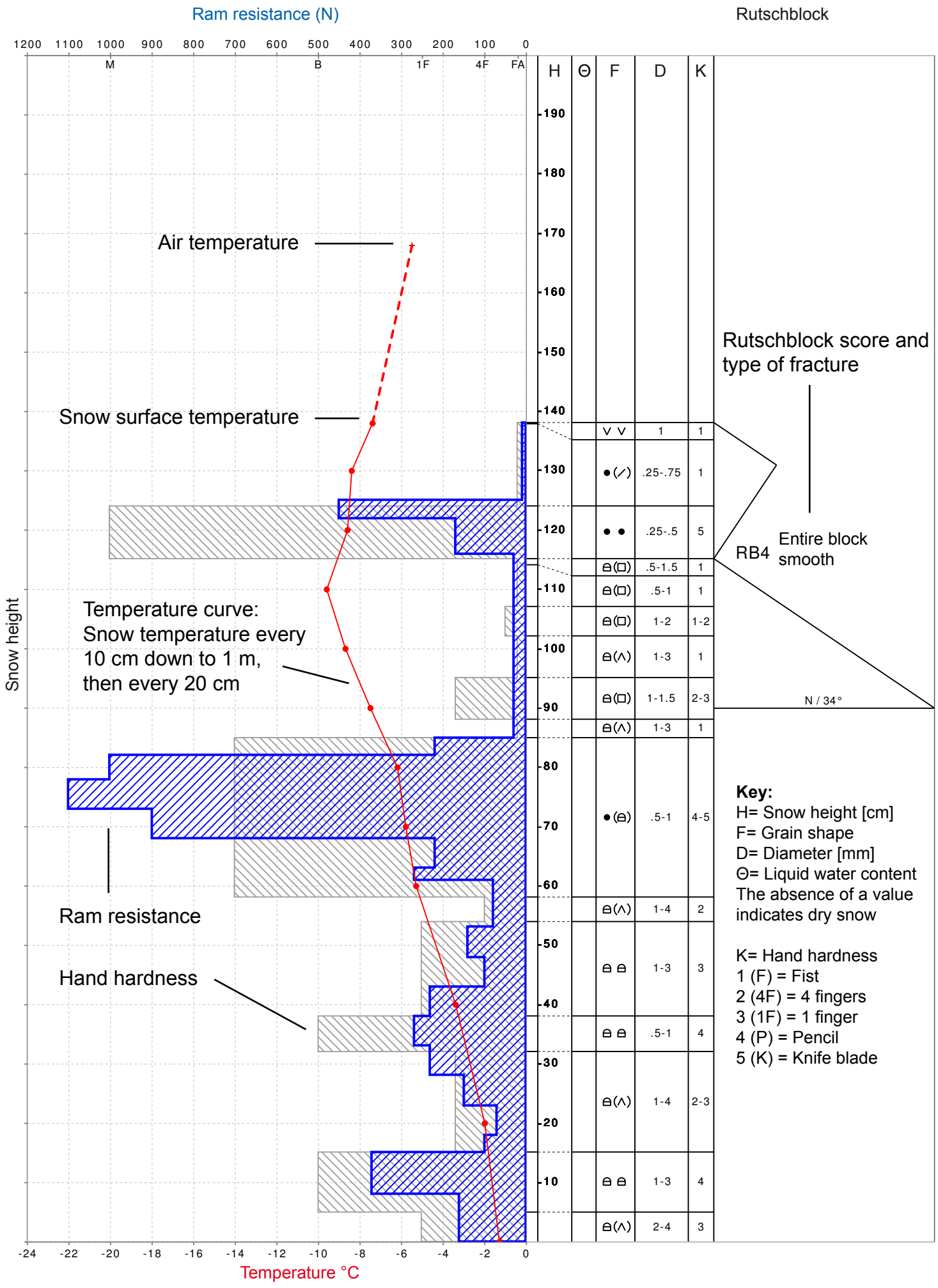
SG Wildseehorn - Girenspitz
10.03.2010

Altitude: 2420 m
Aspect: N / Slope angle: 34°



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WSL Istituto per lo studio della neve e delle valanghe SLF
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Fact sheet for determining grain shape and size

Grain shape	Typical size in mm	Symbol	Code	Characteristics
Graupel	1 - 5		0	Special form of precipitation; small spherical pellets
Precipitation particles	1 - 4		1	Visible during or shortly after snowfall, occurs only in the uppermost layers, grain structure still clearly recognisable, soft
Decomposing and fragmented precipitation particles	1 - 2		2	First equilibrium growth form of snow, usually visible only briefly after snowfall, occurs only in the uppermost layers, small branches still visible, soft
Rounded grains	0.2 - 0.5		3	Equilibrium growth form of snow: very small grains without facets, mostly bonded and a little harder; e.g. also drifted snow
Faceted crystals	0.5 - 3		4	Faceted form of snow: small to fairly large with edges and corners; the larger the crystals, the weaker the bonding (like sugar)
Faceted crystals with rounding facets and corners	1 - 3		9	Faceted snow undergoing secondary decomposition: faceted crystals, but without sharp corners, usually with stronger bonding than regular faceted snow
Depth hoar or cup-shaped crystals	2 - 5		5	Severely faceted snow form, occurs in particular in the near-ground layers (but also near the surface in some circumstances); large cup-shaped crystals, loosely bonded
Surface hoar	1 - 10		6	Forms on the surface, can be buried in snow and remain visible for weeks; large fan-like crystals
Melt forms	0.5 - 3		7	Forms at a snow temperature of 0°C and in the presence of liquid water; spherical, glassy transparent grains
Melt-freeze crust	0.5 - 3		7 – 7 crust	Melt forms that have refrozen and formed a hard crust. At least the first grain shape must be a melt form: e.g. 7 – 4, crust
Ice formations			8	Fine, compact, very hard, transparent glassy ice layer, seldom very thick. Usually formed by the freezing of rain or melt water.
Encoding of several grain shapes			4 - 3	If two different grain shapes exist in the same layer, the shape with the smaller portion is placed in parentheses.

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