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11 **A North Pole thermal anomaly? Evidence from new and existing heat flow**
12 **measurements from the central Arctic Ocean**
13

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31 **Keywords:** Heat flow; plate tectonics; Lomonosov Ridge; Eurasia Basin;
32 Amundsen Basin; North Pole
33

34 **Abstract:**

35 Constraining the thermal evolution of the Arctic Ocean is hampered by notably
36 sparse heat flow measurements and a complex tectonic history. Previous results
37 from the Lomonosov Ridge in the vicinity of the North Pole, and the adjacent
38 central Amundsen Basin reveal varied values, including those higher than
39 expected considering plate cooling or simple uniform stretching models.
40 Furthermore, in the vicinity of the North Pole an anomalously slow velocity
41 perturbation exists in upper mantle seismic tomography models. However,
42 whether these observations are related to a thermal anomaly in the mantle
43 remains unknown. We present new heat flow results gathered from 17 sediment
44 cores acquired during the "Arctic Ocean 2016" and "SWERUS-C3" expeditions on
45 the Swedish icebreaker *Oden*. Three sites located on oceanic lithosphere in the
46 Amundsen Basin between 7°W-71E° reveal surface thermal conductivity of 1.07-
47 1.26 W/mK and heat flow in the order of 71-95 mW/m², in line-with or slightly
48 higher (1-21 mW/m²) than expected from oceanic heat flow curves. These

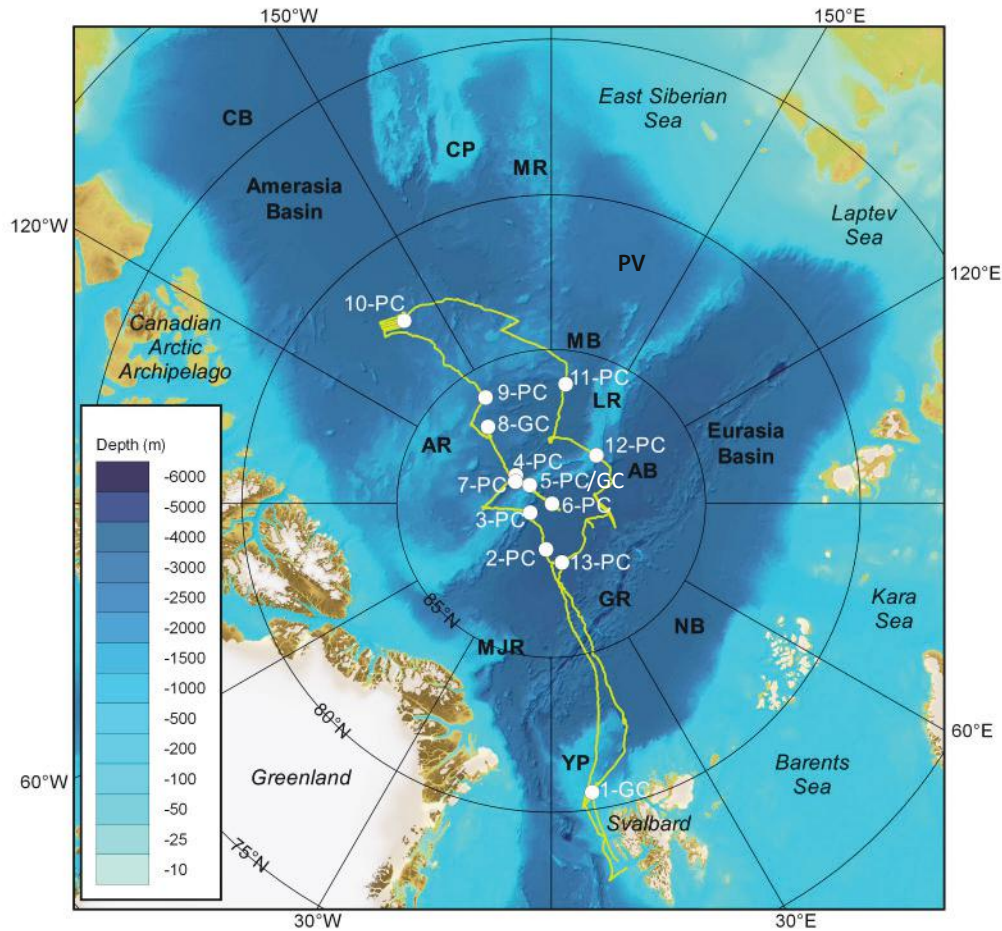
49 results contrast with published results from further east in the Amundsen Basin,
50 which indicated surface heat flow values up to 2 times higher than predicted
51 from oceanic crustal cooling models. Heat flow of 49-61 mW/m² was recovered
52 from the Amerasia Basin. Sites from the submerged continental fragments of the
53 Lomonosov Ridge and Marvin Spur recovered heat flow in the order of 53-76
54 and 51-69 mW/m² respectively. When considering the additional potential
55 surface heat flux from radiogenic heat production in the crust, these variable
56 measurements are broadly in line with predictions from uniform extension
57 models for continental crust. A seismically imaged upper mantle velocity
58 anomaly in the central Arctic Ocean may arise from a combination of
59 compositional and thermal variations but requires additional investigation.
60 Disentangling surface heat flow contributions from crustal, lithospheric and
61 mantle processes, including variable along-ridge rifting rates and timing, density
62 and phase changes, conductive and advective dynamics, and regional tectonics,
63 requires further analysis.

64

65 **1. Introduction:**

66

67 As a consequence of cooling of the Earth's interior, measurements of surface heat
68 flow reflect the thermal structure and tectonic evolution of a given region
69 (Pollack et al., 1993; Stein and Stein, 1994). Generally, heat flow measurements
70 across the globe are sparse. This is particularly true for the Arctic Ocean domain,
71 where existing measurements of seafloor heat flow are largely restricted to the
72 extensive continental shelf and mid-ocean ridge domains. Furthermore, the few
73 heat flow measurements from near the North Pole display a large degree of
74 variability (e.g. (O'Regan and Moran, 2010), including estimates that are higher
75 than those predicted by thermal models for oceanic lithosphere (e.g. (Urlaub et
76 al., 2009) and uniform crustal stretching models (O'Regan et al., 2008). The
77 existence and/or mechanism for such a 'thermal anomaly' at the North Pole has
78 not yet been fully explored. As part of the six-week "Arctic Ocean 2016"
79 expedition (AO16) a number of sediment cores were acquired within the Eurasia
80 and Amerasia basins (Figure 1). This permitted a valuable opportunity to add
81 key localities to the global heat flow database for sites in the northern Amundsen
82 Basin in the vicinity of the North Pole.



83
 84 **Figure 1.** Overview of Arctic Ocean region, showing topography and bathymetry
 85 (IBCAO; (Jakobsson et al., 2012). Ship track from AO16 expedition in yellow and
 86 the 13 sediment coring sites in white circles with corresponding numbers for
 87 gravity core (GC) and piston core (PC). AB Amundsen Basin, AR Alpha Ridge, CB
 88 Canada Basin, CP Chukchi Plateau, GR Gakkel Ridge, LR Lomonosov Ridge, MB
 89 Makarov Basin, MJR Morris Jesup Rise, MR Mendeleev Ridge, NB Nansen Basin,
 90 PV Podvodnikov Basin, YR Yermak Plateau.

91
 92 **1.1 Physiography**

93
 94 The physiography of the Arctic Ocean is characterized by proportionally larger
 95 provinces comprised of continental shelves and ridges as compared to the rest of
 96 the world's oceans, and significant seafloor topography (Jakobsson et al., 2003;
 97 Menard and Smith, 1966). These physiographic characteristics stem from the
 98 tectonic and geodynamic history of the Arctic Ocean and the surrounding

99 continents. The present-day thermal state of the region is therefore tied to the
100 broadly two-phase (i.e. Mesozoic and Cenozoic) history of ocean basin opening.

101

102 The Arctic Ocean can be divided into two major ocean basins, the younger
103 Cenozoic Eurasia Basin and older Mesozoic Amerasia Basin (Jackson and
104 Gunnarsson, 1990) (Figure 1). These basins are distinct not only in shape, size
105 and seafloor morphology but also in terms of their geological evolution and our
106 overall state of knowledge concerning their formation. The older Amerasia Basin
107 comprises the smaller Canada, Makarov and Podvodnikov basins, as well as the
108 large Alpha-Mendeleev Ridge complex (Figure 1). The Eurasia Basin includes the
109 abyssal plains of the Amundsen and Nansen basins, which are separated by the
110 active mid-oceanic spreading centre - the Gakkel Ridge. The area also includes
111 the Yermak Plateau and Morris Jesup Rise (Figure 1) closer to the margins of
112 Svalbard and Greenland. The Eurasia and Amerasia basins are separated by the
113 Lomonosov Ridge, an elongated, submerged continental fragment, around 1650
114 km in length and 50-200 km in width, extending from north of Greenland to the
115 Siberian shelf. The crest of the Lomonosov Ridge currently lies around 1000-
116 1500 m below sea-level (mbsl) and is largely flat-topped with Cenozoic sediment
117 coverage in excess of 500 m thickness in places (Jokat et al., 1995).

118

119 **1.2 Tectonic setting**

120

121 The Eurasia Basin is a site of active seafloor spreading and delineates the current
122 plate boundary between the North American and Eurasian plates (Figure 2).

123 Current seafloor spreading rates along the Gakkel Ridge are “ultra-slow,” with
124 rates decreasing from 12.7 mm/yr in the west to 6 mm/yr near its continuation
125 into the Laptev Sea (Vogt et al., 1979). A clearly defined set of linear magnetic
126 anomalies reveals seafloor spreading in the Eurasia Basin since the early
127 Cenozoic (Vogt et al., 1979), at least since magnetic Chron C24 (Brozena et al.,
128 2003) (~53 Ma using timescale of (Gee and Kent, 2007)). However, early
129 spreading in the Eurasia Basin from around C25 (~56 Ma) has also been
130 postulated based on magnetic, seismic and gravity data (Brozena et al., 2003;
131 Cochran et al., 2006), and may correspond to a pronounced 10-20 km basement

132 high adjacent to the Lomonosov Ridge (Døssing et al., 2014). The onset of
133 seafloor spreading at this time has also been documented further south in the
134 North Atlantic (Gaina et al., 2002).

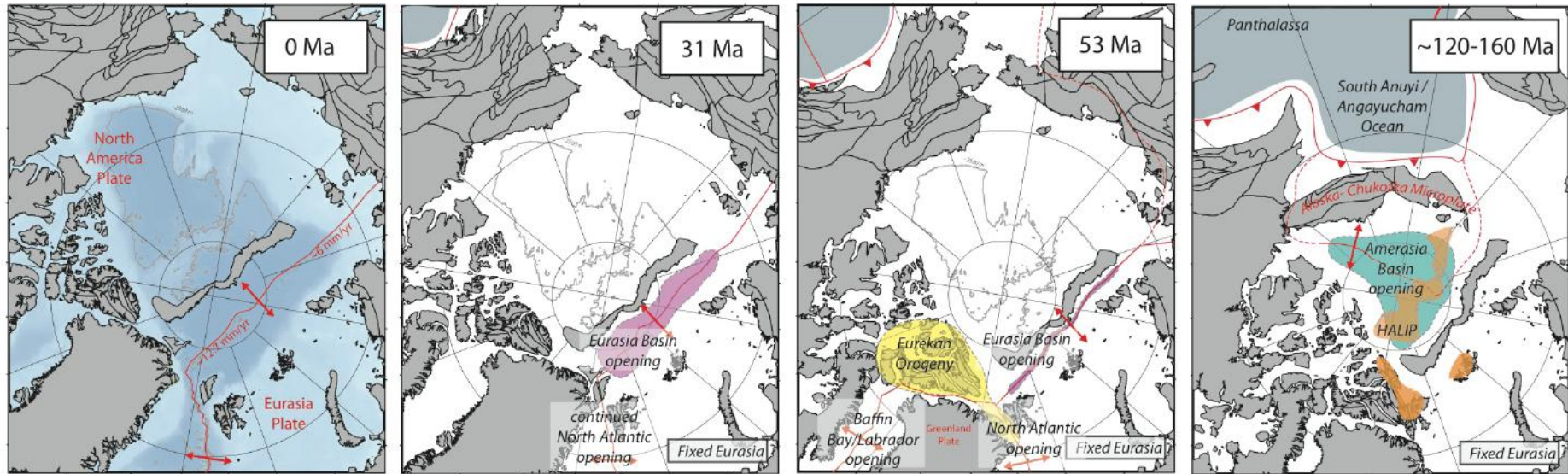
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136 As with most passive rifted margins of the world, locating the continent-ocean
137 boundary (COB) and the oldest true seafloor is challenging. The transition from
138 continental to oceanic lithosphere along the Amundsen Basin flank of the
139 Lomonosov Ridge is thought to be relatively abrupt. There is minimal exhumed
140 mantle or “transitional crust” along the Lomonosov margin (Cochran et al., 2006;
141 Jokat and Micksch, 2004), which is instead described to be delineated by fault-
142 bounded half grabens (Jokat et al., 1992). Along the margin of the Kara and
143 Barents Shelf, the conjugate COB is relatively well defined (Cochran et al., 2006)
144 although restorations of the Lomonosov Ridge along with the Yermak Plateau
145 and Morris Jesup Rise present challenges (Berglar et al., 2016); (Døssing et al.,
146 2014).

147

148 Drilling of Lomonosov Ridge crest sediments lying above the rifting
149 unconformity during the Integrated Ocean Drilling Programs Expedition 302
150 (The Arctic Coring Expedition - ACEX) also point to an early post or synrift
151 timing for opening at ~56 Ma (Backman and Moran, 2009; O'Regan et al., 2008).
152 While slow to ultra-slow spreading rates have occurred since breakup, e.g. 17.3
153 mm/yr between C25o-C23y (~56-50 Ma; (Brozena et al., 2003), or less than 15
154 mm/yr for all times (Cochran et al., 2003), a time-dependent variation in
155 spreading rates is noted, including an asymmetry between the Amundsen and
156 Nansen basins of around 10-20% (Vogt et al., 1979).

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Figure 2. Tectonic reconstructions at key Mesozoic-Cenozoic Arctic events in a fixed Eurasia reference frame. Present-day for reference with bathymetry and coastlines (plus Lomonosov Ridge, Morris Jesup and Yermak Plateau) in grey, 2500 m bathymetry in the Amerasia Basin is contoured. Plate boundaries in red, modified from the plate model of (Shephard et al., 2013) and created using the *GPlates* open-source software (Williams et al., 2012). 31 Ma - opening of Eurasia Basin is continuing (purple domain), the Eureka orogeny has just finished, and break-up of the Yermak Plateau and Morris Jesup Rise is in its final stages. The Lomonosov Ridge crest may have been at or close to sea-level at this time (O'Regan et al., 2008). 53 Ma - just after the onset of seafloor spreading in the Eurasia Basin, also during the Eureka Orogeny (yellow domain) and opening of Baffin Bay and Labrador Sea. 160-120 Ma - broad reconstruction prior to the opening of the Amerasia Basin (green domain), showing the Alaska-Chukotka microplate restored closer to the Canadian Arctic Islands. Also displaying the approximate distribution of High Arctic Large Igneous Province (HALIP, orange polygons) that, in part, may have erupted around 121 Ma.

170

171 The Lomonosov Ridge was connected to the Barents Shelf prior to the opening of
172 the Eurasia Basin. The earliest phases of its rifting and detachment have been the
173 focus of recent attention including a component of initial shear/oblique motion
174 and associated shear heating (Minakov et al., 2013), possibly starting in the
175 Cretaceous (Berglar et al., 2016). Seafloor spreading in the region of the central
176 part of the Lomonosov Ridge (the 'knee' like geometry) is proposed to have been
177 delayed until around 40 Ma (Minakov and Podladchikov, 2012) or prior to C22
178 (~50 Ma; Cochran et al., 2006), acting as an accommodation or oblique rift zone
179 in earlier times. In some time-dependent plate reconstructions the Lomonosov
180 Ridge is typically fixed with respect to North America (e.g. (Gaina et al., 2002);
181 (Rowley and Lottes, 1988; Srivastava, 1985), though unique finite rotations
182 implying relative motion (to both Eurasia and North America) have been
183 suggested (e.g. (Brozena et al., 2003; Jackson and Gunnarsson, 1990). A more
184 definite interpretation and restoration is restricted due to missing or sparse
185 magnetic, heat flow and wide-angle seismic data across the region.

186

187 A ~26 Myr sedimentary hiatus between 44.4-18.2 Ma derived from ACEX drilling
188 results (Backman et al., 2008); (Sangiorgi et al., 2008) suggests a period of
189 stalled post-rift subsidence until the Miocene (O'Regan et al., 2008). This delayed
190 subsidence is at odds with the traditional post rifting subsidence models e.g.
191 McKenzie (1978). An explanation for the delay includes far field compressional
192 effects of the Paleocene-Eocene Eureka Orogeny (or more broadly, a plate
193 reorganization around C13 time), with a possible contribution of regional sea-
194 level change (O'Regan et al., 2008). Greenland's convergence with the region of
195 Ellesmere Island and Spitsbergen, has also been proposed to explain volcanism
196 in the Morris Jesup and Yermak plateau prior to C13 (~34 Ma) (Brozena et al.,
197 2003), as well as farther structural field effects within the Podvodnikov Basin
198 (sometimes referred to more broadly as the Makarov Basin) and Laptev Sea
199 (Gaina et al., 2015). Alternatively, a mechanism of poly-phase break up and
200 compositional change has also been invoked to explain post-rift uplift and later
201 rapid subsidence (Minakov and Podladchikov, 2012), at least in the central
202 region of the Lomonosov Ridge. Thus the distribution of the associated changing

203 stress regime related to the Eureka Orogeny, coupled with a potential
204 difference in crustal structure inherited from earlier rifting, as well as possible
205 mineral phase changes, demands more attention in the context of heat flow
206 observations.

207

208 The nature of the underlying crust in the Amerasia Basin, as well as timing and
209 kinematics of opening and formation of these features are still widely debated.
210 The prevailing “wind-shield wiper” model for the Amerasia Basin implies a broad
211 counter-clockwise motion of the continental terranes of the North Slope of
212 Alaska, Chukotka and the Chukchi Plateau, away from the Canadian Arctic
213 Islands sometime in the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous (e.g. (Alvey et al., 2008;
214 Grantz et al., 2011) (Figure 2). A related strike-slip margin has been proposed
215 along the Lomonosov Ridge (Cochran et al., 2006), or possibly within the Alpha
216 Mendeleev Ridge, although numerous variants and alternative regional models
217 exist (e.g. (Miller et al., 2006); (Shephard et al., 2013).

218

219 The Alpha-Mendeleev Ridge has been variably considered as underlain by
220 oceanic or continental basement, with a component highly intruded by
221 magmatism related to High Arctic Large Igneous Province (HALIP) activity from
222 around 121 Ma (e.g. (Døssing et al., 2013); (Jokat, 2003). The role of a plume in
223 this event, and whether it was contemporaneous with opening in the Amerasia
224 Basin is unclear. The Makarov and Podvodnikov basins, at least in part, are
225 thought to be underlain by oceanic crust, though reported opening timings are
226 variable, including Cretaceous or Paleogene ages (e.g. (Alvey et al., 2008);
227 (Lebedeva-Ivanova et al., 2011).

228

229 **1.3 Surface heat flow**

230

231 In the absence of significant advective fluid transport, surface heat flow provides
232 information on the conductive conditions in the underlying sediments,
233 lithosphere and mantle. Heat flow is essentially the product of the vertical
234 gradient of temperature and the thermal conductivity of the geological material.
235 Typical steady state conductive heat flow measurements derived from the

236 oceans are thought to be primarily a consequence of the age of the lithosphere,
237 with sediment thickness providing a minor contribution (Stein and Stein, 1994).
238 Regionally, oceanic heat flow can also be used to assess hydrocarbon potential,
239 permafrost distribution and the presence of gas hydrates (e.g. Lachenbruch et al.,
240 1982; (Moore and Pitman, 2011); (Lachenbruch et al., 1982; Stranne et al., 2016).
241 Oceanic heat flow may also explain the formation of vertically homogenous deep-
242 water bottom layers, as suggested for the Amundsen Basin near Greenland
243 (Björk and Winsor, 2006).

244

245 Oceanic heat flow measurements are highest at mid-ocean ridges and decrease
246 with increasing age of the lithosphere, or increasing distance from the ridge (e.g.
247 (Von Herzen and Uyeda, 1963). On average, the heat flow from oceanic
248 lithosphere < 10 Myrs in age is greater than ~ 100 mW/m², decaying rapidly until
249 flattening for lithospheric ages > 50 Myrs to around 50 mW/m² (Parsons and
250 Sclater, 1977). Alternative models to describe this seafloor age-heat flow (as well
251 as depth) relationship have been proposed, including the plate models of
252 (Parsons and Sclater, 1977) and (Stein and Stein, 1992), and half space cooling
253 models. For our purposes, the heat flow predictions between alternative models
254 are largely similar for seafloor ages less than ~ 55 Ma, although global
255 observations for these young ages can vary significantly due to hydrothermal
256 circulation (Lister, 1972). In addition to lithospheric age, lateral variations in
257 oceanic heat flow may be related to horizontal variations in basement
258 topography, sediment thickness (including radiogenic heat production and
259 sedimentation rate), serpentinization processes, as well as shear heating, small-
260 scale convection and mantle plumes (e.g. Hasterok et al., 2011; (Hasterok et al.,
261 2011; Stein and Stein, 1992). Indeed, even the relationship between heat flow
262 and sites of mantle plume-related hotspots (i.e. related to elevated
263 sublithospheric thermal anomalies) such as Hawaii, Reunion or Iceland is not
264 straightforward, and heat flow can be substantially scattered and/or lower than
265 expected (e.g. Harris and McNutt, 2007; Stein and Stein, 2003).

266

267 For the GDH1 model (Stein and Stein, 1992), heat flow $q(t)$ for oceanic
268 lithosphere with an age (t) less than 55 Ma is described by the equation:

269

$$q(t) = 510 t^{(-1/2)}$$

270

271 While average global oceanic heat flow is around 101 mW/m², continental
272 material is approximately 65 mW/m² (Pollack et al., 1993). Influences such as
273 the last orogenic or rifting event, erosion history, as well as the radioactive
274 content and composition of the basement will dominate the magnitude of heat
275 flow (Sclater et al., 1980).

276

277 Although numerous models exist to predict heat flow as a function of time in
278 extended continental crust, McKenzie's (1978) uniform extension model is the
279 simplest and most widely applied. It is based on a set of simplifying assumptions
280 which stipulate that i) stretching of the crust and lithosphere is uniform with
281 depth, ii) stretching occurs instantaneously, iii) stretching is by pure shear (i.e.
282 there is no depth dependent offset in the development of the rift zone), iv) airy
283 isostasy is maintained throughout rift evolution, v) there is no radiogenic heat
284 production, vi) heat flow is conductive and operates in a single dimension, and
285 vii) the basal lithospheric temperature remains constant (Allen and Allen, 2005).

286

287 In McKenzie's model, both the surface heat flow and thermally controlled
288 subsidence are dependent upon the amount of crustal thinning, known as the
289 stretching factor (β). In the uniform extension model, β is the same for the crust
290 and sub-crustal lithosphere. The evolution of surface heat flow through time is
291 described by:

$$q = \frac{KT_m}{y_L} \left[1 + \frac{2\beta}{\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{\beta}\right) e^{-t/\tau} \right]$$

292

293

294 where q is the heat flow (mW/m²), K is the thermal conductivity (mW/K), T_m is
295 the basal temperature of the lithosphere, y_L is the initial lithospheric thickness, t
296 is the time since rifting (Ma), and τ is the thermal time constant of the
297 lithosphere defined as:

298

299
$$\tau = y_L^2 / \pi^2 \kappa$$

300

301 with κ being the thermal diffusivity (m/Myr).

302

303 **1.4 Existing heat flow measurements**

304

305 Relatively sparse measurements of marine heat flow exist in the Arctic Ocean,
306 including both on the shelves and from the abyssal plains (Figure 3). For the
307 older Amerasia Basin, including Alpha Ridge, heat flow measurements are
308 limited but are generally in the order of approximately 50-60 mW/m² (e.g.
309 (Taylor et al., 1986). For the Eurasia Basin, an analysis of the World Heat Flow
310 Database (Gosnold and Panda, 2002; (Gosnold, 2002; Pollack et al., 1993) reveals
311 a few measurements derived from the mid-oceanic Gakkel Ridge and Nansen
312 Basin, but does not identify any existing heat flow measurements in the
313 Amundsen Basin north of Greenland. An average heat flow of 80 mW/m² for the
314 Amundsen Basin was implied based on 15 measurements collected during the
315 RV Polarstern cruises ARK VI, ARK XVI and ARK XVII (Björk and Winsor, 2006).
316 However, a study by (Urlaub et al., 2009) with measurements located further to
317 the east provided heat flow estimates of 104-127 mW/m² for the Amundsen
318 Basin near the North Pole (diamond symbols, Figure 3). The authors noted that
319 given the age of the ocean crust, this was over double the magnitude predicted
320 by the GDH1 thermal cooling model, and was not readily explainable by
321 sediment, crustal or lithospheric scale effects.

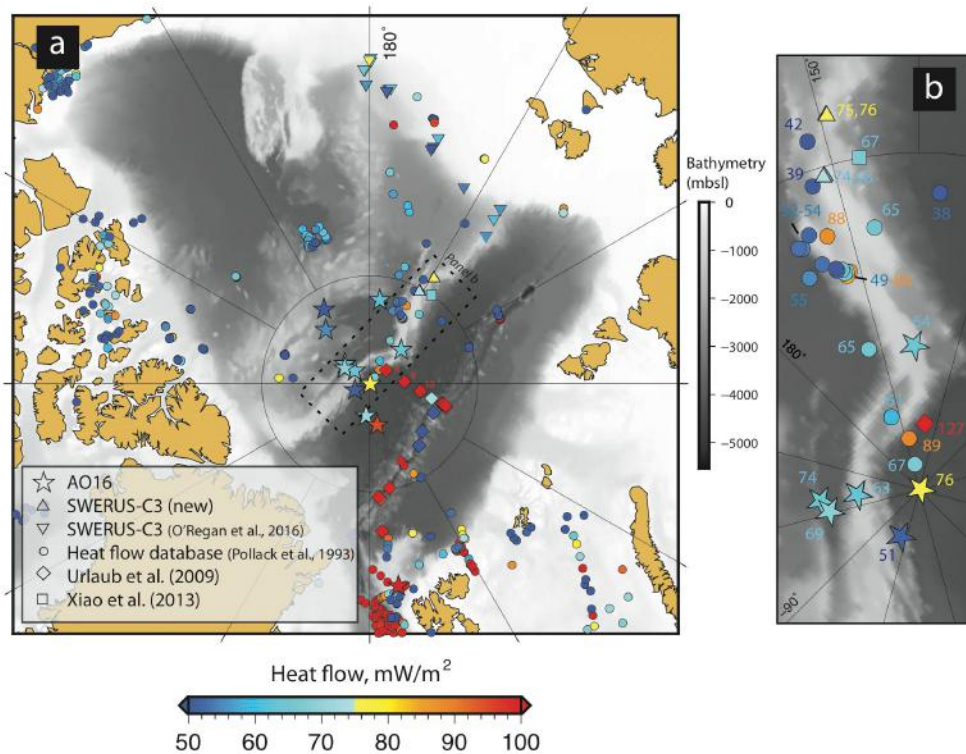
322

323 As a fragment of rifted continental lithosphere, both submerged and with
324 variable sedimentary cover, calculated heat flow from the Lomonosov Ridge is
325 expected to depart from those of the Amundsen Basin. Indeed, existing
326 measurements of heat flow from the Lomonosov Ridge show large heterogeneity
327 (Figure 3). Those in the database include (Lubimova et al., 1973), and contain
328 values from the Lomonosov Ridge (including some possibly near the foot) in the
329 order of 39-89 mW/m². A single site from the Lomonosov Ridge with heat flow of
330 64-67 mW/m² (two values depending on methodology) was recently reported by

331 (Xiao et al., 2013), in the range derived from the LOREX expedition (60-65
332 mW/m², Langseth et al., 1990; (Langseth et al., 1990; Sweeney et al., 1982).
333 (O'Regan et al., 2008) noted that surface heat flow in the range of 60-70 mW/m²
334 was slightly higher (by 10-20 mW/m²) when compared to predictions made
335 using McKenzie's uniform extension model, assuming moderate to large
336 stretching factors (1.1-1.8), given the time since rifting. However, no attempt was
337 made to reconcile these observations given possible inputs from radiogenic heat
338 production in the crust.

339

340 To date, no attempt has been made to integrate and explain observations on
341 surface heat flow in the Amundsen Basin with those on the adjacent Lomonosov
342 Ridge and the Amerasia Basin. Here we integrate multiple data-sets, and
343 combine these with new measurements of surface heat flow to investigate the
344 thermal state of the present-day North Pole region. The fundamental questions
345 driving this effort include: are the Amundsen Basin and/or surrounding regions
346 anomalously warm? Are the reportedly high oceanic heat flow values in the
347 Amundsen Basin (Urlaub et al., 2009) consistent across the basin? Furthermore,
348 is there any evidence of elevated surface heat flow values for the adjacent
349 Lomonosov Ridge and older Amerasia Basin, and do these patterns in surface
350 heat flow point to a broader mantle-sourced thermal and/or compositional
351 anomaly?



352
 353 **Figure 3.** a. Overview of published and new Arctic heat flow studies coloured by
 354 heat flow magnitude. Inset legend for symbology; AO16 (presented here),
 355 SWERUS-C3 (O'Regan et al., 2016) and new SWERUS-C3 locations (presented
 356 here), World Heat Flow Database (sourced from [http://www.datapages.com/gis-](http://www.datapages.com/gis-map-publishing-program/gis-open-files/global-framework/global-heat-flow-database)
 357 [map-publishing-program/gis-open-files/global-framework/global-heat-flow-](http://www.datapages.com/gis-map-publishing-program/gis-open-files/global-framework/global-heat-flow-database)
 358 [database](http://www.datapages.com/gis-map-publishing-program/gis-open-files/global-framework/global-heat-flow-database), accessed May 2017), study of (Urlaub et al., 2009) (their sites 8, 9 and
 359 10 labelled) and a single site from (Xiao et al., 2013). b. Zoom into the central
 360 Lomonosov Ridge region with reported heat flow values shown.

361

362 2. Methods:

363

364 The majority of the new surface heat flow measurements presented here were
 365 taken during the AO16 expedition in August-September 2016, involving the
 366 icebreakers *Oden* and *Louis S. St-Laurent*. An additional new four measurements
 367 are reported from the Lomonosov Ridge (north of 84°N), and were collected
 368 during the 2014 SWERUS-C3 expedition on the Swedish icebreaker *Oden*. Other
 369 data collected on SWERUS-C3 along the East Siberian continental margin was
 370 previously published by O'Regan et al. (2016).

371

372 During A016, sediment coring was successfully undertaken at 13 sites across the
373 Eurasia and Amerasia basins (Table 1). A piston (with trigger weight) and/or
374 gravity corer was used depending on bathymetric and sedimentary conditions.
375 The recovery for the three 6 m gravity cores, two 12 m piston cores and
376 remaining 9 m piston cores were on average 59%, 84%, and 82 %.

377

378 For context, we note that in addition to the sediment coring component, a
379 geophysical program was included in A016. This comprised high resolution
380 multibeam bathymetric mapping, chirp sub-bottom profiling, water column
381 imaging, and reflection and refraction seismics. The seismic components along
382 with dredging were undertaken as part of Canada's extended continental shelf
383 claim under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

384

385 **Table 1.** Summary of AO16 core location information and the additional sites from SWERUS-C3 expedition. PC = piston core, GC =
 386 gravity core. Trigger weight cores are not listed.
 387 AO16-2-PC1, AO16-6-PC1 and AO16-13-PC1 were used for the in situ oceanic heat flow measurements from the Amundsen Basin
 388 discussed here. The location of all cores are shown on the map in Figure 1.

Core Label	Location	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Water depth (m)	Recovered length (m)
AO16-1-GC1	Yermak Plateau	80.5532	8.0520	855	3.55
AO16-2-PC1	Amundsen Basin	88.5022	-6.6195	4353	9.45
AO16-3-PC1	Foot of Lomonosov Ridge	89.2530	-66.6097	3777	7.74
AO16-4-PC1	Marvin Spur	88.5290	-128.5048	3936	7.83
AO16-5-GC1#	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	89.0813	-130.6800	1249	3.45
AO16-5-PC1#	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	89.0780	-130.5470	1253	6.16
AO16-6-PC1#	North Pole (Amundsen Basin)	89.9777	71.3810	4233	7.83
AO16-7-PC1	Marvin Spur	88.6332	-121.4477	3941	8.31
AO16-8-GC1	Alpha Ridge	86.7795	-140.6433	2620	3.59
AO16-9-PC1	Alpha Ridge	85.9557	-148.3258	2212	7.52
AO16-10-PC1*	Nautilus Basin	82.3980	-141.2450	2872	7.96
AO16-11-PC1	Makarov Basin	86.0993	173.1877	3066	7.98
AO16-12-PC1	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	87.8577	136.9875	1269	5.19
AO16-13-PC1#	Amundsen Basin	88.0573	10.1850	4367	10.58
SWERUS-32-GC1	Lomonosov Ridge	85.132313	151.569013	834	2.79
SWERUS-32-GC2	Lomonosov Ridge	85.152613	151.664309	828	2.57
SWERUS-33-GC1	Lomonosov Ridge	84.274873	148.735319	886	3.63
SWERUS-33-PC1	Lomonosov Ridge	84.282038	148.646753	888	6.25

389 * AO16-10-PC was not included the in-situ heat flow analysis

390 # AO16-5-PC1, AO16-5-GC1, AO16-6-PC1 and AO16-13-PC1 were not split for thermal properties onboard Oden.

391

392

393 **2.1 In-situ heat flow and geothermal gradient measurements.**

394

395 All of the piston and gravity cores (with the exception of AO16-10-PC1) were
396 rigged with miniature temperature probes of 16 cm in length by 1.5 cm diameter
397 (ANTARES; Pfender and Villinger, 2002), in an attempt to collect in situ
398 temperature data. These were attached to the outside of the core barrel (Figure
399 4). For each deployment, between 4 to 6 probes were attached along the length
400 of the barrel, with a separation of 0.75 - 2 m between each probe. Sensor and
401 data recovery meant that between 3-5 probes at each site were used in the final
402 analysis (Table 2), with a single site only having 2 reliable in-situ temperature
403 readings. The locations of the sensors were recorded before and after
404 deployment in case of any change in position. To avoid effects from frictional
405 heating related to core penetration, the probes were placed inside holders within
406 steel fins located 10 cm away from the core barrel (Figure 4). Measurements
407 were recorded with a 1s sampling interval and have a resolution of 0.001°C. Of
408 the 13 coring sites, only one locality (AO16-10-PC1) did not retrieve in-situ
409 temperature measurements.

410

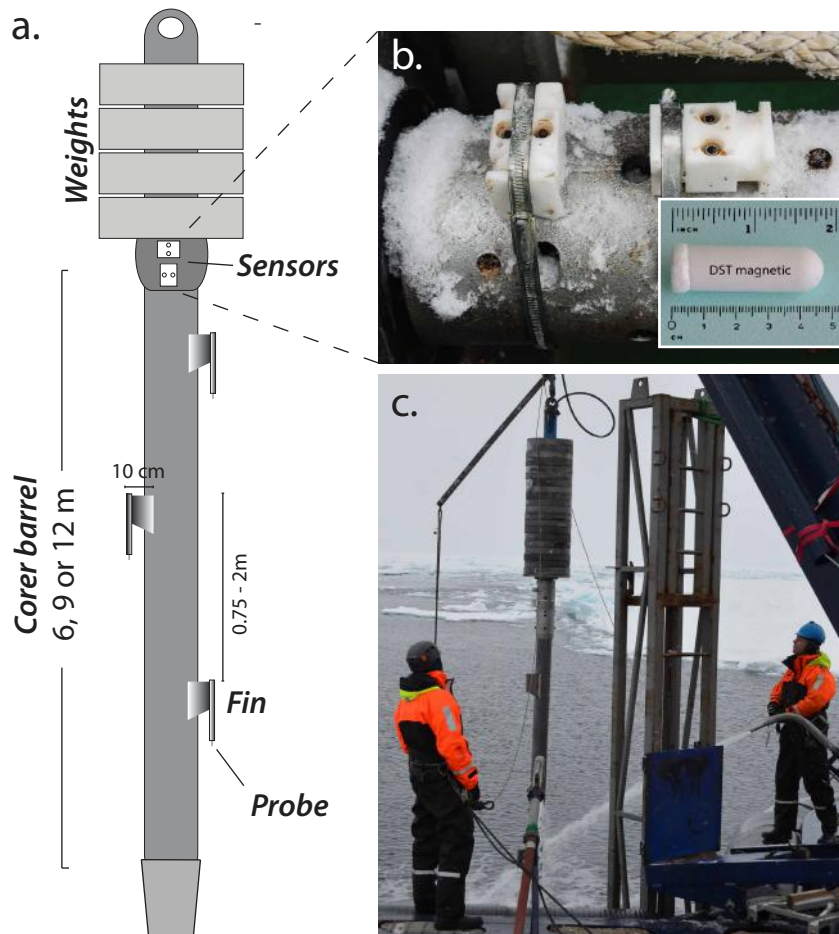


Figure 4. a.

411

412 Illustration of the corer setup showing fins with temperature probes and the
 413 orientation sensors. The gravity corer was rigged for 6 m length and the piston
 414 corer for either 9 m or 12 m. ANTARES temperature probes were mounted in
 415 stainless steel fins ensuring a 10 cm distance from the core barrel (inset: close up
 416 of probe from Star Oddi, www.star-oddi.com). b. Photo of the setup of the two
 417 DST magnetic sensors, which were placed at the top of the core barrel below the
 418 weights, one in a vertical and one in a horizontal orientation (inset – actual
 419 sensor image from Star Oddi, www.star-oddi.com). c. Photo of top half of piston
 420 corer at aft deck of *Oden* during recovery.

421

422 After penetration, the corer remained within the sediment for 1.5-5 minutes
 423 (depending on water depth, drift speed and direction of the ship) to allow for
 424 thermal equilibration within the sediments. To constrain the penetration angle
 425 of the corer and/or any subsequent motions within the sediment, two
 426 orientation sensors (Star-Oddi DST magnetic) were placed near the top of the

427 core barrel. With a 1s sampling rate, these sensors measure temperature,
428 pressure/depth, compass heading, the xyz components of tilt, and ambient
429 magnetic inclination and field strength. A tilt corrected temperature gradient
430 (T_{grad_tilt}) in (°C/km) is based on the following;

431

$$432 \quad T_{grad_tilt} = \frac{T_{grad}}{\cos(\alpha)}$$

433

434 In which α is the average angle of penetration and T_{grad} is the uncorrected
435 temperature gradient (°C/km).

436

437 An “extrapolated gradient” method was used in order to calculate the geothermal
438 gradients. Whereby a linear regression of temperature (T) versus 1/t (whereby t
439 is time since initial sediment penetration) is used to acquire the equilibrated
440 temperature of the sensor. When 1/t approaches 0 it is assumed that true in-situ
441 temperature is obtained. The in-situ temperature gradient is calculated from the
442 extrapolated temperatures for each sensor (Pfender and Villinger, 2002).

443

444 Heat flow q (Wm^{-2}) was calculated with Fourier’s Law:

445

$$446 \quad q = \lambda \frac{dT}{dz} = \lambda T_{grad_tilt}$$

447

448 In which λ is the harmonic mean of thermal conductivity, and $\frac{dT}{dz}$ is the
449 geothermal gradient. Uncertainty estimates are also provided based on the
450 standard error of the regression for the geothermal gradient (Table 4).

451

452 **2.2 Thermal properties – conductivity, diffusivity and specific heat capacity**

453

454 Sediment physical and thermal property measurements were performed on the
455 cores typically 24-48 hours after core retrieval, and upon equilibration to room
456 temperature ($\sim 17^{\circ}C$). The measurements of bulk density (from gamma ray), p-
457 wave velocity, and magnetic susceptibility were taken in 1 cm increments on the
458 unsplit cores using a Geotek Multi-Sensor Core Logger (MSCL).

459

460 Once split, laboratory measurements of thermal properties (thermal
461 conductivity, diffusivity and specific heat capacity) were performed on the cores
462 with a Hot Disk TPS 500 Thermal Constants Analyzer. 1-sided tests on 8 cores
463 were performed onboard using a backing material of styrofoam due to its low
464 and constrained thermal conductivity (determined during tests at beginning of
465 cruise). A 100 g weight was placed on top of the styrofoam, and during all
466 subsequent measurements to ensure a good contact between the sensor and the
467 saturated sediment surface. Measurements were conducted using an 80 s
468 heating period with a power of 0.5 watts. The intervals of thermal measurements
469 were on average 30 cm, or upon an otherwise significant change in sediment
470 lithology. A total of 376 measurements were performed shipboard. Due to time
471 restrictions, cores A016-11-PC1, A016-6-PC1 and A016-13-PC1 were measured
472 onshore at Stockholm University 10 months after completion of the cruise.

473

474 We also include unpublished results from 4 sites on the Lomonosov Ridge
475 acquired during the SWERUS-C3 cruise (Table 1 and 4). These heat flow
476 measurements were generated with the same methodology as above, also
477 described in (O'Regan et al., 2016).

478

479 In order to compare to the expected thermal cooling models for oceanic
480 lithosphere, the ages of the three Amundsen Basin sites were determined from
481 the magnetic anomaly record. Variations in past geomagnetic fields are recorded
482 by changes in normal and reverse magnetic polarity in the seafloor, and when
483 combined with a timescale calibrated with numerical ages (e.g. (Gee and Kent,
484 2007), provide key constraints on ocean basin reconstructions (Seton et al.,
485 2012). Several catalogues of magnetic anomaly picks, and their continuations to
486 isochrons, exist for the Amundsen and Nansen basins including those by
487 (Brozena et al., 2003) and (Gaina et al., 2002). The three new oceanic heat flow
488 sites in the Amundsen Basin are located on some of the oldest seafloor in the
489 Eurasia Basin; A016-2 near C24y (~53 Ma), A016-6 near 25y (~56 Ma) and
490 A016-13 near C21y (~48 Ma).

491

492 3. Results

493

494 The in-situ temperature measurements, and derived geothermal gradients from
495 the AO16 sites are shown in Figures 5-7, with further details and calculations of
496 heat flow in Tables 2 and 3. The new values for the Lomonosov Ridge gathered
497 during the *SWERUS-C3* cruise are shown in Table 4. Figure 8 shows depth versus
498 thermal conductivity and density for each of the cores. The bulk density is
499 controlled by the porosity, mineralogy and grain size of the sediment, which also
500 largely determines the thermal conductivity of the sediments. Therefore, depth
501 dependent thermal conductivity measurements closely reflect changes in bulk
502 density, with higher density generally corresponding to higher thermal
503 conductivity (Figure 8).

504

505 The initial temperature-time peak (Figures 5-7, left panels), related to sediment
506 penetration in all AO16 cores is pronounced. The exception is core AO16-1-GC1,
507 which was deployed with a lower winch speed, thus slower penetration. The
508 core residence time in the sediment is usually in the order of 250 seconds, except
509 for AO16-7-PC1 and AO16-11-PC1, which were just over 50 seconds due to
510 operational and navigational limitations.

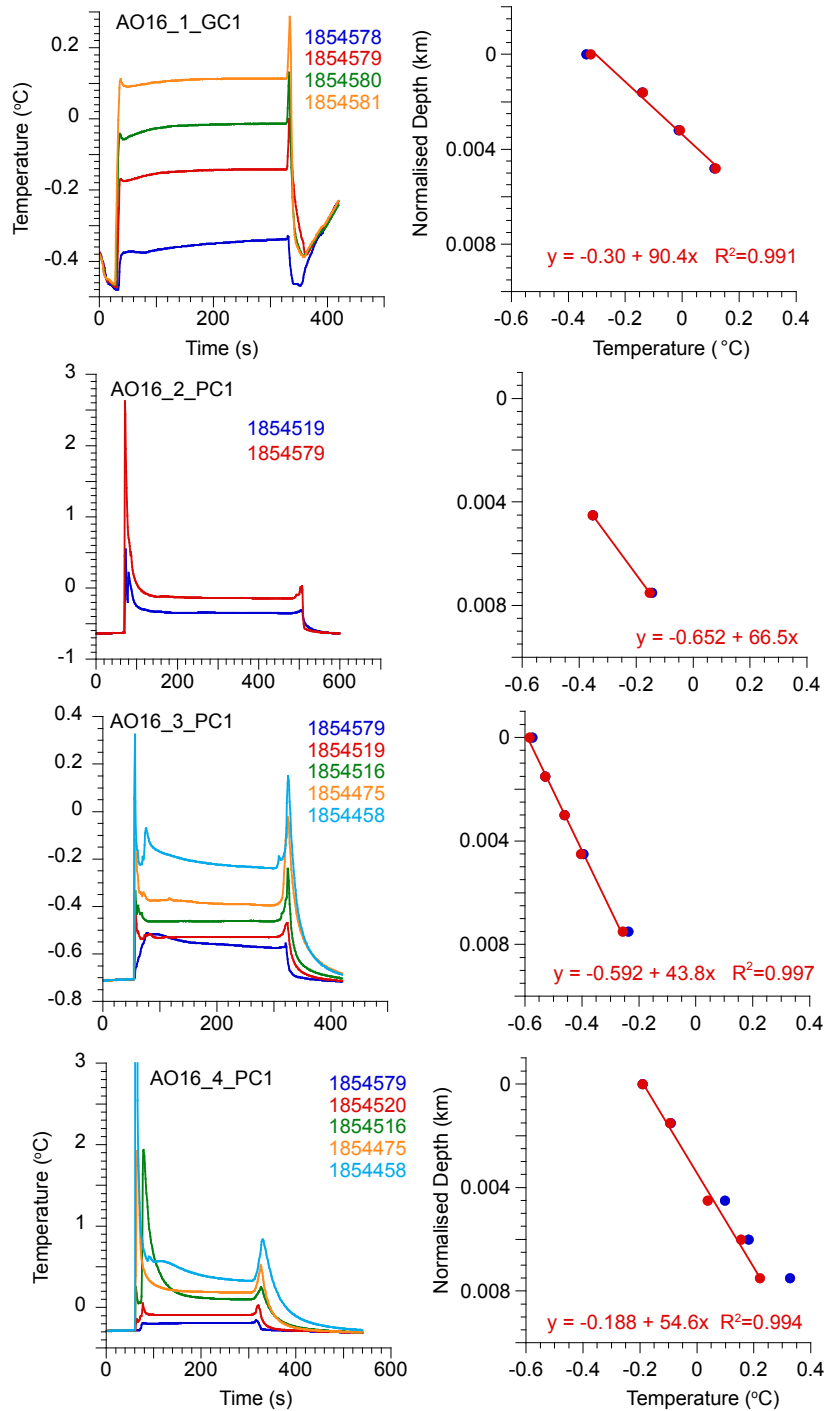
511

512 For the three sites (AO16-2-PC1, -6-PC1 and -13-PC1) clearly located on oceanic
513 crust in the Amundsen Basin, measured heat flow is in the order of 71-95
514 mW/m². For the highest Amundsen Basin measurement (AO16-13PC1), heat
515 flow is up to 21 mW/m² greater than expected based on an oceanic cooling
516 model. Averaged thermal conductivity for these 3 sites range from 1.07-1.26
517 W/mK.

518

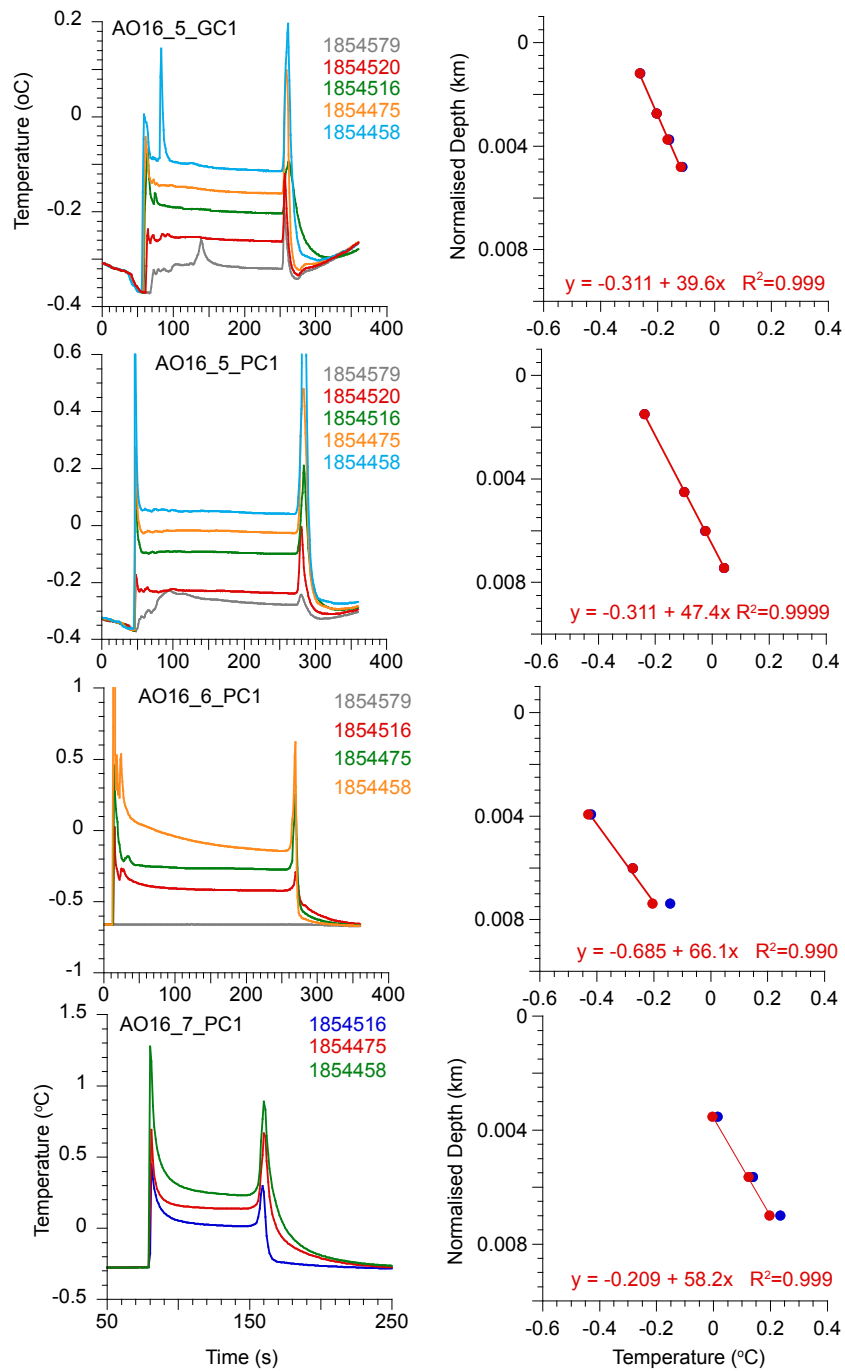
519 For the sites located on the central Lomonosov Ridge (AO16-5-PC1, -5-GC1, -
520 12PC1) heat flow is 53-64 mW/m², and near the foot of the Ridge or on the
521 Marvin Spur (AO16-3-PC1, -4-PC1 and -7-PC1) is 51-69 mW/m². For the (new)
522 *SWERUS-C3* sites (Table 4) heat flow was a little higher than the AO16 Ridge
523 sites, ranging from 68-76 mW/m². The Amerasia Basin sites (Alpha Ridge and
524 Makarov Basin; AO16-8PC1, -9PC1 and -11-PC1) provide heat flow values of 49-

525 62 mW/m², and at the Yermak Plateau the highest recorded heat flow from the
 526 expedition was recorded, 105 mW/m².
 527



528
 529 **Figure 5:** Temperature measurements (left panel) from individual temperature
 530 loggers at coring sites 1 to 4, and the derived geothermal gradients (right panel).

531 Only sensors that exhibit frictional warming upon penetration are used in the
532 calculation of the geothermal gradients. Piston cores generally exhibit a much
533 larger frictional heating pulse upon penetration than the gravity cores.
534 Geothermal gradients are mostly derived from the calculated equilibrated
535 temperature for each sensor (red) but occasionally are based on the measured
536 temperature prior to pull out (blue) (A016-12-PC1).
537

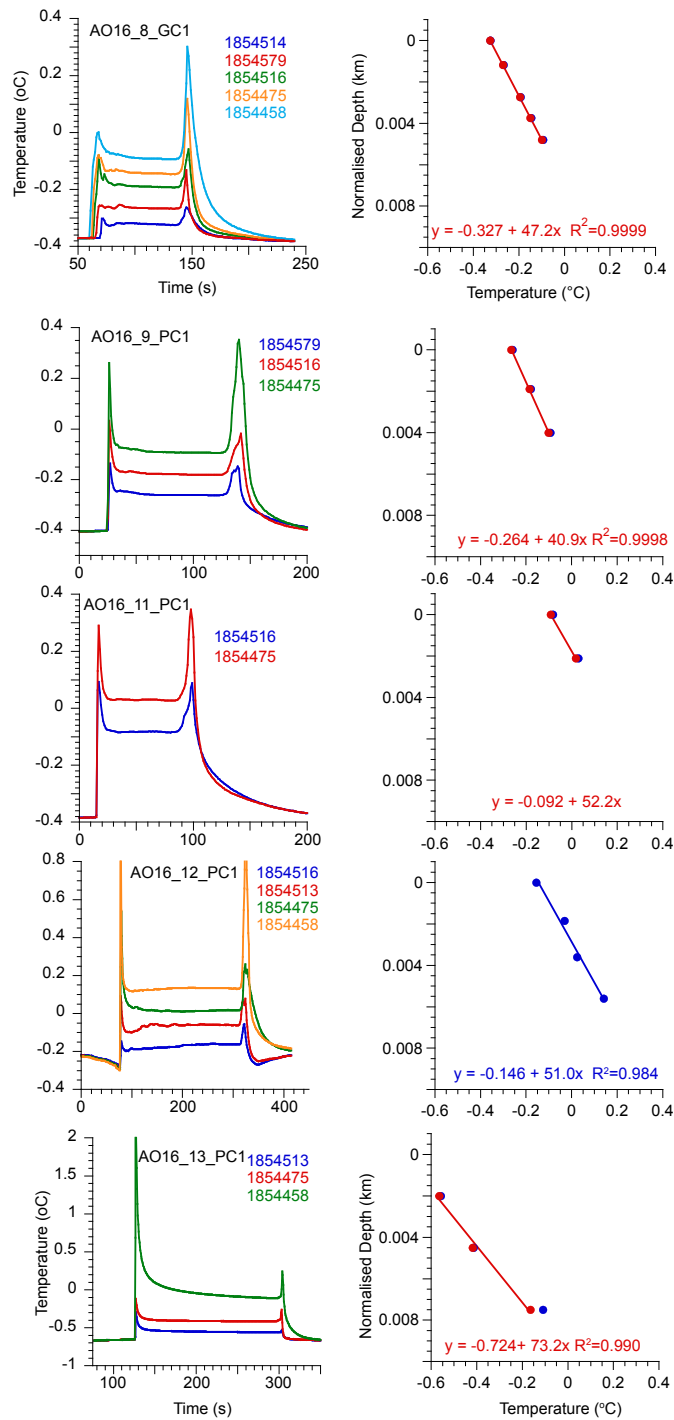


538

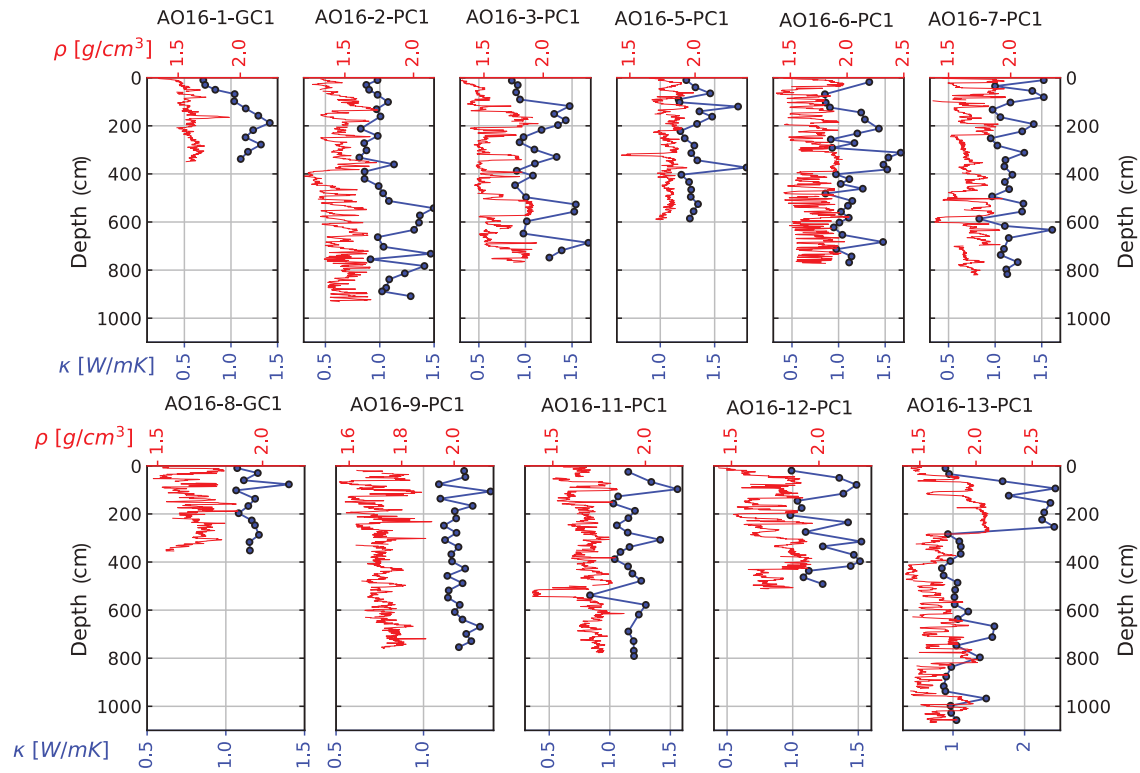
539 **Figure 6:** Temperature measurements (left panel) from individual temperature
 540 loggers at coring sites 5 to 7, and the derived geothermal gradients (right panel).
 541 Description as in Figure 5.

542

543



544
 545 **Figure 7:** Temperature measurements (left panel) from individual temperature
 546 loggers at coring sites 8 to 13, and the derived geothermal gradients (right
 547 panel). Description as in Figure 5.



548

549 **Figure 8.** Thermal conductivity (kappa, blue) and density (rho, dashed red) plots for all measured AO16 cores. In case of multiple
 550 measurements at a single depth in a single core the arithmetic mean is shown instead of individual measurements. Note slightly different
 551 scales.

552 **Table 2.** Summary of thermal properties and heat flow results from A016 sites. *Cores A016-4PC1 and 5PC1 were not split

Core Label	Location	Measurements from in-situ temperature probes						Measurements from split cores				
		No. sensors used	Geothermal gradient (°C/km)	Error (±°C/km)	R ²	Tilt (°)	Tilt corrected gradient (°C/km)	Average κ (W/mK)	St Dev. σ (W/mK)	No. of measurements	Heat flow (mW/m ²)	Error (mW/m ²)
A016-1GC1	Yermak Plateau	4	90.4	6.1	0.9909	1.0	90.4	1.17	0.16	13	105	7.1
A016-2PC1	Amundsen Basin	2	66.5	n/a	n/a	4.2	66.7	1.07	0.20	32	71	n/a
A016-3PC1	Foot of Lomonosov Ridge	5	43.8	1.3	0.9973	0.9	43.8	1.16	0.25	25	51	1.5
A016-4PC1*	Marvin Spur	5	54.6	2.5	0.9936	0.4	54.6	1.18	From 7PC1		64	3.0
A016-5GC1*	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	4	39.6	1.0	0.9987	3.0	39.7	1.33	From 5PC1		53	1.4
A016-5PC1	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	4	47.4	0.4	0.9999	0.4	47.4	1.33	0.16	22	63	0.5
A016-6PC1	North Pole (Amundsen Basin)	3	66.1	6.6	0.9900	4.1	66.2	1.15	0.22	31	76	7.6
A016-7PC1	Marvin Spur	3	58.2	1.6	0.9993	0.7	58.2	1.18	0.19	29	69	1.8
A016-8GC1	Alpha Ridge	5	47.2	0.2	0.9999	3.5	47.3	1.16	0.09	13	55	0.2
A016-9PC1	Alpha Ridge	3	40.9	0.6	0.9998	1.7	40.9	1.20	0.07	26	49	0.7
A016-11PC1	Makarov Basin	2	52.2	n/a	n/a	2.7	52.3	1.18	0.14	23	62	n/a
A016-12PC1	Crest of Lomonosov Ridge	4	51.0	4.6	0.9989	0.6	51.0	1.26	0.20	17	64	5.8
A016-13-PC1	Amundsen Basin	3	73.2	7.4	0.9900	4.1	73.4	1.29	0.50	34	95	9.6

553

554 **Table 3.** Comparison of three oceanic heat flow localities and estimates derived from half space cooling model (GDH1; (Stein and Stein, 1992))

Core Label	Heat flow (mW/m ²)	Error (mW/m ²)	Age of lithosphere (Myr)	Heat flow from GDH1 (mW/m ²)	Difference (mW/m ²)
A016-2GC1	71	n/a	53	70.0	1
A016-6PC1	76	7.6	53-56	70.0-68.2	6-7.8
A016-13PC1	95	9.6	47	73.6	21.4

556

557

558

559 **Table 4.** Additional measurements from SWERUS-C3 cruise from the southern Lomonosov Ridge (Siberian margin). *Cores not split.

Core Label	<i>Measurements from in-situ temperature probes</i>									<i>Measurements from split cores</i>				
	Lat. (°N)	Lon. (°E)	Water Depth (m)	No. Sensors used	Geothermal gradient (°C/km)	Error (±°C/km)	R ²	Tilt (°)	Tilt corrected gradient (°C/km)	Average κ (W/mK)	St Dev. σ (W/mK)	No. of measurements	Heat flow (mW/m ²)	Error (mW/m ²)
SWERUS-32-GC1*	85.1323 13	151.569 013	834	3	54.7	4.7	0.9930	8.5	55.3	1.22	0.12	from 32-GC2	68	7.1
SWERUS-32-GC2	85.1526 13	151.664 309	828	3	59.9	3.2	0.9970	5.3	60.2	1.22	0.12	8	74	n/a
SWERUS-33-GC1*	84.2748 73	148.735 319	886	4	60.7	4.1	0.9910	9.6	61.6	1.23	0.08	from 33-PC1	76	1.5
SWERUS-33-PC1	84.2820 38	148.646 753	888	5	60.7	1.9	0.9970	6.5	61.1	1.23	0.08	18	75	3.0

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574 **4. Discussion**

575

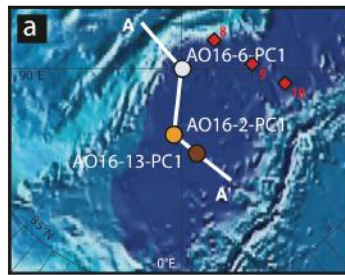
576 **4.1 Is the Amundsen Basin anomalously warm?**

577

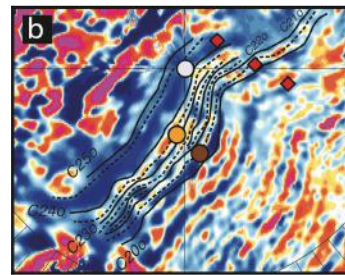
578 A study by (Urlaub et al., 2009) included a 450 km long seismic transect plus
579 heat flow measurements from the Amundsen Basin and Gakkel Ridge (Figure 3).
580 Along their profile, one heat flow measurement was derived from near the
581 Lomonosov Ridge (station 8, 127 mW/ m²; at foot of slope, near possible COB),
582 one from around 110 km further south (station 9, ~50 Ma age crust, ~2 km
583 sediments; 104-106 mW/m²), and another around 100 km further towards the
584 Gakkel Ridge (Station 10, ~43 Ma, ~1.5 km sediments; 109-112 mW/m²)
585 (locations shown in Figures 3 and 9). While using alternative methods and
586 setups to ours, their estimate for thermal conductivity (~1.3 W/mK) and
587 geothermal gradients (ranging 80-98 K/km for sites 8, 9 and 10), led to
588 significantly higher heat flow measurements than expected compared to the
589 GDH1 model. A correlation between heat flow with basement topography or
590 sediment thickness was not observed, serpentinization was ruled out based on
591 gravity modelling, and Moho topography at depths of 4-7 km below the seafloor
592 leading to elevated mantle geotherms were not favoured as an explanation.
593 Therefore the cause of the apparent elevated heat flow in this sector of the
594 Amundsen Basin remained unknown.

595

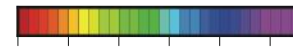
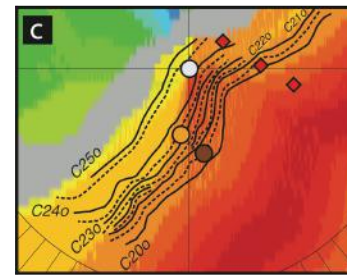
596 Surprisingly, results from our three stations in the Amundsen Basin do not
597 reveal any comparably abnormal warmth. In fact they agree quite well with
598 predictions from the GDH1 model (Table 3), arguably with the exception of site
599 A016-13PC1. This indicates significant variability in the thermal structure of the
600 Amundsen Basin, and that 'regionally' it does not appear to be anomalously
601 warm.



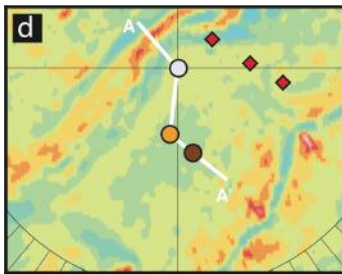
Bathymetry (m) – Jakobsson et al. (2009)



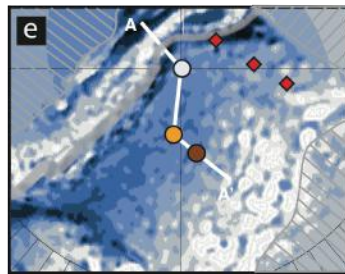
Magnetic anomaly (nT) – Gaina et al. (2011)



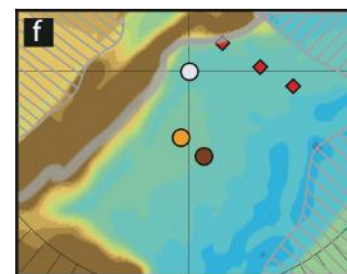
Age of Oceanic Lithosphere (Myr) – Seton et al. (2012)



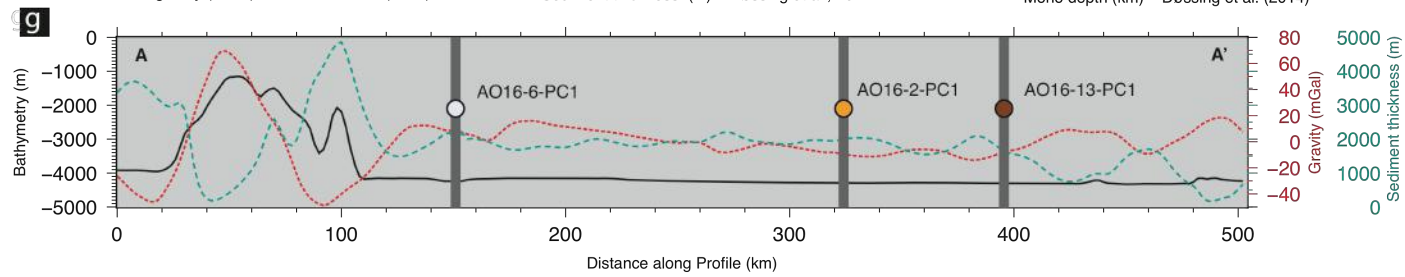
Free air gravity (mGal) – Andersen et al. (2010)



Sediment thickness (m) – Døssing et al., 2014



Moho depth (km) – Døssing et al. (2014)



603 **Figure 9.** Overview of geophysical datasets from the western Amundsen Basin with three AO16 in-situ heat flow sites as in Figure 1 as
604 circles, and three sites from Urlaub et al., (2009) as red diamonds. Panel a) bathymetry (Jakobsson et al., 2012), b) magnetic anomalies
605 (Gaina et al., 2011), c) oceanic agegrid from (Seton et al., 2012) (n.b. modified to reduce gridding artifact around 90°N), solid and dashed
606 lines show magnetic isochrons corresponding to C25 and C20 (o-old solid, and y-young dash) as derived from (Brozena et al., 2003), d)
607 free air gravity anomaly map (Danish National Space Centre; (Andersen et al., 2010)), e) predicted sedimentary thickness (Døssing et al.,
608 2014), f) predicted depth to Moho (from gravity modelling; (Døssing et al., 2014)). Hatched areas and thick grey line in e and f were
609 outside of the model domain/uncertain regions of (Døssing et al., 2014). Thick white line is location of transect in panel g. Panel g)
610 Extracted profiles from panels a, d and e.

611

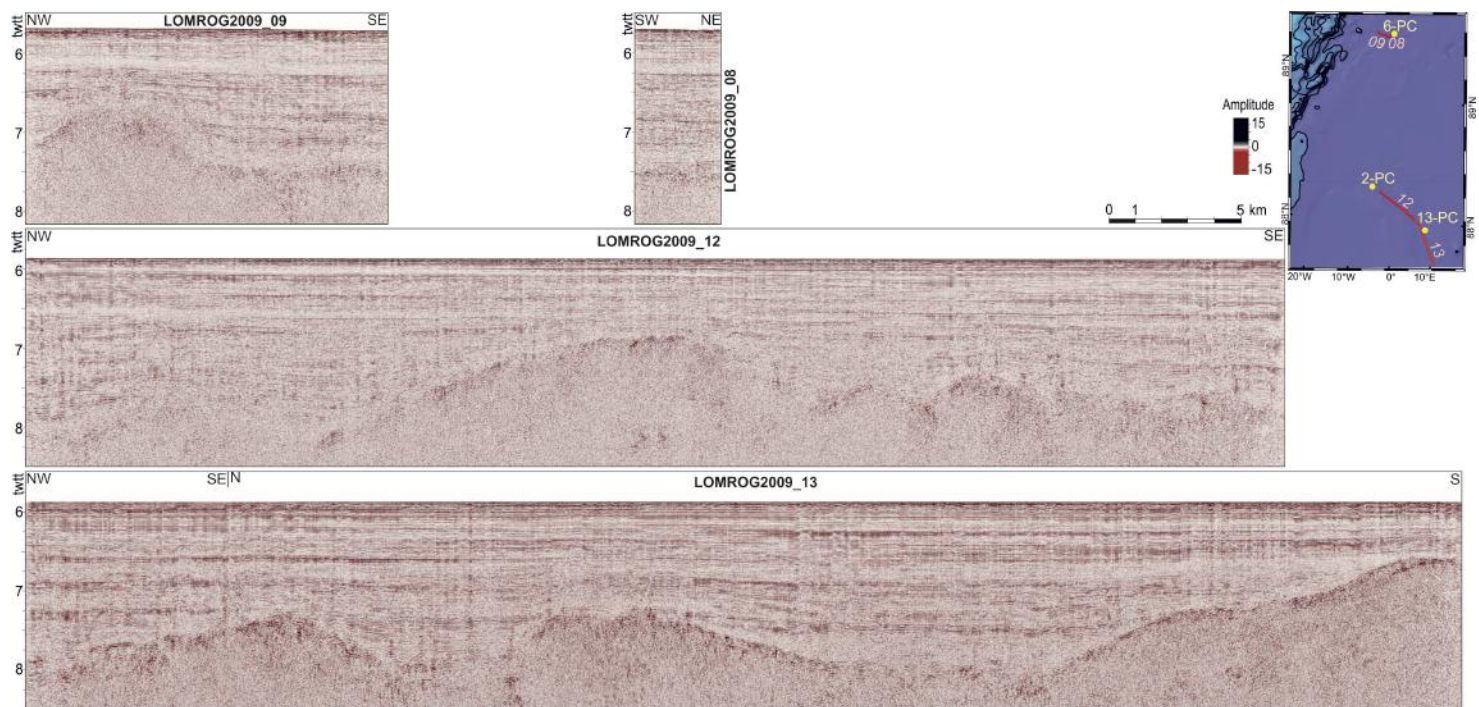
612 While lithospheric age is the dominant factor of oceanic heat flow, sediment
613 cover and basement topography can also exert an influence (Stein and Stein,
614 1992). However, a preliminary analysis of regional geophysical datasets for
615 sediment and crustal scale features (Figure 9) for this portion of the Amundsen
616 Basin does not reveal any obvious differences between our stations and those
617 from (Urlaub et al., 2009). Sedimentary cover in the central Amundsen Basin is in
618 the order of 2-2.9 km (based on sonobuoy data from (Jokat and Micksch, 2004)
619 and gravity modeling from (Urlaub et al., 2009). In the Amundsen Basin domain
620 (north of Greenland), 2 km thick sediments and basement depths in excess of
621 6 km were modelled (Døssing et al., 2014), which shallow towards the North
622 Pole to ~1.5 km and ~5.5 km respectively. It is worth noting that locally a broad
623 depocenter (referred to as the North Pole Submarine Fan; (Kristoffersen et al.,
624 2004)) with around 800 m of excess sediment coverage was predicted, and
625 corresponds with an anomalously deep basement depth and gravity low.
626 (Døssing et al., 2014) suggested this sub-rounded feature developed during the
627 Eureka compressional events related to the motion of Greenland in the
628 Paleocene-Eocene. The Fan area includes the three A016 Amundsen Basin sites.
629

630 The seismic reflection profiles shown in Figure 10 were acquired in the
631 Amundsen Basin during the 2009 expedition LOMROG II. This expedition was
632 organized as part of the Extended Continental Shelf project of the Kingdom of
633 Denmark. The seismic equipment was formed by 1 Sercel G and 1 Sercel GI gun
634 with a total fire pressure of 180 bar and total chamber volume of 605 cubic
635 inches. The streamer was a 250 m long Geometrics GeoEel with 4 to 5 active
636 sections. The shot interval was 12 s and sample rate was 1 ms. The seismic signal
637 was processed following a standard processing sequence using ProMax software.
638 Despite the apparent regular morphology of the seafloor, the morphology of the
639 basement of Amundsen Basin is very irregular (Figure 10). Its depth varies
640 between 6.5 and 8.5 s twtt (two-way travel time) below sea-level, i.e. 1 to 2.7 s
641 twtt below seafloor. Thus, the thickness of the sedimentary cover of Amundsen
642 Basin is very irregular, reaching ca. 2.5 s twtt in the deepest depressions of the
643 basement (Figure 10). Such deviations in depth to basement (we cannot

644 comment on crustal thickness) should be kept in mind in accounting for heat
645 flow variability, but we do not think it can account for the high heat flow
646 observations of (Urlaub et al., 2009).

647

648 While average global oceanic crustal thickness is around 6-7 km, the degree of
649 mantle melting and crustal production, as well as ridge axis and off-axis
650 morphology, in ultra slow end-members such as the Gakkel Ridge, is thought to
651 be lower than for their faster counterparts (Chen, 1992). At slow spreading rates
652 the amount of heat lost by conduction is significant and leads to a reduction in
653 the amount of melt by mantle decompression (Bown and White, 1994). The
654 thickness of crust formed at slow spreading centers is also more sensitive to
655 changes in temperature (Su et al., 1994), and changes in bulk composition and
656 rare element concentrations have also been noted for slow spreading systems
657 (Bown and White, 1994). Observations and modelling of the youngest crust
658 surrounding the Gakkel Ridge reveals a highly heterogenous nature and complex
659 tectonic history (e.g. Nikishin et al., In Press; Schmidt-Aursch and Jokat, 2016).
660 Early seismic refraction experiments in the western portion of the Amundsen
661 Basin detail a range of crustal thicknesses, including those thinner than expected
662 (e.g. 2-3 km; (Duckworth et al., 1982); (Jackson et al., 1982)). Based on gravity
663 modelling, (Weigelt and Jokat, 2001) predicted 5-6 km thick crust in the
664 Amundsen Basin. It is thus possible that variations in mantle temperatures and
665 spreading rates along strike of the Gakkel Ridge in may explain a difference in
666 heat flow from the western (north of Greenland) and central Amundsen Basin
667 regions, however whether it can account for results nearly double that from
668 GDH1 is unclear.



669

670 **Figure 10.** Seismic reflection profiles in the Amundsen Basin acquired during LOMROG II expedition under the framework of the
 671 Extended Continental Shelf project of the Kingdom of Denmark. Depth in two-way travel-time (twtt). Profiles LOMROG2009-08 & -09
 672 are located about 1-2 km and 5 km from A016-6PC1. Seismic line LOMROG2009-12 is located about 11 km from A016-2PC1. Seismic
 673 profile LOMROG2009-13 is located about 800 m from A016-13PC1. See inset map for location.

674

675 The results of our new heat flow measurements in the Amundsen Basin, 7°W-
676 71°E north of Greenland, do not conform to those of (Urlaub et al., 2009), and
677 instead correspond to values expected from oceanic heat flow models (largest
678 deviation of around 20 mW/m²). Based on our results, the Amundsen Basin sites
679 presented here do not point to an elevated thermal anomaly. However, the
680 *variation* in existing heat flow measurements from the Lomonosov Ridge,
681 including those presented here, still raise an interesting point. If the high values
682 found by (Urlaub et al., 2009) are truly representative of a local anomaly, it may
683 thus be restricted to a domain further to the north and east (Siberian side) than
684 our Amundsen Basin study area, and furthermore, may be relevant for
685 discussions on the tectonic history and composition of the Lomonosov Ridge.

686

687 **4.2 Thermal state of the central Lomonosov Ridge**

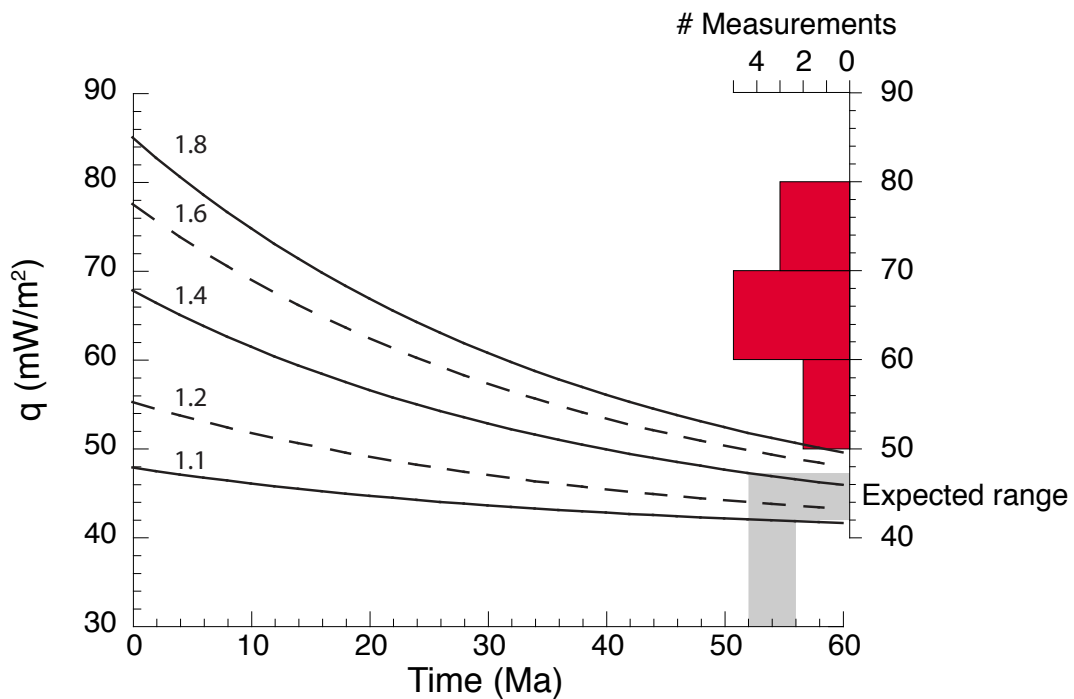
688

689 The overall structure of the Lomonosov Ridge is variable along its length, with
690 differences in sediment cover, depth to basement and Moho topography. Crustal
691 thickness in the central part of the ridge is proposed to be up around 25 km (e.g.
692 (Forsyth and Mair, 1984), with Moho depths in excess of 20-25 km closer to the
693 Greenland margin (Jackson et al., 2010). While Bouguer gravity anomalies have
694 been invoked to suggest relatively uniform crustal structure and thinning along
695 the Ridge (Alvey et al., 2008; Minakov and Podladchikov, 2012), seismic imaging
696 indicates increasing structural complexity towards the Siberian margin (south of
697 85°N; (Jokat, 2005). It is worth noting that crustal thicknesses along and within
698 the Barents-Kara margin are relatively variable (Klitzke et al., 2016), and might
699 also include the location of the Caledonide suture (e.g. (Breivik et al., 2002).

700

701 Along-strike variability in the amount and timing of rifting along the Lomonosov
702 Ridge would lead to differences in expected heat flow based on simple uniform
703 stretching models. This is because the upwelling of mantle and emplacement of
704 magmatic bodies will generally lead to elevated heat flow until thermal
705 equilibrium is reached. Pure shear and depth dependent crustal thinning also

706 predicts significant differences in the magnitude of subsidence predicted by
 707 thermal cooling models, and thus is related to heat flow.
 708
 709 Based on seismic data and the current depth of the Lomonosov Ridge, (O'Regan
 710 et al., 2008) noted that heat flow measurements were higher than expected
 711 based on uniform crustal stretching models. Using a uniform stretching model
 712 with stretching factors of 1.1-1.8, the heat flow after ~56 Myrs since rifting is
 713 expected to be in the order of 42-50 mW/m² which is lower than measured for
 714 the Lomonosov Ridge, including for our *AO16* and (new) *SWERUS-C3* results
 715 (Table 5, Figure 11).
 716



717
 718 **Figure 11.** Heat flow predicted by (McKenzie and Bickle, 1988) uniform
 719 extension model based on a range of stretching factors (1.1-1.8) against time
 720 since rifting. Parameters listed in Table 5. The expected range for the surface
 721 heat flow on the Lomonosov Ridge is indicated for 52-56 Ma since rifting ended,
 722 and moderate stretching factors of 1.1-1.4. A histogram of new measurements
 723 from the Lomonosov Ridge and Marvin Spur (Tables 3 and 5) are shown in red.
 724 These exceed the expected range by roughly 20 mW/m. However, they have not

725 been corrected for radiogenic heat production in the crust, which may explain
 726 the offset.

727

728 **Table 5.** Parameters used to evaluate the thermal subsidence and heat flow
 729 predicted by the McKenzie (1978) uniform stretching model.

Symbol	Parameter	Units	Value
T_m	Temperature at base of lithosphere	°C	1330
T_0	Temperature at seafloor	°C	0
Y_L	Thickness of lithosphere	Km	110
K	Thermal conductivity of lithosphere	W/mK	3.3
κ	Thermal diffusivity of lithosphere	m ² /Ma	3.15E+07
T	Time	Ma	
τ	Thermal time constant of lithosphere	Ma	50.25
ρ_m	Density of mantle at 0°C	kg/m ³	3330
α_v	Coefficient of thermal expansion for crust and mantle	/°C	3.28E-05
ρ_w	Density of seawater	kg/m ³	1024

730

731 However, the model predictions of heat flow neglect contributions from
 732 radiogenic heat production that can account for 50–70% of the heat flux at the
 733 top of crystalline basement (Mareschal and Jaupart, 2013). The distribution of
 734 heat producing elements in the crust is highly variable, and depends on the age
 735 of formation and local composition of the crust. Generally, upper crustal rocks
 736 are the dominant contributor to radiogenic heat production. No information is
 737 available on radiogenic heat production in the continental crust of the
 738 Lomonosov Ridge. However, adopting the bulk estimate for continental crust
 739 (0.93 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^3$) derived from geochemical models (Rudnick and Gao, 2003), a 10-
 740 20 km thick crustal section can contribute 9.3-18.6 mW/m^3 towards the surface
 741 heat flux. This back-of-the-envelope calculation can largely reconcile the
 742 difference between the observed surface heat flow on the Lomonosov Ridge, and
 743 the coarse prediction made by McKenzie’s uniform stretching model.

744

745 As such, and similar to our results from the Amundsen Basin, existing and new
 746 heat flow data from the Lomonosov Ridge does not appear to be anomalously

747 warm. Considerable variability in the existing data can likely be explained by
748 measurement errors and uncertainties, differences in crustal thickness and
749 radiogenic heat production, as well as compositional differences.

750

751

752 **4.3 Mantle structure**

753

754 Beyond that of the crust and lithosphere, the deeper mantle also plays a critical
755 role in regional thermal processes and margin evolution. Seismic velocity data
756 provides some of the most direct constraints for the heterogenous structure of
757 the mantle. Both temperature and composition play a key role in the density of
758 the mantle, and are therefore intrinsic to variations of seismic velocities.

759 However, it is generally agreed that the velocity structure in the upper mantle is
760 dominated by temperature changes (e.g. (Forte et al., 1994) and that regions of
761 anomalously warm mantle correspond to slow (negative) seismic wavespeed
762 anomaly perturbations. Largely a function of source and receiver limitations, the
763 resolution of seismic tomography under the northernmost latitudes is
764 suboptimal. Nonetheless, the robustness of a given mantle feature can be
765 assessed by comparing alternative tomography models, including those which
766 have been constructed and parameterized differently.

767

768 A comparison of a recent upper mantle model SL2013sv (Schaeffer and Lebedev,
769 2013) with reasonable Arctic coverage, and that of a widely used whole mantle
770 model S40RTS (Ritsema et al., 2011) reveals an overall negative seismic anomaly
771 under the North Pole region (Figure 12) down to around 200 km depth. The
772 conversion of seismic velocities to temperature or density anomalies is non-
773 trivial and can be achieved through both forward and inverse methodologies,
774 and a consideration of anelastic and anharmonic effects (e.g. (Goes et al., 2000)).
775 A full analysis incorporating sensitivities to composition, melt and temperature
776 is beyond the scope of this study. We do not emphasize the 25 km depth slice as
777 it is within the crustal model (CRUST2.0; (Bassin, 2000)) used in the SL2013sv
778 tomography model.

779

780 A thermo-compositional component to explain the origins of this seismic
781 anomaly could be considered but the degree to which the surface heat flow
782 reflects the thermal conditions of the sublithospheric mantle in this region of the
783 world demands further analysis. Given the variable nature of measured oceanic
784 heat flow in reflecting elevated mantle anomalies surrounding Hawaii and
785 Iceland (e.g. Stein and Stein, 2003), it is clear that heat flow cannot be used in
786 isolation as a diagnostic tool for sublithospheric structure. Thus, any origins of
787 such an uppermost mantle feature are speculative at this stage. Given the lack of
788 a clear regional surface heat flow anomaly, i.e. existing outside the local region
789 studied by Urlaub et al., (2009), there remains insufficient evidence to argue for
790 a thermal anomaly underlying the central Arctic Ocean.

791

792 Any relationship between this upper mantle velocity anomaly and spreading
793 along the Gakkel Ridge, or major regional magmatic episodes, including the High
794 Arctic Large Igneous Province (eruption around 121 Ma, Figure 2; e.g. Corfu et
795 al., 2013) or the North Atlantic Igneous Province (around 55 Ma; e.g. Tegner et
796 al., 1998) – of which both eruption sites were further south from the North Pole
797 in an absolute reference frame (Shephard et al., 2016) – are not clear.

798 Characterizing the feature in the context of other seismically imaged features
799 within the low-velocity zone and asthenosphere of other oceanic domains (e.g.
800 Forsyth, 1975; Priestley and McKenzie, 2006) must also be explored.

801 Nonetheless, we are cautious not to over interpret this anomaly, given the
802 resolution limitation in the central Arctic Ocean.

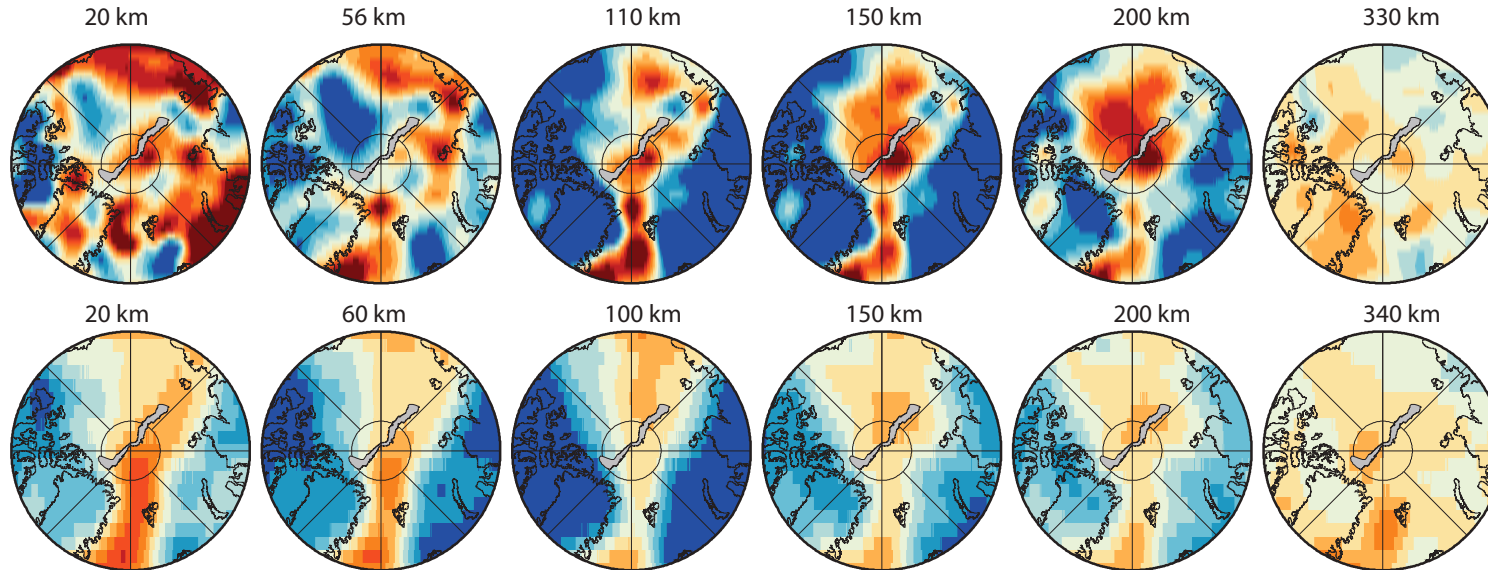
803

804 To summarize, aside from the three Amundsen basin sites reported by (Urlaub et
805 al., 2009), there is very little evidence for a thermal anomaly in the vicinity of the
806 North Pole (indeed, even (Urlaub et al., 2009) did not claim there to be such).

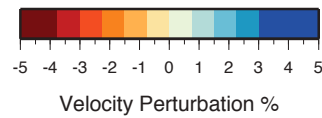
807 Our new data from the Amundsen basin clearly support this assertion, while the
808 analysis of surface heat flow data on the Lomonosov Ridge does not
809 unequivocally point towards a thermal perturbation. As discussed above,
810 although notably higher than predictions made by the uniform extension model,
811 the apparent discrepancy for the Lomonosov Ridge can readily be explained by
812 moderate amounts of radiogenic heat production in the crust. Nonetheless, the

813 potential identification of a mantle-derived feature under the North Pole
814 requires further investigation.
815
816

SL2013sv model



S40RTS model



817

818 **Figure 12.** Depth slices through uppermost mantle from seismic tomography models of (Schaeffer and Lebedev, 2013) and (Ritsema et
819 al., 2011). Lomonosov Ridge for reference. Red colours indicate regions of slower than average mantle (negative seismic wavespeed
820 anomaly), possibly related to an elevated thermal and/or thermo-compositional anomaly.

821

822 **Conclusions**

823 Our new heat flow measurements for the central Arctic Ocean constitute an
824 important constraint on the local heat flow and thermal history of this remote
825 region. Located on oceanic lithosphere ranging from approximately 47-53 Myrs
826 in age, heat flow in the Amundsen Basin (domain 7°W-71°E, 88-90°N) is 71-
827 95 mW/m², which is broadly in line with the GDH1 plate-cooling model. This
828 contrasts with the only other reported results from equivalently aged oceanic
829 crust in the Amundsen Basin, which indicated a significant thermal anomaly.
830 Furthermore, after accounting for possible radiogenic heat production, new
831 measurements from the Lomonosov Ridge (53-69 mW/m²) and Marvin Spur
832 (51-69 mW/m²), are not notably higher than predictions for moderately
833 stretched continental crust which was last affected by major tectonic processes
834 around 50-60 Ma. It remains unclear whether an upper mantle seismic velocity
835 perturbation may influence regional surface heat flow, and furthermore, whether
836 it affects regions of the Amundsen Basin outside the area where our new heat
837 flow values exist. Our results present a generally conformable nature between
838 model predictions and measurements of oceanic and continental heat flow in the
839 North Pole region of the Arctic Ocean, including the Lomonosov Ridge.

840

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859

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862

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