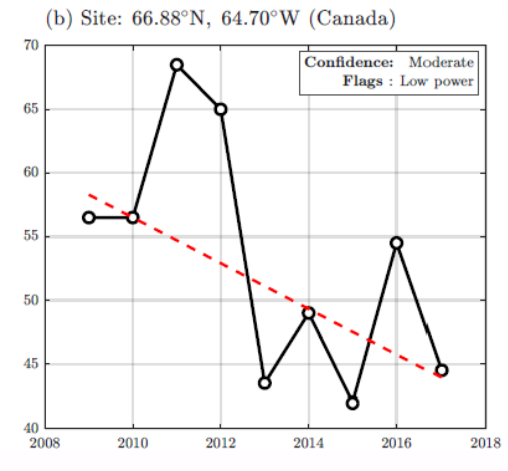
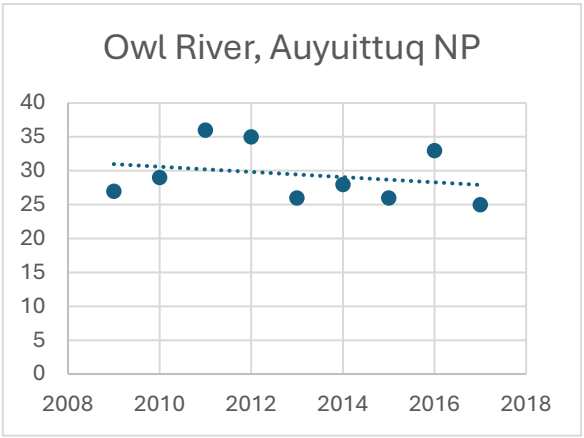
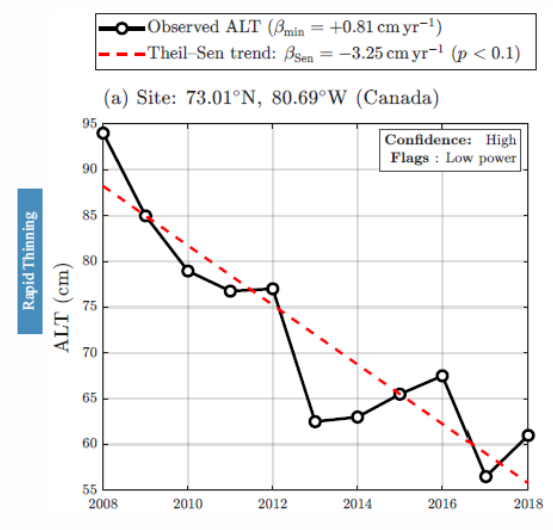
I do not recommend this article for publication:

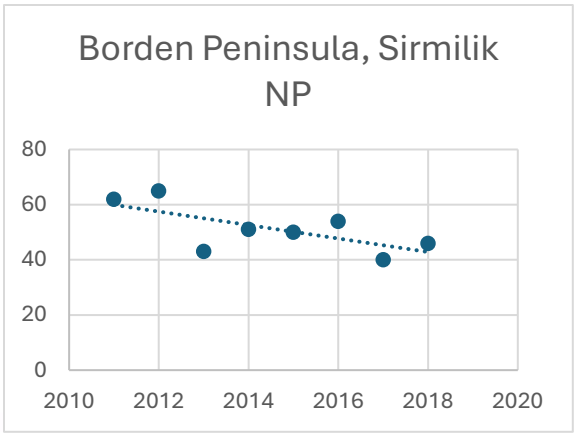
-Conclusions are not novel. Numerous studies have shown that overall, active layer thicknesses at circum-Arctic sites are increasing, that drivers of patterns in ALT change are not uniform, that thermal drivers commonly dominate (e.g., in colder permafrost), and that other variables (edaphic/hydrological, cf line 347) are important in some settings.

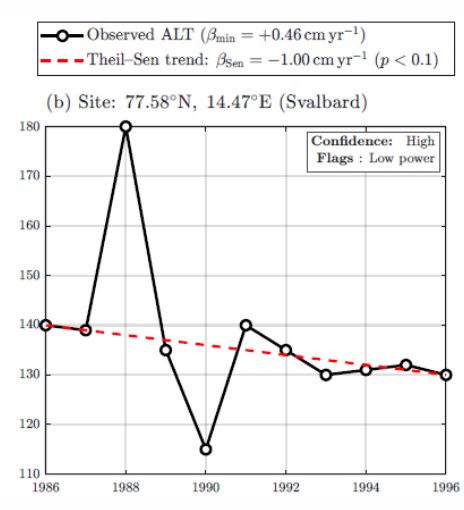
-The authors have seemingly used the **single maximum probed** value from the grid as indicated by the values reported in Ahajjam (2026). Perhaps they are mistaking the "maximum" for maximum thaw depth during the thaw season, rather than the maximum probed depth of all points on the grid (?). The CALM summary grid (at https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/north.htm) reports the "Site Average Annual End of Season Thaw Depth". The site maximum is an outlier that does not represent the average condition. To highlight this, three of the sites from Figure 6 are shown below, with the corresponding data from https://www2.gwu.edu/~calm/data/north.htm plotted beside. Both the magnitudes of the values and temporal trends are significantly different. This has led to a conclusion that ALTs are thinning overall in Canada, contrary to past assessments (e.g., Smith et al. 2022; O'Neill et al. 2023). I also note that in Ahajjam (2026), it is not marked which of the 3 methods (thaw tube, grid probing, temperature measurements) were used for each site. Probing in some materials does not correspond with the 0°C isotherm indicated by thaw tubes, whereas the interpolation from temperature measurements can also include errors depending on thermistor spacing.

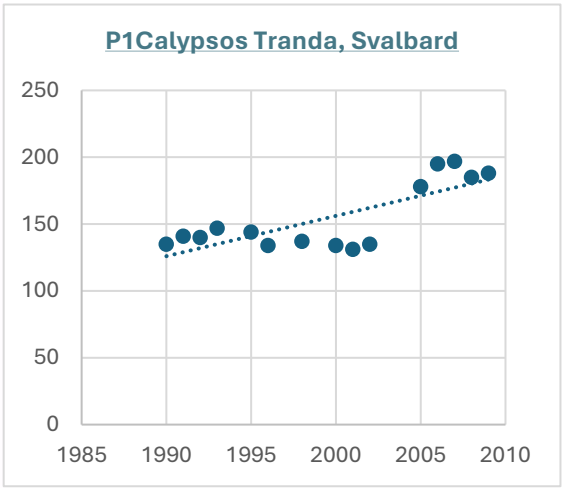





Observed ALT (β_{min} = +0.81 cm yr^{-1})
Theil–Sen trend: β_{Sen} = −3.25 cm yr^{-1} (p < 0.1)
(a) Site: 73.01°N, 80.69°W (Canada)
Rapid Thinning
ALT (cm)
Confidence: High
Flags : Low power
95
90
85
80
75
70
65
60
55
2008
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018


Borden Peninsula, Sirmilik NP
80
60
40
20
0
2010
2012
2014
2016
2018
2020


Observed ALT (β_{min} = +0.46 cm yr^{-1})
Theil–Sen trend: β_{Sen} = −1.00 cm yr^{-1} (p < 0.1)
(b) Site: 77.58°N, 14.47°E (Svalbard)
Confidence: High
Flags : Low power
180
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
1986
1988
1990
1992
1994
1996


P1Calypsos Tranda, Svalbard
250
200
150
100
50
0
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010