# Supraglacial lake bathymetry automatically derived from ICESat-2 constraining lake depth estimates from multi-source satellite imagery

Rajashree Datta<sup>1</sup> and Bert Wouters<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NASA Goddard Space Flight Center <sup>2</sup>Utrecht University

November 21, 2022

#### Abstract

We introduce an algorithm "Watta", which automatically calculates supraglacial lake bathymmetry along tracks of the ICESat-2 laser altimeter. Watta uses photon heights estimated by the ICESat-2 ATL03 product and extracts supraglacial lake surface, bottom, corrected depth and (sub)surface ice cover on a lake. These measurements are used to constrain empirical estimates of lake depth from satellite imagery, which were thus far dependent on sparse sets of in-situ measurements for calibration. Imagery sources include Landsat OLI, Sentinel-2 and high-resolution Planet Labs PlanetScope and SkySat data, used here for the first time to calculate supraglacial lake depths. The algorithm was developed and tested using a set of 46 lakes near Sermeq Kujalleq (Jakobshavn) glacier in Western Greenland. Our results suggest that the use of multiple imagery sources (both publicly-available and commercial) in combination with altimetry-based depths, can move towards capturing the evolution of supraglacial hydrology at improved spatial and temporal scales.

# Supraglacial lake bathymetry automatically derived from ICESat-2 constraining lake depth estimates from multi-source satellite imagery

4

# 5 **R. Datta<sup>1,2</sup> and B.Wouters<sup>3,4</sup>**

6 <sup>1</sup>Earth Systems Science Interdisciplinary Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

7 <sup>2</sup> NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics, Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, Utrecht University,
 Utrecht, NL

<sup>4</sup> Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Delft University of Technology, Delft, NL

11

12 Corresponding author: Rajashree Tri Datta (<u>Tri.Datta@gmail.com</u>)

# 13 Key Points:

- The ICESat-2 laser altimeter can detect the surface and bottom of a supraglacial lake.
- We introduce the Watta algorithm, automatically calculating lake surface, corrected bottom,
   (sub)surface ice at a high resolution adapting to signal strength.
- ICESat-2 depths constrain full lake depths of 46 lakes over Jakobshavn glacier using multiple
   sources of imagery, including very high-resolution Planet imagery

19

20

# 21 Abstract

- 22 We introduce an algorithm (*Watta*), which automatically calculates supraglacial lake
- 23 bathymmetry along tracks of the ICESat-2 laser altimeter. Watta uses photon heights estimated
- 24 by the ICESat-2 ATL03 product and extracts supraglacial lake surface, bottom, corrected depth
- and (sub)surface ice cover on a lake. These measurements are used to constrain empirical
- 26 estimates of lake depth from satellite imagery, which were thus far dependent on sparse sets of
- in-situ measurements for calibration. Imagery sources include Landsat OLI, Sentinel-2 and high-
- 28 resolution Planet Labs PlanetScope and SkySat data, used here for the first time to calculate
- supraglacial lake depths. The algorithm was developed and tested using a set of 46 lakes near
   Sermeq Kujalleq (Jakobshavn) glacier in Western Greenland. Our results suggest that the use of
- Sermeq Kujalleq (Jakobshavn) glacier in Western Greenland. Our results suggest that the use of
   multiple imagery sources (both publicly-available and commercial) in combination with
- 32 altimetry-based depths, can move towards capturing the evolution of supraglacial hydrology at
- improved spatial and temporal scales.
- 34

# 35 Plain Language Summary

Supraglacial lakes and streams form on the surface of Antarctica and Greenland when meltwater 36 37 pools in low spots. They play an important role in the health of the ice sheets, because their water 38 can flow to the bed of the ice sheet and lubricate the flow of the ice, or cracks may form under 39 their weight which can cause floating ice shelves to disintegrate. In this article, we present a 40 method that uses laser photon reflections from NASA's ICESat-2 satellites and automatically 41 identifies lakes on the Greenland Ice Sheet and measures their depth along transects of the lake. 42 We then use these depths to train a method that uses satellite image data of the lake to measure 43 the depth of the entire lake. This method does not measure the depth directly, but uses the fact 44 that the strength of reflected sunlight decreases differently at different wavelengths (green and 45 red light) when the lake is deeper. The combination of the ICESat-2 photon measurements and the ever increasing availability of very-high resolution image data will allow us to better 46

- 47 understand how lakes on the ice sheet evolve and affect the state of the ice sheets.
- 48

# 49 **1 Introduction**

50 Ice loss from Greenland and Antarctica is the greatest current contributor to rising sea 51 levels, and enhanced mass loss of these ice sheets has been identified as a major tipping point 52 after which catastrophic sea-level rise becomes irreversible (Bevis, 2019). Recent observations 53 have shown that ice loss is accelerating faster than predicted (Slater, 2018), with a sixfold 54 increase since the 1970/80. In Antarctica, this was largely driven by increased ocean melting of 55 outlet glaciers (Rignot, 2019), while on the Greenland Ice Sheet mass loss is further promoted by 56 increased surface melt and runoff (Mouginot, 2019).

57 Since the relationship between increasing summer air temperatures and surface melt is 58 non-linear (Trusel, 2018), dramatic melt events have occurred in recent years in Greenland. For 59 example, in the summer of 2019, advection of warm, wet mid-latitude air led to a summer mass 60 loss unprecedented in the past 50 years, with widespread surface melt occurring up to the highest 61 regions of the ice sheet (Tedesco and Fettweis, 2020; Sasgen, 2020).

While mass loss in Antarctica over the next 100 years is generally thought to be
dominated by the basal melt under ice shelves (Schlegel, 2018), emerging research has focused

on the potential importance of surface hydrology over Antarctica (Arthur, 2020). Supraglacial

lakes have been observed around the margin of the Antarctic Ice Sheet up to high elevations

- 66 (Stokes, 2019) and are likely to become more prevalent on firn-depleted ice shelves in future
- 67 warming scenarios, which could potentially trigger their collapse and consequently lead to

68 accelerated sea level rise (Lai, 2020).

69 On both ice sheets, meltwater pathways can include surface flow into lakes and then 70 streams, leading to direct loss to the bed from lake drainage or the sudden termination of a 71 stream into a moulin or near-surface flow where ice slabs can limit vertical motion (MacFerrin, 72 2019). The links between supraglacial hydrological systems and englacial or subglacial pathways 73 are a complex system which can potentially be deduced by capitalizing on increasingly higher-74 resolution imagery and classification techniques of feature types, (Yang 2016). Past remote-75 sensing work has derived lake volumes from high-resolution (~1m) Worldview imagery using a 76 physical optical depth approach as well as an empirical method using *in-situ* estimates 77 (Moussavi, 2016; Pope, 2016). Additional work has applied a similar physically-based approach 78 using Sentinel-2 from Copernicus (Williamson, 2018) as well as a combination of LandSat and 79 Sentinel-2 imagery (Moussavi, 2020). The recent availability of the ICESat-2 laser altimeter 80 since 2018 has now introduced the potential to replace the in-situ measurements used in 81 empirical bathymetric methods with satellite laser bathymmetric depths at a high vertical 82 resolution, consequently extracting lake volumes from imagery (Parrish, 2019). Although 83 Sentinel-2 provides relatively high resolution (10 m) imagery with substantial coverage at a 4-84 day to weekly interval, usable imagery is often limited by cloud-cover, and the resolution of 85 small streams and ice cover is imperfect. Commercial satellite imagery, which is poised to 86 expand substantially in the future, can help fill the gap in coverage of small-scale melt and melt-87 induced features at a higher spatial and temporal resolution, complementing estimates resolved 88 from Sentinel-2. 89 Here, we present a new algorithm, titled "Watta", using the ICESat-2 laser altimeter to

derive properties of supraglacial lakes. In addition to bathymetry (supraglacial lake depth) derived from the difference between the air-water and water-ice interface, this algorithm assigns a probability for surface type characteristics to photon returns along-track. These types include lakes, refrozen lakes, lakes with ice layers on top as well as under the surface. Additionally, we exploit a range of imagery data to validate the surface types and to derive spectrally-driven depth estimates calibrated to ICESat-2-based depths, thereby providing an estimate for meltwater volume over the full image.

97 The method is tested and refined using representative sections along the flowline of 98 Sermeq Kujalleq (Jakobshavn Isbræ), one of the fastest-moving glaciers in Greenland. The 99 repeat-tasking of imagery was designed to coincide with ICESat-2 tracks (Fig. 1), capturing lake 100 depths at various stages of lake development during an unusually intense melt season. One of the 101 major motivations for this tasking effort was its coincidence with several NASA Operation 102 IceBridge (OIB) flights at the beginning and end of the summer; data from multiple instruments 103 aboard OIB could potentially provide additional insight in future work. Over the 2019 Greenland 104 melt season, an anomalously strong melt pulse early in the season (in June) was quickly followed 105 by a melt pulse producing the greatest meltwater volume recorded in a single day (August 1, 2019), covering 73% of the ice sheet on July 31st, 2019 (Tedesco and Fettweis, 2020). The 106 107 availability of simultaneous laser altimetry and high-resolution imagery over the season provided 108 a rich test dataset with which to extract altimetry-based estimates of supraglacial lakes at various 109 points in the season. ICESat-2 returns used here included strong and weak beams under various

conditions. Here, we present initial results exploiting this dataset as well as introducing the
 *Watta* ICESat-2 surface feature detection algorithm.

- watta ICESat-2 surface feature detection algorithm
- 112 113

[FIGURE 1]

# 114 2 Data Sources

# 115

# 2.1 Satellite-based Imagery and Altimetry

116

117 Our *Watta* method relies on individual photon heights as measured by ICESat-2's ATLAS

instrument distributed in the ICESat-2 ATL03 product, L2A, Global Geolocated Photon Data
 (Neumann et al., 2019). In addition to freely-available Landsat OLI (30m) and Sentinel-2 (10m)

119 (Incumatin et al., 2019). In addition to freely-available Landsat OLI (30m) and Sentinel-2 (10m) 120 imagery, we incorporate very high resolution imagery from Planet Labs, including Dove-R (3m)

and SkySat (~1m). Planet SkySat imagery (~1m resolution) is used to validate surface types,

122 while all imagery sources are used to derive spectrally-driven depth estimates calibrated to

123 ICESat-2-based depths. The high-spatial resolution of SkySat imagery allows for the

124 identification of small-scale features on the surface and bottom of supraglacial lakes. Because

125 SkySat imagery did not include an atmospheric correction, we compared results from Landsat,

126 Sentinel-2 and SkySat imagery based on TOA Reflectance values. PlanetScope Dove-R data

127 provided surface reflectance values only and is known to have issues with radiometry. However,

because the method used here derives lake depth values empirically (rather than physically), this

129 work presents the opportunity to develop accurate depth estimates using high-resolution data

where calibration is imperfect, but where the data availability is high. This is particularly true for data from the PlanetScope constellation, which is frequently captured multiple times within a

132 single day.

Because SkySat imagery did not include an atmospheric correction, Landsat, Sentinel-2 and SkySat imagery used TOA Reflectance values, whereas PlanetScope Dove-R data provided surface reflectance values only. Relative response curves for the bands used in this study are red, blue and green and NIR as shown in Fig. S1b. Finally, all imagery was coregistred with ICESat-2 using the GIMP-2 DEM.

138 139

# 2.2 Tasking of High-Resolution Imagery of Jakobshavn

140 As a part of this project, SkySat imagery was tasked for repeat cycles of ~4 days over the 141 Greenland melt season in selected locations. Each of the 3 areas of interest presented here were approximately 600km<sup>2</sup> on average. Repeat imagery was specifically chosen to cover flowlines of 142 143 fast-flowing glaciers, including Sermeq Kujalleq, as in this study (Fig. 1). In addition, repeat 144 tracks were designed to coincide with both (a) overpasses of the recently-launched NASA 145 ICESat-2 laser altimeter and, (b) several flights of the airborne NASA Operation IceBridge 146 mission in the beginning and end of the season. Here, we present the first work exploiting this 147 stacked dataset for method development, restricted to available satellite imagery/altimetry. 148 The final set of lakes used for the development of the ATL03-based method included 50

148 The final set of lakes used for the development of the ATL03-based method included 50
 149 lakes (46 discussed here), 14 of which coincided with very high-resolution imagery (SkySat).
 150

151

# 152 **3 Methods**

153 Watta is an algorithm which accepts ICESat-2 ATL03 as input and automatically detects 154 supraglacial surface features with an associated probability of likelihood. In its current state, the 155 algorithm detects only lakes and their associated surface, lake bottom and corrected depth estimate as well as subsurface ice when present (Fig. 2 left). A subsequent set of steps processes 156 157 imagery from SkySat, PlanetScope, Sentinel-2 and Landsat OLI to produce a delineation of the 158 lake boundary based on the normalized difference water index (NDWI), where we standardized 159 the index (setting all values between 0 and 1 from minimum to maximum) due to negative 160 NDWI values produced from PlanetScope data. Next, an empirical relationship for each selected 161 band between the depth estimate calculated by *Watta* and the coregistered imagery pixels and finally, and a final depth estimate for the entire lake based on this empirical relationship for a 162 163 chosen band. The empirical relationship is based on the exponential decay of reflectance at water 164 depth, as detailed by Box and Ski (2007), where, given coincident corrected depth values as 165 calculated by Watta (D) and reflectance values from imagery (R), we estimate the a-coefficients in eq. 1, which can then be applied to calculate water depth over the full-scale of imagery where 166 167 lakes are delineated.

- 168
- 169 170

$$D = a_0 / (R + a_1) + a_2$$
 (eq. 1)

171 The codebase for *Watta* (Fig. 2 left) is divided into a module defining surface and bottom returns 172 ("Surface Detection") at the native resolution of ICESat-2, and an "Interpretive" layer that 173 resolves the bottom/surface combination to specific supraglacial features, in this case lakes. 174 Surface detection determines, for a collection of 75 photons surrounding any individual photon 175 (Step a), the first three peak probabilities for height within in a kernel density, estimating a mean 176 height for the surface (or top of a lake or refrozen pond), the main bin directly below the surface, 177 a surface bottom and a potential third peak (potentially subsurface ice), where photons are 178 selected without regard to confidence level. We confirm that the bottom estimate is robust, i.e. 179 detected when the density estimate uses a bin value of 0.1m as well as with 0.3m (Step b). Where 180 outliers are found in Step c, the kernel density estimate is recalculated with a larger number of 181 photons (in multiples of 75), and where these values continue to be outliers, they are removed 182 (for later interpolation). Finally, we apply a simple correction for refraction, described in Parrish 183 et al. (2019), noting that no data used in this study was collected when ICESat-2 pointed off-184 nadir (which could affect the equation).

184

186

# [FIGURE 2]

187 The interpretive layer first performs more sophisticated smoothing (Step d), removing 188 estimates for top and bottom values which more closely resemble the background rate (as 189 determined from a local 5000 photon-count window). The top surface is then divided into 190 segments based on breaks in the surface slope, and lakes are detected using a classification 191 scheme taking into account the local surface slope and the strength of the bottom return (Fig.2 192 bottom). For example, a segment with a surface slope smaller than 0.03% and a strong double 193 peak in the histogram of that segment's photon heights is given a lake classification of 'highly 194 likely', whereas segments passing the same slope threshold but not showing showing a bottom 195 return are identified as 'likely ice-covered' lakes. On the other hand, segments with a slope 196 exceeding 0.3% and no significant peak below the surface in the histogram are allocated to the 197 'highly unlikely' lake class. (Step e). Where lakes are detected, we then perform a higher

198 resolution recalculation of the kernel density estimate, limiting the calculation to values below 199 the surface and only 30 photons (Step f). The edges of the lake are then reset to recategorize 200 values interpreted as an ice layer near the ends and seal the bottom of the lake to the top (Step g). 201 The final step of the algorithm creates outputs which (Step h) assign physical meaning to each 202 photon (e.g. lake surface, bottom, corrected depth, surface ice, subsurface ice). The resulting 203 bottom photons are passed through an iterative robust quadratic local regression (rloess) filter, 204 where remaining outliers are removed when deviating substantially from the smoothed bottom 205 estimate.

206 In order to develop imagery-based depths, we primarily use the computer vision toolbox 207 in Matlab, except for the coregistration of imagery. We align imagery with ICESat-2 returns 208 (Step j) by standardizing all imagery to the nearest Landsat image, using the arosics library in 209 Python (Scheffler et al., 2017). Coregistration between ICESat-2 photon locations and imagery is 210 managed by registering ICEsat-2 with the GIMP-2 DEM (used for georeferencing of Landsat), 211 by transforming the point cloud using the iterative closest point algorithm. ICESat-2 mission 212 requirements list a geolocation accuracy of 6.5m (Neuenschwander, 2019), thus to calculate 213 imagery values associated with an ICESat-2 photon, we calculate overlapping imagery 6m in 214 each direction perpendicular to the beam and calculate a mean. We use a standard NDWI (with the green and NIR) bands to deliberately include regions with ice layers, rather than the modified 215 216 NDWI<sub>ice</sub>, per Yang and Smith, (2013) calculated from the coregistered imagery to determine the 217 boundaries of lakes (Step 1), using adaptive thresholding (Bradley et al., 2007) to generate a 218 binary mask and then determine the boundaries of individual lakes. We note that the height of 219 the lake surface for any imagery source is calculated based on the elevation where the lake edge 220 intersects with the corrected bottom surface, as calculated by Watta.We then provide the 221 coregisted ICESat-2 depths and red or green bands from imagery to develop an empirical 222 relationship (Step k), finally applying the relationship to the full lake.

223

225

# **4 Results**

# 4.1 Physical constraints of the test dataset

226 The test dataset provides a diversity of lake types, with the largest surface area calculated at 5.6 km<sup>2</sup> and a maximum *Watta*-calculated corrected depth at 10.3 m; a number of lakes 227 228 contain substantial ice cover. Lake Amitav was selected for closer examination because despite 229 the dense photon cloud, its depth, length and variability and the presence of ice cover pose a 230 challenge for our detection algorithm, and because of the availability of multiple imagery 231 sources. Lake Martha is chosen because it represents an ideal case for the algorithm, while Lake 232 Zadie is chosen because two beams passed over the same lake with SkySat imagery available 233 one day afterwards. A basic assumption we make in this study is that the lake bottom remains 234 relatively consistent over several days, although past research on 2 lakes in Western Greenland 235 has estimated lake bottom ablation rates at 6.5 cm/day on the bottom of the pond (Tedesco et al., 236 2012). We assume that this is the primary physical source of uncertainty in the empirical 237 calculation, as the relationship will degrade with temporal distance from the ICESat-2 pass. 238 However, where changes in the bathymetry are not uniform, we can potentially make inferences 239 about drainage mechanisms (e.g. the forming and deepening of crevasses). Cross-sections 240 showing the lake top, bottom, and bottom value corrected for refraction as calculated by Watta 241 along with lake top and bottom as calculated empirically from imagery, are shown in

242 Supplemental Fig. S4, Table S1.

243

# 244**4.2 Evaluating** Watta

The most rigorous weighting system used for the algorithm, using only lake classes 1,2,4 and 7, succeeded in automatically detecting 49 out of the 50 lakes identified in the available imagery, with two likely false positives (i.e. not confirmed by NDWI values exceeding 0.2 in the imagery). A less rigorous weighting system, including lake class 3, detected the 50<sup>th</sup> lake,but resulted in a large number of false positives in areas of steep, and rough topography, where abrupt changes in the photons elevations are misinterpreted as bottom reflections by the algorithm.

252 In the absence of simultaneous in situ data, we evaluate the performance of the algorithm 253 based on visual inspection. Additionally, where an empirical relationship with imagery is 254 successful (a high correlation coefficient value), we take this as this partial evidence 255 that ICESat-2 and imagery sources have detected bathymetry correctly. The most successful 256 bottom retrieval occurred where ice cover was minimal, the density of photons was high and where the bottom slope was relatively uniform (e.g. Lake Martha). The presence of ice near the 257 258 surface (between the surface and 1m below the surface) frequently obscured lake bottom 259 detection (e.g. reference ground track (RGT) 1222, Lake 3 in Fig. S4), although in some cases 260 only partially; however, the presence of subsurface ice did not immediately preclude the 261 presence of a strong bottom return (e.g. Lake 7, RGT 1169, Fig. S4). The algorithm therefore 262 indicates the presence of surface/near-surface ice, but does not automate the removal of the 263 calculated bottom return. We can confirm the presence of an ice layer both by visual inspection 264 of the imagery and by comparing standardized NDWI values calculated from imagery coincident 265 with the ICESat-2 track (Fig S1a). We note that for at least one case, (RGT 1108 Lake 6, Fig. 266 S4), the designation of "lake" was ambiguous, as this could be treated as either a shallow lake 267 containing a large amount of subsurface ice, or as a slush layer (a number of which were 268 identified elsewhere).

269 270

# 4.2 Evaluating Data Sources for Imagery-based Depth Calculations

Total uncertainty for the empirically-based depth estimate from imagery is comprised of uncertainty in ICESat-2 geolocation, uncertainty from the *Watta* algorithm itself (which operates at a vertical resolution of 0.3m), from the resolution of the imagery and finally from physical changes in the lake occurring between the time that imagery is captured and the ICESat-2 pass. Comparisons are considered more valuable when the lake surface calculated by imagery vs altimetry differ by less than a meter (and are preferably estimated for the same day); here we estimate accuracy with a simple  $R^2$  value.

Past work has considered either the red or green band for depth estimates (Moussavi et al., 2020;

Williamson et al., 2018) but we note that available in situ validation was limited at the time(Pope et al., 2016). For Landsat, Sentinel and SkySat, the empirical depth estimates for the red

band showed slightly-higher fidelity in shallow water, whereas for deeper water the green-band

estimates outperforms the red band when compared to the ICESat-2 based Watta estimates, in

agreement with Moussavi et al. (2016). We note that the green band is able to resolve bathymetry

at greater depths and tends to emphasize cracks at the bottom of the lakes, as shown over Lake

285 Martha (Fig 3a). The major exception was PlanetScope data, where the red band consistently 286 showed greater fidelity to ICESat-2-based estimates while green band estimates produced

287 unrealistic depth estimates. We note that because this method is empirical, future users would be

able to select bands or combinations, as with the average of the panchromatic and red band used

by Pope et al. (2016), that provide the greatest fidelity to ICESat-2 based observations. However,a thorough comparison is outside of the scope of this initial study.

291 To demonstrate the robustness of the Watta algorithm as well as the impact of band 292 choice, we show depths calculated from two beams passing over Lake Zadie on June 13th, 293 followed by retrieval of SkySat imagery on June 14th and Sentinel-2 on June 16th (Fig. 3 b,c and RGT 1222 Lake 5(6) in Supplemental Profiles). The green band shows higher  $R^2$  values for both 294 295 Sentinel-2 and SkySat for 3 of 4 cases (excepting SkySat 3r). Depths calculated from the 3l beam 296 are slightly larger and red-band based maximum depths are greater, whereas a finer 297 bathymmetric relief is captured by the green band in both SkySat and Sentinel-based depth estimates (Fig. 3d, box). We note that even when high  $R^2$  values are calculated between the 298 299 empirical estimate and Watta-calculated depths, unrealistic depths can result when lake drain or 300 fill rapidly, and low-resolution imagery can potentially resolve the height of a lake surface 301 inaccurately (Fig. S2).

#### 302 303

304

#### [FIGURE 3]

305 Within Figure 4, we show the depth evolution of Lake Amitav over 5 days, both along 306 the ICESat-2 ATL03/Watta-calculated profile and for the full image using the empirical 307 equation. Rising lake levels are demonstrated both by the expansion of the lake through time 308 (right column) and the rise in the lake level (cyan line, left column). Planet SkySat estimates at a 309 1m resolution (Fig. 4c) shows the greatest level of detail of crevassing at the bottom of the lake 310 although PlanetScope estimates, at a 3m resolution (Fig. 4f,g) are comparable. We note that 311 PlanetScope data showed variations in the fidelity to Watta-based estimates between the green 312 band vs the red band. However, the bottom relief is maintained at depth with PlanetScope, and it 313 would be possible to calibrate values to Sentinel estimates, which may result in more reliable 314 estimates while still providing very high-resolution depth estimates.

315 316

# [FIGURE 4]

# 317 **5 Conclusions**

318 This study represents initial work developing the *Watta* algorithm for lake depth 319 estimates as well as subsurface ice detection, with a unique stacked dataset over Western 320 Greenland during an intense melt season. We demonstrate the potential of ICESat-2 for 321 automated lake detection and depth estimation, and how empirically-derived depths derived from 322 a combination of imagery sources can complement strengths and weaknesses, e.g. the 323 geolocational accuracy and historical record provided by Landsat (despite low spatial resolution) 324 versus the high spatial and temporal resolution provided by Planet Labs PlanetScope data 325 (despite radiometric and geolocation issues). Together, such a time series can provide valuable 326 information about the evolution of ice cover and drainage mechanisms as well as volume 327 estimates. We note that given the accelerating sophistication of altimetry-based observations, 328 ongoing efforts to improve geolocation, radiometric quality or frequency in high-resolution 329 imagery are crucial, and the availability of simultaneous imagery and altimetry would enhance 330 the capabilities of other satellite imagery sources to fill out the time series by providing a 331 calibration standard. 332 Our algorithm successfully detects a wide variety of lake types automatically, and can be

applied to the growing set of ICESat-2 and imagery data over large sections of Antarctica and

- 334 Greenland. Identification of narrow stream features on sloping surfaces, however, still needs
- 335 visual verification due to the large number of false positives. This will be addressed in future
- work, together with adding features to the interpretive layer, including slush layers as well as
- cracks, using the Planet SkySat imagery dataset for testing purposes.
- 339

# 340 Acknowledgments, Samples, and Data

- B.W. was funded by NWO VIDI grant 016.Vidi.171.063. R.T.D. was funded by the ICESat-2 Project
  Science Office.
- 343
- 344 Final imagery/Watta-based depth calculations are available at https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4067629

# 345 **References**

- 346 Arthur, J. F., et al. (2020). Distribution and seasonal evolution of supraglacial lakes on
- 347 Shackleton Ice Shelf, East Antarctica. *The Cryosphere Discussions*, 2020, 1–36.
- 348 https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-2020-101
- 349

Barsi, J. et al.. (2014). The Spectral Response of the Landsat-8 Operational Land Imager. *Remote Sensing*, 6(10), 10232–10251. https://doi.org/10.3390/rs61010232

- 352
- Bradley, D., & Roth, G. (2007). Adaptive Thresholding using the Integral Image. *Journal of Graphics Tools*, *12*(2), 13–21. https://doi.org/10.1080/2151237X.2007.10129236
- Lai, C.-Y., et al. (2020). Vulnerability of Antarctica's ice shelves to meltwater-driven fracture.
   *Nature*, 584(7822), 574–578. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-2627-8
- MacFerrin, M., et al. (2019). Rapid expansion of Greenland's low-permeability ice slabs. *Nature*, *573*(7774), 403–407. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1550-3
- 361
- 362 Mouginot, J., et al. (2019). Forty-six years of Greenland Ice Sheet mass balance from 1972 to
- 363 2018. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *116*(19), 9239.
- 364 https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1904242116
- 365
- Moussavi, M. et al. (2020). Antarctic Supraglacial Lake Detection Using Landsat 8 and Sentinel2 Imagery: Towards Continental Generation of Lake Volumes. *Remote Sensing*, *12*(1), 134.
  https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12010134
- 369
- Neuenschwander AL, Magruder LA.(2019). Canopy and Terrain Height Retrievals with ICESat2: A First Look. *Remote Sensing*. 11(14):1721. https://doi.org/10.3390/rs11141721
- 372
- Neumann, T. A. et al. (2019). The Ice, Cloud, and Land Elevation Satellite 2 mission: A global
- 374 geolocated photon product derived from the Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System.
- 375 *Remote Sensing of Environment*, 233, 111325. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2019.111325
- 376

377 Parrish, C. E. et al. (2019). Validation of ICESat-2 ATLAS Bathymetry and Analysis of ATLAS's Bathymetric Mapping Performance. Remote Sensing, 11(14), 1634. 378 379 https://doi.org/10.3390/rs11141634 380 381 Pope, A. et al. (2016). Estimating supraglacial lake depth in West Greenland using Landsat 8 and 382 comparison with other multispectral methods. The Cryosphere, 10(1), 15-27. 383 https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-10-15-2016 384 385 386 Rignot, E. et al. (2019). Four decades of Antarctic Ice Sheet mass balance from 1979–2017. 387 Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 116(4), 1095–1103. 388 https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1812883116 389 390 Sasgen, I. et al. (2020). Return to rapid ice loss in Greenland and record loss in 2019 detected by 391 the GRACE-FO satellites. Communications Earth & Environment, I(1), 8. 392 https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-020-0010-1 393 394 Scheffler, D. et al (2017) : An Automated and Robust Open-Source Image Co-Registration 395 Software for Multi-Sensor Satellite Data. *Remote Sensing*,9(7),676. 396 https://doi.org/10.3390/rs9070676 397 398 Schlegel, N.-J. et al. (2018). Exploration of Antarctic Ice Sheet 100-year contribution to sea level 399 rise and associated model uncertainties using the ISSM framework. The Cryosphere, 12(11), 400 3511-3534. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-12-3511-2018 401 402 Slater, T. et al. (2020). Ice-sheet losses track high-end sea-level rise projections. Nature Climate 403 *Change*, 10(10), 879–881. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0893-y 404 405 Stokes, C. R. et al. (2019). Widespread distribution of supraglacial lakes around the margin of 406 the East Antarctic Ice Sheet. Scientific Reports, 9(1), 13823. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-407 50343-5 408 409 Tedesco, M. et al. (2012). Measurement and modeling of ablation of the bottom of supraglacial 410 lakes in western Greenland. Geophysical Research Letters, 39(2). 411 https://doi.org/10.1029/2011GL049882 412 413 Tedesco, M., & Fettweis, X. (2020). Unprecedented atmospheric conditions (1948–2019) drive 414 the 2019 exceptional melting season over the Greenland ice sheet. The Cryosphere, 14(4), 1209-415 1223. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-14-1209-2020 416 417 Williamson, A. G. et al. (2018). Dual-satellite (Sentinel-2 and Landsat 8) remote sensing of 418 supraglacial lakes in Greenland. The Cryosphere, 12(9), 3045–3065. https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-419 12-3045-2018 420 421 Yang, K. & Smith, L. C. (2013). Supraglacial Streams on the Greenland Ice Sheet Delineated 422 From Combined Spectral–Shape Information in High-Resolution Satellite Imagery. IEEE

- 423 *Geoscience and Remote Sensing Letters*, 10(4), 801–805.
- 424 https://doi.org/10.1109/LGRS.2012.2224316
- 425
- 426 Yang, K., L. et al. (2017). Automated High-Resolution Satellite Image Registration Using
- 427 Supraglacial Rivers on the Greenland Ice Sheet. IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied
- 428 *Earth Observations and Remote Sensing*, *10*(3), 845–856.
- 429 https://doi.org/10.1109/JSTARS.2016.2617822
- 430
- 431
- 432
- 433
- 434
- 435
- 436
- 437 **Figure 1**. Study region over Sermeq Kujalleq. Left: Lake Amitav (a) Planet SkySat visual (b)
- 438 Cross section, calculated by *Watta* (c) Repeat-tasking locations for Planet SkySat shown in white
- 439 boxes over annual velocity estimates from MEaSUREs (NSIDC). Center track,ICESat-2 repeat
- 440 ground tracks shown in green. Three lakes used throughout text and figures include Lake
- 441 Amitav, Lake Martha and Lake Zadie.
- 442 Figure 2. Diagram of main methods, described in main text. *Watta* weighting scheme for lakes443 (i) is detailed in bottom table
- 444 **Figure 3**. *Watta*-calculated and imagery-derived depths. Lake Martha (a), Lake Zadie: Sentine-21
- 445 (l,m), Planet SkySat (n,o). *Watta/*imagery-derived derived depths over Lake Zadie with both
- beam 3r and 31: (b,c): False-color imagery and ICESat-2. (d-k) Depths from imagery source,
- 447 band/beam as shown
- 448 **Figure 4**. Lake Amitav, filling over five days between May 20<sup>th</sup> and May 25<sup>th</sup>, with ICESat-2
- 449 pass on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Left column: Profiles with Watta-calculated and imagery-derived depths from
- 450 the green and red bands (with corresponding  $R^2$  values inset), legend same as Fig.3a. Right
- 451 column: Depth values derived from empirical estimate, with imagery source , date collected,
- 452 band used for depth estimate shown
- 453

# Supplemental Tables and Figures.

Lakes Over Sermeq Kujalleq

Designation	Max Lake Surface Area from imagery (m <sup>2</sup> )	ICESat-2 track length (m)
RGT 727 May 15th, 2019		
1	160800	2754.44
RGT 841 May 23rd		
1	357900	2398.82
2	880300	3092.19
3	804873	2786.51
4	880300	3372.80
5	625127	2608.30
		2000.30
RGT 1108 June 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019		
1	574200	3350.97
2	574200	3123.05
3	596931	3026.49
4	956190	3360.29
5	772089	2746.55
6	54167	2665.72
7	987300	3165.52
8	738000	3172.79
9	1165500	2691.53
10	987300	2968.48
11	738000	3228.69
RGT 1169 June 13th, 2019		
1	158400	2885.59
2	513200	2455.54
3	224100	2396.62
4	478100	3307.89
5	904600	2817.40
6	904600	2720.19
7	1113500	3698.78
8	1113500	2401.77
9	1113500	2612.26
RGT 1222 June 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2019		
1	2060100	3134.91
2	48600	2618.15
3	1635300	4089.09
4	255600	2718.01

5	1635300	4129.21
6	1692900	2679.53
7	2225700	3181.78
8	1611900	4443.29
9	998574	2541.70
10	998574	2802.32
11	1025100	3193.46
12	1611900	4210.25
13	1025100	3860.27
14	4101300	4774.88
15	2060100	3842.27
16	998574	2562.81
17	4101300	4602.40
18	5656500	4005.92
19	2982600	2899.97

 19
 2982600
 2899.97

 Table 1: Lakes used in this study with maximum surface area of the lake detected from imagery and the length of the ICESat-2 pass over the lake. Lake numbers correspond to profiles shown in Supplemental Figure 3.

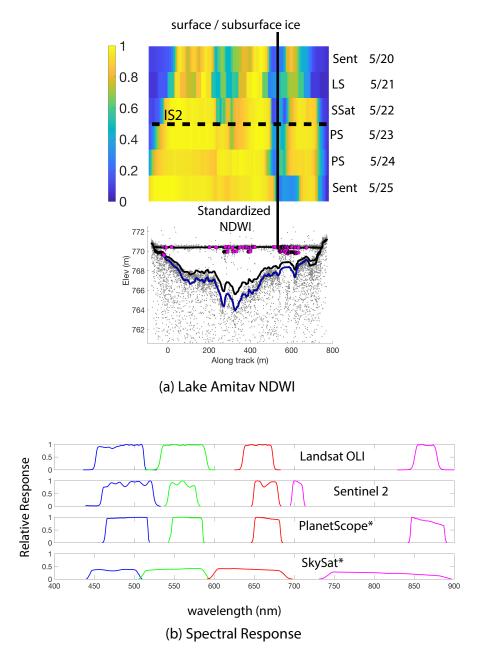
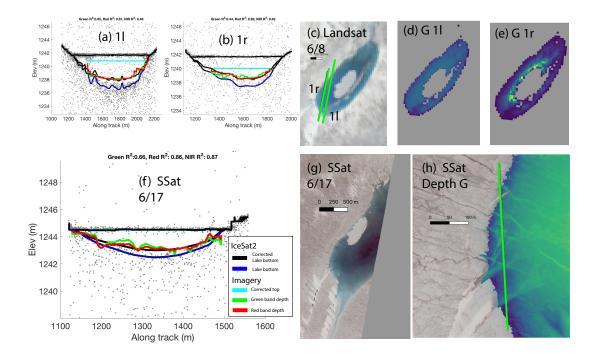


Figure 1: (a) Watta calculated profile of depth, depth corrected for refraction and subsurface ice over Lake Amitav (bottom) with NDWI values co-registered to the ICESat-2 track (top) (b) Spectral Response curve for imagery sources used in main text. Note that PlanetScope and SkySat data are shown for the satellite used in imagery collected over Lake Amitav and are not representative of the entire constellation. Landsat OLI source (Barsi et al., 2014)., Sentinel-2 source (<u>https://earth.esa.int/web/sentinel/user-guides/sentinel-2-msi</u>), Planet Labs SkySat and PlanetScope (see: support.planet.com)

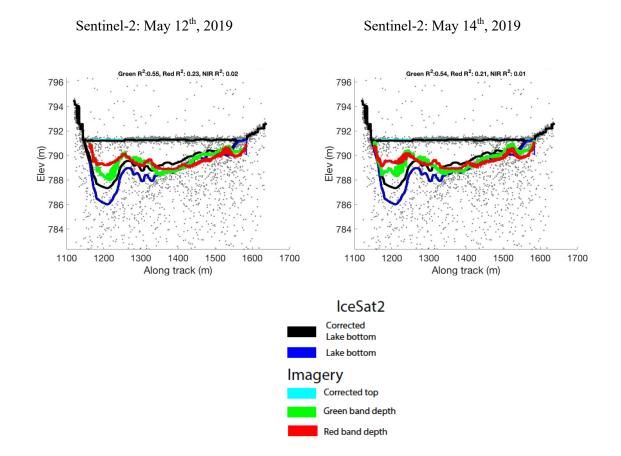


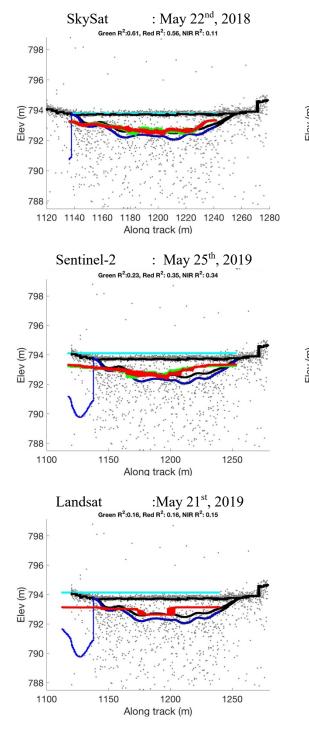
*Figure S2: Watta-calculated depth, corrected depth and lake surface profiles for (top) RGT 1108 Lake 1 on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with gt11 (a,d) and gt1r (b,e). Landsat imagery collected on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019. (bottom) The same lake, also RGT 1222 Lake 6 on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (f-h), with SkySat imagery collected on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.* 

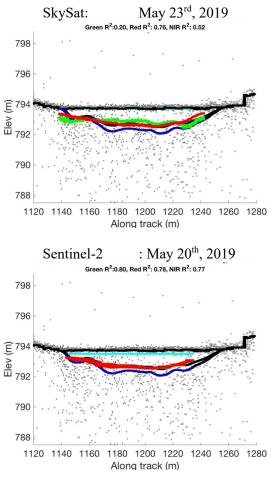


#### <u>RGT 727</u> Lake 1:

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

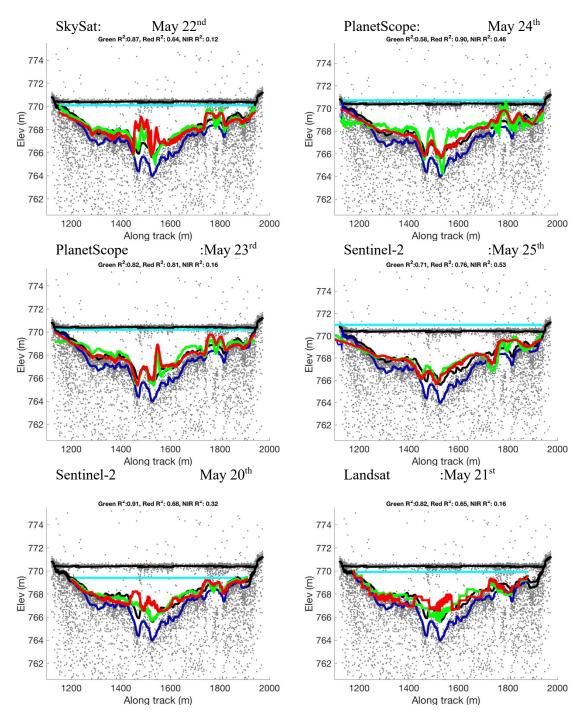




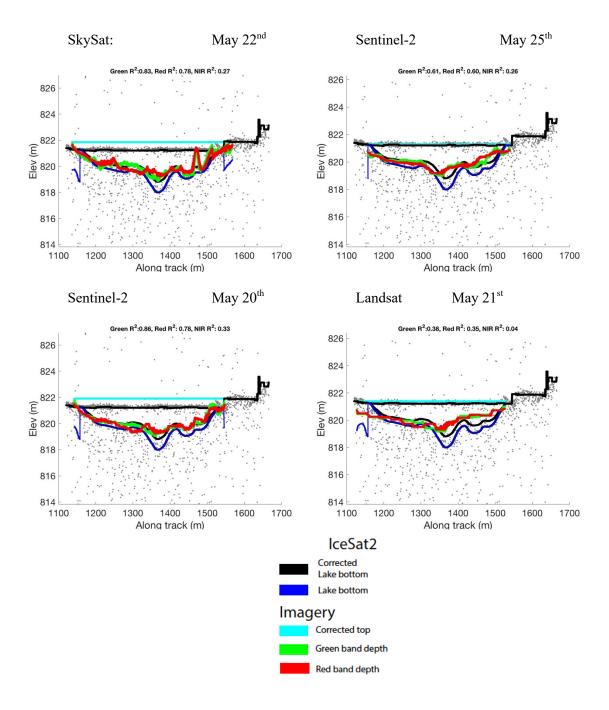




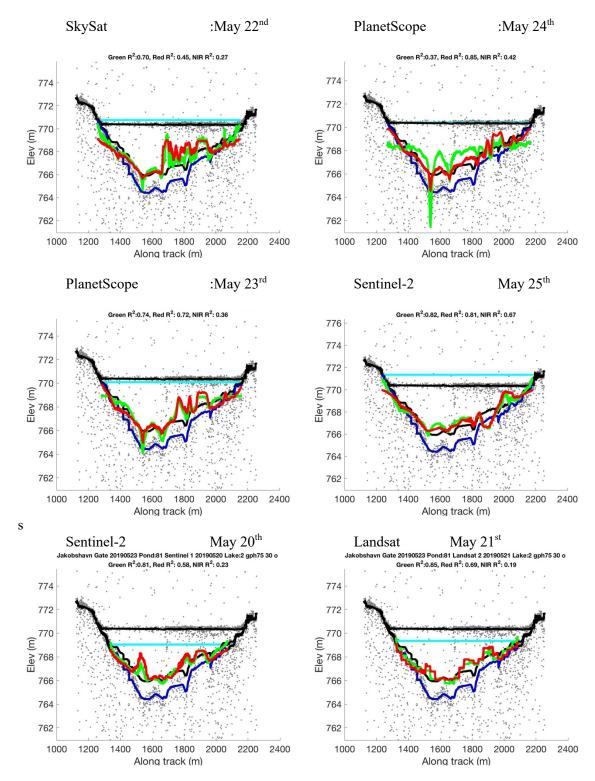
#### Lake 2:



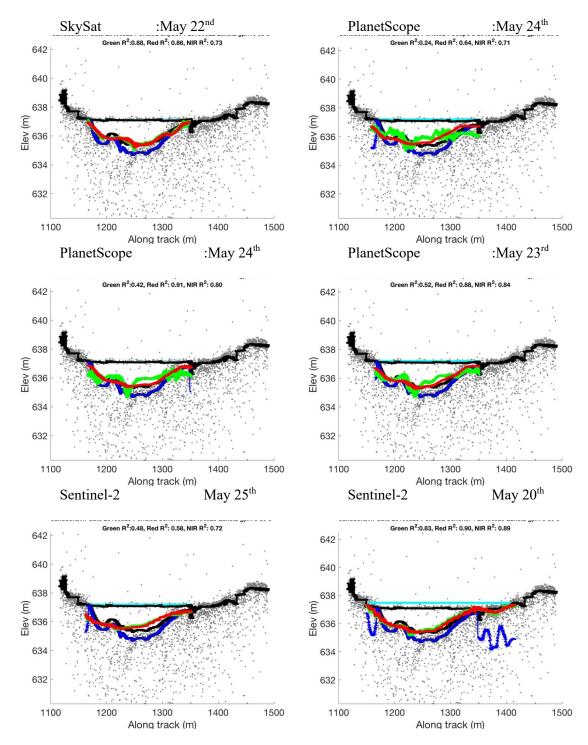
#### Lake 3:



#### Lake 4:

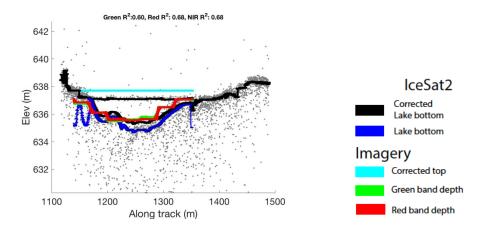


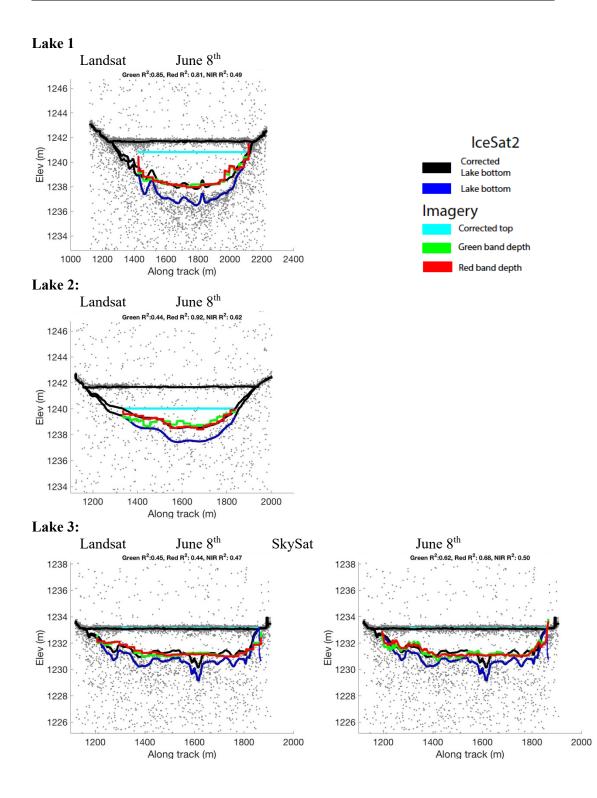
#### Lake 5:

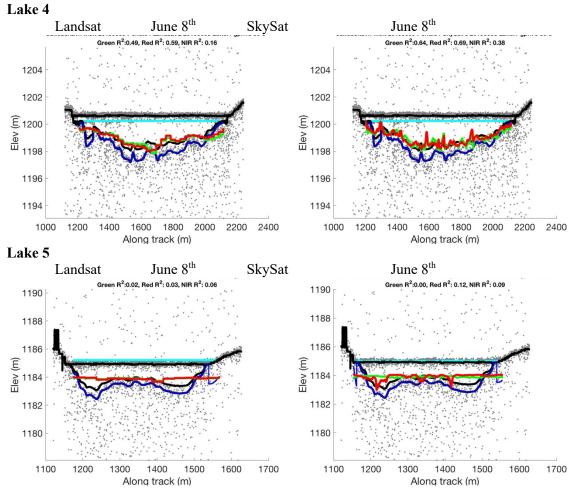


#### Lake 5 cont...





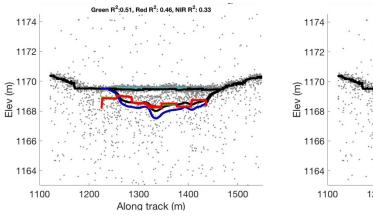


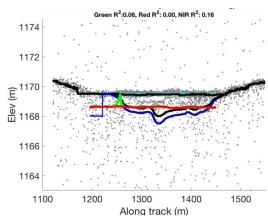


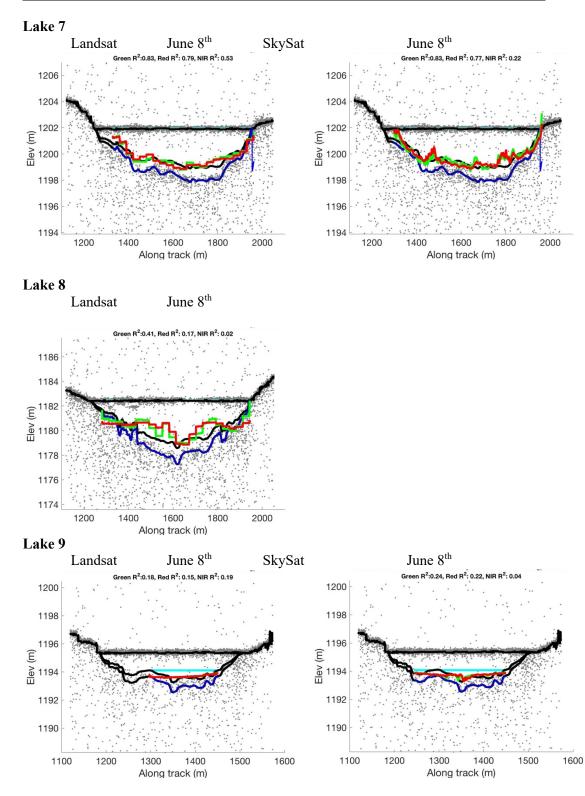


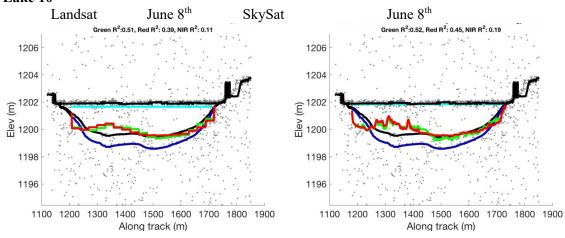
Landsat June 8<sup>th</sup> SkySat

June 8<sup>th</sup>

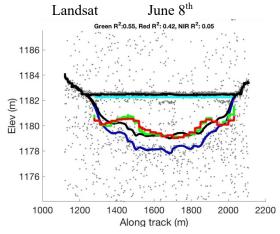


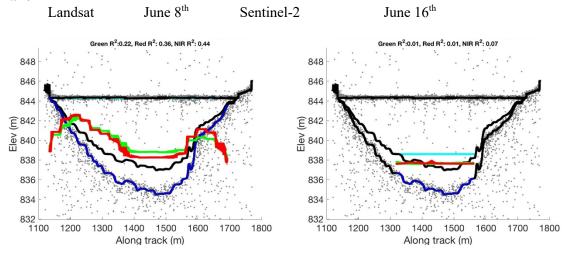


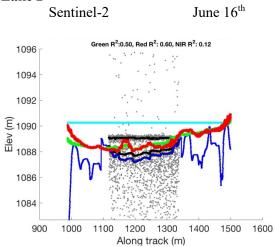


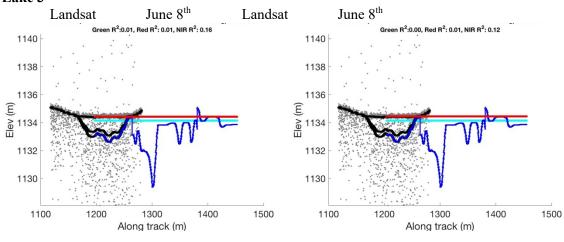


Lake 11

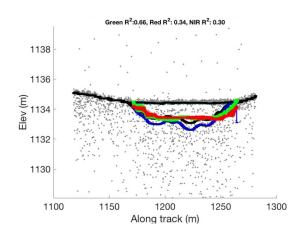




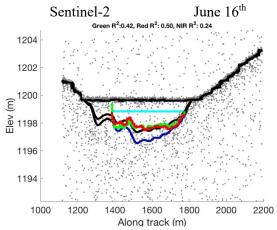


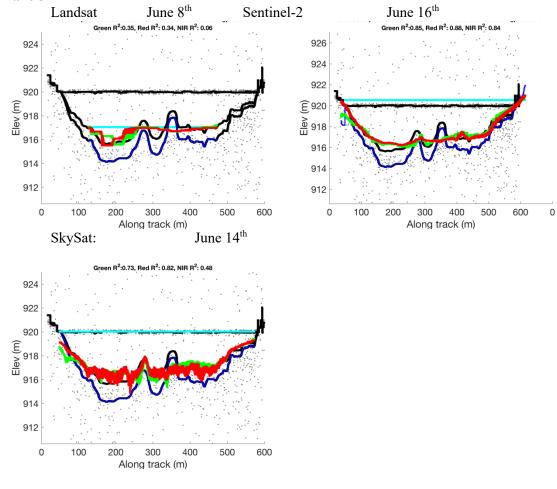


Sentinel June 16<sup>th</sup>

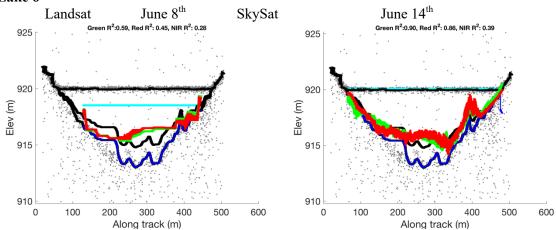




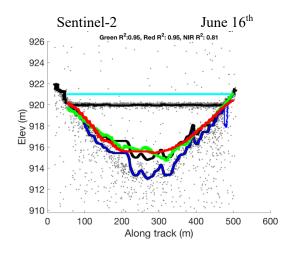




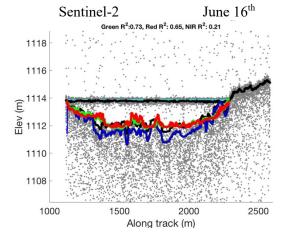




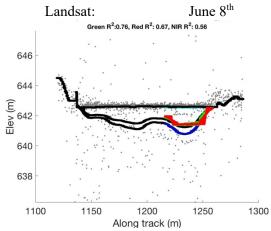
#### Lake 6 cont...

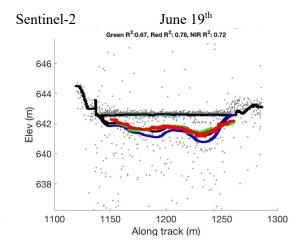




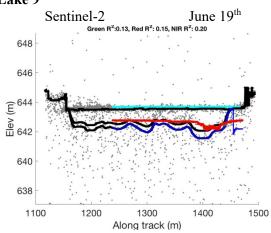


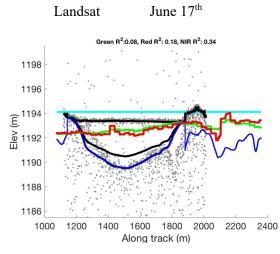






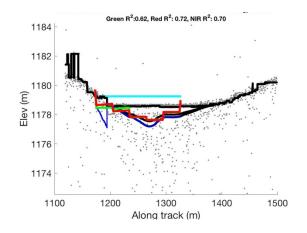




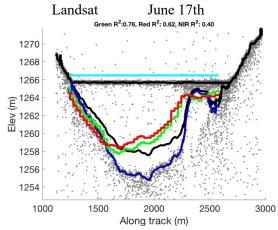


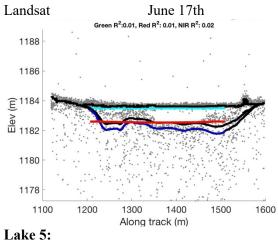






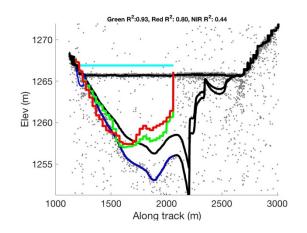










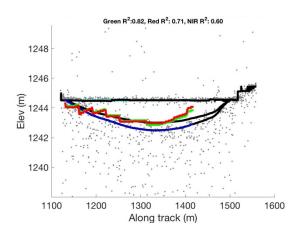


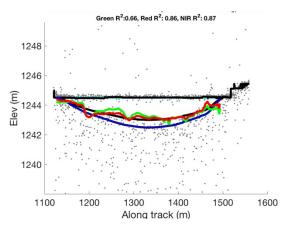




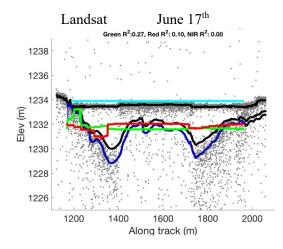




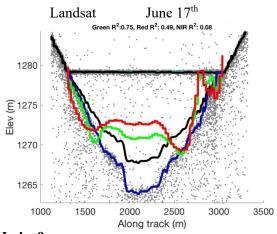




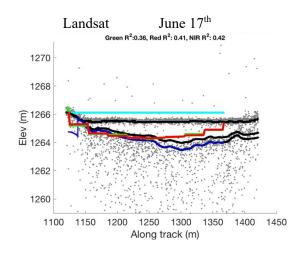
#### Lake 7:



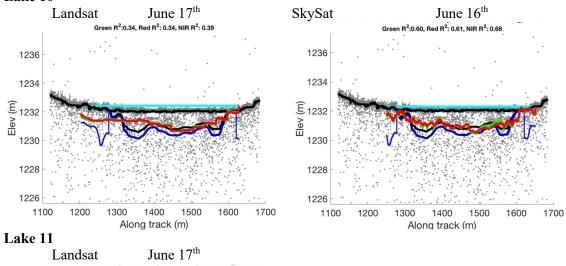


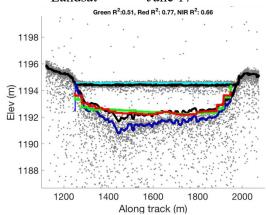




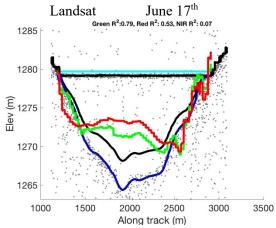


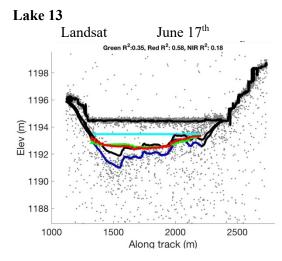


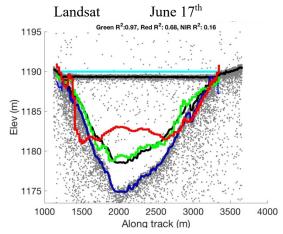




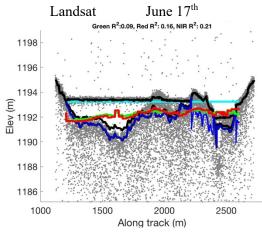


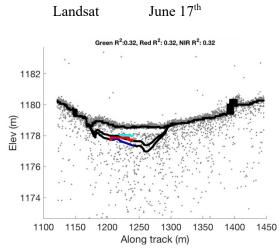




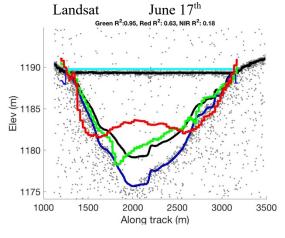












Lake 18 Sentinel-2

