

Special Observing Period (SOP) Data for the Year of Polar Prediction site Model Intercomparison Project (YOPPsiteMIP)

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Abstract. The rapid changes occurring in the polar regions require an improved understanding of the processes that are driving these changes. At the same time, increased human activities such as marine navigation, resource exploitation, aviation, commercial fishing, and tourism require reliable and relevant weather information. One of the primary goals of the World Meteorological Organization's Year of Polar Prediction (YOPP) Project is to improve the accuracy of numerical weather prediction (NWP) at high latitudes. During YOPP, two Canadian supersites were commissioned and equipped with new ground-based instruments for enhanced meteorological and system process observations. Additional pre-existing supersites in Canada, the United States, Norway, Finland, and Russia also provided data from ongoing long-term observing programs. These supersites collected a wealth of observations that are well-suited to address YOPP objectives. In order to increase data useability and station interoperability, novel Merged Observatory Data Files (MODFs) were created for the seven supersites over two Special Observing Periods (February to March 2018 and July to September 2018). All observations collected at the supersites were compiled into this standardized NetCDF MODF format, simplifying the process of conducting pan-Arctic NWP verification and process evaluation studies. This paper describes the seven Arctic YOPP supersites, their instrumentation, data collection and processing methods, the novel MODF format, and examples of the

39 observations contained therein. MODFs comprise the observational contribution to the model intercomparison effort, termed
40 YOPP supersite Model Intercomparison Project (YOPPsiteMIP). All YOPPsiteMIP MODFs are publicly accessible via the
41 YOPP Data Portal (Whitehorse: <https://doi.org/10.21343/a33e-j150>, Iqaluit: <https://doi.org/10.21343/yrnf-ck57>, Sodankylä:
42 <https://doi.org/10.21343/m16p-pq17>, Utqiagvik: <https://doi.org/10.21343/a2dx-nq55>, Tiksi: [https://doi.org/10.21343/5bwn-
w881](https://doi.org/10.21343/5bwn-
43 w881), Ny-Ålesund: <https://doi.org/10.21343/y89m-6393>, Eureka: <https://doi.org/10.21343/r85j-tc61>), hosted by MET
44 Norway, with corresponding output from NWP models.

45 **1 Introduction**

46 In the Arctic there is a recognized lack of process-level information supplementing meteorological observations to characterize
47 the atmosphere and the cryosphere for operational forecasting (Cassano et al., 2011; Illingworth et al., 2015; Lawrence et al.,
48 2019). As the climate continues to change, information on weather and climate is becoming more critical in ensuring the health
49 and safety of local communities. Unfortunately, climate models do a poor job of capturing key features of Arctic climate, such
50 as the Arctic amplification factor, likely as a result of inaccurate representation of key physical processes, as shown by
51 Rantanen et al. (2022). Similarly, the accuracy of weather forecasts in the Polar Regions is also lower than in mid-latitudes
52 (Jung et al., 2016) partly due to the scattered and limited availability of observing networks (Lawrence et al., 2019). Advances
53 in Polar weather forecast prediction are expected to improve weather forecasts and climate predictions elsewhere (Jung et al.,
54 2016 and Day et al., 2019), but understanding the causes of poor model performance in the Arctic is limited by the availability
55 of observatory data. Data from observatories, where sometimes hundreds of parameters are measured, are needed for detailed
56 investigations into the cause of model error, such as boundary-layer processes and turbulent exchanges (e.g., Day et al., 2024).

57
58 To address the need to improve Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) performance in the Polar Regions, the World
59 Meteorological Organization (WMO) launched the international Polar Prediction Project with its flagship activity, the Year of
60 Polar Prediction (YOPP). During YOPP's core phase, from mid-2017 to mid-2019, several intensive observing periods were
61 conducted with close coordination between the international network of polar observatories and weather forecast centers. The
62 aim was to produce highly-concentrated sets of observed and modelled data for supporting forecast evaluation and process
63 studies (Koltzow et al., 2019; Goessling et al., 2016; Jung et al., 2016).

64
65 One of the flagship activities of YOPP was the YOPP supersite Model Intercomparison Project (YOPPsiteMIP), an initiative
66 to assess the performance of NWP systems at the process level by comparing with observatory data (Day et al., 2024). To
67 achieve this, a dataset of weather forecasts was produced by various NWP centers for supersite locations. In the Arctic the
68 dataset covers two Special Observing Periods (SOPs), SOP1 (February 1 – March 31, 2018) and SOP2 (July 1 – September
69 30, 2018). During this period the number of routine observations (e.g. radiosonde launches, buoy deployments, etc.) were

70 enhanced in the Arctic (doubled in the case of radiosondes), field campaigns were conducted, and enhanced observations from
71 the designated YOPP “supersite” observatories were taken. In general, the suite of several additional instruments that enable
72 an enhanced measurement program, including remote sensing, radiation, and other meteorological sensors, is what
73 distinguishes a ‘supersite’ from a typical weather site. This paper documents the efforts to compile the supersite (hereafter
74 referred to as “sites”) data collected during this period as part of the YOPPsiteMIP. These sites (Figure 1) are distributed over
75 a diverse range of geographical locations capturing some of the diversity in the terrestrial high-latitude climate zones.

76
77 Prior to YOPP, data collection, processing, geophysical variable reporting cadences, and file output type and format were not
78 standardized across the sites, which are operated by different international agencies and consortiums. This lack of
79 interoperability made performing multi-site comparisons, evaluations, and process studies difficult and time consuming,
80 deterring potential users of the data (Wohner et al., 2022). In order to address this problem, the concept of standardized Merged
81 Observatory Data Files (MODFs) was developed as part of the YOPPsiteMIP (Uttal et al., 2024). This concept is based on
82 combining measurements from multiple international research observatories’ instruments into a single NetCDF file that
83 complies with established data management standards. Prior to MODFs, there generally existed no standardized procedures
84 for coordinated data management at these research sites such as those that have been developed for operational datasets. Thus,
85 the data from these sites’ separate instruments were scattered between separate files with different authors, formats, metadata,
86 post-processing techniques, physical archive locations, and requirements for usage. As such, they could not be amalgamated
87 to provide a pan-Arctic observational dataset.

88
89 MODF files bring together observations from different earth system components in a standardized NetCDF file format to
90 enable utilization of research-grade, process-level observations for model evaluation and parameterization development. At
91 the same time, MODFs are compatible with and mirror Merged Model Data Files (MMDFs) that are produced by each NWP
92 centre participating in YOPP (Day et al., 2024). Each geophysical variable observed at a site is matched to its corresponding
93 NWP model geophysical variable using a standardized data format, cadence, and file structure. Uttal et al. (2024) provides a
94 generalized overview for the content and data structure of MODFs, i.e., a single NetCDF data file containing measurements
95 from multiple sources, and a series of tools to facilitate their creation. Table 1 provides information regarding the on-site
96 facility location where measurements were collected and their coordinates for reference. For some sites (e.g., Sodankylä),
97 certain geophysical variables are measured at multiple locations; these are all reported in the MODF with their corresponding
98 measurement coordinates embedded within the file so as to distinguish each measurement. Final DOIs for the MODF_{yms} are
99 listed in Table 2.

100
101 The MODF’s standardized file structure directly aligns with the NWP’s MMDFs. Thus, MODFs easily facilitate observation-
102 model comparisons at any/all of the seven sites (Gallagher and Tjernström, 2024). The purpose of the present work is to

103 describe the construction and contents of MODFs for seven of the YOPP-designated Arctic sites during SOPs 1 and 2
104 (hereafter, “MODF_{ysm}”): Whitehorse, Canada (60.71 °N, 135.07 °W, 682 m a.s.l.); Iqaluit, Canada (63.74 °N, 68.51 °W, 11 m
105 a.s.l.); Sodankylä, Finland (67.367 °N, 26.629 °E, 179 m a.s.l.); Utqiagvik (Barrow), Alaska (71.325 °N, 156.625 °W, 8 m
106 a.s.l.); Tiksi, Russia (71.596 °N, 128.889 °E, 30 m a.s.l.); Ny-Ålesund, Norway (78.923 °N, 11.926 °E, 15 m a.s.l.); and Eureka,
107 Canada (80.083 °N, 86.417 °W, 89 m a.s.l.). Methods used to organize a site’s dataset and develop MODFs are provided. Each
108 sites’ instrumentation and data processing are also described in this work to provide users with additional context and
109 information about the source of the geophysical variables contained in the MODF. The MODFs’ counterpart, MMDFs, are
110 described in Uttal et al. (2024).

111
112 Creating a standardized dataset such as MODF that contains observations from different meteorological and research agencies’
113 sites is an extremely complex, non-trivial task. For the sake of brevity and to reduce redundancy, this paper references site- or
114 instrument-specific publications in order to fully describe all of the aspects of the MODF dataset, including instrumentation,
115 quality control (QC), and processing techniques. In the case where non-trivial aspects about the MODF data arise, the data’s
116 origin, reference publications (e.g., dataset dois), and site contacts have been provided. Section 2 describes the data processing
117 chain conducted at each site, including information about the site’s local topography, climate, and instrumentation in order to
118 provide site-specific context to aid the interpretation of model-observation comparisons. Section 3 describes the
119 instrumentation and calculated variables. Section 4 describes the standardized MODF dataset file format, QC, and post
120 processing, which in some cases differed slightly from site-to-site. Section 5 describes the MODF data structure, attributes,
121 and example Figures that illustrate the available dataset. Data and code availability is provided in Section 6, and concluding
122 remarks are provided in Section 7.

123 **2 Site Descriptions**

124 To properly contextualize and interpret the observations contained within the MODF since they come from vastly different
125 sites. A map of the distribution of the sites is shown in Figure 1. While all sites are also designated surface synoptic observation
126 (SYNOP) stations, the meteorological data provided in the MODFs is significantly more detailed and includes additional
127 geophysical variables and thus is not the same as the SYNOP data. Table 3 lists the geophysical variables observed at each
128 site that are stored in the standardized MODF format, their measurement location(s), and other attributes; the MODF
129 featureType corresponds to the type of geophysical variable being observed at each site (they are split up into broad categories).
130 Note that all radiation sensor footprints are ~0.2 m in diameter and have a dome of ~5 cm in diameter.

131 **2.1 Whitehorse, Canada**

132 The Whitehorse site (Figure 2) was commissioned as part of the Canadian Arctic Weather Science (CAWS) project (Mariani
133 et al., 2018; Joe et al., 2020). CAWS was initiated to evaluate upper air observing technologies that can complement and
134 improve Polar forecasts, perform satellite calibration / validation over Arctic terrain, and to provide recommendations to
135 optimize the Canadian Arctic observing network. The site's instruments (Figure 2 and Table 4) are installed on an elevated
136 platform, all within a few meters of each other. The site is located at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport, which
137 is situated on a plateau ~50 m above the rest of the city. The city is located in a valley between the Yukon Ranges to its West
138 (~1.6 km a.s.l.) and East (~1.4 km a.s.l.); this complex mountainous terrain strongly influences the weather systems that reach
139 Whitehorse, which mostly originate from the Eastern Pacific or over Alaska.

140
141 Whitehorse experiences cold to temperate average monthly temperatures ranging from -15 to 14 °C (annual mean of -2 °C)
142 and average monthly precipitation ranging from 7 to 38 mm (annual total of ~500 mm). Since the city is in the rain shadow of
143 the Coast Mountains, precipitation totals are relatively low year-round. The primary surface wind direction follows the valley
144 (NNW). The soil type at and around the site is a mixture of grained alluvial and colluvial slopes and, as part of the Boreal
145 Cordillera ecozone, the surface type is primarily Boreal Forest, including complex plateaus, mountains, valleys and Cordilleran
146 vegetation. With a population greater than 26,000 inhabitants, Whitehorse is the primary gateway for air traffic for all of the
147 Yukon Territories, parts of Alaska, and the Western Canadian Arctic. During the YOPP SOPs, radiosondes were launched
148 four times daily.

149 **2.2 Iqaluit, Canada**

150 Like Whitehorse, the Iqaluit site (Figure 3) was commissioned as part of the CAWS project (Mariani et al., 2022). The site is
151 located ~200 m from the airport runway and all instruments (Figure 3 and Table 5) are co-located to within no more than 140
152 m of each other on flat terrain. The city itself is located along the coast in a valley that runs in the NW to SE direction; thus,
153 the primary direction of surface winds, which are frequently severe ($> 15 \text{ ms}^{-1}$), follows this direction. The surrounding region
154 is relatively flat Arctic tundra except for nearby hills (~300 m a.s.l.) approximately two kilometers to the NE of the site.

155
156 Iqaluit experiences an extreme range of average monthly temperatures ranging from -28 to 8 °C (annual mean of -9 °C) and
157 average monthly precipitation ranging from 18 to 70 mm (annual total of ~460 mm). The soil type at and around the site is
158 cryosolic and the surface type is ~70% tundra and ~30% ocean within a 10 km radius of the site. Most storm tracks that reach
159 Iqaluit originate over the Western Canadian Arctic or the Prairies; these storms can produce strong Easterly winds which
160 frequently cause blowing snow that severely reduces visibility during non-summer months. Given the site's proximity to
161 Frobisher Bay (< 600 m), the site is influenced by sea surface conditions during onshore flow (NW). Co-located instrument
162 evaluation studies were conducted for several remote sensing and upper air observations (Mariani et al., 2020, 2021), including

163 preliminary model verification studies during the YOPP SOPs and beyond. Iqaluit has over 8,000 inhabitants and is the primary
164 gateway for air and sea traffic for the central and Eastern Canadian Arctic. During the YOPP SOPs, radiosondes were launched
165 four times daily.

166 **2.3 Sodankylä, Finland**

167 The Sodankylä site (Figure 4) is managed by the Arctic Space Centre of the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI-ARC). It
168 is located in the Scandinavian taiga, which consists of a mix of spruces, pines and birches. The instruments (Figure 4 and Table
169 6) at the Sodankylä site are distributed over seven main observational sites, each of them including several installations (48m,
170 24m, 20m or 16m towers, automatic weather stations (AWS), structures supporting snow and soil measurements) that cover
171 an area of approximately 1.5 km². The environment of the observational sites varies between dense forest, sparse forest, forest
172 openings, and wetland, each of these environments having its own particular surface characteristics.

173
174 Sodankylä experiences monthly temperatures ranging from -11 to 15 °C (annual mean of 1 °C) and average monthly
175 precipitation ranging from 35 to 85 mm (annual total of ~660 mm). The site is a calibration/validation site for numerous
176 satellite products (such as snow water equivalent and snow extent (Luojus et al., 2021), and soil freeze-thaw (Cohen et al.,
177 2021 and Rautiainen et al., 2016). The spatial distribution of the observational sites reflects the need of measuring the spatial
178 variability of observed parameters over different spatial scales and satellite footprints (Hannula et al., 2016). During the YOPP
179 SOPs, radiosondes were launched four times daily.

180 **2.4 Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), USA**

181 The Utqiagvik site (Figure 5) consists of observatories located ~3 km southeast from the coastline where the Beaufort and
182 Chukchi Seas meet. The site is situated over tundra interspersed with thermokarst lakes having a coverage of up to 40% area
183 (Sellmann et al., 1975). There are two primary observatories located outside of Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska: The
184 Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) North Slope of Alaska (NSA) observatory operated by the Department of Energy
185 (DOE), and the Barrow Atmospheric Baseline Observatory facility operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
186 Administration (NOAA) Global Monitoring Laboratory (GML). These observatories are equipped with a suite of
187 meteorological instruments (Figure 5 and Table 7) located 8 km east of the town of Utqiagvik. This is likely beyond the
188 influence of a local heat island in town (Hinkel et al., 2007) and disturbance to snow cover by human activity (Stone et al.,
189 2002). The site includes several towers and space for guest instruments.

190

191 Utqiagvik experiences monthly temperatures ranging from -26 to 9 °C (annual mean of -10 °C) and average monthly
192 precipitation ranging from 35 to 85 mm (annual total of ~770 mm). The climate in Utqiagvik, and much of the Alaskan North
193 Slope, is regulated by seasonal sea ice cover and the dominance of easterlies that circulate around the Beaufort High. This
194 atmospheric pattern is punctuated by episodes of southerly advection of air masses from the north Pacific, which frequently
195 arrive from the direction of the Bering Strait and are influential the timing of seasonal transitions of terrestrial snow cover and
196 sea ice coverage in both autumn and spring (Cox et al., 2017). The GML Barrow Atmospheric Baseline Observatory recently
197 built a newly furnished on-site laboratory that was completed in 2020. The site's previous facility was constructed in 1972
198 (<https://gml.noaa.gov/obop/brw/history/index.html>), and was deconstructed in 2021. The ARM NSA observatory was
199 established in 1997 (Verlinde et al., 2016). Together, the GML and ARM observatories provide an extensive set of long-term
200 measurements at this coastal location. Measurements include properties of aerosols, clouds, precipitation, trace gases, the
201 atmospheric state and the surface energy balance. Unlike the other YOPP sites, radiosondes were launched three times daily
202 during the SOPs.

203 **2.5 Tiksi, Russia**

204 The Tiksi observatory (Figure 6) is 7 km away from the town of Tiksi, Russia, in the Sakha Republic of northern Siberia and
205 is staffed by personnel that commute from the town. Tiksi hosts a 20-m flux tower, a clean air facility, a weather station, a
206 Climate Reference Network (CRN) platform, and a Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN) platform, among other
207 instruments (Figure 6 and Table 8) (Ohmura et al., 1998; Driemel et al., 2018). It is a coastal site, with facilities built in a high
208 latitude tundra regime, comprising several different types of tundra land classifications including shrub (most predominant),
209 lichen, wet/dry fen, grassy, bog, water, bare and meadow (Mikola et al., 2018). Meteorologically, Tiksi is located in a boundary
210 region between Atlantic and Pacific air masses. The resulting variability in atmospheric conditions with air masses originating
211 from various source regions in Russia, Northern America, Europe and Central Asia require careful attention and interpretation
212 of in-situ measurements. Tiksi is also influenced by its location at the mouth of the Lena River, the second largest river draining
213 into the Arctic Ocean and the only major Russian river underlain by permafrost which has impacts on the processes and
214 evolution of surface fluxes. Tiksi is also situated on the coast of the Laptev Sea, which is historically a region of large sea-ice
215 production.

216
217 Tiksi experiences monthly temperatures ranging from -29 to 11 °C (annual mean of -10 °C) and average monthly precipitation
218 ranging from 15 to 65 mm (annual total of ~510 mm). The original Tiksi science station was established in 1932 and at its
219 height had 60-80 staff and families that lived onsite with a school and grocery store comprising an independent community.
220 In collaboration with the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorological and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet), a
221 partnership was established with NOAA and the FMI in 2005 to collect climate grade meteorological, surface energy budget,

222 greenhouse gases and aerosol data (Uttal et al., 2013). Radiosonde data were incorporated into the Integrated Global
223 Radiosonde Archive (IGRA) and are available through NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)
224 portal (Durre et al., 2018). Unlike the other YOPP sites, radiosondes had twice daily launches during the SOPs.

225 **2.6 Ny-Ålesund, Norway**

226 At Ny-Ålesund Research Station (Figure 7) in Svalbard, Norway, multi-disciplinary observations are operated by several
227 institutions of different nationalities. The Norwegian Meteorological Institute (aka MET Norway; www.met.no) is operating
228 the standard meteorological surface and synoptic observations (Figure 7 and Table 9) reported to the WMO (Maturilli et al.,
229 2013). The settlement at 78.9°N, 11.9°E, is situated on the south coast of the Kongsfjord, which opens at the west coast of
230 Svalbard towards the Fram Strait. The fjord stretches in southeast-northwest direction from the large glacier plateau to the
231 open ocean, and is surrounded by glaciated mountains with altitudes up to 1 km. This geographical setting impacts the local
232 wind field in the lowermost kilometer, resulting in a mainly southeastern wind direction at Ny-Ålesund, which is temporarily
233 replaced by a north-westerly wind direction when large-scale synoptic wind is also coming from the according direction. Only
234 in calm conditions with wind speed $< 2 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ do katabatic winds from the glaciers south of Ny-Ålesund prevail.

235
236 Ny-Ålesund experiences monthly temperatures ranging from -8 to 9 °C (annual mean of -6 °C) and average monthly
237 precipitation ranging from 17 to 46 mm (annual total of ~590 mm). Ny-Ålesund may be located in the high Arctic, but due to
238 its location in a coastal environment affected by the West Spitsbergen Current, the local climate is quite maritime and relatively
239 warm. During the summer months, air temperatures above freezing and the otherwise snow-covered landscape exhibits tundra
240 ground and the active layer soil surface of permafrost. An overview of the climate conditions and changes in Svalbard is given
241 by the Norwegian Centre for Climate Services (NCCS, 2018), while the specific atmospheric and radiation conditions in Ny-
242 Ålesund are described by Maturilli et al. (2019). For the YOPP SOPs, the radiosonde launch frequency was increased from
243 daily to 6-hourly. Radiosonde launches, four times daily, are contributed by the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), and carried
244 out by the German-French AWIPEV research base that AWI jointly operates with the French Polar Institute Paul-Émile Victor
245 (IPEV). The radiosondes and weekly ozone sondes are launched from a balloon platform about 200m west of the MET Norway
246 weather mast. Atmospheric trace gases and cloud condensation nuclei are observed at the Zeppelin Observatory at about 474
247 m a.s.l. on Zeppelin Mountain south of Ny-Ålesund, operated by the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), the Norwegian Institute
248 for Air Research (NILU), Stockholm University, the Japanese National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR), and others. The
249 full complement of atmospheric measurements at Ny-Ålesund highlights the interwoven research community that contributes
250 to making Ny-Ålesund an observational site. More information on the Ny-Ålesund Research Station is available at
251 <https://nyalesundresearch.no>.

252 2.7 Eureka, Canada

253 The Canadian Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Change (CANDAC) runs the Polar Environment Atmospheric
254 Research Laboratory (PEARL) (Figure 8) near the Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Eureka Weather Station
255 (EWS) in Nunavut, Canada. PEARL has three facilities: the Ridge Laboratory (RL), the Zero Altitude PEARL Auxiliary
256 Laboratory (OPAL), and the Surface and Atmospheric Flux Irradiance Extension (SAFIRE). PEARL collects a wide variety of
257 measurements across all three facilities (Figure 8 and Table 10). The observations used from the Eureka station for the
258 MODF_{ysm} (Akish and Morris, 2023a) were primarily measured at the OPAL and SAFIRE on-site facilities. The OPAL lab is
259 situated at approximately 10 m a.s.l. elevation to capture measurements in the lowermost atmosphere. The SAFIRE facility is
260 located about 5 km from the EWS, and it is located away from any structures. At SAFIRE, there is a former BSRN station, a
261 flux tower, and additional remote sensing instrumentation. Additional details about the site including its instrumentation,
262 dataset validation and uncertainties, etc., can be found in Fogal et al. (2013) and at [https://www.pearl-](https://www.pearl-candac.ca/website/index.php/facilities)
263 [candac.ca/website/index.php/facilities](https://www.pearl-candac.ca/website/index.php/facilities). Only a subset of the available measurements collected have been included in the
264 MODF_{ysm} (Akish and Morris, 2023a) due to time constraints and processing resources. Ellesmere Island, where Eureka is
265 situated, is characterized by complex topography that generates mesoscale atmospheric circulations, such as downsloping
266 winds (e.g., Persson and Stone, 2007). The local summertime atmosphere is likely regulated also by nearby ice conditions
267 (Persson and Stone, 2007; Tremblay et al., 2019), which vary between the northern side of the island where multiyear pack ice
268 persists (e.g., Alert) and other coastal areas, which are generally adjacent to seasonal ice cover (e.g., Eureka). However, the
269 general dryness of the atmosphere over Ellesmere is likely a regional anomaly related to location relative to dominant pressure
270 patterns over the Beaufort Sea and near the pole rather than being local (Cox et al., 2012).

271

272

273 Eureka has a minimum monthly average temperature of -37.4 °C in February, a maximum of 6.1 °C in July, and a yearly
274 average of -19 °C. Average monthly precipitation ranges from 9 to 53 mm (annual total of ~285 mm). Details of Eureka's
275 climatology are described in Lesins et al. (2010) and water vapor climatology in Weaver et al. (2017). For the period from
276 1954–2007, the monthly average dry bulb air temperature minimum occurs in February at approximately -37 °C, with the
277 maximum in July at approximately 5 °C. ECCC also publishes climate normals for Eureka at
278 https://climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_normals/results_1981_2010_e.html?stnID=1750&autofwd=1. Eureka is generally
279 colder and drier than Utqiagvik (Cox et al., 2012). The soils are mostly marine deposits, and the topography, apart from the
280 stony ridges, is driven mostly by ground ice (Pollard and Bell, 1998; Pollard et al., 2015). Cloud cover over Eureka is
281 anomalous relative to other Arctic observatories, with generally higher cloud bases, a smaller proportion of supercooled liquid,
282 and a seasonal cycle offset from the typical pattern observed elsewhere (Shupe, 2011; Shupe et al., 2011). Eureka increased
283 their twice daily radiosonde launches to four daily launches during the SOPs.

284

285 3 Instrumentation and Derived Variable Calculation

286 Standard surface meteorological observations (winds, temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation) were conducted by
287 instruments of similar design, operation, and accuracy at the different sites. The MODF files have an attribute "Instrument,"
288 which specifies the exact instrument model used for each variable at each site. For each site, the full list of measured variables,
289 instrument model and manufacturer, temporal resolution, measurement uncertainty, and operating configuration is provided
290 in Tables 4-10 (note that the information in these tables is also documented in the attributes of the MODFs themselves). The
291 uncertainties provided in these tables originate from the manufacturer and often depend on the meteorological conditions (e.g.,
292 relative humidity observations are less accurate during very low temperatures); as such, the largest reported uncertainty was
293 provided for each geophysical variable to provide a conservative error estimate.

294
295 For all sites, Vaisala RS92 or RS41 radiosondes were used to collect vertical profile observations from the surface up to the
296 stratosphere. For Iqaluit and Whitehorse, however, the radiosonde manufacturer changed during SOP2 from Vaisala (RS92)
297 to GRAW on September 12, 2018 (no impact on the data quality is anticipated). The radiation flux, cloud base height, and
298 snowfall flux observations are the only derived variables that were explicitly calculated in the MODF (as opposed to the direct
299 observations described in the paragraphs above). The heat flux observations were processed using the eddy correlation and
300 bulk method (see for instance Baldocchi, 2014). Additional processing and QC methods for these observations are discussed
301 in Section 4. Cloud-base height observations were output by the Vaisala CL51 ceilometer at most sites (where available) using
302 a proprietary algorithm to determine the lowest cloud base height; the uncertainty of this algorithm isn't reported but the
303 ceilometer has a reported distance accuracy of ± 10 m from the manufacturer. ARM technical reports, instrument validation /
304 evaluation, and QC measures are linked and available within the Utqiagvik/Barrow MODF_{ysm} (Akish and Morris, 2023c).

305
306 For all observations, instantaneous time is reported at the instruments' raw sampling cadence in UTC. The typical temporal
307 cadence for most observations are around 1 minute. No temporal interpolation or averaging was performed on the data. The
308 only exception to this is for turbulent fluxes (the only calculated variable), where some averaging (1 to 30 minutes, depending
309 on the variable) is implicit in the calculation of fluxes. Heights are reported as above ground level (AGL), with the exception
310 of the soil thermistor string, which reports depths below the surface in units of cm. For more information on the instrumentation
311 used or further details on the instrument accuracy, precision, and co-located validation studies for certain instruments, refer to
312 the site-specific references listed in Section 2 and/or the WMO Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation (WMO,
313 2021).

314

315 **4 Dataset Preparation, quality control, and post-processing**

316 Guidelines for creating MODFs were published as a table in both human-readable (PDF file) and machine-readable (JSON
317 files) formats by Hartten and Khalsa (2022). This “H-K Table” adopts the standards and conventions commonly used in the
318 earth sciences, including NetCDF encoding with Climate and Forecast (CF) Conventions and following CMIP6 naming, as
319 agreed upon by the YOPP community (Uttal et al., 2024). This H-K standard facilitates the creation of MODFs using current
320 requirements and the creator’s software of choice, with the MODF toolkits providing tools to assist the user in creating MODFs
321 (Section 6). For the present work, we used H-K Table version 1.3 to guide the criteria for the generation and standardization
322 of naming conventions, units, and global/variable attribute metadata. Observational datasets were collated and formatted for
323 each of the seven sites into a set of NetCDF files in accordance with the table’s criteria. The native variable name is saved as
324 an attribute in the MODFs and as previously discussed, no resampling was performed to harmonize different time stepping
325 (the instrument’s instantaneous raw sampling frequency is reported, usually about minutely). Acceptance of data into the
326 MODF_{ysm} was generally determined by the variable list described in the table. The processing script is openly available and
327 described in Section 6.

328
329 Radiosonde (timeSeriesProfileSonde variables) data in the MODF were binned into 5 m intervals (10 m for Iqaluit and
330 Whitehorse) of geopotential height and all measurements within each bin were averaged. The raw data feed from the
331 radiosonde observations were obtained at ~2 s resolution. In the case of 5-meter intervals, this most often results in 0, 1, or 2
332 measurements in each bin: 8%, 82%, 9%, respectively, in SOP1 and 6%, 80%, 13% in SOP2. In both SOP1 and SOP2 at least
333 99.9% of the measurements have two or fewer measurements, but a given bin can have up to 14 measurements. The number
334 of measurements per bin has been included in the dataset to filter for these situations, as have the actual time and height of
335 each measurement (though also averaged within each bin). For surface precipitation observations, no corrections for solid
336 precipitation under-catchment were performed (the dataset is raw in the MODF); where appropriate, users are recommended
337 to process under-catchment corrections via Kochendorfer et al. (2020).

338
339 A summary of the instruments, their configuration, processing, and QC applied for each site’s observations is provided in
340 Tables 4-10. Unless otherwise specified in these Tables, the observations collected by each instrument are processed by the
341 instrument manufacturers’ proprietary software (standard data output for that instrument) prior to any additional QC
342 performed. In some cases, no additional QC was performed, and the data should be treated “as is.” In other cases, additional
343 checks (manual comparisons to co-located instruments) and/or QC was applied to remove outliers and erroneous observations,
344 as described under ‘Quality Control’ in Tables 4-10. An indication of whether the dataset was corrected for certain effects
345 (e.g., shelter heating effect) is also provided in the Tables, where applicable.

346 The present phase of the MODF concept is to use standardized data organization, metadata, and interoperability. While data
347 quality assurance and measurement operation procedures remain in the purview of the contributing stations, considerable effort
348 was undertaken to ensure MODF production followed a transparent, consistent, and standardized data processing chain. This
349 includes efforts to standardize post-processing and filtering techniques (e.g., QC methods) as much as possible for the same
350 geophysical variable across the different sites. This consistent processing chain is another unique feature of the MODF dataset
351 as it enforces a level of consistency across vastly different observation sites that normally follow their agencies' own data
352 production procedures and methods. As discussed in more detail in the below subsections, there are some cases where site-
353 specific data processing could not be avoided; data should be used cautiously and with due consideration to each site's
354 processing techniques and QC methods for the MODF_{ysm}.

355 **4. 1 Whitehorse and Iqaluit, Canada**

356 All geophysical variables observed at the Iqaluit and Whitehorse sites were processed in the same manner and included in the
357 MODF_{ysm} (Huang et al., 2023a; 2023b). For most geophysical variables, limited QC was performed on the raw dataset with
358 the intention to remove obvious outliers only. Details regarding the QC performed are provided in Tables 4-5. A very small
359 number (<5%) of observations were flagged by the QC algorithm. Note that the correction for solid precipitation under-
360 catchment is less relevant for the WXT520 instrument than it is for traditional precipitation rain gauge instruments (e.g., the
361 Pluvio2). The radiation flux observations should be treated with caution since they typically require additional QC processing
362 prior to analysis; no additional QC was performed on these observations to account for potential frost or snow deposition on
363 the sensors, for instance. No additional QC was performed on the cloud base height data, which was processed by the Vaisala
364 software. Vaisala also processed the raw data feed from the radiosonde observations, which was obtained at 2 s resolution; no
365 additional QC was performed. When no data was available (due to the instrument being down, loss of power at the site, or
366 because it was flagged by the QC algorithm), a missing value (-9999.0) was reported in the MODF_{ysm} (Huang et al., 2023a;
367 2023b) and is notated via the "missing_value" attribute associated with each variable. Mariani et al. (2020, 2021) provides
368 instrument validation studies and more detailed information on the QC processing routines for the remote sensing and upper
369 air observations.

370 **4. 2 Sodankylä, Finland**

371 The Sodankylä observations included in the MODF_{ysm} (O'Connor, 2023) are automatically uploaded every day to the FMI
372 open access web site <https://litdb.fmi.fi/> where the data are organized on the basis of platforms and stations. Before being
373 uploaded to the web page, the data undergo an automatic quality check to remove outliers, as described in Table 6. In several

374 cases, multiple different instruments were co-located and deployed at the site to observe the same variable; as such there are
375 multiple sources of observations (instruments) to choose from.

376
377 In the current MODF_{ysm} version (O'Connor, 2023), no further quality check was applied to the data, implying that errors from
378 several sources are occasionally included. These sources of error may include snow/frost deposition on radiation and
379 temperature sensors or absorption of solar radiation by unsheltered temperature sensors. In a future version of the MODF_{ysm},
380 a deeper quality check will be applied to some of the variables included in the current MODF_{ysm} (O'Connor, 2023). This quality
381 check is based on the comparison among the same variables measured at different sites, on visual inspection and, in the case
382 of global radiation, on the comparison with radiative transfer model calculations. This processing will enable the identification
383 of the shortwave data affected by the shadows casted by the vegetation, of errors caused by frost formation on the domes of
384 pyranometers, and of the error in unshaded thermometers caused by the absorption of solar radiation.

385 **4.3 Utqiagvik (formerly barrow), USA, Tiksi, Russia and Eureka, Canada**

386 The Utqiagvik/Barrow data within the MODF_{ysm} (Akish and Morris, 2023c) originated from both DOE/ARM and NOAA
387 GML datasets, with GML proving datasets for ozone, snow thickness, skin temperature, soil temperature profile. Value added
388 products were generated and disseminated to the users using the ARM Data Discovery interface. Both the ARM and GML
389 datasets were ingested into a single MODF_{ysm} with variable attribution detailing how each variable and data set was QC'd,
390 processed and accessed, as described in Tables 7-8, 10. The surface ozone data was collected in 1-minute intervals and was
391 manually QC'd and submitted to NCEI. The measurements collected by the ARM facility were processed, QC analyzed, and
392 archived at the ARM Data Center archive. The long-term Eureka and Tiksi datasets (flux tower and radiation) are hosted by
393 the NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory (PSL), in collaboration with ECCC (Eureka site only), and Roshydromet (Tiksi site
394 only).

395
396 For the three sites, the radiation measurements were QC'd and processed following Long and Shi (2008) and improved
397 correction of the infrared loss in diffuse shortwave measurements was included (Younkin and Long, 2003). Turbulent heat
398 fluxes were processed and QC'd via Eddy correlation corrections including stability correction, Webb-Pearman correction,
399 frequency correction, sensor separation correction, filtering correction, line-averaging correction, and volume-averaging
400 correction (Cook et al. 2008, Fuehrer and Friehe 2002). Bulk corrections were also employed and utilized ARM data from the
401 radiation, ground, met, and tower.

402
403 Radiosonde data were ingested and processed by NOAA's NCEI and was processed through IGRA, following their standards
404 (Durre et al., 2018) and is available through NOAA's NCEI portal. The IGRA 2 QA system processed the sonde data, which

405 is based largely on the QA procedures in the IGRA 1 system (Durre et al. 2006; Durre et al. 2008). Like the IGRA 1 system,
406 it consists of a deliberate sequence of specialized algorithms, each of which makes a binary decision on the quality of a value,
407 level, or sounding; either the data item passes the check and remains available, or it is identified as erroneous and thus set to
408 missing. For all observations, a second level of manual QC was performed whereby data was reviewed by instrument mentors
409 and visually assessed by the site scientist/data quality office. This included removing non-physical values and outliers, after
410 confirming that they were either biased, incorrect, or collected during site maintenance periods. If data was not available for
411 any of the collected measurements across any of the variables, due to the instrument being down, loss of power at the site, or
412 because it was flagged by the QC algorithm, a missing value (-9999) was reported in the $MODF_{ysm}$ (Akish and Morris, 2023b).

413 **4. 5 Ny-Ålesund, Norway**

414 The meteorological measurements used for the $MODF_{ysm}$ (Holt, 2023) are taken from the AWIPEV weather mast (Driemel et
415 al., 2018; Maturilli, 2020b). Except for precipitation, all other data used in the $MODF_{ysm}$ for Ny-Ålesund originated from the
416 following data sets: Maturilli (2020a, 2020b, 2020c, 2022). The precipitation data reported in the $MODF_{ysm}$ are the direct
417 instrument output and no quality checks were applied; as such this data should be treated with caution (Holt, 2023). The Ny-
418 Ålesund observations included in the $MODF_{ysm}$ are a subset of those regularly uploaded in the PANGAEA data repository
419 (www.pangaea.de). Before being uploaded, all data undergo an automatic quality check (described in Table 9). Following this,
420 additional manual/visual inspection was performed as for Utqiaġvik, Tiksi, and Eureka. Surface radiation data were validated
421 and have undergone all quality checks of BSRN before archiving (Maturilli, 2020a).

423 **5 MODF Data Structure**

424 The data inside a MODF comprises of all the observations listed in Table 3 for a given observation site. The data itself follows
425 the same standardized format and structure for all observations and sites and is stored into a single NetCDF file using CF
426 conventions. NetCDF file formatting was chosen to best accommodate the high-level of metadata detail required for merging
427 such large quantities of individual measurements together, particularly given the need to be as transparent as possible when
428 reporting instrument-specific details for each observation. NWP model output was stored in MMDFs, matching the MODF
429 format to facilitate model-observation comparisons. Local maps showing the synoptic region around each site are provided in
430 Figure 9, with native spatial grids of the forecast models that participated in YOPPsiteMIP overlaid. This provides visual
431 context of where the site and the nearest NWP grid points exist in and around each site.

432

433 All MODF_{ysm} measurements provided in the data files maintained their native time cadence (typically on the order of minutely)
434 with no averaging undertaken, and details of the collection and processing techniques can be found in the variable attributes
435 within the files. Each DOI in Table 2 contains four (e.g., Whitehorse) or six (e.g., Utqiagvik) files, depending on whether the
436 site had timeSeriesProfile observations on a tower/mast. The filename convention for each MODF is as follows: site name +
437 “obs” + MODF_featureType + start_date + end_date.nc.

438
439 Guidelines for creating inventories of variable and attribute information (metadata) necessary for the MODF file attributes
440 were published in spreadsheet format by Morris and Akish (2022). This “A-M Template” uses variable content criteria from
441 the H-K Table to generate a metadata matrix of attribute and variable information for each of the measurements contained
442 within the MODFs. The template has individual tabs for each of the corresponding CF metadata featureTypes (i.e., timeSeries
443 and timeSeriesProfile) of the MODF NetCDF files, as well as one tab for the Global Attributes of the MODFs. The CF
444 Conventions can be found here: <https://cfconventions.org/cf-conventions/cf-conventions.html>. The attributes within the
445 template are mandatory when applicable, and serve as a guideline for MODF creators. The A-M Template is machine-readable
446 and can be ingested into MODF software to create the final output.

447
448 The file content is well-illustrated in Table 3; other details of the MODF_{ysm} format and structure are outlined in Uttal et al.
449 (2024). MODFs can contain featureTypes such as timeSeries and timeSeriesProfile, which refer to time series having one and
450 two data dimensions, respectively. In cases where data subcategories exist, featureType modifications can be depicted in the
451 file name, for example timeSeriesProfileSonde exist for the MODF_{ysm}. Currently, more than one featureType can be used
452 within an individual MODF file, but all subscribe to the same formatting structure and nomenclature. To generate an MODF,
453 creators would first visit the H-K Table to determine the variables that will be included in their MODF, and then they should
454 utilize the A-M Template to fill in the needed attribute and variables information requested by existing MODF software. Once
455 the A-M Template has been completed, then users can ingest the template into their MODF software to create the final MODF
456 outputs. For the MODF_{ysm}, individual toolkits were developed by MODF makers for each YOPP site. Python code was
457 developed for Whitehorse, Iqaluit and Ny-Alesund, and MATLAB code for Utqiagvik, Tiksi, Eureka and Soldankyla (see
458 Section 6). After the generation of the MODF_{ysm} outputs, the files were run through an MODF checker that identifies the
459 various inconsistencies or issues with the files before their upload to the MET Norway data portal. The MODF_{ysm} checker
460 developed for the YOPPsiteMIP files is part of a larger toolkit being designed to continue the creation of MODFs.

461
462 As an example of the uniformity of the observations (in terms of data format, post-processing, temporal cadence, etc.)
463 contained within each site’s MODF_{ysm} and their data coverage during the two YOPP SOPs, Figures 10 and 11 provide the
464 surface downwelling longwave radiation and near-surface temperature observations from each site’s MODF_{ysm} during SOP1,
465 respectively and Figures 12 and 13 show the same except for SOP2. The MET Norway data portal and MODF maker toolkit

466 (Sect. 6) also provides plotting tools that work with any MODF or MMDF and can produce similar figures automatically.
467 Periods of interest can be quickly identified by users and analyzed for further investigation and/or comparison with their
468 corresponding MMDFs. MODFs significantly simplify the process of analyzing observations from multiple sites and multiple
469 instruments, as analyses and Figures can be produced for each site using a single code that works for any observed geophysical
470 variable and (if desired) their corresponding NWP model output in the MMDF. In contrast, without MODFs a user would have
471 to contact each meteorological agency individually, find each sites' data repository, obtain data access privileges, find the files
472 they need from multiple instruments, reprocess and reformat multiple uniquely-formatted datasets and file types, then develop
473 several different codes (e.g., readers) specific to each instruments' dataset to ingest the multi-variate datasets and plot them.
474

475 The $MODF_{ysm}$ at Sodankylä are unique in that their measurements are collected across a series of sub-sites in the area;
476 therefore, it is important to describe here the possible methods for extracting the data for specific locations, or for co-located
477 measurements. The Sodankylä station comprises at least 25 distinct locations, the precise number of which is given by the
478 dimension 'site_id' inside the MODF data file. Each distinct location is given a unique index key in the variable 'subsite_name',
479 with these indices also identifying the 'lat', 'lon' and 'soil_type' for each location. The corresponding FMI names for each
480 location are identified in the attribute 'flag_meanings' for the variable 'subsite_name' via their indices; for example, the index
481 value of 16 pointing to IOA003_spot_8, which is one of the automatic weather stations located in the Intensive Observations
482 Area (IOA). There may be multiple locations providing the same measurement. However, not all locations provide the same
483 set of measurements, and to keep the MODF compact, each measurement variable has the location dimension truncated to
484 include only locations which measure that variable; i.e., the location dimension for the measurement variables is 'nsubsites_X',
485 where X is the number of locations making the particular measurement. This set of locations is accessed through the indices
486 given in the attribute 'subsite_name' for the measurement variable, which corresponds to the key given in the 'subsite_name'
487 variable; i.e., a subsite_name attribute of "1, 3, 10" means that these measurements were made at the locations identified by
488 their indices, from which their locations (latitudes and longitudes) and soil_type can also be determined.
489

490 This method permits diverse options of collecting measurements for particular uses. All measurements, for example, at one
491 location can be obtained by identifying the appropriate 'subsite_name' index inside the MODF data file, iterating through the
492 'subsite_name' attribute of each variable to see if it contains the selected index, and, if so, selecting the column or slice of data
493 for the data that matches the location of the index (i.e. if subsite_name = 10 and the subsite_name attribute for a timeSeries
494 variable is "1, 3, 10", the measurement timeSeries for the requested location is in the third column, the next variable may have
495 a subsite_name attribute of "1, 3, 5, 6, 10" and the measurement timeSeries for the requested location is in the fifth column).
496 The user could also select a specific area of interest and identify all measurements made within this region as follows: select
497 the indices for the locations within a specified latitude and longitude range, then iterate through the 'subsite_name' attribute of
498 each variable to see if it contains the selected indices and return the columns or slices that match them.

499

500 Note that each site conducts additional observations not listed in table 3 that will be included in upcoming updates to the
501 $MODF_{ysm}$ with the intent to eventually incorporate all observations into the $MODF_{ysm}$ for each site. This process of developing
502 and appending to MODFs can be extended to other sites and/or research programs that wish to create MODFs of their
503 observations. Given the standardized nature of the MODFs, reading and analyzing datasets from any of the YOPP sites is
504 simplified. Quick-look plotting tools have been developed via the MET Norway YOPP data portal and the MODF maker
505 toolkit (Sect. 6), which enable near-instantaneous plotting of the observations contained within the $MODF_{ysm}$.

506

507 **6 Data and Code Availability**

508 The $MODF_{ysm}$ for each site are available via the MET Norway YOPP Data Portal (<https://yopp.met.no/>) where they are
509 indexed through FAIR compliant discovery metadata and can be directly accessed at:

510 https://thredds.met.no/thredds/catalog/alertness/YOPP_supersite/obs/catalog.html (Whitehorse:

511 <https://doi.org/10.21343/a33e-j150>, Iqaluit: <https://doi.org/10.21343/yrnf-ck57>, Sodankylä: <https://doi.org/10.21343/m16p->

512 [pq17](https://doi.org/10.21343/a2dx-nq55), Utqiagvik: <https://doi.org/10.21343/a2dx-nq55>, Tiksi: <https://doi.org/10.21343/5bwn-w881>, Ny-Ålesund:

513 <https://doi.org/10.21343/y89m-6393>, Eureka: <https://doi.org/10.21343/r85j-tc61>).

514

515 Proper data citation ensures appropriate credits to authors of both input data sources and merged $MODF_{ysm}$ datasets. Data from
516 each station has been assigned a DOI. The variable attributes of the merged data products contain information about the source
517 datastreams and their DOIs, to more clearly establish data provenance in a traceable manner. When using data from the
518 $MODF_{ysm}$, it is expected that the user references the $MODF_{ysm}$ DOI, and any subsidiary variable DOIs when available.
519 Assigning citations for merged data streams such as the $MODF_{ysm}$ is a challenging and still evolving concept. For example,
520 the US DOE ARM Program uses a combination of DOI and citation structure for continuous data streams, as outlined in
521 Prakash et al. (2016). They recommend when registering DOIs for derived and higher-order data, source DOIs in the metadata
522 of the newly created DOI should be added and linked when possible.

523

524 The source code used to produce the $MODF_{ysm}$ for each site (and MODFs in general) are available via gitlab:
525 <https://gitlab.com/mdf-makers/mdf-toolkit>. This MODF toolkit is openly available for anyone interested in developing their
526 own MODF file or generating quick-look plots of the data contents inside the MODFs. The toolkit is regularly updated as the
527 MODF community grows and new geophysical variables and/or functions are added. Additional site-specific python and
528 MATLAB codes that were used to prepare the observation data files for MODF ingestion are available upon request (e.g.,
529 contact the site principle investigator).

531 **7 Concluding Remarks**

532 The enhanced ground-based observations conducted at both Poles during the YOPP fill significant and identified gaps in our
533 current meteorological observation capabilities for the Polar Regions. YOPPsiteMIP MODFs (MODF_{ysm}) have been published
534 for seven of the YOPP Arctic sites, whereby all geophysical variables are stored in an identical, standardized format in a single
535 NetCDF file following CF conventions. This fulfills a key objective of the program to perform single- or multi-variate model-
536 observation comparisons. These MODFs archive data in a manner as similar as possible to corresponding MMDF (see Uttal
537 et al., 2024) that contain high-resolution forecast variables from a single NWP model at and around a site (Figure 9). Thus,
538 combined, MODFs and MMDFs greatly simplify integration of these complex datasets, enabling further scientific study as
539 demonstrated in the recent publications using the latest MODF_{ysm} and MMDF_{ysm} (Day et al., 2024).

540

541 Standardized geophysical variable nomenclature, cadences, metadata, basic QC, and file structure were employed to create
542 these files. MODFs provide the first standardized files for archiving all the different ground-based observation site
543 observations, containing a multitude of geophysical variables observed by (at times) different instruments. This amalgamation
544 of different sites' observations into a standardized, user-friendly MODF format enables easier analysis of the MODF dataset,
545 inter-site comparisons, and detailed NWP model validation, evaluation, intercomparisons, and process-based diagnostic
546 studies that are currently underway (e.g., Figures 10 to 13). The further adoption, creation, and use of MODFs outside of YOPP
547 is encouraged; a suite of tools and documentation is openly available via Gitlab (Sect. 6) for other site managers, researchers,
548 and users to develop and create their own site-specific MODFs outside of YOPP or to analyze an observation sites' dataset.

549

550 The YOPP MODF_{ysm} discussed here provide novel access to datasets of enhanced meteorological observations collected at
551 several sites across the Arctic. The MODF concept is not limited for use in polar regions and could be exported elsewhere.
552 Seven YOPP-designated sites in the Arctic developed and published MODF_{ysm} covering both SOP periods (February – March
553 2018 and July – September 2018), including Iqaluit, Whitehorse, and Eureka in Canada, Utqiagvik in the United States, Tiksi
554 in Russia, Sodankylä in Finland, and Ny-Ålesund in Norway. Additional geophysical variables observed at each of these seven
555 sites will be included in a future update of their MODF_{ysm} , with the goal of having almost all of a site's observations available.
556 Observations at most of these sites continue today beyond YOPP and are available for subsequent analyses, in some cases
557 using updated MODFs generated in near-real time. MODF_{ysm} for the other YOPP sites, including ship-based platforms and
558 sites in the Antarctic, will be made available in the future to complete the YOPP dataset. The MODF_{ysm} described here directly
559 ties to process-oriented verification studies aiming to improve NWP predictions at the Poles by contributing and enabling
560 NWP inter-comparisons.

561

562 **Author contributions**

563 SM, ZM, and TU wrote the first draft of the manuscript. SM and ZM conducted scientific analyses and created tables and
564 figures with JD and JT. All authors managed data archiving, creation of the MODF_{ysm}, and publication to the MET Norway
565 YOPP Data Portal. All authors contributed to the writing and the editing of the manuscript.

566

567 **Competing interests**

568 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

569

570 **Disclaimer**

571 Use of specific instrument manufacturers/models and suppliers mentioned in the manuscript and/or used at the sites is not a
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573

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587 All data products are produced by their respective institutions and are available via the YOPP data portal (<https://yopp.met.no>)
588 and directly at: https://thredds.met.no/thredds/catalog/alertness/YOPP_supersite/obs/catalog.html.

589

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Table 1. List of facility coordinates for locations where $MODF_{\text{ysm}}$ measurements were collected at each site. The measured variables that are observed at each site are listed (refer to Table 3). In some cases, the same variable is measured at multiple locations for a single site; these observations and their corresponding coordinates are embedded within the MODF. “All” refers to the entire list of the measured variables in Table 3, whereas “All radiation” refers to all radiation-related measured variables.

	Facility Name	Coordinates	Measured Variables (from Table 3)
Whitehorse	Whitehorse	N60.71, W135.07	All
Iqaluit	Iqaluit	N63.74, W68.51	All
Sodankylä	Operative Sounding Station Area; Automatic Weather Station (LUOxxxx)	N67.366618 – N67.367220, E26.628253 - E26.63144	Pressure, Visibility
	CO2 Flux Mast Area (VUOxxxx)	N67.361883, E26.643003 - E26.64323	Total precipitation of water, all wind, vertical velocity, temperature, dew-point temperature, relative humidity, snow thickness, all radiation, cloud base height
	Intensive Observation Area (IOAxxxx)	N67.361654 - N67.361950, E26.633190 - E26.634191	Temperature, relative humidity, snow thickness, snowfall flux, snow water equivalent, all short-wave radiation, soil temperature profile, soil moisture, snow temperature
	Lichen Fence (JAKxxxx)	N67.36710 - N67.36716, E26.634740 - E26.63513	All radiation
	Micrometeorological Mast Area (METxxxx)	N67.361711 - N67.36216, E26.63726 - E26.65117	All wind, temperature, vertical velocity, relative humidity, snow thickness, all radiation, all heat fluxes, friction velocity, soil temperature profile, soil moisture, snow temperature
	Peatland Area (SUOxxxx)	N67.361903 - N67.36707, E26.633802 - E26.654067	Temperature, dew-point temperature, relative humidity, snow thickness, all short-wave radiation, soil temperature profile, soil moisture, snow temperature
Utqiagvik	ARM Facility	N71.19228, W156.3654	All except ozone concentration, snow thickness, and soil temperature profile
	GML Barrow Atmospheric Baseline Observatory	N71.3230, W156.6114	Ozone concentration, snow thickness, and soil temperature profile
Tiksi	Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN)	N71.5862, E128.9188	All radiation observations
	Fluxtower	N71.595, E128.882	All except radiation observations
Ny-Ålesund	Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN)	N78.92278, E11.92725	All radiation observations, pressure, cloud base height
	AWIPEV Met.Tower	N78.92226, E11.92667	All wind, temperature, relative humidity, specific humidity
	Balloon Launch Facility	N78.92301, E11.92271	All timeSeriesProfileSonde observations

Eureka	Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN)	N79.989, W85.9404	All radiation observations
	Fluxtower	N80.083, W86.417	Pressure, all wind, temperature, relative humidity, snow thickness, ground heat flux, soil temperature profile
	Sonde Launch	N79.9833, W85.9333	All timeSeriesProfileSonde observations

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Table 2. List of final DOIs for each site's MODF_{ysm}.

	DOI	Title	Citation
Whitehorse	https://doi.org/10.21343/a33e-j150	MODF for Erik Nielsen Airport, Whitehorse, Canada during YOPP SOP1 and SOP2	Huang et al., 2023a
Iqaluit	https://doi.org/10.21343/yrnf-ck57	MODF for Iqaluit Airport, Iqaluit, Nunavut, Canada during YOPP SOP1 and SOP2	Huang et al., 2023b
Sodankylä	https://doi.org/10.21343/m16p-pq17	Merged observation data file for Sodankylä	O'Connor, 2023
Utqiagvik	https://doi.org/10.21343/a2dx-nq55	MODF for Utqiagvik, Alaska, during YOPP SOP1 and SOP2	Akish and Morris, 2023c
Tiksi	https://doi.org/10.21343/5bwn-w881	MODF for Tiksi, Russia, during YOPP SOP1 and SOP2	Akish and Morris, 2023b
Ny-Ålesund	https://doi.org/10.21343/y89m-6393	Merged Observatory Data File (MODF) for Ny Ålesund	Holt, 2023
Eureka	https://doi.org/10.21343/r85j-tc61	MODF for Eureka, Canada, during YOPP SOP1 and SOP2	Akish and Morris, 2023a

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Table 3. List of the geophysical variables currently included in each site’s MODF. Note that this table only includes variables currently in the existing MODF_{ysm}, and does not indicate the complete list of variables that are observed at each site. An asterisk (*) denotes a variable not included in the H-K table (Hartten and Khalsa, 2022) and a double asterisk (**) denotes a calculated variable. The level and type(s) of additional processing for the heat fluxes are also provided, where EC = eddy covariance and bulk = bulk method.

MODF featureType	Measured Variables	Whitehorse	Iqaluit	Sodankylä	Utqiagvik	Tiksi	Ny-Ålesund	Eureka
		<i>lat: 60.71 N lon: 135.07 W</i>	<i>lat: 63.74 N lon: 68.51 W</i>	<i>lat: 67.367 N lon: 26.629 E</i>	<i>lat: 71.325 N lon: 156.625 W</i>	<i>lat: 71.596 N lon: 128.889 E</i>	<i>lat: 78.923 N lon: 11.926 E</i>	<i>lat: 80.083 N lon: 86.417 W</i>
timeSeries Variables	Pressure (Pa)	surface	surface	surface, mean sea-level	surface	surface	surface	surface
	Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area ($\text{kg m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)	surface	surface	surface			surface	
	Eastward Wind (m s^{-1})	surface	near-surface	near-surface	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (4m)	near-surface (10m)	near-surface (6m)
	Northward Wind (m s^{-1})	surface	near-surface	near-surface	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (4m)	near-surface (10m)	near-surface (6m)
	*Wind gust (m s^{-1})			near-surface (10m)				
	Vertical velocity (m s^{-1})			near surface (2 m)				
	Temperature (K)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	skin, near-surface (2m)	skin, near-surface (2m)	skin, near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	skin, near-surface (2m)
	Dew-point Temperature (K)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)			
	Relative Humidity (1 or %)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)	near-surface (2m)
	Specific Humidity (1 or kg kg^{-1})						near-surface (2m)	
	Ozone Concentration in Air (mole fraction)				surface			
	Snow thickness (m)		surface	surface	surface	surface		surface
	Snowfall Flux ($\text{kg m}^{-1} \text{s}^{-2}$)				surface			
	Snow water equivalent (kg m^{-2})				surface			
	Upward Short-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	surface
	Downward Short-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	surface
	Upward Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	
	Downward Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface	surface	surface	surface	surface	surface
	Net Short-wave Radiation at the Surface (W m^{-2})			surface	surface			
	*Horizontal East-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface					
	*Horizontal West-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface					
	*Horizontal South-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface					
	*Horizontal North-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})		surface					
	**Turbulent Latent Heat Flux (W m^{-2})				surface (EC)	surface (EC, bulk)		
	**Turbulent Sensible Heat Flux (W m^{-2})				surface (EC)	surface (EC, bulk)		
	**Turbulent time-average eastward stress (Pa)				surface (EC)	surface		
	**Turbulent time-average northward stress (Pa)					surface		
	*Friction Velocity (m s^{-1})				surface (EC)			
	Cloud Base Height (m)	ground-based remote sensing	ground-based remote sensing	ground-based remote sensing				ground-based remote sensing
	Ground Heat Flux (W m^{-2})				near-surface	near-surface	near-surface	
	Visibility (m)				near-surface			

timeSeriesProfile Variables	Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	near-surface (2m, 10m)					
	Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area (kg m ⁻² s ⁻¹)	near-surface (2m, 10m)					
	Eastward Wind (m s ⁻¹)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (18m, 32m, 38m, 48m)	near-surface (2m, 10m, 20m, 40m)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (6m, 11m)	
	Northward Wind (m s ⁻¹)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (18m, 32m, 38m, 48m)	near-surface (2m, 10m, 20m, 40m)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (6m, 11m)	
	Temperature (K)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (3m, 8m, 18m, 32m, 48m)	near-surface (2m, 10m, 20m, 40m)	near-surface (2m, 6m, 10m)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (2m, 6m, 10m)
	Dew-point Temperature (K)			near-surface (2m, 10m, 20m, 40m)			
	Relative Humidity (1 or %)	near-surface (2m, 10m)	near-surface (3m, 8m, 18m, 32m, 48m)	near-surface (2m, 10m, 20m, 40m)	near-surface (2m, 6m, 10m)	near-surface (2m, 6m, 10m)	
	Soil Temperature Profile (K)	sub-surface (5cm, 30cm)		sub-surface (5cm, 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, 25cm, 30cm, 45cm, 70cm, 95cm, 120cm)	sub-surface (5cm, 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, 25cm, 30cm, 45cm, 70cm, 95cm, 120cm)	sub-surface (5cm, 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, 25cm, 30cm, 45cm, 70cm, 95cm, 120cm)	
	Soil Moisture (kg m ⁻³)	sub-surface (5cm, 30cm)					
	Snow Temperature (K)			near-surface (10cm, 20cm, 30cm, 40cm, 50cm, 60cm, 70cm, 80cm, 90cm, 100cm, 110cm)			
timeSeriesProfileS onde Variables	Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		
	Eastward Wind (m s ⁻¹)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		
	Northward Wind (m s ⁻¹)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		
	Temperature (K)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		
	Dew-point Temperature (K)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		
	Specific Humidity (1 or kg kg ⁻¹)				Radiosonde		
	Relative Humidity (1 or %)	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde	radiosonde		

* Denotes a variable NOT included in the H-K Table

** Denotes a calculated variable (not a direct observation)

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867 **Table 4.** List of the instruments that contributed to the Whitehorse MODF, including details about the instrument manufacturer,
 868 measured variables, configuration, temporal resolution, measurement uncertainty, and quality control applied. Unless
 869 otherwise stated in the instrument configuration column, all instruments were deployed at 2 m a.g.l. The MODF featureType
 870 timeSeries variables are listed first, with timeSeriesProfile and timeSeriesProfileSonde variables listed last. * Denotes a
 871 variable NOT included in the H-K Table.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	WXT520	Vaisala	Solid-state, all-in-one weather instrument in standard aspirated configuration mounted on a pole.	1 min	0.5 hPa	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., >20 hPa/hr change).
Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area (kg m⁻² s⁻¹)			No bird spike kit was used.		5%	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 mm/hr change). No corrections for solid precipitation under-catchment were performed (the dataset is raw in the MODF); where appropriate, users are recommended to process under-catchment corrections via Kochendorfer et al. (2020).
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.3 ms ⁻¹	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 m/s/hr change).
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.3 K	The shelter heating effect is uncorrected. Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).
Relative Humidity (1 or %)					3%	The humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment. Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 30 %/hr change).
Dew-point Temperature (K)					0.5 K	The shelter heating effect is uncorrected and humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment. Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change

greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).

Cloud Base Height (m)	CL51	Vaisala	Proprietary algorithm determines the lowest cloud base height	1 min	~10 m	No additional QC performed.
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS92 / DFM-09	Vaisala / GRAW	Standard radiosonde launch	6 hr	0.5 hPa	Data were binned into 10-meter intervals of geopotential height and all measurements within each bin were averaged.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.15 ms ⁻¹	No additional QC performed.
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.15 K	
Dew-point Temperature (K)					0.5 K	

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Table 5. Same as Table 4, except for the Iqaluit MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Pressure (Pa)	PTB110	Vaisala	Installed within a naturally vented protective enclosure.	1 min	0.3 hPa	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., >20 hPa/hr change).
Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area (kg m⁻² s⁻¹)	Pluvio2	OTT	Single Alter shield		5%	<p>Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 mm/hr change).</p> <p>No corrections for solid precipitation under-catchment were performed (the dataset is raw in the MODF); where appropriate, users are recommended to process under-catchment corrections via Kochendorfer et al. (2020).</p>
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)	Wind monitor 5103	RM Young	Four-blade helicoid propeller in standard configuration with a wind vane to measure wind direction		0.3 ms ⁻¹	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 m/s/hr change).
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)	HMP35D	Vaisala	Sensor installed in shaded, naturally vented shelter.		0.1 K	<p>The shelter heating effect is uncorrected.</p> <p>Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).</p>
Dew-point Temperature (K)					0.2 K	<p>The shelter heating effect is uncorrected and humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment.</p> <p>Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).</p>
Relative Humidity (1 or %)					0.8%	<p>The humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment.</p> <p>Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 30 %/hr change).</p>
Snow thickness (m)	SR50A	Campbell Scientific	Sonic distance sensor at 50KHz with a perforated flat target		1 cm	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change

			base levelled at the surface (0 m a.g.l.)		greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 20 cm/hr change).
Upward Short-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CMP10L (285 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated levelling included, dome, RM Young radiation shield (6 plate), and a CVF4L Ventilation System with Integrated Heater running when temperatures where near zero to prevent frost.	7 W m ⁻²	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Downward Short-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)					No additional QC was performed on these observations to account for potential frost or snow deposition on the sensors. Data should be treated with caution since they typically require additional QC processing prior to analysis.
Upward Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CGR4L (4.5 to 42 μm)	Kipp and Zonen		7 W m ⁻²	
Downward Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)			Installed on the flux tower crossbeam arms.		
*Horizontal East-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)					
*Horizontal West-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)					
*Horizontal South-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)					
*Horizontal North-facing Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)					
Cloud Base Height (m)	CL51	Vaisala	Proprietary algorithm determines the lowest cloud base height	5 m	No additional QC was performed.
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	WXT520	Vaisala	Solid-state, all-in-one weather instrument in standard aspirated configuration mounted on a pole at 10 m a.g.l.	0.5 hPa	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., >20 hPa/hr change).
Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area (kg m⁻² s⁻¹)			No bird spike kit used.	5%	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 mm/hr change). No corrections for solid precipitation under-catchment were performed (the dataset is raw in the MODF); where appropriate, users are

recommended to process under-catchment corrections via Kochendorfer et al. (2020).

Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.3 ms ⁻¹	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 m/s/hr change).
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.3 K	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).
Relative Humidity (1 or %)					3%	The humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment. Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 30 %/hr change).
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS92 / DFM-09	Vaisala / GRAW	Standard radiosonde launch	6 hr	0.5 hPa	Data were binned into 10-meter intervals of geopotential height and all measurements within each bin were averaged.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.15 ms ⁻¹	No additional QC performed.
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.15 K	
Dew-point Temperature (K)					0.5 K	

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Table 6. Same as Table 4, except for the Sodankylä MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Temperature (K)	PT100	Vaisala	Sensor installed in shaded, naturally vented shelter.	10 min	0.1 K	The shelter heating effect is uncorrected.
	PT100	Generic			0.3 K	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 5 K/hr change).
	PT100	Pentronic			0.3 K	
	HMP155	Vaisala			0.1 K	
Relative Humidity (1 or %)	HMP155	Vaisala	Sensor installed in shaded, naturally vented shelter.		1%	The humidity is not corrected in a sub-freezing environment.
	HMP35D	Vaisala			0.8%	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 30 %/hr change).
	HMP45D	Vaisala			2% (0-90 %RH) 3% (90-100 %RH)	
Snow thickness (m)	SR50	Campbell Scientific	Sonic distance sensor at 50KHz with a perforated flat target base levelled at the surface (0 m a.g.l.)		1 cm	Observations were checked against site-based climatology ranges, routine manual observations, and the rate of change thresholds, which were based on hourly criteria. Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 20 cm/hr change).
Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area (kg m⁻² s⁻¹)	Distrometer Model: 5.4110.01.200	Thies Clima	Model with extended heating	1 min	5%	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 mm/hr change).
Snowfall flux unit area (kg m⁻² s⁻¹)						
Snow water equivalent (m)	SSG 1000	Sommer Messtechnik	Sensor consists of seven perforated panels having a total measuring surface of 2.8 x 2.4 m with the measurement being made on the centre plate,		0.3%	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Downward Short-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CMA11 (285 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated levelling included, dome, RM Young radiation shield (6 plate), and a CVF4L Ventilation System with Integrated Heater running	10 min	7 W m ⁻²	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
				1 min	7 W m ⁻²	No additional QC was performed on these observations to account for

			when temperatures where near zero to prevent frost			potential frost or snow deposition on the sensors. Data should be treated with caution since they typically require additional QC processing prior to analysis.
	CMP3 (300 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Installed on a pole, naturally vented	10 min	15 W m ⁻²	
	CNR4 (300 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated 4-component system with temperature sensor		7 W m ⁻²	
Downward Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CNR4 (4500 to 42000 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated 4-component system with temperature sensor		7 W m ⁻²	
Upward Short-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CMA11 (285 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated levelling included, dome, RM Young radiation shield (6 plate), and a CVF4L Ventilation System with Integrated Heater running when temperatures where near zero to prevent frost		7 W m ⁻²	
	CMP3 (300 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Installed on a pole, naturally vented		15 W m ⁻²	
	CMP11 (285 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen			7 W m ⁻²	
	CNR4 (300 to 2800 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated 4-component system with temperature sensor		7 W m ⁻²	
Upward Long-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	CNR4 (4500 to 42000 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Integrated 4-component system with temperature sensor		7 W m ⁻²	
Net Short-wave Radiation (W m⁻²)	NR-Lite (0 to 100 μm)	Kipp and Zonen	Single-component thermopile net radiometer		25 W m ⁻²	
	NR-Lite2 (0 to 100 μm)				15 W m ⁻²	
Photosynthetic Photon Flux density (mol m⁻² s⁻¹)	PAR Lite	Kipp and Zonen	Quantum sensor		10%	
	PQS1	Kipp and Zonen			5%	
	LI190SZ	Licor			5%	
Pressure (Pa)	PTB201A	Vaisala	Installed within a naturally vented protective enclosure. Deployed at 10 m a.g.l.		0.3 hPa	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., >20 hPa/hr change).

Surface horizontal visibility (m)	FD12P	Vaisala	Optical forward-scatter sensor installed on a pole at 10 m a.g.l.	10%	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)	WA25 (WAA25 and WAV25)	Vaisala	Cup anemometer and vane designed for Arctic conditions with integrated heaters to prevent ice buildup. Deployed at 10 m a.g.l.	0.3 m s ⁻¹	Observations that fell outside of the 3-sigma normal climatological range were rejected, as were observations that had a rate of change greater than a seasonal-dependant threshold (e.g., > 10 m/s/hr change).
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)					
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)	UA2D	Thies Clima	2-D sonic anemometer deployed at 10 m a.g.l.	2%	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)					
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)	USA-1	Metek	3-D sonic anemometer deployed at 10 m a.g.l.	0.1 m s ⁻¹	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)					
Vertical velocity (m s⁻¹)					
Surface friction velocity (eddy covariance method) (m s⁻¹)				0.1 m s ⁻¹	No additional QC performed. Additional filtering of output from eddy covariance processing not performed.
Surface turbulent latent heat flux (eddy covariance method) (W m⁻²)				20%	
Surface turbulent sensible heat flux (eddy covariance method) (W m⁻²)				20%	
Surface momentum flux (eddy covariance method) (W m⁻²)				25%	
Ground heat flux (W m⁻²)	HFP01	Huseflux	Thermopile buried in soil	3%	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed.
Bulk soil temperature (K)	QMT103	Vaisala	Thin steel sheath incorporating sensor, buried in soil	0.3 K	
	Hydra Probe II	Stevens	4-needle sensor buried in soil	0.3 K	
Average layer soil moisture (kg m⁻²)	Hydra Probe II	Stevens	4-needle sensor buried in soil	5%	
Bulk soil temperature (K)	GS3	Decagon Devices	Sensor encapsulated in an epoxy body with stainless	1 K	

			steel needles. Buried in soil.			
	GTE	Decagon Devices	Sensor encapsulated in an epoxy body with stainless steel needles. Buried in soil.		1 K	
	109-L	Campbell Scientific	Thermistor encapsulated in an epoxy-filled aluminum housing and buried in soil.		0.3 K	
	CS655	Campbell Scientific	Two 12-cm-long stainless steel rods connected to a printed circuit board encapsulated in epoxy attached to a shielded cable. Buried in soil.		0.3 K	
	PT100	Pentronic	Thin steel sheath incorporating sensor, buried in soil.		0.3 K	
	IKES PT100	Nokeval	Thin steel sheath incorporates a Pt100 sensor with double insulation moulded in solid rubber with the cable. Buried in soil.		0.3 K	
Average layer soil moisture (kg m⁻²)	ThetaProbe ML2x	Delta-T Devices	4-needle sensor buried in soil		5.00%	Data is raw and no additional QC was performed
Snow temperature (K)	107-L	Campbell Scientific	Thermistor encapsulated in an epoxy-filled aluminum housing and buried in snow		0.5 K	
Air temperature (K)	PT100	generic	Sensor installed in shaded, naturally vented shelter. Deployed at 40 m a.g.l.		0.3 K	
Relative Humidity (1 or %)	HMP	Vaisala	Sensor installed in shaded, naturally vented shelter. Deployed at 40 m a.g.l.		0.80%	
Wind speed (m s⁻¹)	WAA25	Vaisala	Cup anemometer with integrated heater to prevent ice buildup. Deployed at 40 m a.g.l.		0.17 m s ⁻¹	
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS41	Vaisala	Standard radiosonde launch	6 hr	0.5 hPa	No additional QC was performed. Output is directly from Vaisala processing.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.15 ms ⁻¹	

Northward Wind
(m s⁻¹)

Temperature (K)

0.3 K

Relative Humidity
(1 or %)

4%

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881 **Table 7.** Same as Table 4, except for the Utqiagvik MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Pressure (Pa)	PTB-220	Vaisala	The Barrow meteorology station (BMET) obtains barometric pressure, visibility, and precipitation data from sensors at the base of the tower. https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/twr	1 min	0.15 hPa	Observations were checked against other instrumentation on the tower and compared with the surface meteorological instruments and the energy balance Bowen ratio to remove outliers and nonphysical values.
Near-surface (2m) eastward wind (m s⁻¹)	WS425	Vaisala	Sensors are aspirated. The Barrow meteorology station (BMET) uses mainly conventional in situ sensors; these are mounted at 2 m a.g.l. See: https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/twr		0.135 ms ⁻¹	Data was also compared with the SONDE data that was launched from the tower: https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/handbooks/twr_handbook.pdf
Near-surface (2m) northward wind (m s⁻¹)						
Near-surface (2m) air temperature (K)	HMT337 (previously HMP35D/HMP45D)	Vaisala			0.2 K	
Near-surface (2m) dew point temperature (K)					0.2 K	
Near-surface (2m) relative humidity (%)					1.7 %	
Ozone concentration in air (mole fraction)	TEI 49i	Thermo Scientific	Inlet line samples air from roof of station through filter, while instrument is housed inside station building. This data set contains continuous UV photometric data of surface level ozone collected at 6m above ground level.		1 ppb	Manual inspection of the data to ensure nonphysical values are filtered. See: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/metadata/landing-page/bin/iso?id=gov.noaa.ncdc:C00894
Surface snow thickness (m)	Toughsonic 30	Senix	Instrument is located on broadband radiation albedo rack		n/a	Data is compared against meteorological and global radiation data to verify accuracy; data values not physically possible are removed. Pollution/technical events are flagged and/or removed from data set.
Surface (skin) temperature (K)	IRT	Apogee	Data collected from US Climate Reference Network (CRN) per standard operating configuration (see https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/uscrn/documentation/progra		0.5 K	Inter-comparison of the 3 temperature sensors: Sensors should be within 0.3° C of one another. An hourly flag message is generated for any departure

IR max should exceed the ambient temperature, and IR min should be less than ambient temperature, otherwise data is filtered. See : <https://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/uscm/documentation/program/ManualMonitoringHandbook.pdf>

Upward surface short-wave radiation (W m⁻²)	GNDRAD (0.3 to 3 μm)	PSP	Standard operating configuration, see: https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/gndrad	2.0 W m ⁻²	SIRS Instrument mentors review the Data Quality Office's (DQO) weekly Data Quality Assessment Reports (DQAR). If a problem is detected, a Data Quality Problem Report (DQPR) is issued. The DQPR system is a web-based system by which the mentor, local site operations staff, and the DQO are informed and communicate to resolve a data quality problem (e.g., instrument failure, data collection issue, etc.). A DQPR is typically initiated by the DQO or instrument mentor during data review. This process filters and removes erroneous data.
Downward short-wave radiation at the surface (W m⁻²)	SKYRAD (295 to 3000 nm)	PSP	Standard operating configuration, see: https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/skyrad	4.0 W m ⁻²	
Upward surface long-wave radiation (W m⁻²)	GNDRAD (4 to 50 μm)	PIR	Standard operating configuration, see: https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/gndrad	2.0 W m ⁻²	
Downward surface long-wave radiation (W m⁻²)	SKYRAD (3.5 to 50 μm)	PIR	Standard operating configuration, see: https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/skyrad	4.0 W m ⁻²	
Surface turbulent latent heat flux (eddy covariance method) (W m⁻²)	Windmaster Pro Anemometer	Gill	Standard ARM site arrangement is sonic sensor "North" mark pointing along the boom to the tower; the boom is usually pointing due south; u wind component is north-south with positive toward the north; v wind component is east-west with positive toward the west.	<1.5%	The QCECOR VAP currently contains two variables: surface latent heat flux (LH) and sensible heat flux (SH), together with their QC flags. When SEBS are collocated with ECOR, the wetness measurements from SEBS are used to flag the LH that may be incorrect due to hydrometeors such as precipitation, dew, or frost. An indeterminate flag is given to those that fail the wetness test. See: https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/doe-sc-arm-tr-223.pdf
Surface turbulent sensible heat flux (eddy covariance method) (W m⁻²)			No correction is made to convert u and v component into meteorological "north" and "east" wind components when tower boom is not aligned to south; u wind component is "along boom", v wind component is "cross boom" https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/doe-sc-arm-tr-223.pdf		

Ground heat flux ($W m^{-2}$)	HFT-3, SMP1, STP-1	Radiation and Energy Balance Systems, Inc.	Soil measurements are performed by three sets of soil heat flow (5 cm depth), soil temperature (0–5 cm average), and soil moisture (centered at 2.5 cm) probes. Soil heat flow is adjusted for the effect of soil moisture above the soil heat flow plate. The storage of energy in the soil above the soil heat flow plate is determined from the change in soil temperature with time.	10 mV	Instrument mentor routinely views graphic displays that include plots (day courses) of all calculated quantities and comparison plots (time series or scatter plots) of relevant parameters with data from collocated ECOR, SEBS, EBBR (SGP CF and EF39 only), and surface meteorological instrumentation (MET) (Cook et al. 2006). See: https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/handbooks/sebs_handbook.pdf
Eastward wind component ($m s^{-1}$)	WS425	Vaisala	Sensors are aspirated. The Barrow meteorology station (BMET) uses mainly conventional in situ sensors mounted at four different heights (2m, 10m, 20m and 40m) on a 40 m tower to obtain profiles of wind speed, wind direction, air temperature, dew point and humidity. https://www.arm.gov/capabilities/instruments/twr	0.135 ms^{-1}	Observations were checked against other instrumentation on the tower and compared with the surface meteorological instruments and the energy balance bowen ratio to remove outliers and nonphysical values. Data was also compared with the SONDE data that was launched from the tower: https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/handbooks/twr_handbook.pdf
Northward wind component ($m s^{-1}$)					
Air temperature (K)	HMT337 (previously HMP35D/HMP45D)	Vaisala		0.2 K	
Dew-point temperature (K)				0.2 K	
Relative humidity (%)				1.7 %	
Soil temperature profile (K)	PT100	in-house	Soil measurements are performed by three sets of soil heat flow (5 cm depth), soil temperature (0–5 cm average), and soil moisture (centered at 2.5 cm) probes. Soil heat flow is adjusted for the effect of soil moisture above the soil heat flow plate. The storage of energy in the soil above the soil heat flow plate is determined from the change in soil temperature with time.	n/a	Data is compared against meteorological and global radiation data to verify accuracy; pollution/technical events are flagged and/or removed from data set; data values not physically possible are removed
Snowfall flux per unit area	KAZR	KAZR	Installed on top of the ARM facility roof. See: https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.2021.00101	n/a	Threshold-based flags to remove outliers and unphysical values. See: https://doi.org/10.1525/elementa.2021.00101 and: https://www.arm.gov/publications/tech_reports/handbooks/kazr_handbook.pdf
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS41	Vaisala	Standard radiosonde launch.	6-12 hr 1 hPa	The manufacturer defines the cumulative sensor uncertainty at the 2-sigma (95.5%) confidence level.

Eastward wind component (m s⁻¹)	The SONDE system originally located at Barrow was an old CLASS-type that was originally operated by NOAA's Climate Measurements and Diagnostics Laboratory on TWP's Manus site.	0.15 ms ⁻¹	Repeatability is estimated from the standard deviation of differences between two successive repeated calibrations (2-sigma). Reproducibility is estimated from the standard deviation of differences in twin soundings. See: http://dx.doi.org/10.5439/1595321 .
Northward wind component (m s⁻¹)			
Temperature (K)		0.5 K	
Dew-point temperature (K)		0.5 K	
Relative humidity (%)		5%	

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885 **Table 8.** Same as Table 4, except for the Tiksi MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Surface pressure (Pa)	PTB110	Vaisala	Located on the fluxtower at 5m a.g.l.	1 min	0.3 hPa	Data are manually QC'd to identify and eliminate instrument malfunction; outliers are filtered out if values are physically impossible.
Near-surface (4m) eastward wind (m s ⁻¹)	3001	RM Young	Located on the fluxtower at 4m a.g.l.		0.5 m s ⁻¹	
Near-surface (4m) northward wind (m s ⁻¹)						Values are compared to other local variables if/when possible by manual inspection via the instrument mentor.
Near-surface air temperature (K)	HMT330	Vaisala	Located on the fluxtower		0.2 K	
Near-surface relative humidity (%)					1.5 + 0.015 × reading	
Surface snow thickness (m)	SR50A	Campbell Scientific	Located on the albedo rack		1 cm	
Surface (skin) temperature (K)	SI-111	Apogee	Located on the fluxtower		0.2 K	
Upward surface short-wave radiation (W m ⁻²)	PSP (295-2800 nm)	Eppley	Located on the albedo rack		2.0 W m ⁻²	
Downward surface short-wave radiation (W m ⁻²)	CM22 (200 to 3600 nm)	Kipp & Zonen	Located on the tracker at the MET station building		5.0 W m ⁻²	
Upward surface long-wave radiation (W m ⁻²)	PIR (4 to 50 μm)	Eppley	Located on the albedo rack		2.0 W m ⁻²	
Downward surface long-wave radiation (W m ⁻²)			Located on the tracker at the MET station building		4.0 W m ⁻²	
Ground heat flux (W m ⁻²)	HPF01	Hukseflux	Located at the base of the fluxtower at 5cm depth		3 %	
Air temperature (K)	HMT330, HMP155	Vaisala	Located on the fluxtower at 2m, 6m, 10m a.g.l.		0.2 K	
Relative humidity (%)					1.5 + 0.015 × reading	
Soil temperature profile (K)	TP-101	MRC	Located at albedo rack at depths: 5cm, 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, 25cm, 30cm, 45cm, 70cm, 95cm, 120cm		n/a	
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS41	Vaisala	Standard radiosonde launch.	12 hr	1 hPa	No additional QC was performed. See: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/igra/data/data-por/
Eastward wind component (m s ⁻¹)			See: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/igra/data/data-por/		0.15 ms ⁻¹	
Northward wind component (m s ⁻¹)						

Temperature (K)	0.5 K
Dew-point temperature (K)	0.5 K
Relative humidity (%)	5%

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889 **Table 9.** Same as Table 4, except for the Ny-Ålesund MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Pressure (Pa)	DigiQuarz 6000-16B	Paroscientific, Inc.	Installed within a naturally vented protective enclosure.	1 min	0.08 hPa	Observations were checked against site-based climatology ranges and the rate of change thresholds. Flagged data was filtered.
Total precipitation of water in all phases per unit area ($\text{kg m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)	Pluvio2	OTT	Single Alter shield. Operated and analysed by the University of Cologne.		5%	No additional QC was applied; data is raw and should be treated with caution.
Eastward Wind (m s^{-1})	Combined Wind Transmitter	Thies Clima	Opto-electronically scanned three-cup anemometer with low starting speed. The position of the wind vane is detected opto-electronically.		0.4 m s^{-1}	Instrument is checked on a daily basis manually by the instrument mentor. Observations were checked against site-based climatology ranges, the rate of change thresholds, and redundant measurements in close proximity if/when possible. Erroneous or unphysical observations were filtered.
Northward Wind (m s^{-1})	4.3324.32.073					
Temperature (K)	Ventilated air temperature transmitter 2.1265.20.000	Thies Clima	The sensor is protected by a double thermal radiation shield. A built-in ventilator provides for the necessary air flow.		0.1 K	
Relative Humidity (1 or %)	HMP155	Vaisala	The sensor with additional temperature sensor is installed in a vented radiation shelter.		0.80%	
Upward Short-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})	CMP22 (200 to 3600 nm)	Kipp and Zonen	Sensor installed in an Eigenbrodt ventilation system to prevent from icing.		5 W m^{-2}	Instrument is checked on a daily basis manually by the instrument mentor. Data quality check is performed according to BSRN requirements.
Downward Short-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})			Sensor installed in an Eigenbrodt ventilation system to prevent from icing.			
Upward Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})	PIR (4 to 50 μm)	Eppley	Sensor installed in an Eigenbrodt ventilation system to prevent from icing.		5 W m^{-2}	
Downward Long-wave Radiation (W m^{-2})			Sensor is shaded and installed in an Eigenbrodt ventilation system to prevent from icing.			
Cloud Base Height (m)	CL51	Vaisala	Proprietary algorithm determines the lowest cloud base height		~10 m	Operated with the standard Vaisala proprietary algorithm that retrieves cloud base height. Additional check for unphysical outliers was manually performed by the instrument mentor.

Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS41	Vaisala	Standard radiosonde launch	6 hr	0.5 hPa	No additional QC was performed.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.15 ms ⁻¹	
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.3 K	
Relative Humidity (1 or %)					4%	

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Table 10. Same as Table 4, except for the Eureka MODF.

<u>Measured variables</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Instrument Configuration</u>	<u>Temporal Resolution</u>	<u>Uncertainty (+/-)</u>	<u>Quality Control</u>
Surface pressure (Pa)	PTB220	Vaisala	Located on Flux Tower at 2 m a.g.l.	1 min	0.3 hPa	Data are manually QC'd to identify and eliminate instrument malfunctions by the instrument mentor. Outliers are filtered out if values are physically impossible.
Near-surface (6m) eastward wind (m s^{-1})	VENTUS-UMB Ultrasonic	Lufft	Located on Flux Tower at 6 m	1-10 s	0.1 ms^{-1}	Values are compared to other local variables if/when possible by the instrument mentor.
Near-surface (6m) northward wind (m s^{-1})						
Near-surface (2m) air temperature (K)	HMT-337	Vaisala	Located on Flux Tower	1 min	0.2 K	
Near-surface (2m) relative humidity (%)					1.5 + 0.015 \times reading	
Surface Snow Thickness	SR50A	Campbell Scientific	Located on Flux Tower		1 cm	
Surface (skin) temperature (K)	IRTS-P	Apogee	Located on Flux Tower		0.2 K	
Upward surface short-wave radiation (W m^{-2})	PSP (295-2800 nm)	Eppley	Located on Flux Tower at 11 m a.g.l.		2.0 W m^{-2}	Processed through Long QCRad; Historical Quality Control Techniques: Long, C. N., & Shi, Y. (2008). See: doi: 10.2174/1874282300802010023
Downward surface short-wave radiation (W m^{-2})	CMP22 (200 to 3600 nm)	Kipp and Zonen			5.0 W m^{-2}	
Upward surface long-wave radiation (W m^{-2})	PIR (4 to 50 μm)	Eppley			4.0 W m^{-2}	
Downward surface long-wave radiation (W m^{-2})						
Ground heat flux (W m^{-2})	HPFO1	Hukseflux	Depth 3 cm		3 %	Manually QC'd to identify and eliminate instrument malfunctions or non physical values by the instrument mentor.
Air temperature (K)	HMT-337	Vaisala	Located on Flux Tower at 2, 6, 10 m.		0.2 K	Data are manually QC'd to identify and eliminate instrument malfunctions by the instrument mentor. Outliers are filtered out if values are physically impossible.
Relative humidity (%)					1.5 + 0.015 \times reading	
Soil temperature profile (K)	TP-101	MRC	Depth: 5cm, 10cm, 15cm, 20cm, 25cm, 30cm, 45cm, 70cm, 95cm, 120cm		n/a	

Eastward wind component (m s⁻¹)	VENTUS-UMB Ultrasonic	Lufft	Located on Flux Tower at 6 m and 11 m	1-10 s	0.1 ms ⁻¹	Values are compared to other local variables if/when possible, by the instrument mentor.
Northward wind component (m s⁻¹)						
Atmospheric pressure (Pa)	RS41	Vaisala	Standard radiosonde launch	6 hr	0.5 hPa	No additional QC was performed.
Eastward Wind (m s⁻¹)					0.15 ms ⁻¹	
Northward Wind (m s⁻¹)						
Temperature (K)					0.3 K	
Relative Humidity (1 or %)					4%	

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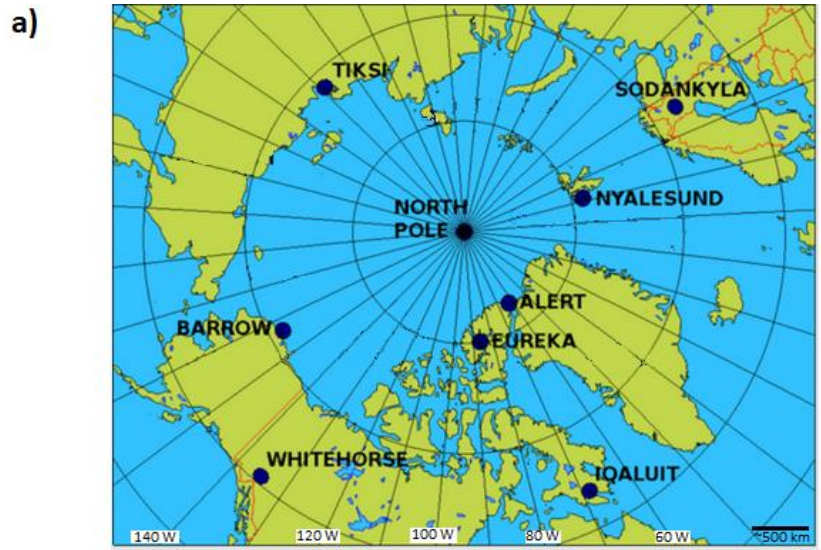


Figure 1. a) Locations of the MODF_{ysm} YOPP supersites (Antarctic sites not shown). b) Infographic depicting iconic building(s) at each site. The infographic is roughly centred around the North Pole (centre). All locations shown have generated a MODF_{ysm}, with the exception of Alert (in progress).

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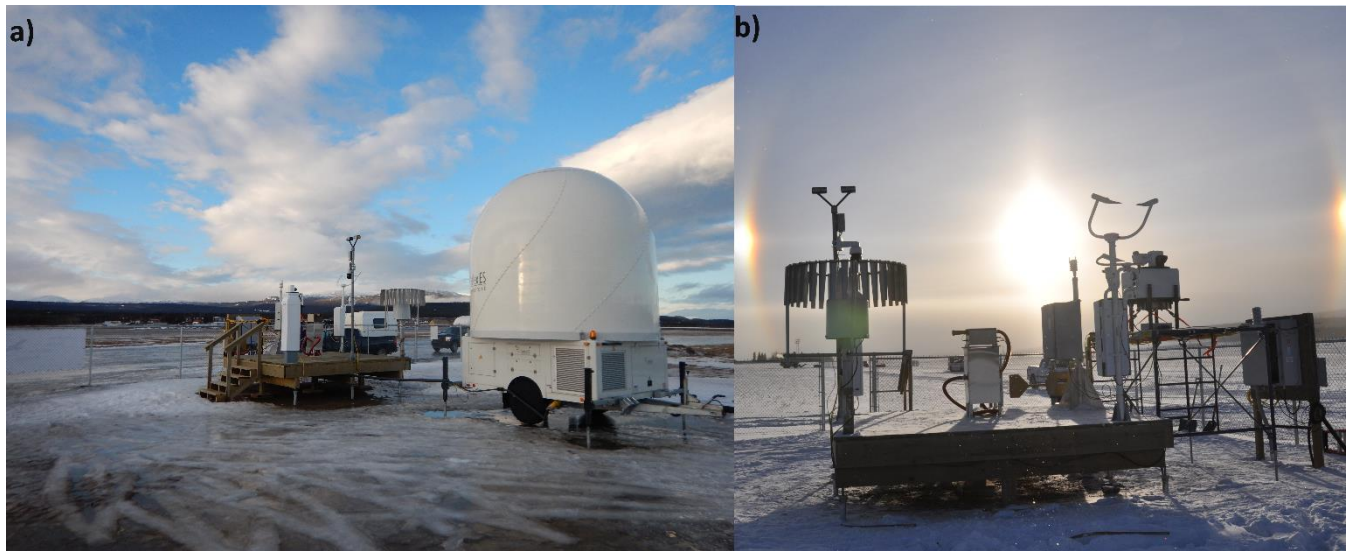
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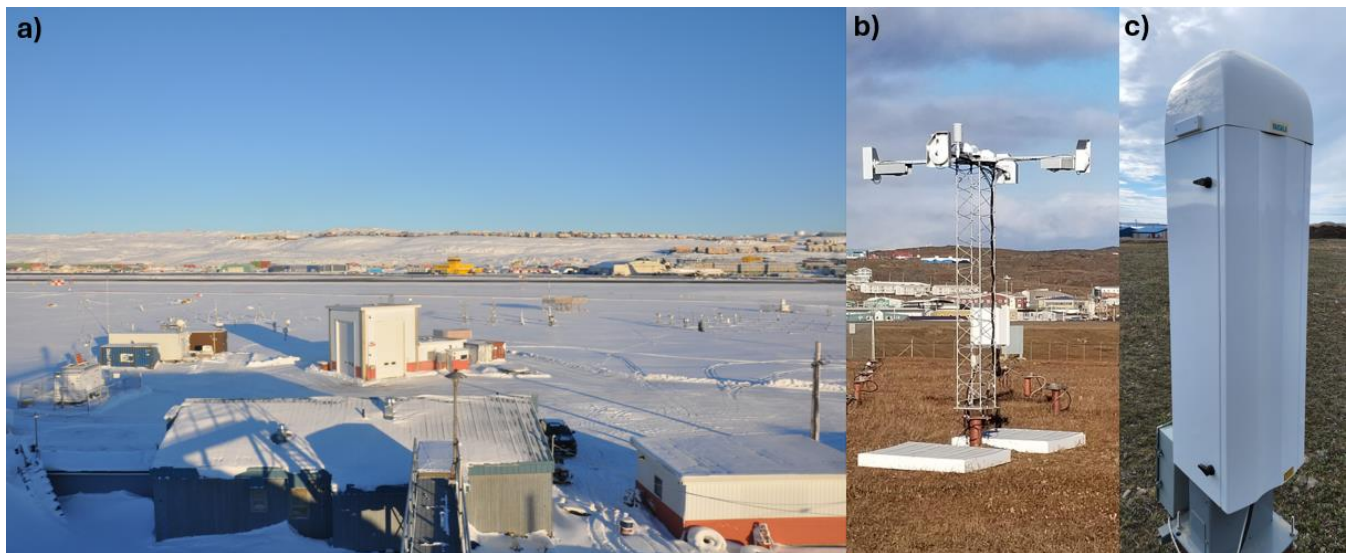
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907 **Figure 2.** The Whitehorse site and the surrounding airfield in early spring 2018 with an X-band radar (white dome) in the foreground (a),
 908 and the main instrument platform, including a Pluvio2, Parsivel, FS11P, WXT520, and CL51 ceilometer (from left to right) with a sundog
 909 in the background (b). Photos adapted from Figure 5 in Mariani et al. (2022).

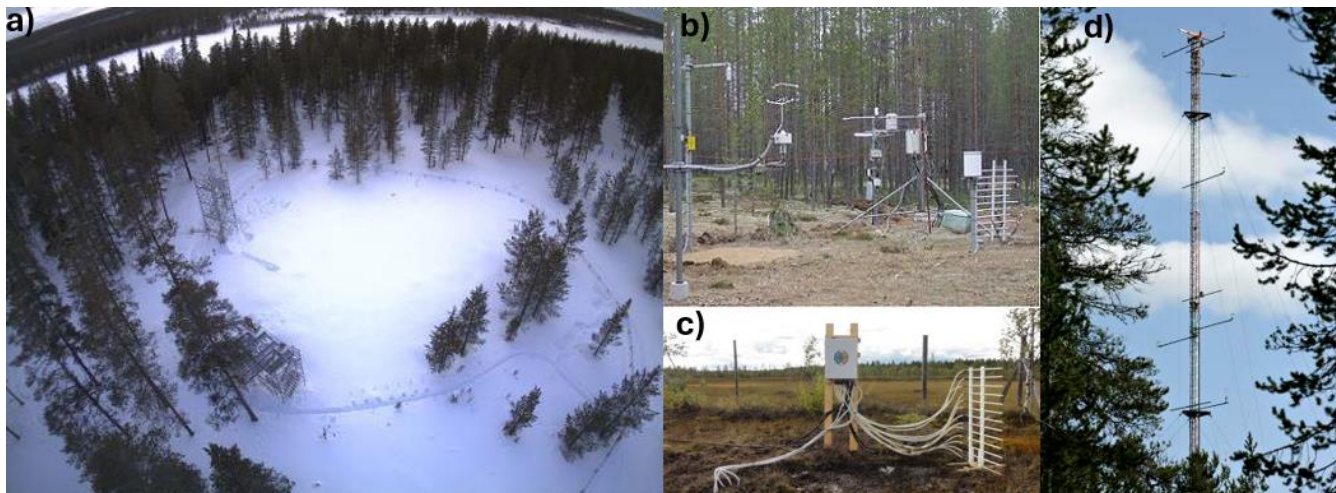
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912 **Figure 3.** The Iqaluit site surroundings taken in winter 2018 with the Iqaluit airport in the background (a), the radiation flux sensor suite
 913 during the summer, consisting of several CMP10Ls, CGR4Ls, and SR50As (b), and the CL51 ceilometer during the summer (c). Photos
 914 adapted from Figure 2 (Mariani et al., 2022).

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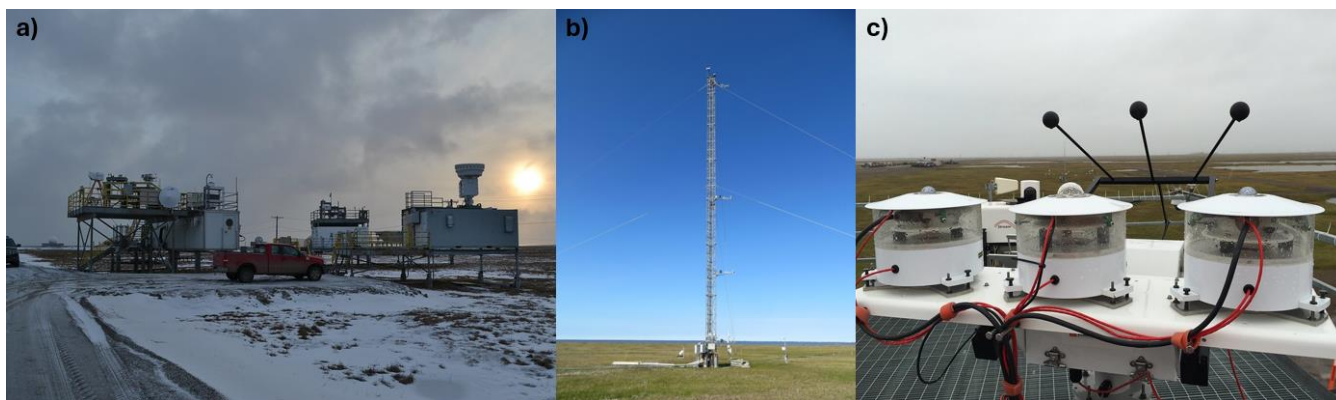
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Figure 4. The Sodankylä site surroundings during the winter at the Intensive Observation Area, IOA, in the boreal forest (a), snow, soil and meteorological measurements in the MET measurement field (b), multi-level snow and soil measurements at the Peatland site, SUO, (c) and the meteorological tower with meteorological and radiation sensors (d). Photos: FMI (litdb.fmi.fi).

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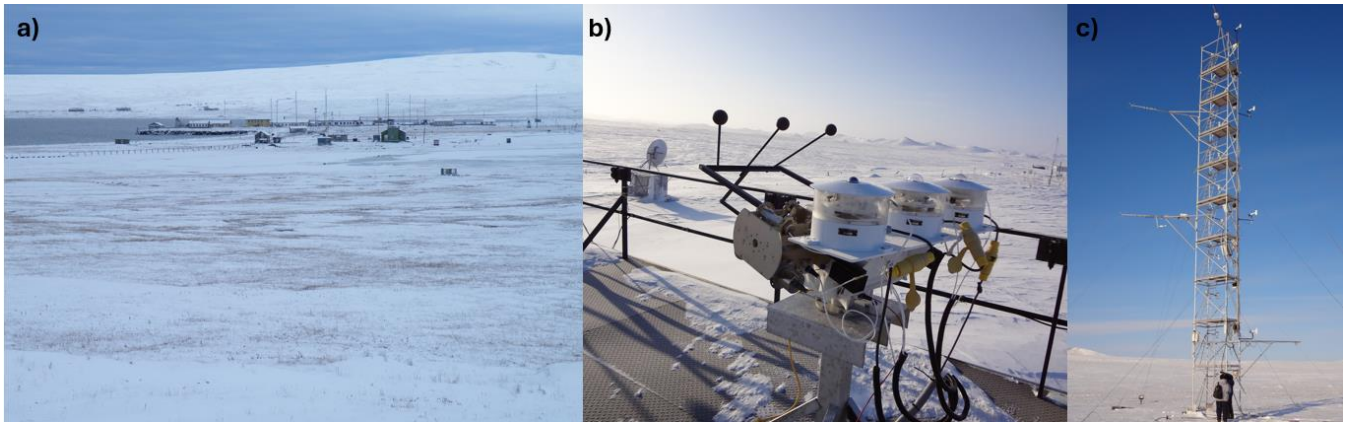


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Figure 5. The Utqiagvik site surroundings during the winter, including the main observation stations and their rooftop instrument suites (a), the meteorological tower with radiation flux sensors deployed in the summer (b), and the SKYRAD downward longwave radiation sensor deployed on the roof in the spring (c). Photos: www.arm.gov.

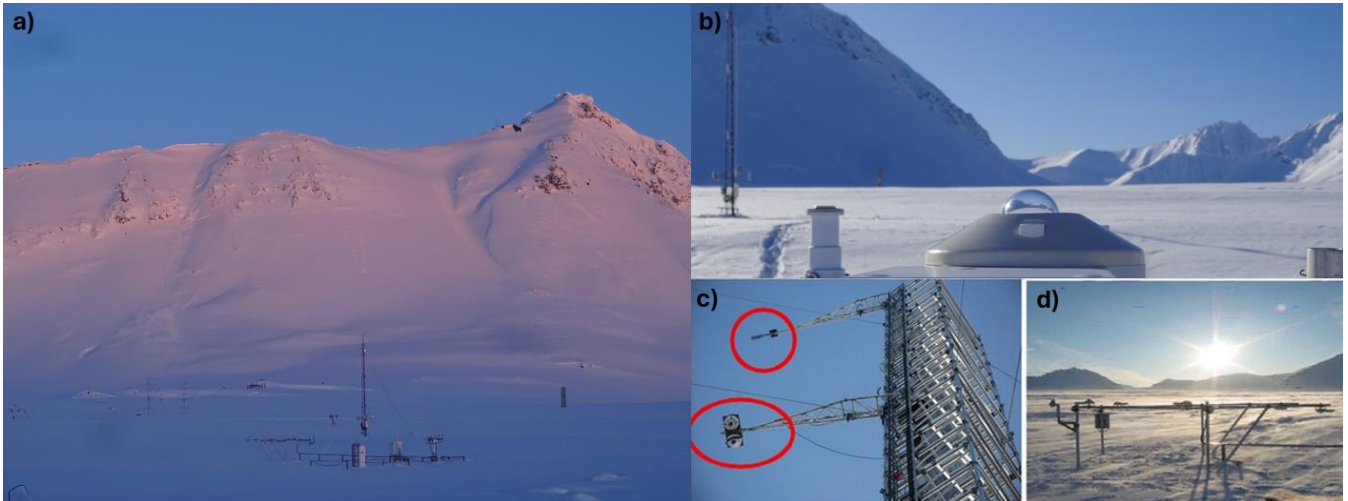
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928 **Figure 6.** The Tiksi site surroundings, taken from afar in the winter (a), the SKYRAD downward longwave radiation sensor deployed on
 929 the roof of the Tiksi observation building (b), and the meteorological tower equipped with radiation flux sensors (c). Photos: Taneil Uttal
 930 (NOAA).

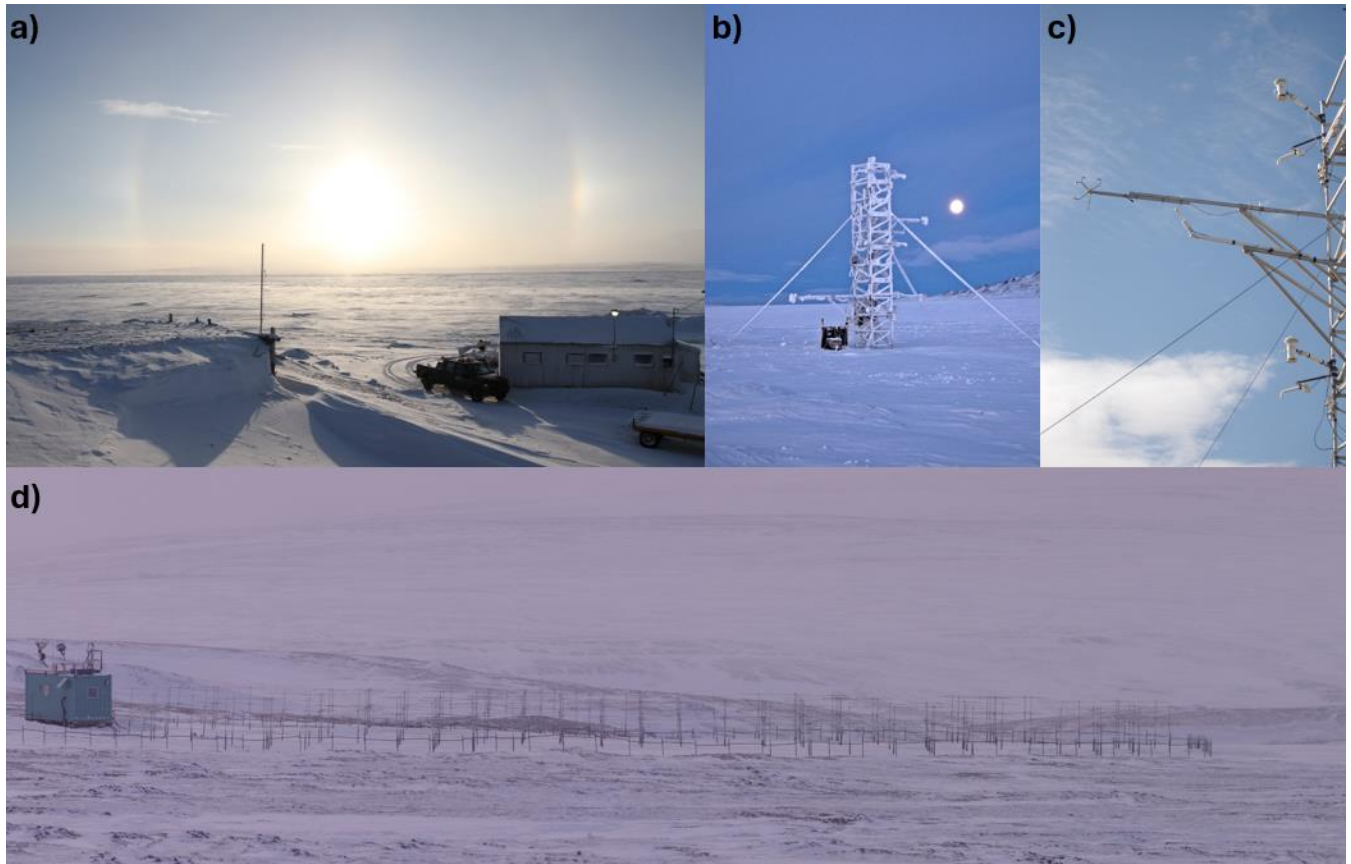
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933 **Figure 7.** The Ny-Ålesund site surroundings taken in the winter with the meteorological sensors and radiation tower in the foreground (a),
 934 the CMP22 downward shortwave radiation sensor at the site (b), the meteorological tower with the radiation flux sensors circled (c), and
 935 several surface meteorological and albedo-measuring sensors at the BSRN station (d). Photos (c-d) are adapted from Figure 1 in Becherini
 936 et al., 2021.

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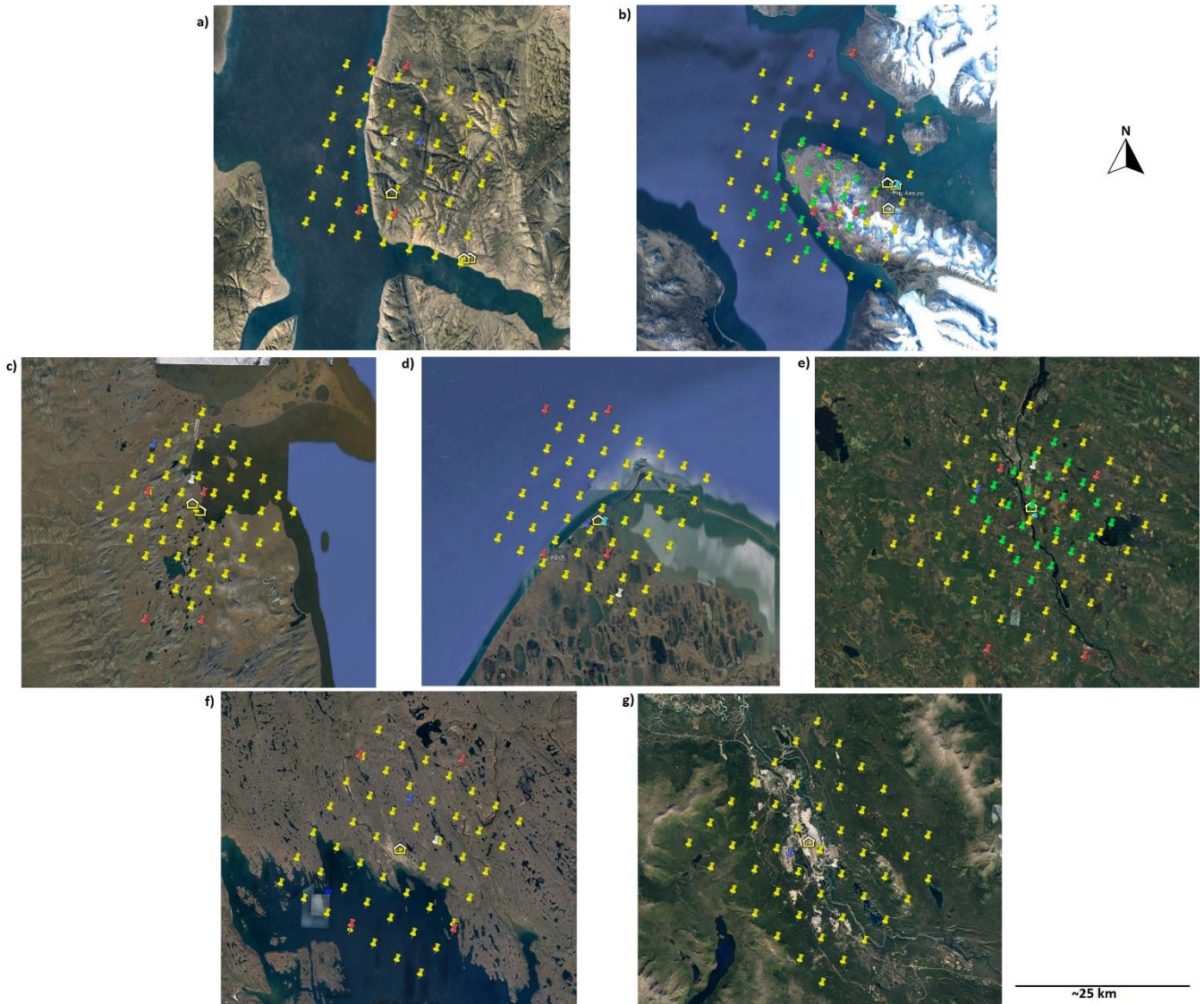


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939 **Figure 8.** The Eureka site surroundings in the winter, facing south from the Eureka Weather Station (EWS) looking over the frozen fjord
940 with a sundog in the background (a), the meteorological tower at the Surface and Atmospheric Flux Irradiance Extension (SAFIRE)
941 (b) with radiation flux (e.g., PSP) and meteorological sensors deployed (c), and the SAFIRE site surroundings taken from afar (d).

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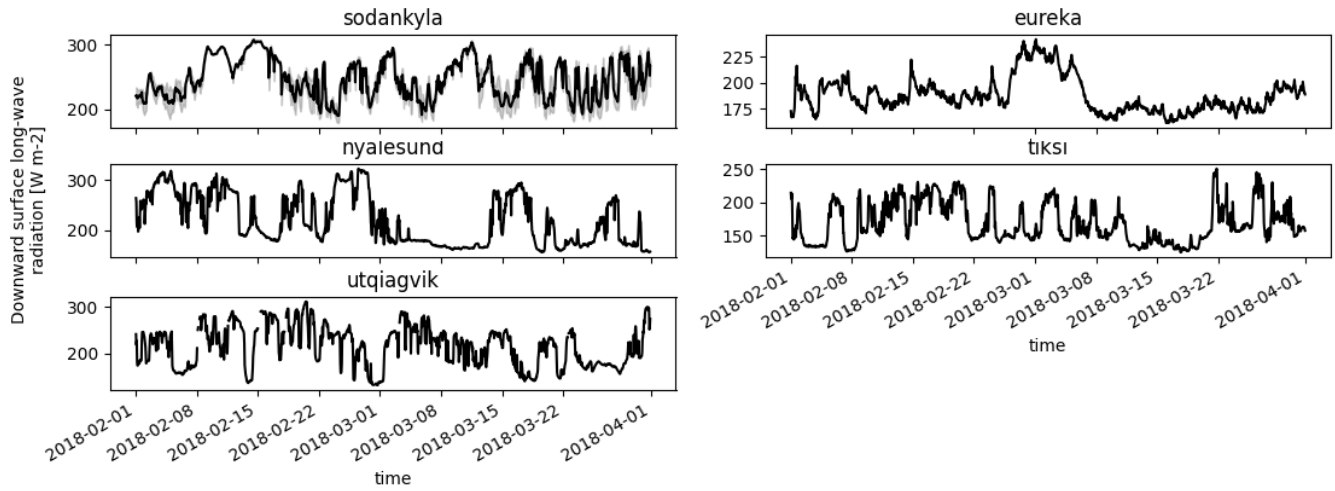
945 **Figure 9.** Model grid points at and around each site (a) Eureka, (b) Ny-Ålesund, (c) Tiksi, (d) Utqiagvik, (e) Sodankylä, (f) Iqaluit, and (g)
 946 Whitehorse, displayed through the Google Earth web-platform: *Image Landsat / Copernicus, Image ©2023 Maxar Technologies*. Sites are
 947 organized from highest latitude (Eureka) to lowest (Whitehorse). Yellow building icons represent the location of the facility on-site which
 948 contains all co-located instruments. Similarly, icons for the AROME-Arctic model grid are indicated by a green pin, ARPEGE pins are in
 949 white, DWD-ICON pins are light blue, ECCC-CAPS pins are yellow, ECMWF-IFS pins are dark blue, and SL-AV pins are in red. All
 950 images are north-aligned, nadir view.

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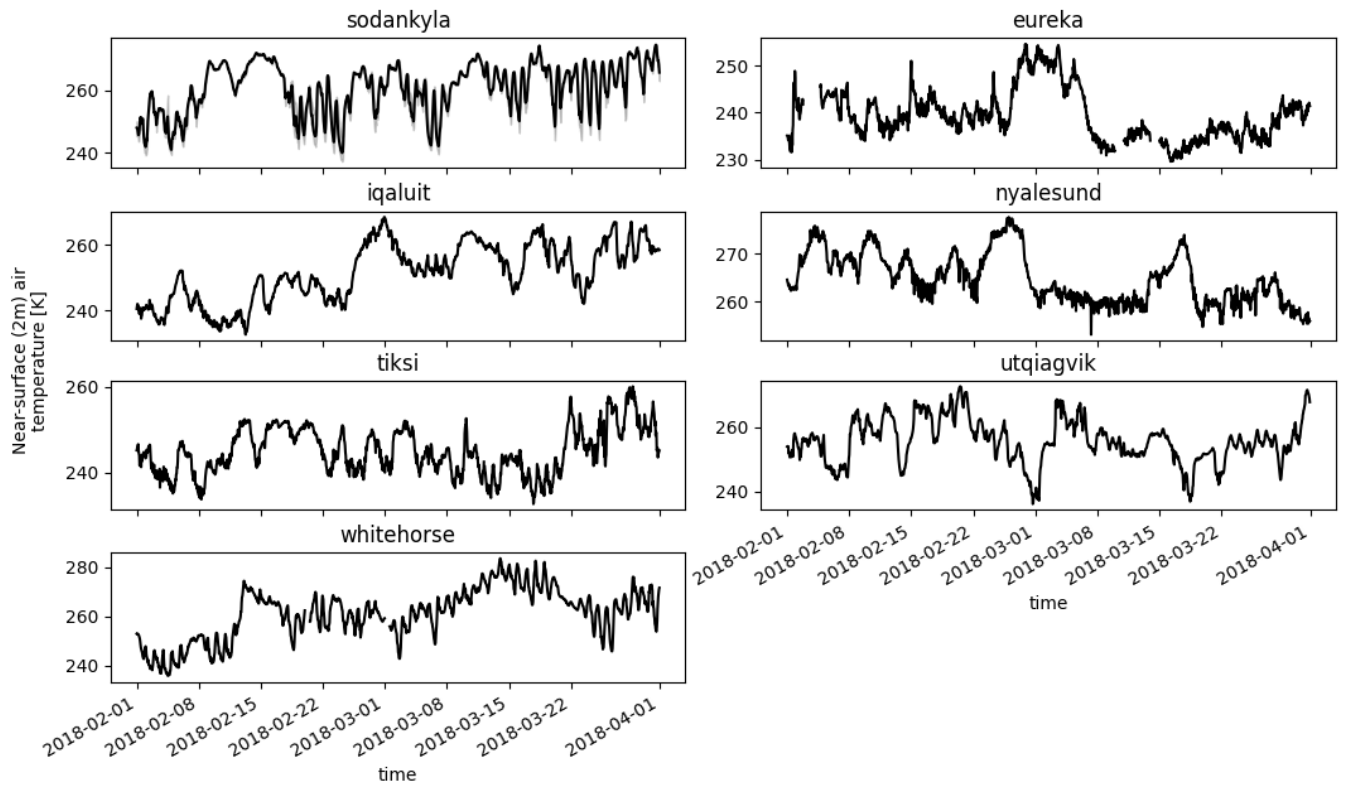
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Figure 10. Observations (30-min) of downward surface long-wave radiation (“rlds”) conducted during SOP1 at each site. Observations from Whitehorse and Iqaluit were not available during SOP1. Sodankylä conducts multiple observations of rlds; the mean (black line) and min/max spread in observed rlds (grey shaded area) are shown.

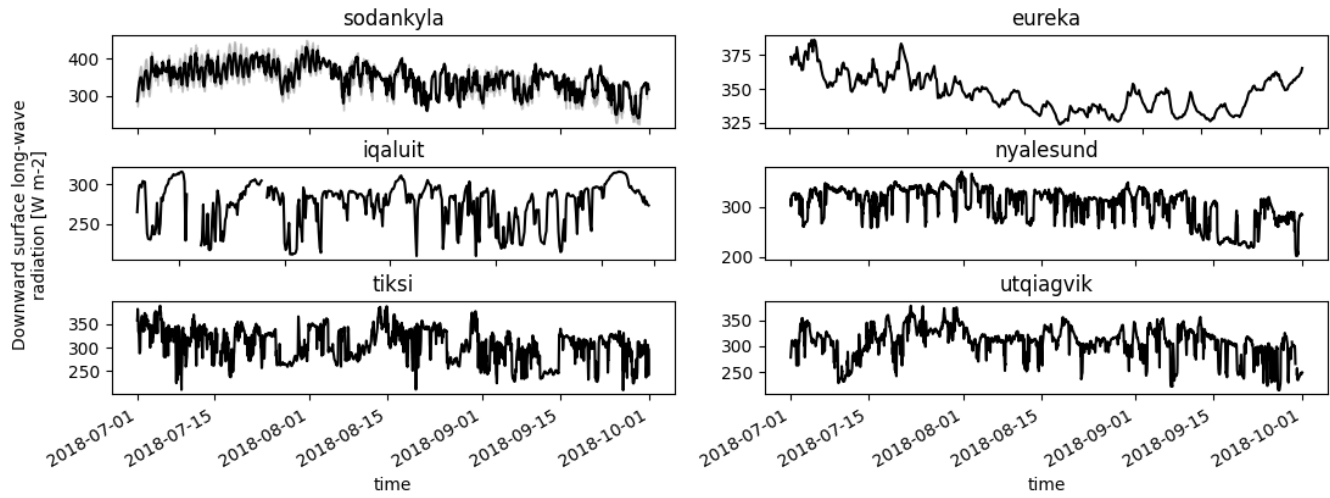
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Figure 11. Similar to Figure 3, except for observations of near-surface (2 m) air temperature (“tas”) conducted at each site during SOP1.



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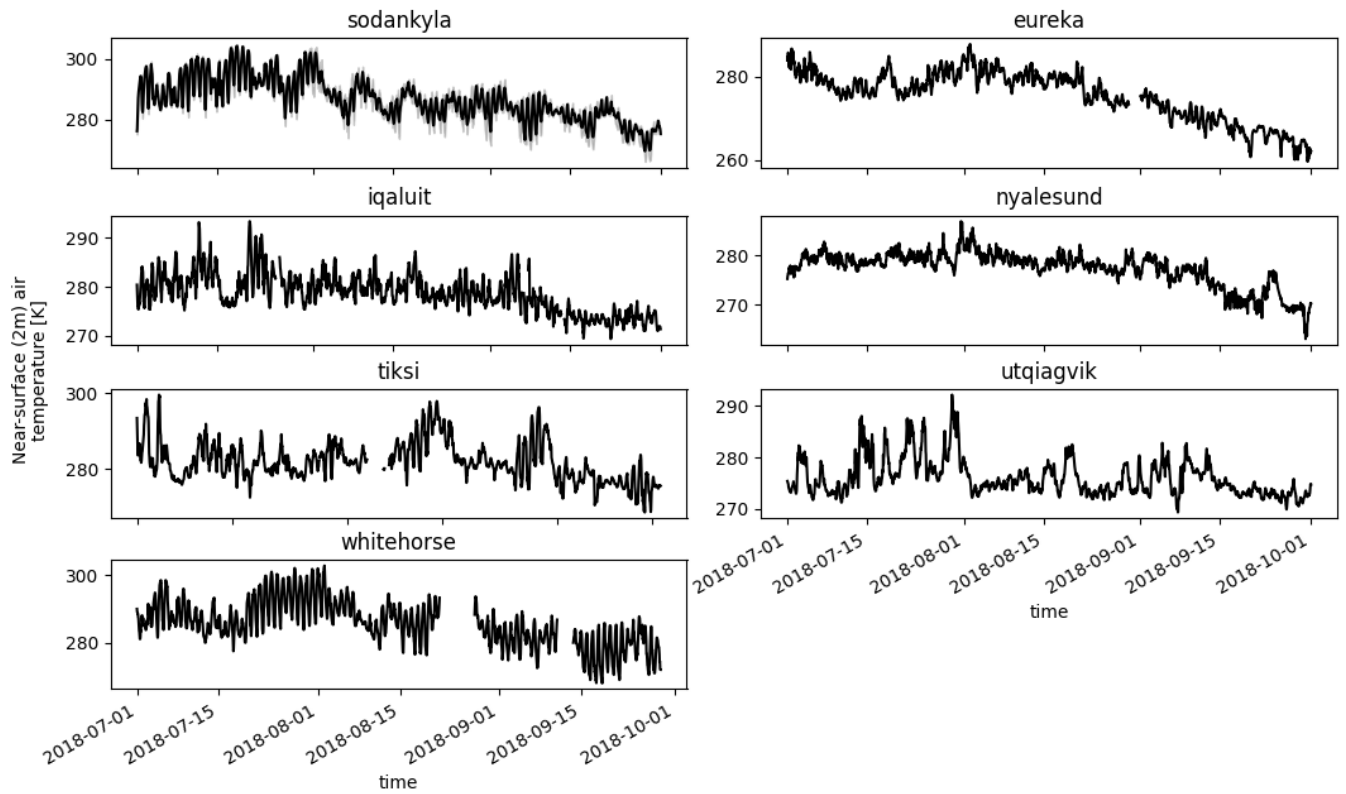
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Figure 12. Similar to Figure 3, except for observations of downward surface long-wave radiation (“rlds”) conducted during SOP2 at each site. Observations from Whitehorse were not available during SOP2.

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972 **Figure 13.** Similar to Figure 3, except for observations of near-surface (2 m) air temperature (“tas”) conducted at each site during SOP2.