high frequency. As a result there were periodic problems with the power supply as well as with freezing of some sensors. Power shortages manifested themselves in the disappearance of measurements and the occurrence of isolated measurements, the correctness of which could not be confirmed, and therefore they were removed. Similarly, freezing of sensors manifested in 'blocking' the measurement at one value for a longer time. It mainly concerned wind speed and direction measurements. As such values are unnatural, they were identified as erroneous and removed from the set during visual inspection. The next stage of the control was the identification of individual measurements where the values were too different compared with the previous and following measurements and that did not fit in the short-term trend. These measuring pins were averaged with respect to adjacent measurements. It mainly concerned air temperature and humidity records, where such artefacts in the measurement series are unnatural. Similarly, the analysis of the measurement series was performed in terms of unnatural values, i.e. values exceeding the permissible variability of the relative humidity or air temperature. These were a few cases. In these situations, such values were eliminated or averaged over adjacent measurements. In the last step, the same variables were compared, but from different weather stations in Svalbard. Air temperature time series have been tested with observations at the Polish Polar Station Hornsund (Wawrzyniak and Osuch, 2020). Mainly, the correlations of the variability of parameters were checked in comparison to the stations accepted as reference. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that even in the case of close points, this correlation does not have to be high or consistent due to the specificity of these stations, i.e. different shading conditions, ground, topography or exposure. Measurement series prepared and tested in such a way were used to calculate series with an hourly and daily resolution (24h). The series was created as a result of averaging or summing up depending on the parameter under development. In the case of wind direction, it was limited only to calculating the direction of the mean wind vector in hourly intervals.



Such prepared measurement series were saved in the NetCDF (Network Common Data Form) format and placed on the server supporting OPeNDAP (www.ppdb.us.edu.pl). The choice of this type of file is due to its universal nature. NetCDF files are in line with the modern trend of storing and publishing measurement series meeting the FAIR data principles. The collections are compliant with Unidata's Attribute Convention for Dataset Discovery (ACDD-1.3) and Climate and Forecast (CF) Conventions (CF-1.8). The Attribute Convention for Dataset Discovery identify and define a list of NetCDF global attributes recommended for describing a NetCDF dataset to discovery systems such as Digital Libraries. Software tools can use these attributes for extracting metadata from datasets, and exporting to Dublin Core, DIF, ADN, FGDC, ISO 19115 etc. metadata formats. The CF metadata conventions are designed to promote the processing and sharing files created with the NetCDF API. The conventions define metadata that provide a definitive description of what the data in each variable represents and the spatial and temporal properties of the data. This enables users of data from different sources to decide which quantities are comparable and facilitates building applications with powerful extraction, regridding, and display capabilities. The CF convention includes a standard name table, which defines strings that identify physical quantities. Global Attributes of prepared NetCDF files comply with the recommendations of The Arctic Data Center (ADC) which is a service provided by the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET) (<https://adc.met.no/node/4>).

All ACDD 1.3 Variable Attributes recommended were used. They were supplemented with the so-called `_FillValue = -999.9` indicating data gaps and `valid_max` and `valid_min` describing the natural and allowed variability of these parameters in the measurement area. All measurement parameter names follow Climate and Forecast (CF) Standard Name Table version 77 which was available on the day when the dataset was published.

The keywords vocabulary used is consistent with the Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) Keywords (<https://earthdata.nasa.gov/earth-observation-data/find-data/idn>) developed for 20 years by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/gcmd-keywords) which are a hierarchical set of controlled Earth Science vocabularies that help ensure Earth science data, services, and variables are described in a consistent and comprehensive manner and allow for the precise searching of metadata and subsequent retrieval of data, services, and variables.

Glaciological data have different specifics than meteorological data. Glaciological data are not collected automatically in large amounts but are based on single, unique observations that must be made with great care as they are not possible to repeat or relate to observations from other areas.

Each measurement of the ablation stake was performed twice. If the funnel melts in ice or snow around the stake, the measurement was made to the theoretical flat surface joining the edges of the funnel. In the event of a stake skewing, its total length was measured and then, if possible, the stake was replaced with a new one. Measurements of the snow depth, apart from making snow pits or shallow drilling, were always verified by taking 2-3 measurements with an avalanche probe. In order to obtain comparable measurements of bulk snow density (and SWE) these measurements were performed with two different methods (snow pit and shallow drilling), and a series of parallel measurements were performed showing that the difference in the calculated SWE does not exceed 5%. In order to obtain the most accurate data from the Kovacs drill, the quality of the obtained ice and snow cores was checked in order to determine the precise diameter of the obtained cores.



The obtained SMB and point mass balance calculations were compared with the data published by the World Glacier Monitoring Service (<https://wgms.ch>) for other glaciers on Svalbard in order to verify the consistency of trends and qualitative and quantitative control. Data on surface ablation in seasons where it was possible were controlled by comparison with the data collected by the SR50 (sonic ranger) sensor, which was also used to verify the duration of the ablation season. Measurements during the autumn campaign did not always take place after or at the end of the ablation season. This was due to the logistics of the expeditions and the extension of the ablation season. An SR50 sensor was used to control the quality of the collected ablation data, or additional drillings were made during the next spring expedition to verify the ablation data collected in the previous year. The glaciological data were saved in the CSV and NetCDF formats using GCMD keywords vocabulary.

The quality of DEM generated from the SPOT images in 2008 was validated with the height of stakes on Werenskioldbreen (Ignatiuk et al., 2014). The median value and standard deviation of the accuracy of the DEM were -0,85 m and 2.2 m, respectively. Validation of the DEM generated from Pleiades images taken in 2017 was based on stake positions over neighbouring Hansbreen (Błaszczuk et al. 2019). The median value and standard deviation of DEM accuracy were -0,36 m and 0.24 m, respectively.

7 Data availability

The data is stored in two repositories that provide long-term availability, open access, DOI and license according to the FAIR principles: Zenodo (www.zenodo.org) and Polish Polar Database (<https://ppdb.us.edu.pl/>): meteorological data: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5791748> (Ignatiuk, 2021a), glaciological data: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5792168> (Ignatiuk, 2021b). In addition, the glacier mass balance data are stored in the World Glacier Monitoring Service database (dx.doi.org/10.5904/wgms-fog-2021-05, WGMS, 2021).

All the data are also available through the Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) data access portal (<https://sios-svalbard.org/metsis/search>).

8 Summary

This paper has presented details of the glaciological and meteorological dataset (2009-2020) from the Werenskioldbreen (Svalbard). The meteorological dataset includes 10 minutes, hourly and daily air temperature, relative humidity, short- and long-wave radiation, wind speed and its direction. The glaciological dataset includes point mass balance (winter, summer, net), snow depth, bulk density and snow water equivalent (SWE) for the mass-balance stakes, annual surface mass balance (SMB) and modelled daily surface ablation. These data allow observations of the rapid changes taking place in the Arctic. In particular, they allow determining the rate of climate change directly on glaciers. Werenskioldbreen mass loss (SMB) is accelerating at a rate of -0.23 m w.e. for a decade. This is the result of air temperature increase (0.09°C per year), which is over five times faster



350 than the global average of 0.17°C per decade (NOAA, 2020). These high-quality and long-term observation data have been already used to assess the hydrological models and glaciological studies. The objective of releasing these data is to improve the usage of this data to calibration and validation of the remote sensing products, models as well as to increase data reuse.

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Competing interests.

The contact author has declared that neither they nor their co-authors have any competing interests

Author Contribution

370 DI- Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Methodology, Validation, Writing – original draft preparation, review & editing.
MB - Investigation, Methodology, Writing – review & editing. TB - Data curation, Investigation, Writing – review & editing.
MG - Investigation, Methodology, Validation, Writing – review & editing. JJ – Conceptualization, Funding acquisition, Supervision, Writing – review & editing. MK - Formal analysis, Investigation, Writing – original draft preparation. ML - Investigation, Validation, Writing – review & editing. ŁM - Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft
375 preparation, review & editing. ŁS - Investigation, Writing – review & editing.



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