

Recent advances in paleoclimatological studies of Arctic wedge- and pore-ice stable-water isotope records

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	2	isotope records
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22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	10	Abstract
	11	Late Pleistocene and Holocene ground ice are common throughout the Arctic. Some forms
	12	of relict ground ice preserve local meteoric water, and their stable oxygen- and hydrogen-
	13	isotope ratios can be used to reconstruct past air temperatures. In this paper, we review the
30 31	14	formation and sampling of two forms of relict ground ice – wedge ice and pore ice – and
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	15	recent (2010-2019) advances in paleoclimatological studies of ground-ice stable-isotope
	16	records in the Arctic. Recent advances are attributed to better chronological constraints and
	17	refined understandings of the systematics and seasonality of relict wedge ice and pore ice. A
	18	rich network of ice-wedge records has emerged, primarily from the Siberian Arctic, whereas
	19	pore-ice records are less common. The ice-wedge network depicts a robust pattern of late
43 44	20	Pleistocene cooling, and remarkably similar temperature depressions during Marine Isotope
45 46	21	Stages 3 and 2. Very high-resolution wedge- and pore-ice stable isotope chronologies have
47 48	22	been established recently and used to reconstruct winter and summer climate histories and
49 50	23	assess seasonal dependencies in insolation-forced climate. Reports of ancient (>125 ka BP)
51 52	24	ground ice demonstrate the long-term persistence of relict ground ice, and its potential to
53 54 55	25	expand our knowledge of Quaternary climate dynamics in the terrestrial Arctic.
55 56 57	26	
58 59	27	Keywords: ice wedges; pore ice; syngenetic permafrost; water isotopes; paleoclimatology
60	28	

1. Introduction

Permafrost not only responds to and drives climate change but provides an extraordinary archive preserving fossils and other natural indicators of environmental and climatic change. Sedimentation and freezing processes, temperature and hydroclimate, and the origin and evolution of permafrost landscapes over millennia can be reconstructed from a suite of natural indicators including: (i) sediments^{1,2}; (ii) cryostructures³; (iii) molecular-, micro- and macro-fossils⁴⁻⁷; and (iv) geochemistry of relict ground ice^{8,9}. This review focuses on the stable-isotope geochemistry of relict ground ice, specifically ice wedges and intra-sedimental pore ice, which offer the most promise for paleoclimate studies.

> Precipitation ¹⁸O/¹⁶O and ²H/¹H isotope ratios (hereafter $\delta^{18}O_{\text{precip}}$ and $\delta^{2}H_{\text{precip}}$) are sensitive proxies for air temperature at mid- to high-latitude regions¹⁰ and can be preserved in relict ground ice for millennia. Ice wedges preserve cold-season precipitation that is integrated as meltwater that fills the cavity of thermal contraction cracks in spring¹¹. As such, ice wedges offer a paleoclimate archive that specifically reflects winter conditions. . Structureless, interstitial pore ice originates from active-layer waters that froze in situ³, and can integrate a blend of warm-season or annual precipitation depending on local climate and soil properties and, therefore, has a less specific seasonality than wedge ice. Nevertheless, pore-ice water-isotope ratios can be used to constrain past climate changes^{12,13}.

The association between precipitation isotopes and temperature¹⁰ was first exploited by the glacial ice-core community for paleoclimate reconstruction more than a half-century ago¹⁴, and has since been applied to different forms of relict ground ice^{15,16}. Within the ice-core community, a relatively unified framework has emerged for quantitative climate reconstruction using stable-water isotopes¹⁷. Conversely, paleoclimate inferences from ground-ice stable-isotope records have generally been more qualitative (i.e., warmer vs. colder¹⁸. This tendency toward a more qualitative approach in the permafrost community may relate to challenges with the dating of relict ice, and proxy-climate uncertainties related

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to the precipitation-isotope system and the systematics of different forms of ground ice, all ofwhich have some bearing on the fidelity of climate reconstructions.

Despite of these challenges, there is growing interest in the potential to use wedge- and pore-ice isotope records to constrain Quaternary climates in the unglaciated Arctic. This interest has increased the number of researchers participating in this field, and encouraged the generation of more quantitative datasets for use by the broader paleoclimate community in data-model comparisons¹⁹ and their inclusion in paleoclimate databases^{20,21}. Careful attention to these broader applications of ground-ice stable isotope records will ultimately increase the visibility of this field. In this paper, we review recent (2010-2019) advances in wedge- and pore-ice stable isotope studies in the Arctic (Fig. 1) and complement earlier reviews on the physics of ground ice formation²², regional ice-wedge syntheses²³ and the scientific methods of ice-wedge paleoclimatology¹¹. We start with a brief summary outlining the formation and preservation of meteoric waters in wedge ice and pore ice, and methodological topics including sampling and dating that have implications for the interpretation of relict ice records. Second, we present a meta-analysis of wedge-ice $\delta^{18}O$ data from 82 Northern Hemisphere sites (Fig. 1) and discuss the climatic origin of spatial patterns during the late Pleistocene and Holocene. Lastly, we review recent progress in paleoclimate knowledge gained from wedge- and pore-ice isotope records from a selection of studies located throughout the Arctic that highlight the diversity of insights these types of records offer the paleoclimate community.

79 FIGURE 1 HERE

Figure 1. Sites of recent studies of water isotopes in relict wedge ice (yellow circles) and
pore ice (red squares); Russian sub-regions of W. Siberia (R1), Laptev Sea region (R2),
Kolyma and Chukotka (R3) and central Yakutia (R4) are indicated; modelled permafrost
zones²⁴ are indicated.

85 2. Systematics of relict wedge- and pore-ice formation

86 2.1 Wedge ice

Ice wedges form in polygonal patterns and grow due to the repetition of wintertime thermal contraction cracking of the ground, and the filling of frost cracks in spring²⁵. Melt water from the winter snowpack is assumed to be the major constituent for filling frost cracks. It integrates the isotopic composition of winter precipitation and refreezes immediately in the crack to form an ice vein. According to Michel²⁶ this rapid freezing is a non-equilibrium freezing process with no or only insignificant isotopic fractionation. Minor contributions of hoar frost and dry snow, and detrital sediment and organic material washed into the crack by snowmelt may also contribute to ice veins.

Recent studies of ice crystallography, water isotopes and the composition and shape of gas bubbles, however, challenge this general assumption. St-Jean et al.²⁷ proposed that climate and site-specific conditions may determine the mode of ice wedge formation, with re-frozen snowmelt being more common in warm-wet environments, and hoar frost accretion/dry snow densification more common in cold-dry environments. They determined that the gas bubbles which form in ice wedges derived from hoar frost and dry snow are more spherical than the gas bubbles that form in a freezing liquid. Trace-gas concentrations of the bubbles also differ depending on the mode of ice formation²⁷. These observations suggest that relatively simple physical measurements can be used to differentiate between genetic classes of wedge ice, which may hold value in refining paleoclimate interpretations of wedge-ice water-isotope data. Based on studies of both Pleistocene and Holocene ice wedges in Siberia, Boereboom et al.²⁸ emphasizes that crack-infilling material is a variable water-snow mix with a tendency toward higher proportions of snowmelt during warmer periods (e.g., Holocene), whereas Kim et al.²⁹ even exclude the participation of a liquid water phase in forming the studied late Pleistocene Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 2 ice wedges in Central Yakutia.

 112 Irrespective of the composition of the frost-crack infill material, it is evident that ice wedges
113 originate from winter precipitation and, therefore, their stable-isotope composition represents
114 a cold-season temperature signal.

10 115

¹¹ 12 116 **2.2 Pore ice**

In syngenetic permafrost, pore ice preserves precipitation or runoff that percolated through the active layer during past thaw seasons, froze at or near the permafrost table during the freeze-back period, and later became relict (i.e., fell below the permafrost table) following permafrost aggradation due to accumulation of surface materials. The pore waters that form pore ice may integrate (i) meltwater derived from snow and active-layer pore ice that formed during previous years, and (ii) warm-season precipitation that can penetrate the full depth of the active layer. The seasonality of precipitation in pore ice depends on local climatological factors such as mean air temperatures and monthly precipitation totals, as well as the thermal and hydraulic properties of the ground. For example, at a sloped peat plateau site in central Yukon, Porter et al.¹³ found that ca. modern (last decade) pore ice integrated a multi-annual blend of primarily summer precipitation. They attributed this seasonality to (i) low permeability of the ice-rich peats to snowmelt at the start of the thaw season; (ii) efficient drainage of springtime precipitation as active layer runoff due to a higher saturated hydraulic conductivity at shallow thaw depths, (iii) a climatological bias with warm-season precipitation (mostly rain) accounting for roughly two-thirds of the annual precipitation budget, and (iv) a greater active layer thickness in the late summer that allows summer precipitation to reach the permafrost table where it has the potential to become relict pore ice. However, reports on the isotopic composition of pore ice from other northern sites indicate that pore ice can take on more of an annual seasonality³⁰, suggesting that site-specific conditions play an important role in determining the precipitation seasonality of relict pore ice.

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In contrast to wedge ice, the relatively slow rates of freezing that occur in the active layer
 during the freeze-back causes pore water isotopes to fractionate between the liquid and

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solid phase, with a preference for heavy isotopologues (¹H²H¹⁶O and ¹H₂¹⁸O) in the solid phase³¹. Assuming the range of experimentally constrained fractionation factors, the overall δ^{18} O enrichment of ice above water ($\epsilon^{18}O_{i-w}$) is expected to be ~2.7-3.1‰ under equilibrium conditions (slow freezing rate and unimpeded molecular diffusion)³¹. However, $\epsilon^{18}O_{i-w}$ values as low as 0.8-1.0% have been observed in natural active layers which suggests that non-equilibrium freezing conditions are common^{13,32}. Since cryofractionation depends on rates of thermal and molecular diffusion, a constant ε_{i-w} may be a reasonable assumption for any given sequence of syngenetic pore ice if the thermal and hydraulic properties of the paleo-active layer were constant. If a constant ε_{i-w} is valid, as argued in some studies¹³, it follows that stratigraphic isotope variations in syngenetic pore ice can be used as a first-order proxy for the isotopic composition of precipitation and climate. However, for permafrost sequences where paleo-active layer freezing conditions and $\varepsilon_{i,w}$ may have varied through time (e.g., due to a changing sedimentology and/or porosity), it may be more difficult to resolve the separate effects of changing $\varepsilon_{i,w}$ versus paleoclimate in the isotope stratigraphy of pore ice records.

3. Paleoclimate inferences from wedge- and pore-ice

Ice wedges have been widely used to reconstruct winter climate changes across Siberia on centennial to glacial/interglacial timescales^{8,9,15}, whereas paleoclimate estimates based on intra-sedimental pore ice has been investigated only in some pioneer studies^{12,13,30}. Several quantitative transfer functions have been developed to estimate past air temperatures based on wedge- and pore-ice isotope ratios, using either the relation between regional climate and isotope data from modern ice wedges or modern precipitation (see Opel et al.¹¹ for a compilation and discussion of transfer functions). More commonly, the stable-isotope variations of relict ice wedges are used for qualitative winter temperature inferences¹⁸. The accuracy of paleotemperature estimates based on isotope trends in relict ground ice

depends on the assumptions that the precipitation seasonality of relict ice and the relation

between precipitation-isotope ratios and air temperatures were constant. While this is often

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assumed for recent timescales, its validity over glacial-interglacial timescales has been debated at length³³. Under a constant set of ocean-atmosphere boundary conditions, real or apparent changes in precipitation seasonality and temperature-isotope sensitivity are not expected. However, over glacial timescales when the land-ocean configuration (e.g., sea level, ice sheet topography) was different from today with possible differences in moisture source and trajectory of moist air parcels, there is greater potential for non-temperature related effects in the isotope record. Isotope-enabled General Circulation Models provide opportunities to evaluate the physical processes driving precipitation isotopes and potential changes in temperature sensitivity in response to changing ocean-atmosphere boundary conditions³⁴.

Finally, differences in global ocean volume may also significantly influence ground ice-isotope records. During the Pleistocene cold stages, the $\delta^{18}O$ and $\delta^{2}H$ of the global ocean was more positive than today due to the increased storage of isotopically depleted water on land in polar ice sheets³⁵. Quantitative temperature reconstructions based on ice-core $\delta^{18}O$ records typically correct for changes in seawater¹⁷. This same approach has been applied in a limited number of pore-ice¹³ and wedge-ice³⁰ studies. However, as the isotopic composition of seawater can vary dramatically over relatively short timescales (e.g., MIS 2-1 transition), explicit seawater corrections to ground-ice and ice-core isotope records require good chronological control to determine an appropriate correction. Seawater corrections are crucial for quantitative paleoclimate estimates. Further, comparison of δ^{18} O values from relict ice of different ages for qualitative temperature inferences would also benefit from standardizing isotope data to a constant ocean.

4. Sampling and dating of relict ground ice

As for all paleoclimate archives, precise dating and chronology development is crucial for meaningful paleoclimate reconstruction. Furthermore, criteria for inclusion of paleoclimate records in multi-proxy databases are often tied to chronology characteristics³⁶, so recognition

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of ground-ice studies as a subdiscipline of guantitative paleoclimatology will require careful attention to chronological standards set by the broader community. The type of chronology that can be developed for wedge and pore ice depends on the type of samples collected. In general, ice wedges can be dated indirectly by dating the host sediments or dated directly by dating the ice itself, whereas pore ice can only be dated indirectly from the host sediments.

Ice-wedge sampling strategies have evolved over the last two decades. Early studies commonly used only a few samples per ice wedge taken by ice screw, axe or gas-powered drill, while in recent years chainsaws have become the standard tool for fast and defined sampling (Fig. 2A). To account for the growth pattern of ice wedges in both horizontal and vertical dimensions mainly two sampling schemes have been used: either cutting ice blocks (Fig. 2B-C) or defined sampling resolution by cutting thin slices (Fig. 2D). Preferentially large blocks are collected, which are subject to later handling and subsampling in a freezing lab to ensure the highest quality of samples and reduced risk of contamination, and possible identification of individual ice veins for sub-sampling (Fig 2E). Ice wedges are mostly sampled in exposures at coastal, lake or river cliffs or the headwalls of retrogressive thaw slumps. Ice wedge sampling has also been possible in tunnels dug into the permafrost^{18,37-}

FIGURE 2 HERE

Figure 2. Ice-wedge and pore-ice sampling. (A) Ice-wedge sampling by chainsaw; (B,C) block cuts from an ice wedge; (D) slice cut from an ice wedge; (E) internal foliation of an ice wedge with visible ice veins and sediment and organic inclusions; (F) pore-ice sampling by lateral coring of a permafrost exposure using a hand-held drill; (G) pore-ice sampling by vertical coring into permafrost using a gas-powered drill; and (H) recovering the permafrost core from the 'core catcher'.

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Drilling boreholes horizontally (Fig. 2F) or vertically (Fig. 2G-H) into sediment-rich permafrost
is the preferred approach for pore-ice studies. Vertical coring includes the time component
and is the easiest sampling approach, but it only yields point information which does not
necessarily account for complex three-dimensional cryostratigraphy of ice-rich permafrost.
Hence, it may be accompanied by discrete sampling of permafrost exposures.

229 Age determination of host sediments has been achieved mostly by radiocarbon dating of associated plant macro-remains or bulk organics^{13,40,41}, but also by optically stimulated 230 231 luminescence (OSL) of quartz grains³⁹, infrared stimulated luminescence (IRSL) of feldspar 232 grains⁹, peat radioisotope disequilibrium^{42,43}, geochemical fingerprinting or fission-track 233 dating of glass shards in tephra beds⁴⁴, and paleomagnetic dating⁴⁵. For indirect dating of 234 ground ice one has to keep in mind that relict ice wedges and pore ice are younger than the 235 host sediment at the same level. For ice wedges this is due to the downward directed frost 236 crack filling, and for pore ice this is due to the mobility of liquid water in the unfrozen active 237 layer prior to freezing. In both cases the ground ice is hosted in sediments that were 238 deposited sometime before the ice formed. The age offset between the relict ice and the 239 host sediments depends on the cracking depth for ice wedges, or maximum penetration 240 depth of the pore waters in the active layer (i.e., the maximum active layer thickness) for 241 pore ice, as well as the permafrost aggradation rate in syngenetic permafrost systems.

The standard approach for direct dating of ice wedges is AMS radiocarbon dating. For most late Pleistocene and Holocene studies plant macrofossils are used^{9,18,46}. In recent years, radiocarbon dating of dissolved organic carbon $(DO^{14}C)^{38,47}$ and $^{14}CO_2$ of air bubbles in the wedge ice^{29,38} has been successfully applied.

For a late Pleistocene ice wedge in Alaska, Lachniet et al.³⁸ showed that DO¹⁴C and ¹⁴CO₂
ages are younger than the fine-dispersed particulate organic matter and plant-macro

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remains and suggested that the first are geologically more reasonable. The temporal limit of the radiocarbon dating method precludes dating of ground ice older than ~50,000 years (middle-MIS 3). An independent direct dating approach using the ratio of cosmogenic chlorine-36 (³⁶Cl) to chloride (Cl-) in wedge ice reaches back to the middle to late Pleistocene⁴⁸, but requires further proof and refinement. Further method development and refinement to date old ground ice is needed as it becomes more evident that, despite its susceptibility to climate warming, ice-rich permafrost can be very persistent and survive even several interglacials. Relict ice wedges from Yukon (740,000 ± 60,000 yr BP)⁴⁴ and Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island (~ 200,000 vr BP)⁴³ predate the oldest ice recovered from the base of the Greenland ice sheet⁴⁹ and possibly represent the oldest ice in the Northern Hemisphere. Reliable dating of such ancient permafrost is a precondition to shed light on the controls of such remarkable permafrost persistence. The temporal resolution of most relict wedge-ice records is relatively coarse, for example, binned into stratigraphic units or marine isotope stages or sub-stages (e.g., late MIS 3 or 'full glacial' MIS 2). However, there are examples of wedge-ice time-series with exceptionally high temporal-resolution chronologies (e.g., decadal to centennial). Basically two approaches have been successfully utilized to generate these time-series from ice wedges: age-distance interpolation between radiocarbon dated samples within an ice-wedge profile¹⁸ and combining paired age-isotope information into a composite record^{8,50}. However, application of statistical age-distance models for high-resolution ice-wedge chronologies is relatively uncommon as the underlying assumptions of such models (i.e., continuous growth rate and absence of cross-cutting ice veins) are difficult to verify or are often violated on the basis of ¹⁴C-age reversals^{38,50}. Indirect dating of relict pore ice in a syngenetic permafrost sequence has been approximated in two ways. First, stratigraphic association with dated macrofossils¹⁶ or with geochemically

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verified tephra of known age⁵¹ in the host sediments gives a maximum age constraint on the pore ice. Second, age interpolation using an age-depth model may be constrained by ¹⁴C-dated macrofossils and other chronological tie-points (e.g., tephra) in the permafrost sequence¹³. This method assumes that the formation of relict pore ice and paleosurface (and paleo-permafrost) aggradation occurred simultaneously, and that the formation depth of relict pore ice (i.e., maximum thaw depth) did not vary much through time¹³. The latter assumption has implications for the interpolated age of the pore ice. For example, given a constant maximum active layer thickness of 60 cm, the age of any relict pore-ice sample in the permafrost sequence will be equal to the age of sediment found 60 cm above, which can be referenced from the sediment (paleosurface) age-depth model. The youngest 'relict' pore ice, with an approximate age of ca. present day, is found in the uppermost layer of permafrost.

- - 5. Major paleoclimate results since 2010

5.1 Spatial and temporal patterns of ice-wedge δ¹⁸O data

For a meta-analysis, we have summarized mean ice-wedge δ^{18} O data across the northern high latitudes for several periods: MIS 3 (57-29 cal ka BP), MIS 2 (29-11.7 cal ka BP), Holocene (last 11.7 cal ka BP) and modern (last several decades) in order to examine broad spatial and temporal patterns (Fig. 3). This extends earlier work^{23,52,53} mainly by including data from Alaska and Canada. In total, we considered ice-wedge δ^{18} O records from 82 study sites (Table S1). Although the meta-analysis focuses on the MIS 3-1 and present-day intervals, a few rare examples of older (MIS 7 to 4) ice-wedge δ^{18} O records are discussed in sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.4. We are aware that (i) climate was not constant during all four intervals, (ii) mean δ^{18} O data of the ice wedges may represent only part of these periods, and (iii) dating uncertainties exist for the ice wedges and host sediments, respectively. Even though these issues add a certain degree of uncertainty, robust spatial and temporal patterns are evident in the ice-wedge δ^{18} O data from which general conclusions can be drawn.

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2 3 4 5 6	306	
	307	FIGURE 3 HERE
7 8	308	Figure 3. Average wedge-ice δ^{18} O values dating to (a) modern, (b) Holocene, (c) MIS 2 and
9 10	309	(d) MIS 3 from studies since 2010 (see Table S1 for data and sources); Russian sub-regions
11 12	310	of W. Siberia (R1), Laptev Sea region (R2), Kolyma and Chukotka (R3) and central Yakutia
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 	311	(R4) are indicated.
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	313	δ^{18} O data of <i>ca</i> . modern ice wedges (Fig. 3a), i.e. those which formed in the last several
	314	decades according to stratigraphic interpretation or post-bomb isotope data (e.g., ¹⁴ C or ³ H),
	315	are most enriched and in most cases exceed the mean Holocene $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values (Fig. 3b) by
	316	several permil. This reflects recent Arctic warming which is particularly evident in the
	317	extended winter season as also shown in temperature reconstructions based on ice wedges
	318	(Fig. 4a). Holocene wedge-ice δ^{18} O mean values are clearly enriched over late Pleistocene
	319	wedge-ice δ^{18} O mean values of MIS 3 (Fig. 3d) and MIS 2 (Fig. 3c) which reflect a colder
	320	mean winter climate during past stadials and interstadials in comparison to the present
	321	interglacial. MIS 3 and MIS 2 are characterized by similar wedge-ice $\delta^{18}O$ values, with only a
36 37 38	322	few surprising exceptions for sites that show lower $\delta^{18}O$ values during MIS 3 than MIS 2. In
39	323	the circum-Arctic, the MIS 3 interstadial is often assumed to represent a milder but also more
40 41 42	324	variable climate than the full glacial conditions of MIS 2 that culminated in the Last Glacial
43 44	325	Maximum (LGM) at ~21 ka BP ¹⁹ . This apparent discrepancy may be due in part to the winter
45 46	326	seasonality of ice wedges and/or to the time integrated in MIS 3 and MIS 2 ice wedges. For
47 48	327	example, some MIS 2 ice wedges capture the deglacial period ¹⁸ , but almost certainly do not
49 50	328	represent the extreme cold or LGM conditions of MIS 2. Further, some areas show a general
51 52	329	absence of MIS 2 ice wedges dating to the full glacial ^{30,47} , which may indicate conditions that
53 54	330	inhibited the development (e.g., thicker snow ¹⁶) or preservation of ice wedges. A lack of MIS
55 56 57	331	2 ice wedges is also observed in parts of the Russian Arctic, where MIS 2 full glacial
57 58 59	332	permafrost deposits (i.e. Sartan Yedoma Ice Complex) may have formed only in specific
60	333	environments such as river valleys ⁴⁰ . MIS 2 ice wedges from such Ice Complex deposits on

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4 Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island, for example, show extremely depleted δ^{18} O values as low as – 5 37‰ (or 6‰ lower than MIS 3 ice wedges), while MIS 2 ice wedges from other sites in the 6 Laptev Sea region do not show more depleted δ^{18} O values compared to MIS 3⁴⁰.

8 Spatial patterns in ice-wedge δ^{18} O are evident in all time slices from modern to MIS 3 (Fig. 9 3) and are generally consistent with those of modern winter precipitation isotopes⁵⁴. Coastal 0 ice wedges are more enriched in δ^{18} O compared to more continental ice wedges, likely 1 reflecting the smaller distance to the moisture source. A remarkable feature is the zonal $\delta^{18}O$ 2 trend across the coastal Russian Arctic with δ^{18} O values decreasing from west to east. This 3 pattern likely reflects a dominance of westerly moisture transport from the North Atlantic and 4 Rayleigh distillation along a west-east temperature gradient that was a constant feature of -5 the last ~60 kyr, independent of climate and ice-sheet configuration. Study sites in Chukotka 6 in easternmost Russia show more enriched values and reflect mainly Pacific moisture 7 sources⁵⁵.

.9 This spatial analysis is somewhat limited by the fact that most ice-wedge study sites are 0 located in the Russian Arctic and/or along the coast, whereas the North American Arctic 51 sites are too sparsely distributed to resolve regional spatial trends.

3 5.2 Major paleoclimate results from Russian Arctic sites

4 Studies of relict ground ice for paleoenvironmental reconstruction in the Russian high 5 latitudes date back more than three decades¹⁵ and have led to a remarkable collection of 6 data. . In the following sections we briefly review major progress over the last 10 years in 4 7 main regions (West Siberia, Laptev Sea region, Kolyma region and Chukotka) and Interior 8 Yakutia.

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0 5.2.1 West Siberia

Only a few studies exist for West Siberia. Based on syngenetic ice wedges of MIS 2 and Holocene age at three sites at the eastern coast of the Yenisei Bay (Western Taymyr Peninsula), Streletskaya et al.⁵⁶ demonstrate that this part of the Taymyr Peninsula was not glaciated during the LGM. The authors infer warming since the MIS 2, with mean $\delta^{18}O$ values of about -26% during MIS 2 increasing to Holocene mean δ^{18} O values of -20.5%. Modern ice wedges are even more enriched above the Holocene wedges by a similar amount, with a δ^{18} O value of about –16.5‰. For the MIS 2 ice wedges, Streletskava et al.⁵⁶ estimated a mean January temperature of around -40°C, which is 12-15°C colder than at present. The increase in δ^{18} O is accompanied by an increase in d_{excess} (δ^{2} H – 8× δ^{18} O) from mean values of ~8-9‰ to ~11-13‰. Similar δ^{18} O values for Holocene and modern ice wedges are observed on the Southern Yamal Peninsula⁵⁷. Given its proximity to the western boundary of the permafrost zone and to the Barents and Kara seas, which both are particularly affected by modern and likely also past Arctic climate and sea-ice changes. West Siberia may be a key region for future detailed ice-wedge paleoclimate studies. CLIP 5.2.2 Laptev Sea region Over the last decades the Laptev Sea region has been one of the main study regions for relict permafrost in the Russian Arctic. The late Pleistocene Yedoma Ice Complex of MIS 3 to 2 age and its degradation forms (i.e., thermokarst basins) are major landform elements in the coastal lowlands of the region. However, at the Dmitry Laptev Strait two older Ice Complex units have been studied, dating to MIS 743 and MIS 542. Three Ice Complex units share similar mean wedge-ice δ^{18} O values: MIS 7 (-32‰), MIS 5 (-33‰) and MIS 3 (–31‰) indicating comparable winter temperatures during the MIS 7

interglacial and the MIS 5 and MIS 3 interstadials. In contrast, the MIS 2 Ice Complex is

characterized by a mean wedge-ice δ^{18} O value of -37%, indicating significantly colder mean

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winter temperatures during the stadial towards the LGM, an unprecedented pattern for the Russian Arctic⁴³. It should be noted that the MIS 5 Buchchagy Ice Complex does not capture the globally warm last interglacial period, i.e. MIS 5e⁴². The thermokarst-lake and thermokarst-basin palustrine deposits of the Krest Yurvakh Suite (formerly attributed to MIS 5e) are most likely degradation forms of the Buchchagy Ice Complex. They have been IRSL-dated to 102.4 ± 9.7 ka⁹, placing them within the MIS 5d stadial. Further dating and isotopic studies are necessary to solve this puzzle of Northeast Siberian climate and landscape dynamics.

Interestingly, the mean d_{excess} values are quite similar across all four Ice Complex units, indicating similar atmospheric moisture generation and transport patterns in winter⁴³. Cold stage conditions similar to the MIS 2 are reflected by mean ice-wedge δ^{18} O values of -36‰ for MIS 4 ice wedges preserved in floodplain deposits.

Much warmer winter temperatures can be inferred from Holocene (mean δ^{18} O of -25‰) and in particular modern (mean δ^{18} O values of -20.5‰) ice wedges, clearly reflecting the interglacial Holocene and recent Arctic warming⁹. Winter temperature trends at higher (i.e. centennial) resolution have recently been obtained from Holocene ice wedges preserved in river terraces and on top of the Yedoma Ice Complex in the Lena Delta⁸. A composite wedge-ice δ^{18} O record from the Lena Delta⁸, based on paired ¹⁴C ages and δ^{18} O data of 42 ice-wedge samples, and additionally modern ice wedges, shows a long-term δ^{18} O increase $(\Delta \delta^{18}O = +0.45\% ka^{-1})$ until AD 1850. It indicates a warming trend in winter (December to May) that began as early as the mid-Holocene, which has been followed by unprecedented warming in the last ~150 years (Fig. 4a). This first evidence of a Holocene winter warming trend differs from long-term cooling seen in most other high-latitude temperature proxies that are biased towards the summer and are driven by declining summer insolation. In contrast, the cold-season warming may be largely explained by long-term increases in cold-season (November to April) insolation (Fig. 4b) and greenhouse gas forcing. The Holocene winter

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warming is corroborated by paleoclimate model simulations⁸. While the Lena Delta record does not show a significant trend over the last two millennia, except for the unprecedented recent warming, a second record from a drained thermokarst basin at the Ovogos Yar coast⁵⁰ shows a pronounced warming trend over this period and the modern era ($\Delta \delta^{18}O =$ +1.5% ka⁻¹) (Fig. 4a). The warming towards present conditions is detectable in the high-resolution stable-isotope profiles from all three ice wedges studied at this site. **FIGURE 4 HERE** Figure 4. Holocene paleoclimate reconstructions and relict ground-ice water-isotope records. (a) Multi-site stacked wedge-ice δ^{18} O record from the Lena Delta⁸ (black dashed line) and a single-site stacked wedge-ice δ^{18} O record from the Oyogos Yar coast⁵⁰ (red dashed line); (b) insolation change relative to modern during the warm-season (Jun-Sep) and cold-season (Nov-Apr) after Laskar et al.⁵⁸; (c) pore-ice δ^2 H record from DHP174 site in central Yukon¹³; (d) Northern Hemisphere multi-proxy temperature reconstruction⁵⁹. 5.2.3 Kolyma region and Chukotka The lower reaches of the Kolyma River have been an important region for ice-wedge paleoclimate research¹⁵. At different sites along the roughly 10 km-long exposure of the Duvanny Yar Ice Complex key site (MIS 3 to MIS 2), vertical δ^{18} O profiles vary between about –33 and –30‰, partly in a cyclic pattern and slightly decreasing upwards². Vasil'chuk⁶⁰ interpreted some of the spiky maxima in the Duvanny Yar and other regional ice-wedge sites as possible Dansgaard-Oeschger events, decadal- to multi-decadal climate oscillations of the North Atlantic sector during MIS 3, as observed in Greenland ice cores⁶¹. However, the relatively coarse dating and dating uncertainties of the Duvanny Yar isotope stratigraphy makes attribution to any specific Dansgaard-Oeschger event difficult. If Dansgaard-Oeschger events are truly represented in the Kolyma region this would have major implications for our understanding of the role the North Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation plays in regulating broader scale climate variability across the Arctic. At the Plakhinskii Yar

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Ice Complex site, a vertical ice-wedge profile covering the latest MIS 3 and full MIS 2 (~30-

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12 ka) reveals a larger δ^{18} O variability ranging from -34.7 to -30‰⁶². The coldest period in the record (30-28 ka) is attributed to Heinrich Stadial 3. Another cold period around 18-16 ka reaches similarly depleted values, followed by a warming (δ^{18} O values between -31 and -30‰). In contrast to these sites, the wedge-ice δ^{18} O profile of the Stanchikovsky Yar Ice Complex suggests stable climate conditions between 35 and 25 ka⁶³. The Ice Complex at Ayon Island in Kolyma Bay shows rather variable wedge-ice δ^{18} O values between -34 and -29‰ for the period 30 to 10 ka with lower values in the first half of the record, whereas Holocene ice wedges reflect much higher temperatures with a mean δ^{18} O value of -21.6‰⁶⁴. Distinctly more enriched δ^{18} O values ranging from -29 to -26‰ are observed in a vertical ice wedge profile dated to 42 to 27 ka at the Ledovy Obrykh site in the Mayn River valley in Chukotka⁶⁵. An upwardly decreasing trend during the MIS 3 to 2 transition was interpreted as a cooling trend. Again, Holocene wedge ice at this site is substantially enriched in δ^{18} O

459 and yields a mean value of –20‰.

The East Chukotka Peninsula receives between 40 and 60% of its precipitation from the Northern Pacific Ocean⁵⁵. Stable isotopes of early and middle Holocene ice wedges at three sites on the East Chukotka Peninsula⁵⁵ clearly reflect this proximity to the main moisture source. They are distinctly enriched compared to more continental sites in Chukotka and most other study sites in the Russian High Latitudes, and similar to those from West Siberia. Mean δ^{18} O values per wedge vary between -18.5 % and -14%. Mean d_{excess} values are also similar to West Siberia, ranging between 8 and 13‰. Modern ice wedges show more enriched δ^{18} O values (-13%) and lower d_{excess} (6‰), reflecting modern warming and associated changes in moisture generation and transport dynamics.

471 5.2.4 Interior Yakutia

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Interior parts of Yakutia are understudied compared to the coastal sites of the Russian
Arctic, but there are new ice-wedge stable-isotope data and insights on past winter climate in
this highly continental region from the Batagay megaslump in the Yana Highlands.

476 Vasil'chuk et al.⁶⁶ and Opel et al.⁵² revealed consistent mean δ¹⁸O values of around −35‰ 477 for several ice wedges of the upper ice complex unit of the slump headwall attributed to the 478 MIS 3 interstadial. Such depleted values have not been observed in other MIS 3 deposits in 479 all of Siberia^{52,66}, which suggests this region then had, as it does today, an extreme 480 continental climate (Fig. 3). Additionally, the mean *d*_{excess} values of the Batagay and other 481 Central Yakutian sites exhibit the highest mean values (≥ 8‰) in comparison to other MIS 3 482 ice wedges across Siberia⁵².

While no Holocene ice wedges have been found in the Batagay megaslump, a late Holocene ice wedge from nearby at the Adycha River also exhibits more depleted mean δ^{18} O values (– 29‰) compared to other study sites across Siberia indicating the high continentality but similar d_{excess} values⁵². How exactly the spatial d_{excess} pattern is influenced by the degree of continentality remains a topic for future studies. Interestingly, the δ^{18} O difference between MIS 3 and the Holocene (6‰) is about the same as for the Dmitry Laptev Strait.

The age of the lower ice complex exposed in the Batagay megaslump is not yet well known. Luminescence ages of 142.8 \pm 25.3 kyr and >123.2 kyr (OSL) and 210.0 \pm 23.0 kyr (IRSL) for the discordantly overlying lower sand unit suggest that the age of the Lower Ice Complex is MIS 6 or older. It could represent the oldest wedge ice ever analyzed for stable isotopes. Notably, it is clear that this ice complex has survived at least 2 Interglacials (in MIS 5 and Holocene), which demonstrates the local persistence of permafrost under suitable conditions. The mean wedge-ice δ^{18} O value of -33% reflects a cold winter climate that is comparable, but not as cold as MIS 3⁵².

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500 **5.3 Major paleoclimate results from North American Arctic sites**

501 Compared to the Russian Arctic, the western North American Arctic has seen less activity in 502 the study of relict ground-ice stable-isotopes as a paleoclimate proxy, although there is a 503 long history of studies in this region where relict ice stable-isotope records have been used 504 for other purposes such as age and genetic classification of ground ice^{67,68}. Nevertheless, 505 there are several relevant studies from the last ten years that have contributed to advances 506 in knowledge of Arctic paleoclimate, mainly from the Yukon-Alaska Arctic coast and 507 continental Yukon-Alaska.

- 508
 - 509 5.3.1 Yukon and Alaskan Arctic coasts

510 Studies of relict ice wedges from the Yukon and Alaskan Arctic coasts offer cold-season
511 paleoclimate insights primarily dating to the deglacial phase of MIS 2 and the Holocene.

Discrete sampling of ice wedges has been reported from several localities along the 3 4 Canadian western Arctic coast where upper late Pleistocene and Holocene permafrost is exposed. At Herschel Island, which is one of the few Canadian sites where both MIS 2 and 5 6 Holocene ice wedges are reported, Fritz et al.⁶⁹ found a roughly 7‰ increase in mean δ^{18} O 7 from -29‰ (Wisconsinan deglacial, ~16 ka BP) to -22‰ (mid-Holocene) which the authors 8 interpret as due to winter warming. This was validated by a similar mean Holocene value of -23‰ for ice wedges at Komakuk Beach ~30 km west of Herschel Island⁶⁹ and King Point, 9 0 ~70 km southwest of Herschel Island⁷⁰. The chronology of the Herschel Island ice wedges, 1 however, is only loosely constrained by the dating of the associated sedimentary units, and 2 so these δ^{18} O data are only considered as broadly representative of the MIS 2 deglacial and 3 Holocene periods.

56 525 On the north coast of Alaska near Barrow (Utqiaġvik), Meyer et al.¹⁸ reported a ~3,000 year-57 58 526 long continuous record of wedge-ice δ^{18} O and d_{excess} from the Barrow Ice Wedge System 59 60 527 (BIWS). Importantly, this record provides the only known sequence of wedge-ice δ^{18} O

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capturing the deglacial transition from the Bølling-Allerød (BA) interstadial to Younger Dryas

(YD) stadial conditions ~12.9 ka BP, and the subsequent onset of Preboreal warming at ~11.5 ka BP. A second novel aspect of this record is a companion pollen dataset developed from the host sediments³⁷ which allowed the authors to resolve the local paleoecology and summer temperature history, in addition to the winter temperature history, which demonstrates the potential to develop multi-proxy and seasonally holistic records of paleoenvironmental change from ice wedge-bearing permafrost units. FIGURE 5 HERE Figure 5. Water isotope and phytoplankton-derived methanesulfonate ion (MS⁻) records dating to the Younger Dryas transition from the Barrow Ice Wedge System (BIWS) and NGRIP ice core. (a, b) δ^{18} O and d_{excess} records from BIWS¹⁸ (red circles) and NGRIP⁷¹ (black line). (c) MS⁻ ion concentration from BIWS⁷² (red circles). The BIWS δ^{18} O record documents a ~5% decrease (from -22% to -27%) at the BA-YD transition ~12.8 ka BP, which is similar to a ~6‰ decrease in the NGRIP (Greenland) ice core δ^{18} O record since ~14.5 ka BP (Fig. 5a). The authors noted that this change in the BIWS record likely represents extreme cooling of local winter conditions, although they did not guantify the magnitude of cooling. After 11.5 ka, the formal limit of the YD, the BIWS and NGRIP records both show a rebound to mean δ^{18} O values that were more typical during the BA interstadial (Fig. 5a). The coherence of the BIWS and NGRIP records has major climatological implications, and suggests the Arctic system was tightly coupled at broad geographic scales during deglacial times, a conclusion that has since been extended to the North Pacific⁷³. Meyer et al.¹⁸ also observed coherent changes in the BIWS and NGRIP d_{excess} records (Fig. 5b), implying major changes in moisture source evaporative boundary

553 conditions, but for the BIWS specifically this change was linked to flooding of the Alaskan

554 continental shelf due to deglacial sea level rise. Last, another notable finding from the BIWS

555 is the indication from the companion pollen record that YD summers in that area were not

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2		
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	556	much colder than today ³⁷ , implying important seasonality differences in the expression of the
	557	YD climate event on the Alaskan north coast. This finding of relatively warm summers during
	558	a period that is generally thought of as extremely cold is curious, but also finds some support
	559	from an independent study by lizuka et al.72 that inferred relatively low sea ice
11 12	560	concentrations just offshore from the BIWS site during the early YD.
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	562	lizuka et al. ⁷² revisited the BIWS and analyzed the wedge ice for marine-derived aerosols,
	563	often applied in glacier ice-core studies for reconstructing sea ice concentrations. They
	564	observed high methanesulfonate ion (MS ⁻) concentrations during the early and coldest YD
	565	periods, indicating a high marine productivity and, therefore, nearshore open water
	566	conditions during the summer in the Beaufort Sea near Barrow, Alaska (Fig. 5c). This novel
	567	application of the MS ⁻ proxy in ice wedges demonstrates a potentially new direction that can
	568	fill gaps in our knowledge of paleo-sea ice conditions in Arctic coastal settings.
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	570	5.3.2 Continental Alaska and Yukon
	571	Recent studies in continental Alaska and Yukon that have used ground ice stable isotope
	572	ratios for paleoclimate reconstruction are mostly based on wedge ice ^{30,38,74} , but also include
	573	rare examples where syngenetic pore ice has been used ^{13,30} .
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43 44	575	At the Fox Creek (CRREL) permafrost tunnel near Fairbanks, Alaska, Lachniet et al. ³⁸
45 46	576	reported $\delta^{18}O$ values from a single ~1.2 m wide ice wedge, which likely formed during the full
47 48	577	glacial between ca. 28-22 cal ka BP according to modeled $^{14}CO_2$ ages of air bubbles in the
49 50	578	ice. Lachniet et al. ⁷⁴ observed a mean δ^{18} O value of -27.2‰ for the most depleted wedge
51 52	579	ice, which they suggested may reflect the coldest conditions of the LGM. Lachniet et al.74
53 54	580	noted that the LGM mean value is depleted by 5.4‰ compared to nearby Holocene ice
55 56 57	581	wedges ($\delta^{18}O = -21.8\%$) ⁷⁵ , which they equated to a temperature depression of ~17 ± 3°C
57 58 59	582	colder than modern assuming a winter $\Delta \delta^{18}O_{precip}$ -temperature sensitivity of $0.31\%^{\circ}C^{-1}$.
60	583	

From the Klondike area of central Yukon, Porter et al.³⁰ reported wedge-ice δ¹⁸O values of – 29.3‰ for the late MIS 3 (ca. 31.9-30.2 cal. ka BP) and -24.5‰ for the late Holocene (ca. 0-500 year BP), respectively. Based on the 4.8% mean difference between the MIS 3 and late Holocene wedge-ice δ^{18} O values (5.5‰ after standardizing for δ^{18} O_{seawater}) and an assumed $\delta^{18}O_{\text{precip}}$ - ΔT sensitivity of 0.41‰·°C⁻¹, they estimated that MIS 3 winters in the Klondike were \sim 13 ± 3°C colder than modern. This value is similar to the \sim 17 ± 3°C temperature depression estimated by Lachniet et al.⁷⁴ from LGM wedge ice in central Alaska, implying that extremely cold winter climates prevailed across Eastern Beringia during MIS 3 and 2. Pore ice from the same Klondike deposits, thought to integrate annual precipitation, showed mean δ^{18} O values of -28.0‰ and -22.7‰ for MIS 3 and MIS 1, respectively³⁰. Based on the 5.3‰ offset (6.0‰ after standardizing for $\delta^{18}O_{\text{seawater}}$) Porter et al.³⁰ estimated mean annual temperatures during MIS 3 were depressed by up to \sim 15 ± 3°C compared to the Holocene, which is similar to the MIS 3 winter temperature depression inferred based on wedge ice. However, the authors cautioned that paleotemperature estimates based on isotope ratios of pore ice containing an annual mixture of meteoric water are inevitably more sensitive to changes in the precipitation seasonality than relict ice with a more narrowly constrained seasonality (e.g., ice wedges).

Finally, a study by Porter et al.¹³ reported the first full-Holocene, quantitative summertemperature reconstruction based on pore-ice δ^2 H (Fig. 4c) from a 5.3 m core of syngenetic permafrost below a soligenous peatland site (DHP174 site) in central Yukon. Porter et al. argued that the δ^2 H variable provides a better estimate of paleotemperature compared to δ^{18} O since the deuterium-rich isotopologue of water (i.e., HDO) is less sensitive than H₂¹⁸O to evaporation-related kinetic effects that may occur at the oceanic moisture source, which can otherwise distort the paleoclimate signal recorded in pore ice¹³. The DHP174 pore-ice record integrates mainly summer precipitation (discussed in Section 2.2). After correcting for long-term seawater changes, the DHP174 pore-ice δ^2 H record was used to reconstruct a 13.6 ka-long summer temperature history assuming the $\Delta\delta^2$ H_{precip}-temperature sensitivity of ~1.6‰·°C⁻¹. The reconstruction shows deglacial warming since 13.6 ka BP and reaching a

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Thermal Maximum at 7.6-6.6 ka BP when summers were ~0.3°C warmer than the Holocene mean. A subsequent 6 ka-long cooling trend (-0.16°C per ka) was abruptly reversed at the start of the Industrial Era (~200 years ago) when temperatures began to rise, culminating in the warmest summer climate at present day and exceeding the Thermal Maximum by $\sim 2^{\circ}$ C. General trends in the early, middle and late Holocene portions of the DHP174 pore-ice δ^2 H record are consistent with a multi-proxy composite temperature reconstruction representing the northern extratropical latitudes⁵⁹ (Fig. 4d). Furthermore, apparent coupling between the reconstructed summer temperatures in Yukon and summer (June-Sept.) insolation at 65°N (Fig. 4b) implies solar forcing played a major role in driving regional Holocene climate trends.

622 6. Conclusions and outlook

The application of relict ground ice-stable isotopes for paleoclimate studies has advanced significantly in recent years and led to important insights on Quaternary climate dynamics across the Siberian Arctic and W. North American Arctic. Recent progress is clearly related to advances in ground-ice dating methods, development of high temporal-resolution (e.g., centennial to decadal) composite ground-ice isotope time-series and refined frameworks used to interpret these records, but ultimately driven by demand for paleoclimate data from the broader research community to constrain past (and potentially future) Arctic change.

631 Future studies are needed to harness the momentum and growing interest in relict ground-632 ice stable isotope paleoclimatology, and we recommend the following research directions:

- continued advancement of the scientific methods of ground-ice studies, including
 dating and chronology development;
- continued studies on the isotope systematics of relict ground-ice stable isotopes to
 enable refined interpretations and quantitative paleoclimate estimates¹¹;
- 637
 investigate the paleoclimate value of stable water isotopes in other forms of relict
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Permafrost and Periglacial Processes

1 2		
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	640	close spatial gaps, particularly in the Western Arctic where the concentration of relict
	641	ground-ice isotope records is low compared to the Russian Arctic (see Fig. 3);
	642	close temporal gaps in regions with available ground ice and reduced data density
	643	during MIS 2 and MIS 3 in comparison to the Holocene (see Figs. 3c-d);
	644	continued focus on climate patterns and periods of significance to the paleoclimate
	645	community such as the Common Era (last 2,000 years), the Holocene Thermal
15 16	646	Maximum, LGM, and extreme variability such as Dansgaard-Oeschger events and
17 18	647	the Younger Dryas, in order to assess the magnitude and dynamics of these climate
19 20 21	648	phenomena across the pan-Arctic;
21 22 23	649	 further exploration and development of stable water-isotope records from ancient
23 24 25	650	(e.g., middle Pleistocene) ground ice ⁵² which offer rare glimpses of the Arctic climate
26 27	651	system during intervals that are simply not captured by any other terrestrial archive in
28 29	652	the Northern Hemisphere;
30 31	653	develop a suitable repository for ground-ice stable isotope records that conforms to
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 9 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60	654	the data and metadata standards expected by the broader paleoclimate and climate-
	655	modeling communities;
	656	 validate novel proxies such as sea-spray aerosols preserved in ice wedges⁷², and
	657	explore innovative applications of relict ground ice proxies to enable a more holistic
	658	perspective on paleoenvironmental change.
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	660	In summary, recent studies of wedge- and pore-ice stable isotope records have contributed
	661	substantially to knowledge of Quaternary climate dynamics in the Arctic. Continued focus on
	662	the key research directions outlined above will help this emerging discipline to reach its full
	663	potential in the field of Arctic paleoclimate studies.
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	665	Acknowledgements.

1 2			
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	666	The a	authors thank Christopher Burn and two anonymous reviewers for their comments that
	667	impro	oved this paper. T.J. Porter acknowledges the Natural Sciences and Engineering
	668	Rese	arch Council of Canada (Discovery Grant) for financial support.
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11 12	670	Data	availability. Coordinates of study sites, wedge-ice δ^{18} O data plotted in Figures 1 and 3
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	060	74	Staffenson ID Anderson KK Digler M at al. Lligh resolution Creanland ice care date
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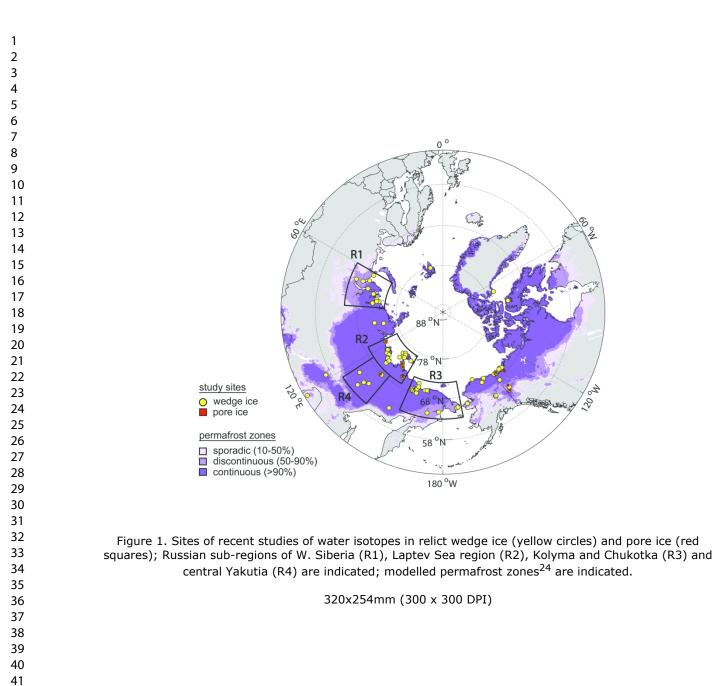




Figure 2. Ice-wedge and pore-ice sampling. (A) Ice-wedge sampling by chainsaw; (B,C) block cuts from an ice wedge; (D) slice cut from an ice wedge; (E) internal foliation of an ice wedge with visible ice veins and sediment and organic inclusions; (F) pore-ice sampling by lateral coring of a permafrost exposure using a hand-held drill; (G) pore-ice sampling by vertical coring into permafrost using a gas-powered drill; and (H) recovering the permafrost core from the 'core catcher'.

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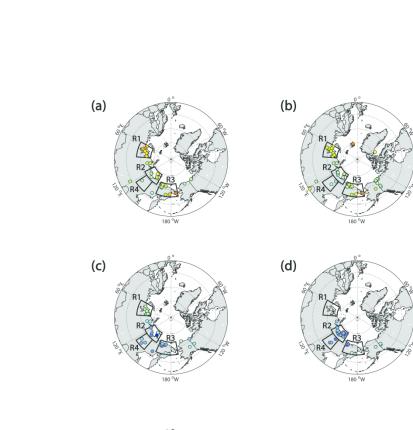
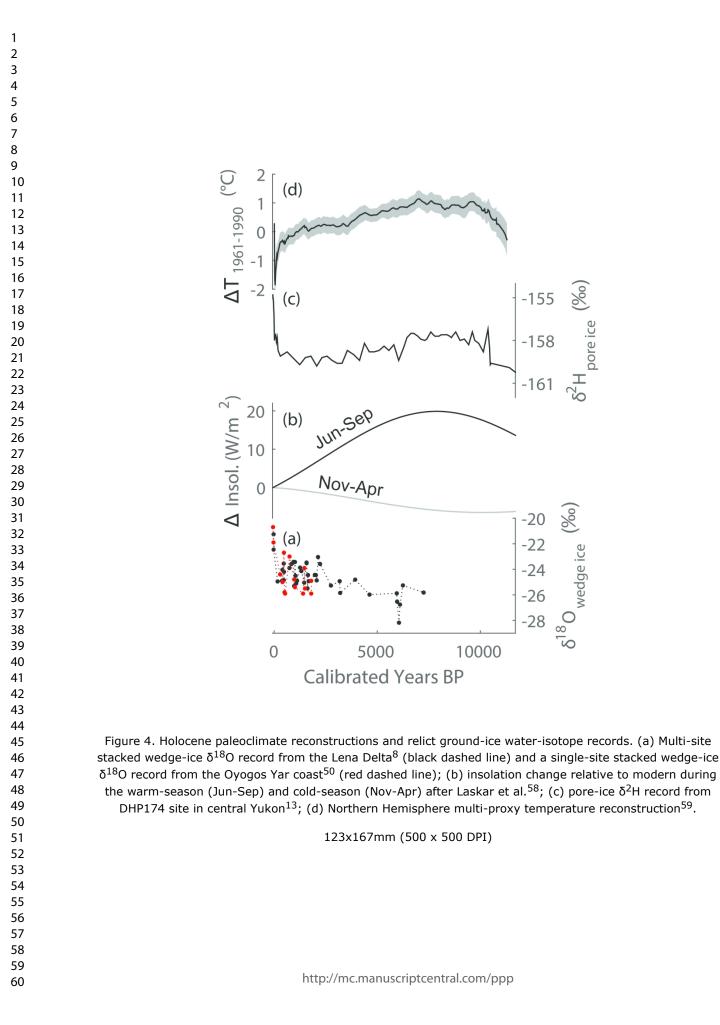
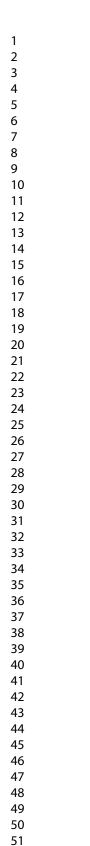


Figure 3. Average wedge-ice δ^{18} O values dating to (a) modern, (b) Holocene, (c) MIS 2 and (d) MIS 3 from studies since 2010 (see Table S1 for data and sources); Russian sub-regions of W. Siberia (R1), Laptev Sea region (R2), Kolyma and Chukotka (R3) and central Yakutia (R4) are indicated.

382x254mm (500 x 500 DPI)





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Younger Dryas -20 (a) -36 (%) -22 O₈₁9 -24 SMIB -26 NGRIP 8¹⁸O (‰) -38 -40 -28 12 12 (b) (%) (%) 10 10 NGRIP d_{excess} (' d_{excess} 8 8 BIWS 6 6 4 3 (c) MS⁻ (mg/kg) 0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 Calibrated Years BP imes 10 4

Figure 5. Water isotope and phytoplankton-derived methanesulfonate ion (MS⁻) records dating to the Younger Dryas transition from the Barrow Ice Wedge System (BIWS) and NGRIP ice core. (a, b) δ^{18} O and d_{excess} records from BIWS¹⁸ (red circles) and NGRIP⁷¹ (black line). (c) MS- ion concentration from BIWS⁷² (red circles).

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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 21 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	1 2 3 4	
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56 57 58 59	51 52 53 54	
	56 57 58 59	

Site ID	Country	Site name	Latitude	Longitude
1	Russia	Amderma	70.00	62.00
2	Russia	Marre-Sale Cape	69.68	66.80
3	Russia	Erkutayakha River	68.19	68.86
4	Russia	Shchuchya River	66.50	69.00
5	Russia	Seyakha Vostochnaya River	70.00	72.50
6	Russia	Gydan Peninsula	71.80	75.20
7	Russia	Era-Maretayakha	71.65	75.42
8	Russia	Sibiryakov Island	72.72	79.10
9	Russia	Dikson	73.52	80.57
10	Russia	Krestyanka River	72.90	80.90
11	Russia	Sopochnaya Karga Cape	71.90	82.60
12	Russia	Labaz Lake	72.33	99.00
13	Russia	Cape Sabler	74.55	100.53
14	Russia	Mamontov Klyk	73.60	117.17
15	Russia	Chara River	56.77	118.10
16	Russia	Nagym, Lena Delta	72.90	123.20
17	Russia	Turakh, Lena Delta	72.97	123.80
18	Russia	Khardang, Lena Delta	73.00	124.20
19	Russia	Vilyui near Tyalychima River	64.00	126.00
20	Russia	Central Lena Delta	72.38	126.12
21	Russia	Kurungnakh, Lena Delta	72.30	126.30
22	Russia	Sobo Sise, Lena Delta	72.50	128.30
23	Russia	Bykovsky Peninsula	71.78	129.43
24	Russia	Muostakh Island	71.60	130.00
25	Russia	Cyuie	61.73	130.42
26	Russia	Tanda	63.30	131.70
27	Russia	Kular	70.63	131.88
28	Russia	Buor Khaya	71.50	132.10
29	Russia	Mamontova Gora	64.00	134.00
30	Russia	Batagay	67.60	134.80
31	Russia	Adycha	67.66	135.69
32	Russia	Belkovsky Island	75.40	135.60
33	Russia	Stolbovoy Island	74.10	136.10
34	Russia	Kotelny Island, north coast	75.80	137.50
35	Russia	Kotelny Island	74.70	138.50
36	Russia	Kotelny Island, Balyktakh river	75.43	138.82
37	Russia	Kotelny Island, south coast	74.80	139.60
38	Russia	Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky	73.30	141.50
39	Russia	Oyogos Yar	72.70	143.50
40	Russia	Novaya Sibir' Island	75.10	146.70
41	Russia	Boydom	70.64	148.15
42	Russia	Kryvaya	70.56	148.26
43	Russia	Pit Phoenix	62.25	150.75
44	Russia	Bison, Kolyma River basin	69.00	158.00
45	Russia	Alyoshkinskaya terrace	68.72	158.40
46	Russia	Duvanny Yar	68.63	159.15
47	Russia	Plakhinskii Yar	68.68	160.29
48	Russia	Zelyony Mys	69.00	161.00
48	Russia	Pokhodsk	69.04	161.00
49 50	Russia	Stanchikovsky Yar	69.37	161.52
50	NUSSId	Statictikuvsky tal	05.57	101.32

51	Russia	Chetyrekhstolbovy Island	70.78	161.60
52	Russia	Krasivoe	68.30	161.73
53	Russia	Ambarchik Polar Station	70.00	162.00
54	Russia	Rauchua River	69.50	167.00
55	Russia	Ayon Island	69.63	168.58
56	Russia	Mayn River Valley	64.17	171.04
57	Russia	Anadyr Town	64.73	177.52
58	Russia	Lorino Settlement	65.50	-171.72
59	Russia	Lavrentiya Settlement	65.58	-170.99
60	Norway	Adventdalen	78.20	15.83
61	, Denmark	Annikitisoq	76.03	-67.62
62	China	Yitulihe	50.62	121.53
63	USA	Northern Seward Peninsula	66.00	-165.00
64	USA	Barrow	71.30	-156.67
65	USA	Itkilik	69.57	-150.87
66	USA	Prudhoe Bay	70.20	-148.40
67	USA	Vault Creek Tunnel, Chatanika River	65.03	-147.70
68	USA	Fairbanks	64.80	-147.70
69	USA	CRREL Fox Tunnel	64.95	-147.62
70	Canada	Komakuk Beach	69.60	-140.50
71	Canada	Old Crow	67.58	-140.00
72	Canada	Klondike	64.06	-139.41
73	Canada	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19
74	Canada	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00
75	Canada	Herschel Island	69.60	-138.96
76	Canada	Moose Lake	64.74	-138.37
77	Canada	DHP174	65.21	-138.32
78	Canada	Illisarvik	69.48	-134.59
79	Canada	Inuvik	68.39	-133.76
80	Canada	Hooper Island	69.69	-134.85
81	Canada	Richards Island, North Point	69.70	-134.24
		0		
		-		
82 83 84	Canada Canada Canada	Pingo Canadian Landmark area Pelly Island Bylot Island	69.41 69.63 73.16	-133.12 -135.43 -79.94

			ca. moderr	า		Holocen
Wedge	e ice Pore ice	δ18Ο	s.d.	n	δ18Ο	s.d.
х	n/a	-16.5	n/a	4	-20.9	n/a
х	n/a	-14	n/a	2	-16.7	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-19.6	0.7
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-19.4	n/a
х	n/a	-17.3	n/a	2	-19.7	n/a
х	n/a	-18.8	n/a	3	-21.9	n/a
х	n/a	-19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-19.9	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-20.7	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-16.6	n/a	4	-20.3	n/a
х	n/a	-22	n/a	n/a	-23	n/a
х	n/a	-20.4	n/a	5	-23.1	n/a
х	х	-20.5	1	5	-24.6	n/a
х	n/a	-21.6	1.2	2	-22.6	2.2
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-22.7	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-22.9	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-24.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-22.2	n/a	12	-24.6	1.2
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-28.2	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a 🧹	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a 🛛	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-24.2	n/a
х	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-29	0.7
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a 🧧	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-22.5	0.4
Х	n/a	-18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-25	1.2
Х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	х	-20.4	1.27	8	-24.2	1.1
х	х	-20.7	1.61	11	-25.1	1.1
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	Х	n/a	n/a	n/a	-28.3	1
х	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	-26.1	0.4
х	n/a	-27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-25.3	n/a	7	-27	n/a
х	n/a	-26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-25.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	-25.8	n/a	n/a	-25.8	1.4
х	n/a	-25.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-26.6	0.6
Х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1							
1 2	х	n/a	-19.2	n/a	14	-20.3	n/a
3	х	n/a	-26	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23	n/a
6	х	n/a	-20	n/a	n/a	-21.6	0.5
7	х	n/a	-20	n/a	n/a	-20.2	0.2
8 9	х	n/a	-16.1	n/a	2	-18.45	n/a
9 10	x	n/a	-13.1	n/a	4	-16.5	n/a
11	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-14	n/a
12	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-13.9	0.7
13	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-18	0.8
14	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-18.8	n/a
15	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-17.3	n/a
16	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-21.5	1.4
17 18	x	n/a	-25	n/a	3	n/a	n/a
18	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23.67	1.5
20	×	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-21.9	n/a
21	×	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
22	×	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
23		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23.3	n/a
24	x					-23.5	1/a 1
25	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		
26	x	X	n/a	n/a	n/a	-24.5	0.5
27 28	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-19.14	0.6
28 29	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-22.77	1.1
30	х	×	n/a	n/a	n/a	-22.1	n/a
31	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23.9	0.5
32	n/a	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
33	x	n/a	-22.5	n/a		n/a	n/a
34	n/a	x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23	0.7
36	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-24.6	0.8
37 38	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-24	0.6
38 39	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-25.2	0.4
40 -	х	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-25.63	0.95
41					e	7	

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		MIS3	6 - 0 - 0		MIS2	6 - 6 - 6	
δ180	n	s.d.	δ18Ο	n	s.d.	δ18Ο	n
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	126	n/a	-23.9	40
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	18
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7
n/a	17	n/a	-23.9	15	n/a	-22.9	3
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	-24.1	40
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-23	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	n/a	-26	17
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a	-22.6	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	17	n/a	-26	9
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	-28.32	138
n/a	24	n/a	-29.5	26	n/a	-26.3	8
n/a	4	0.7	-30.5	33	n/a	-31.04	122
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	48
n/a	12	0.3	-29.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	14
n/a	10	1.3	-30.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-29.5	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	40
n/a	11	0.6	-31.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	16	1.1	-29.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	145	1.6	-30.8	36	n/a	-31.17	239
n/a	85	1.2	-31.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	n/a	-30.5	n/a
n/a	10	0.3	-30.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-31.7	n/a
n/a	26	■ 1	-31.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	18	0.6	-31.2	n/a	n/a	-29.7	4
	18	0.0	-34.9	n/a		-29.7 n/a	
n/a n/a				n/a	n/a n/a		n/a 10
n/a	n/a 21	n/a 0.4	n/a -31.3	n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10 n/a
	16	0.4					
n/a			-31.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a 19
n/a	n/a 17	n/a 1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
n/a			-29.8	n/a 5	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		1.2	-28.5	15
n/a	8	0.2	-30.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
-35.7	196	1.2	-31	14	0.7	-37.1	90
n/a	150	1.3	-30.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	518
n/a	5	0.6	-33.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	13
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-31.5	n/a
n/a	61	n/a	-32.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	6
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-31	n/a
n/a	9	1	-32.6	n/a	n/a	-30.5	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19	1.2	-32.5	5
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-30.5	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7
n/a	30	0.6	-32.1	40	0.4	-32.6	n/a

1 2	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3	n/a	-31	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
4	n/a	-29.2	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
5	3	-31.2	n/a	10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
6	8	-30.4	1.1	60	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
7 8	2	-28	0.7	10	-27.2	0.8	12	n/a
в 9	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10	62	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
11	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
12	65	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
13	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14	16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15 16	n/a	-24.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
10 17	14	-24.4	1.8	121	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
19	22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
21	n/a	-26.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
22	n/a	-27.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
23 24	25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
24 25	46	n/a	n/a 🔍	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
26	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	-29.3	0.6	3	n/a
27	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
28	7	-26.8	1.1	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
29	105	-29.1	n/a	18	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
30	93	-28.5	1.2	107	-26.4	0.5	19	n/a
31 32	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a 🚽	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
33	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35	220	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
36	209	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
37	275	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
38	99	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
39 40	41	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
41 42						2		

MIS4			MIS5			MIS6	
s.d.	n	δ18Ο	s.d.	n	δ18Ο	s.d.	n
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
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n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
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n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/
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ſ	MIS7 or olde	r	
δ18Ο	s.d.	n	Stated in cited papers
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	×
n/a	n/a	n/a	×
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
, n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
-33.1	0.1	6	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
, n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
-31.8	1.25	56	X
n/a	n/a	n/a	х
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x
n/a	n/a	n/a	×
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
n/a	n/a	n/a	X
n/a	n/a	n/a	x x
n/a	n/a	n/a	x n/a

1				
2	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
3	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
4	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
5	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
6	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
7 8	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
8 9	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
10	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
11	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
13	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
14	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
15 16	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
10	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
18	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
19	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
20	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
21	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
23 24	n/a	n/a	n/a	×
24 25	n/a	n/a	n/a 🚽	n/a
26	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
27	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
28	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
29	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
30	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
31 32	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
33	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
34	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
35	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
36	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
37	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
38 20	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
39 40	n/a	n/a	n/a	x
40				9
42				

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