

Surge Type Glacier Identification on Northeast Spitsbergen, Svalbard from Landsat Imagery 1984-2018

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EGU2019-135

Introduction

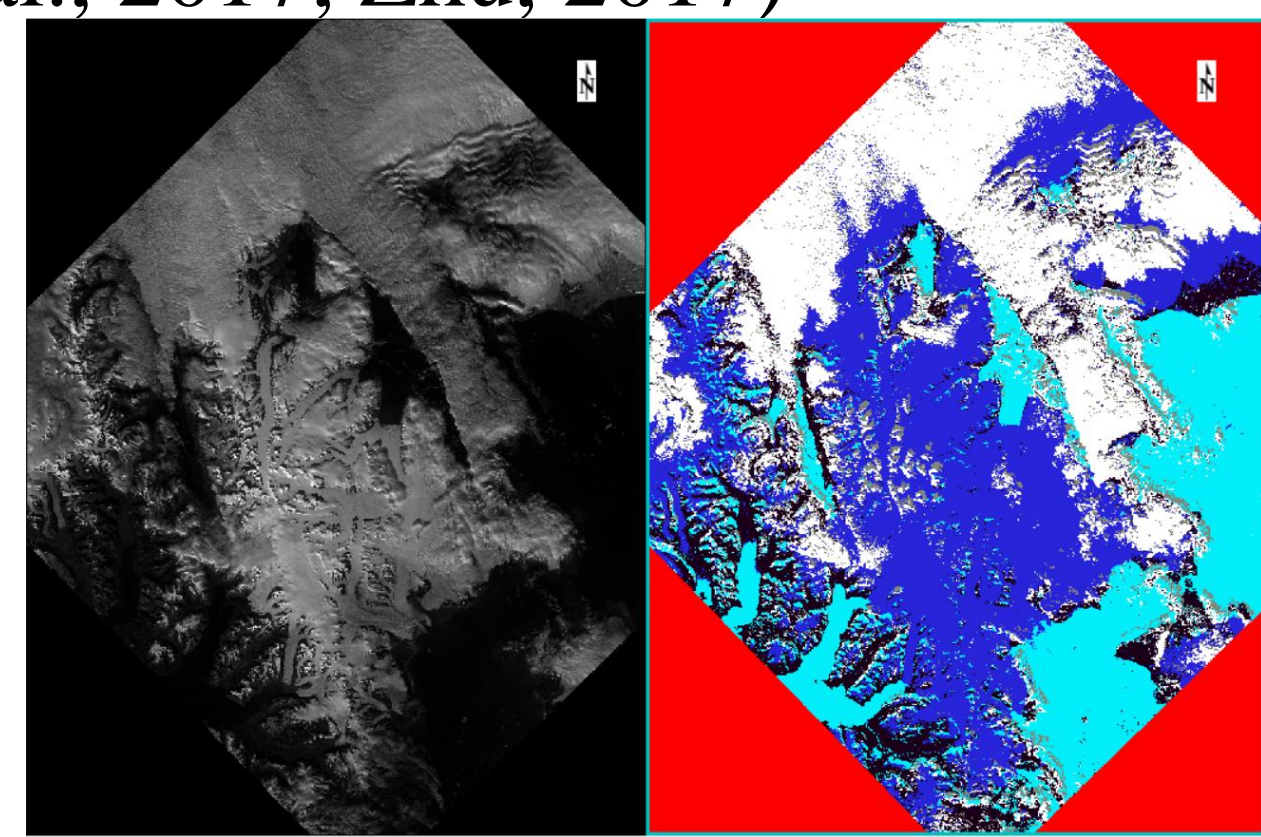
Svalbard archipelago is known as the “surge hot spot” for its high occurrence of glacial surge. This study utilizes all the available **Landsat images (1984-2018)** of 40 major maritime and valley glaciers on NE Spitsbergen, Svalbard to **reconstruct the glacier surface velocity** and identify **historical surge events**.

Procedure

Cloud mask

MFmask/Fmask (Qiu et al., 2017; Zhu, 2017)

Fig.1 Fmask results:
(cloud is marked as white)



Re-grid and PCA

(Fahnestock et al., 2016; Scambos et al., 1992)

Table 1. Comparison of Selected Bands of Landsat 4, 5 TM, Landsat 7 ETM+ and Landsat 8 OLI imagery

Landsat 4-5		Landsat 7		Landsat 8	
Bands	Wavelength (μm)	Bands	Wavelength (μm)	Bands	Wavelength (μm)
Band 2-Green	0.52-0.60	Band 8 - Panchromatic	0.52-0.90		
Band 3-Red	0.63-0.69				
Band 4-Near Infrared (NIR)	0.76-0.90				
Resolution (m)	30	Resolution (m)	15		

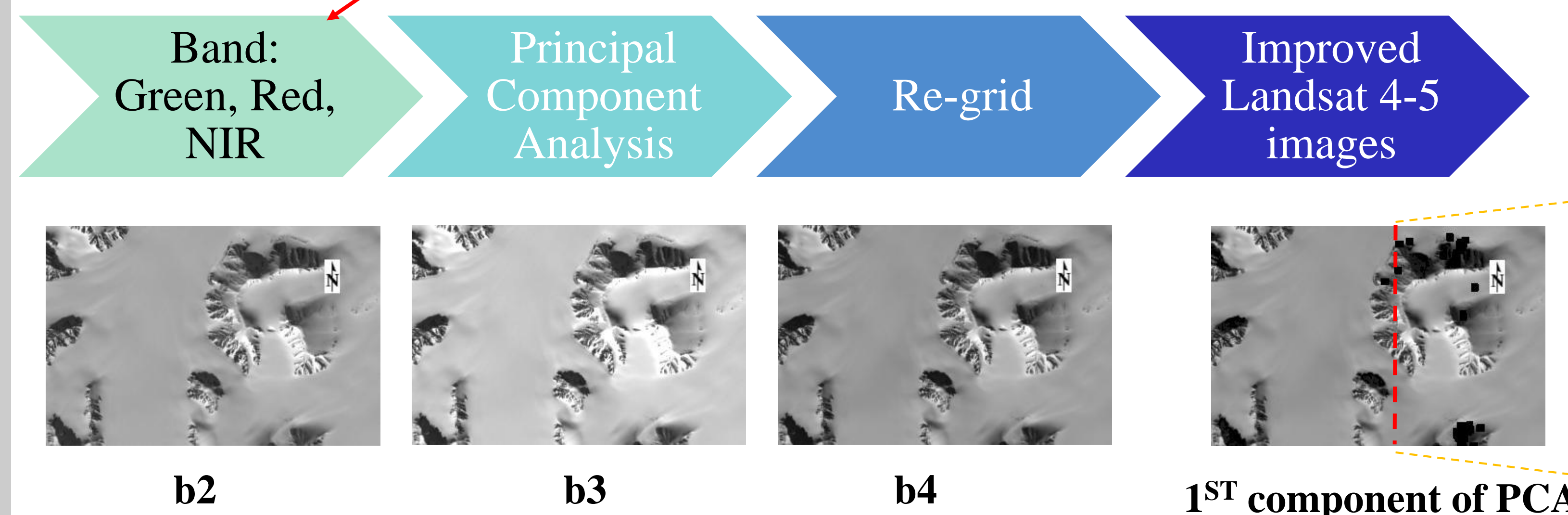
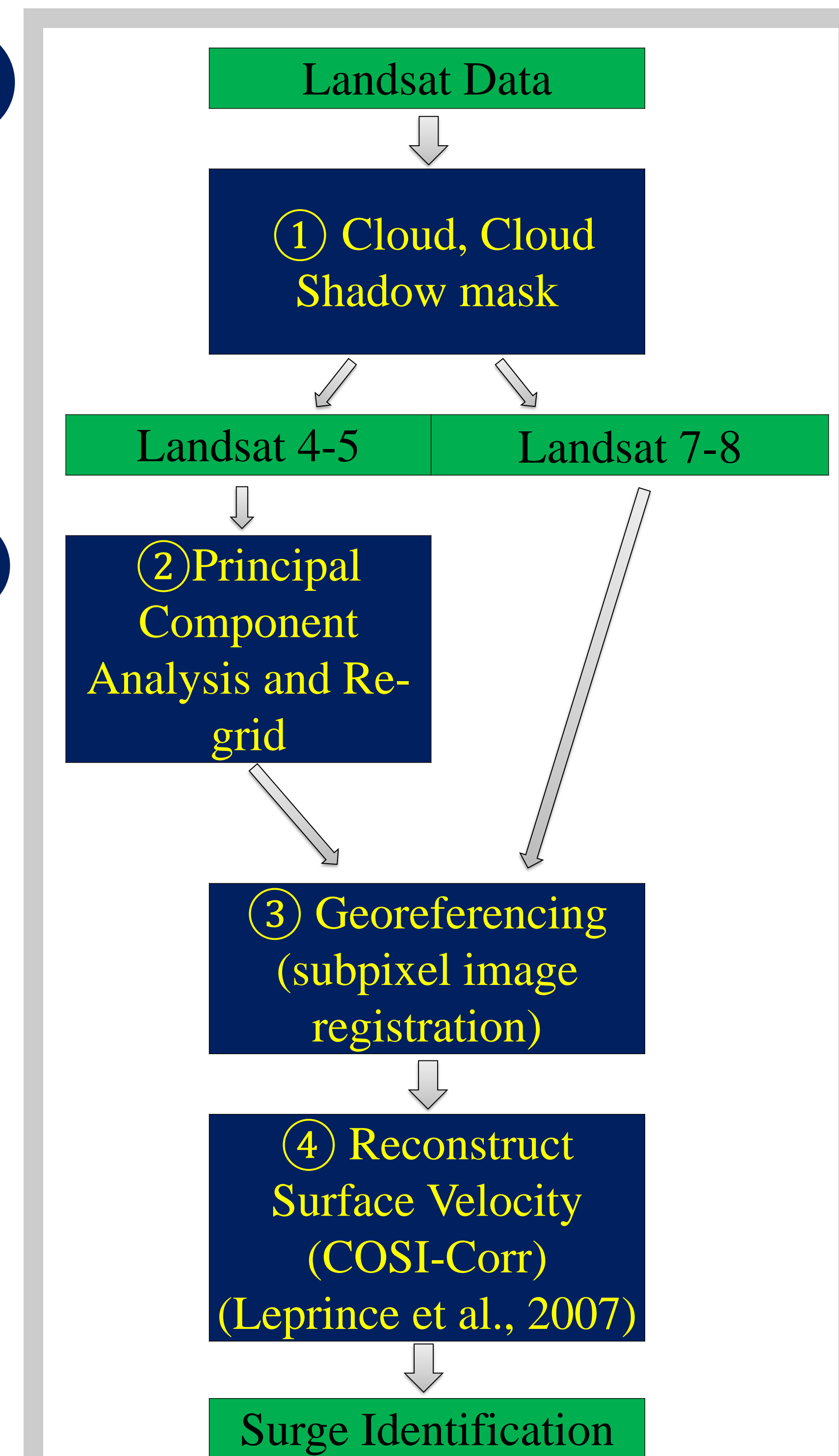


Fig. 2 Visible bands and first component of PCA (15 m noise reduced images with enhanced ice topography and improved surface feature)



Subpixel Image Registration (Guizar-Sicairos et al. 2008)

- Winter: Oct - May
- Summer: June - Sept

Low pass filter

Georeferencing

- Low-pass filtered cloud free referencing object

- co-registered images
- Gaussian filtered image

High pass filter

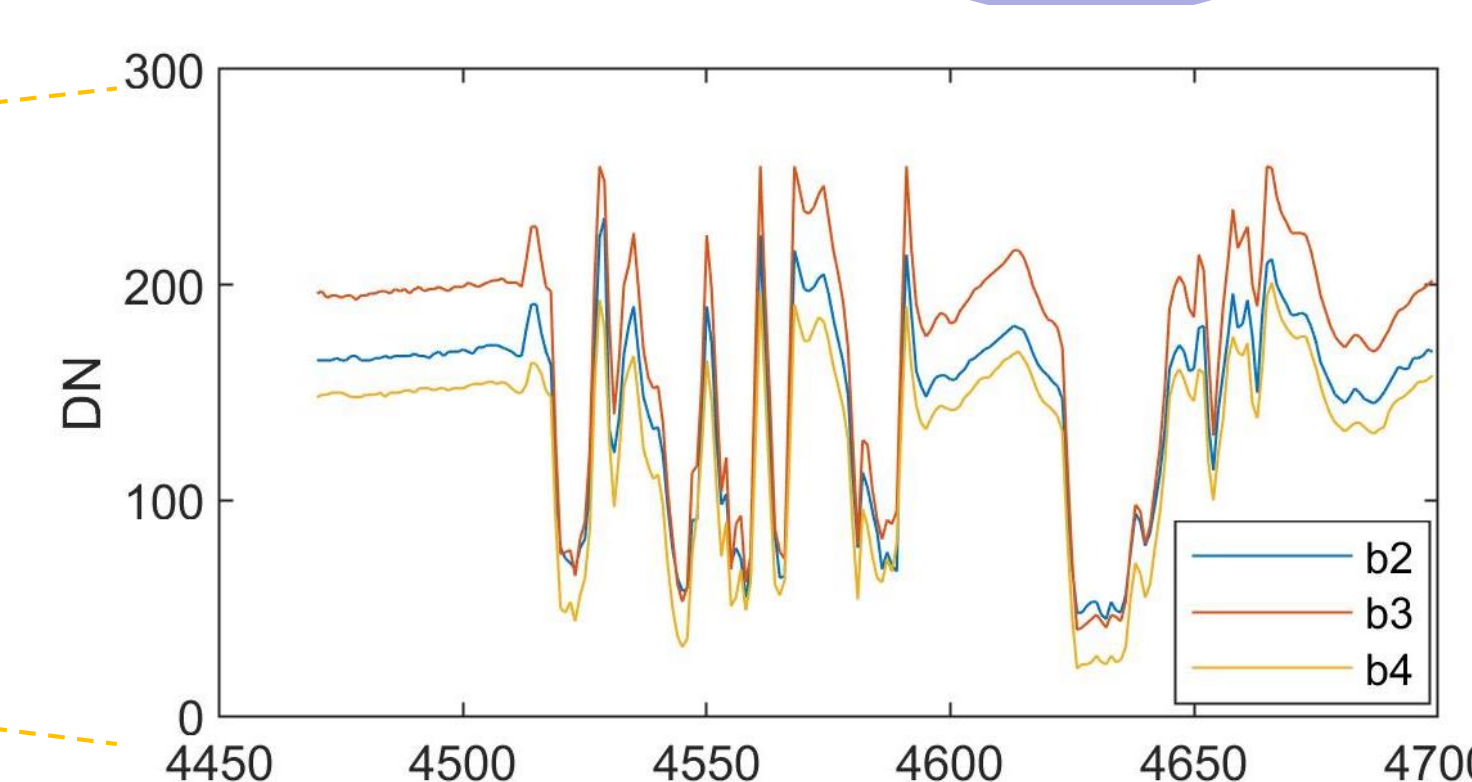


Fig. 3 Pixel Value of b2, b3, b4 and 1st PCA component along the red dotted line in Fig. 2 (LT05_L1GS_216003_20060621_20161121_01_T2)

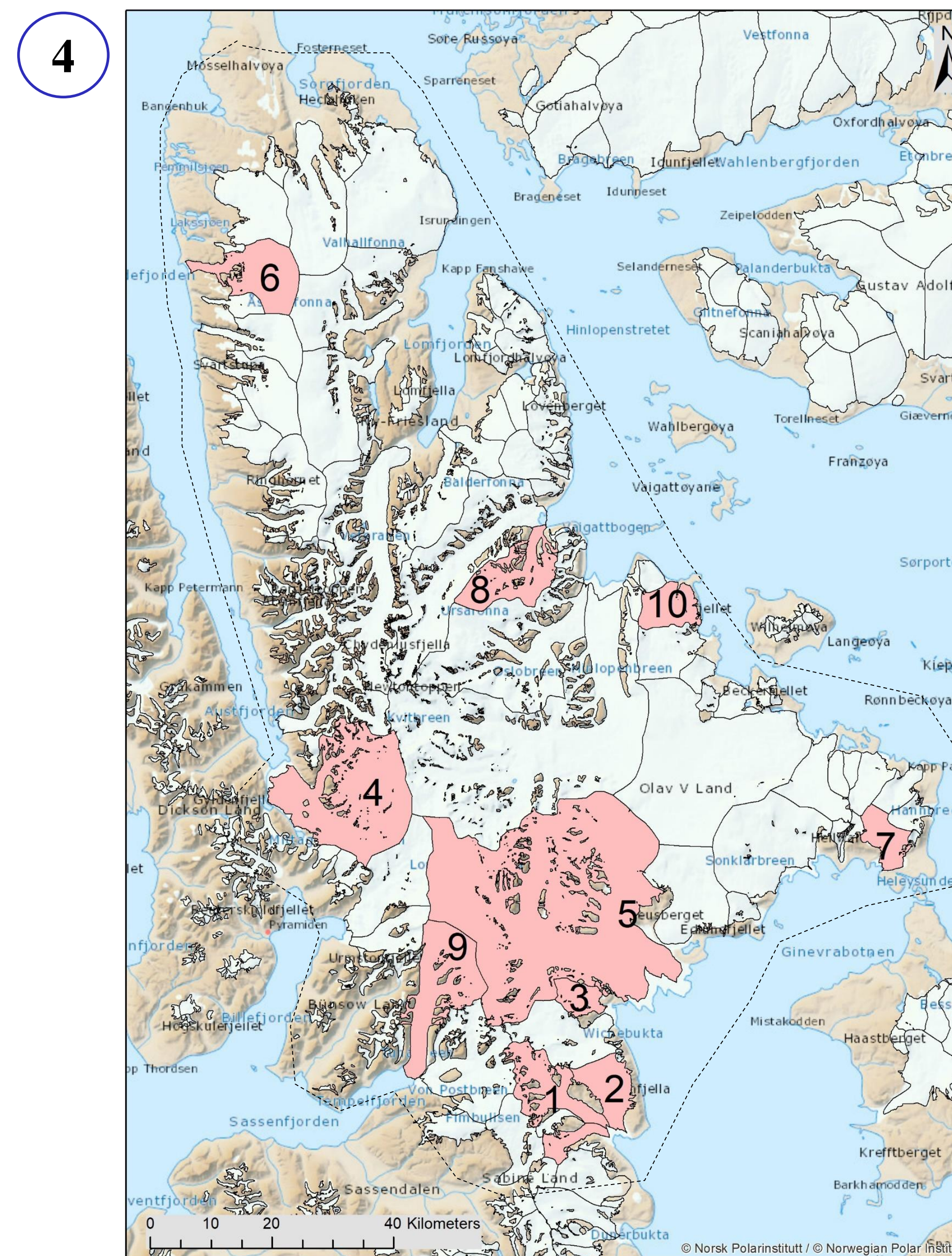


Fig. 4 Study Area and Identified Surge/Active glaciers (Table 2)

Results

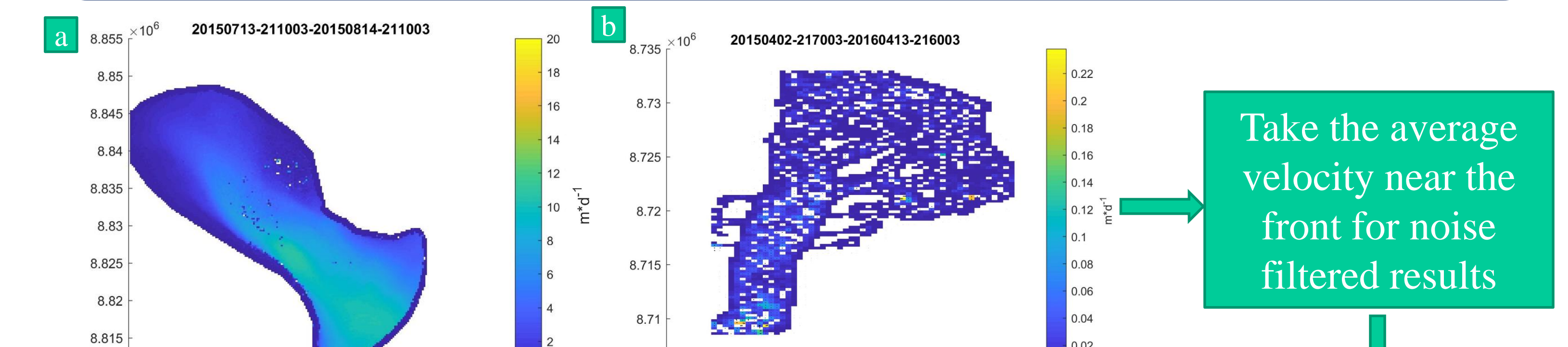


Fig. 5 Velocity Map of Basin 3 (a) and Tunabreen (b)

Table 2 Identified Surge-type glacier and the Active Phase

No.	Glacier	Surge/Accelerate Period
1	Hayesbreen S	2004-2006
	Hayesbreen	2004-2006
2	Heuglinbreen	2004-2005
3	Johansenbreen	2004-2006
4	Mittag-Lefflerbreen	2004-2006
5	Negribreen	2004-2005 2017
6	Nordbreen	2007-2008
7	Pedasejensbreen	2015-2016
8	Polarisbreen	2011
9	Tunabreen	2003-2005 2016-2017
10	Vaigattbreen	2015

- 1) Glacier surface velocity > 1.5 stdv
- 2) Velocity map
- 3) Geomorphology evidence: (visual examination of image at identified surge/active period)

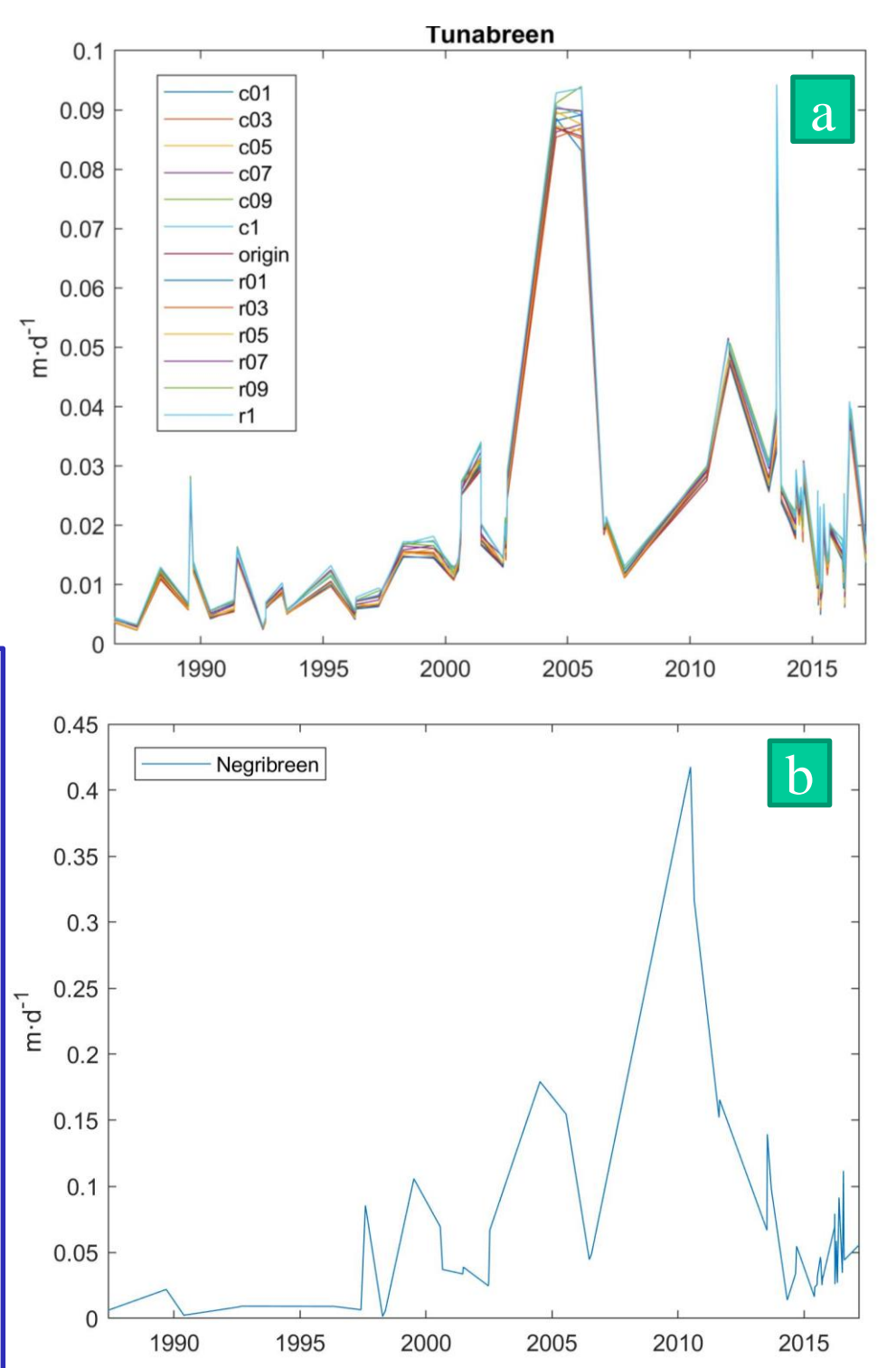


Fig. 5 Average Velocity Near Front (a: Tunabreen; b: Negribreen)

Conclusions

- The method is limited by the spatial resolution of image and the actual displacement of ice flow at given time window.
- The noised feature track results can still provide sufficient information of the relative change of ice flow speed.
- Further research should focus on improving the data resolution and the use of cloud computing platform.

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References

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