





# **Antarctic Climatology using Automatic Weather Stations**

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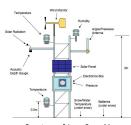




## **Palmer Land**

 Warmest area in Antarctica due to it's coastal geography •Temperatures similar to Madison WI's winter (0-40 °F) Warming already discovered (Turner et al., 2005, "Antarctic Climate Change")





Courtesy of Joey Snarski





# **High Polar Plateau**

- •High Elevation ~3500 m
- •Low Pressure ~600-700 mb
- Produces Extremely Cold **Temperatures**
- •Minimum Temperature
- **Record:** -84.6 °C or -120.3 °F at Dome C in August 1982









## **West Antarctica**

 Currently most active research area

•Studies of 3 km deep ice cores help us to understand past climate and stability of the atmosphere Affected by El Nino



# **Automatic Weather Stations**

In 1980, UW-Madison installed their first six Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Antarctica. Currently, there are roughly 120 AWS in Antarctica and UW-Madison is associated with about half of them. Thus, this data creates a 31-year history of weather in Antarctica and the perfect platform for Antarctic climatology research. Both individual stations and regional areas were evaluated using variables such as temperature, pressure, wind speed, and wind direction. One regional area to consider is the four stations, Gill, Schwerdtfeger, Carolyn, and Marilyn, which are located in the Ross Ice Shelf along the 80S latitude line. This region is significant due to the complex meteorology of the region including polar lows/mesocyclones, synoptic storm influences, maritime intrusions, Ross Ice Shelf Air Stream, katabatic and barrier winds to name a few phenomena. Future work will include studying the climate in other regions of Antarctica, which will help with engineering, planning, and logistics in Antarctica.





**Ross Ice Shelf** 

**Low Potential Temperature** (temperature if air is lowered to standard pressure)

•Location of ~40% of UW's AWS

·Katabatic Flow



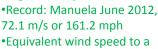
**Katabatic Flow** 

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# **Victoria Land**





Category 5 hurricane

•Manuela Average Wind Speed for June 2012, 31.3 m/s or 70 mph





