

A model-based interpretation of glacial/interglacial changes in atmospheric CO₂ during the last 740 000 years

Peter Köhler

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In cooperation with:

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Guy Munhoven, Université de Liège, Belgium

Raimund Muscheler, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA

Outline

The global record of atmospheric CO₂

EPICA — European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica

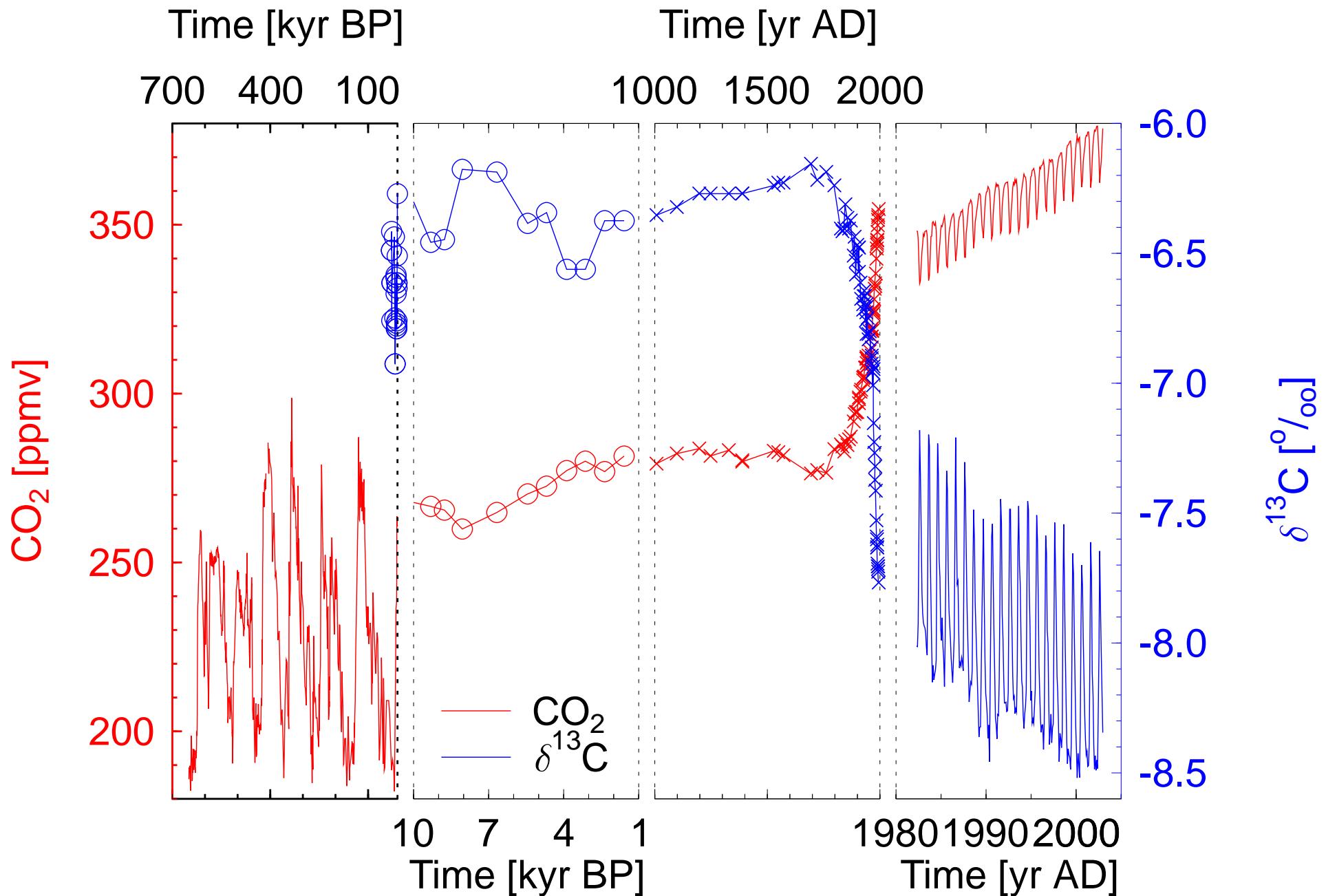
The global carbon cycle and the box model BICYCLE

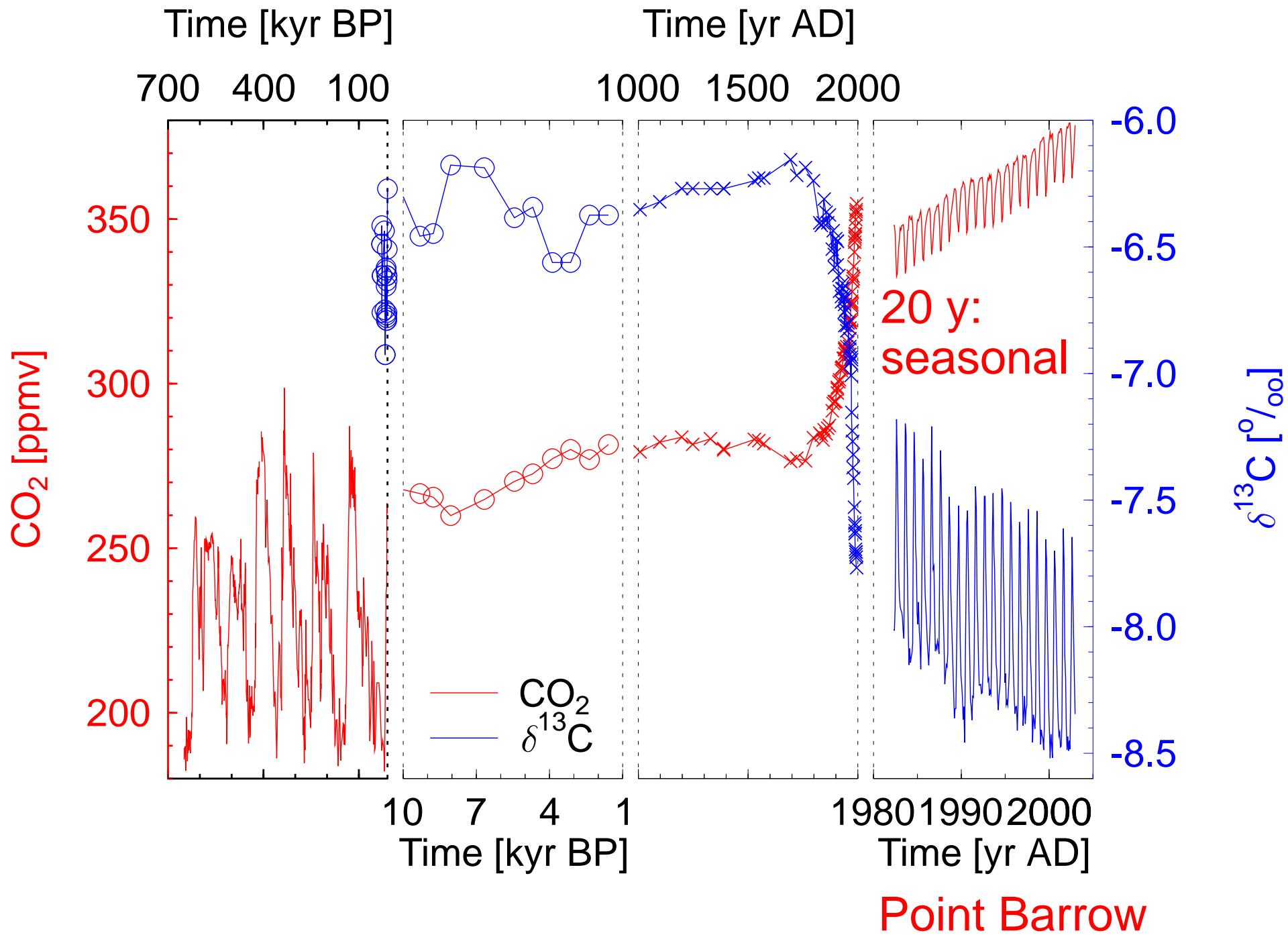
Time-dependent processes: motivations and simulation results

Combined scenarios

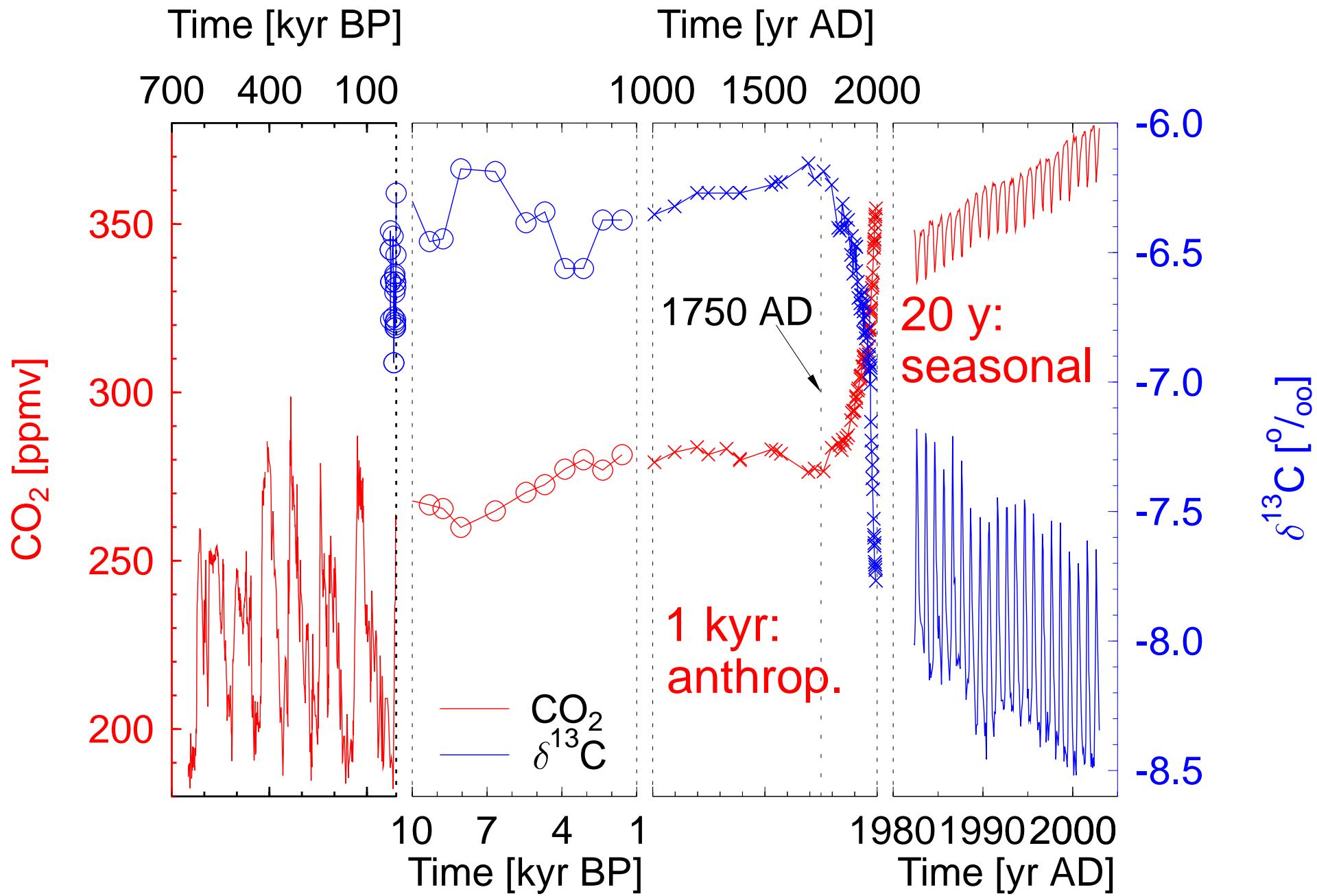
Open questions

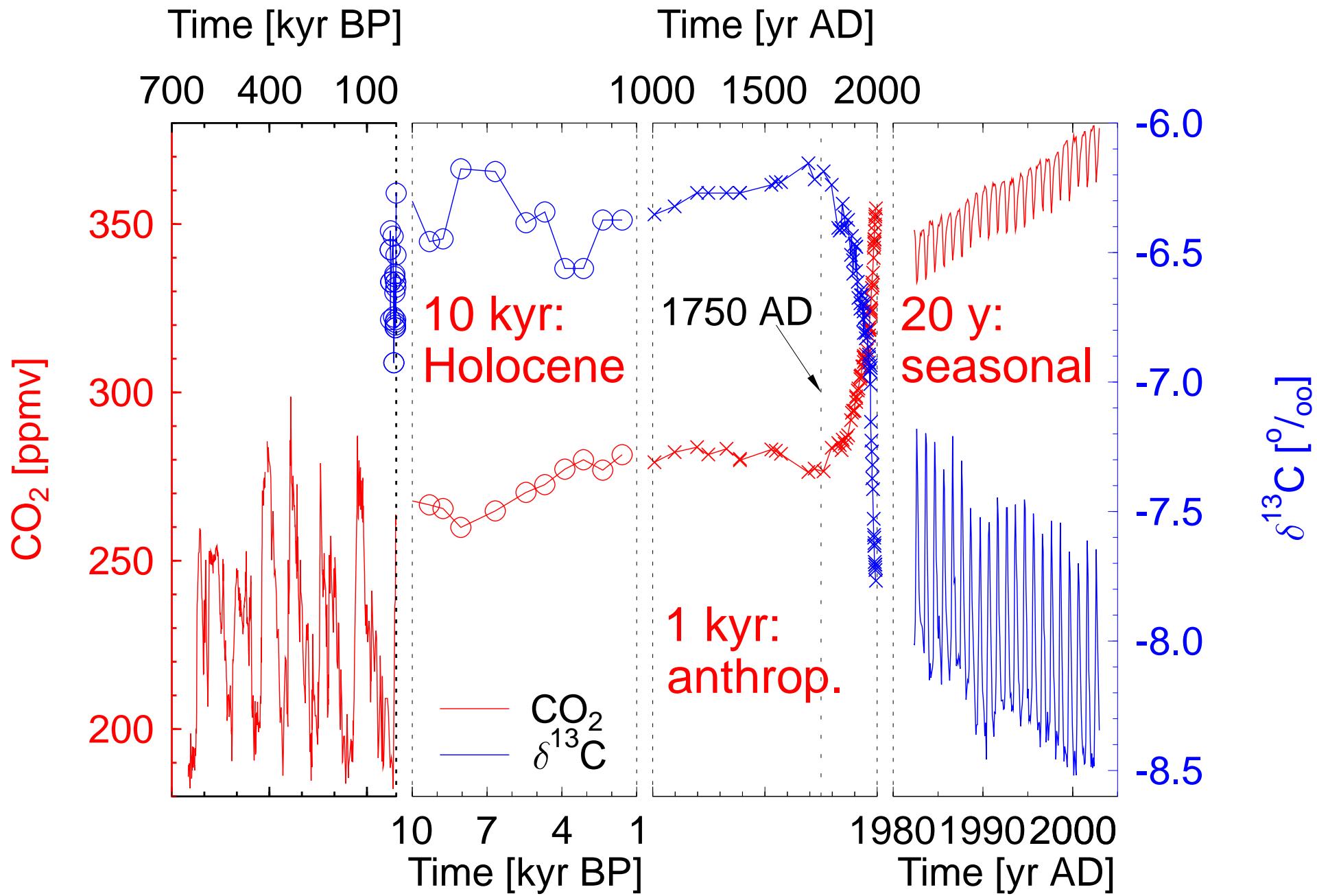
Conclusions





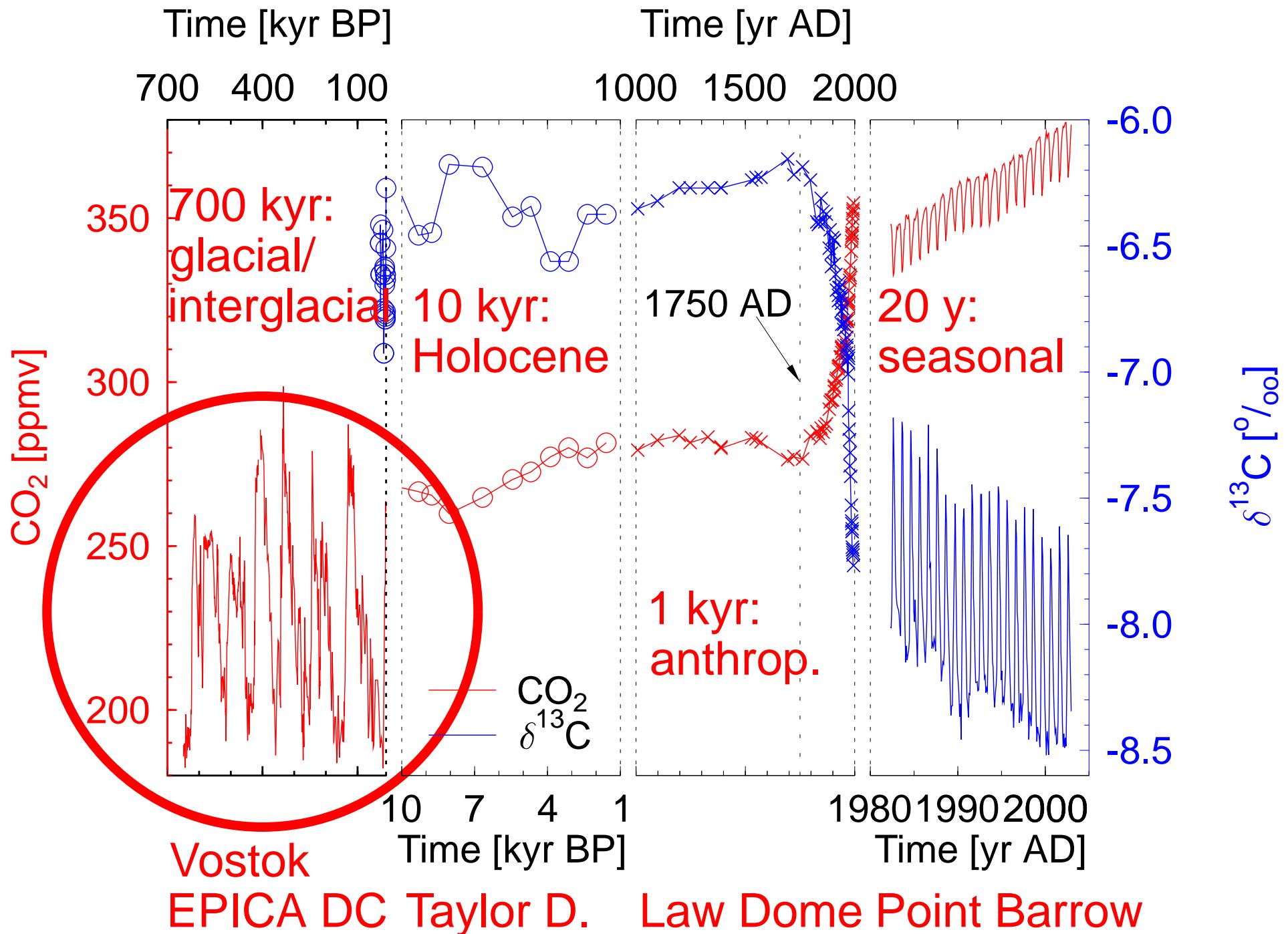
Keeling and Whorf, 2005; Keeling et al., 2005.





Taylor D. Law Dome Point Barrow

Smith et al., 1999



Petit et al., 1999; Siegenthaler et al., 2005

The global record of atmospheric CO₂

EPICA — European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica

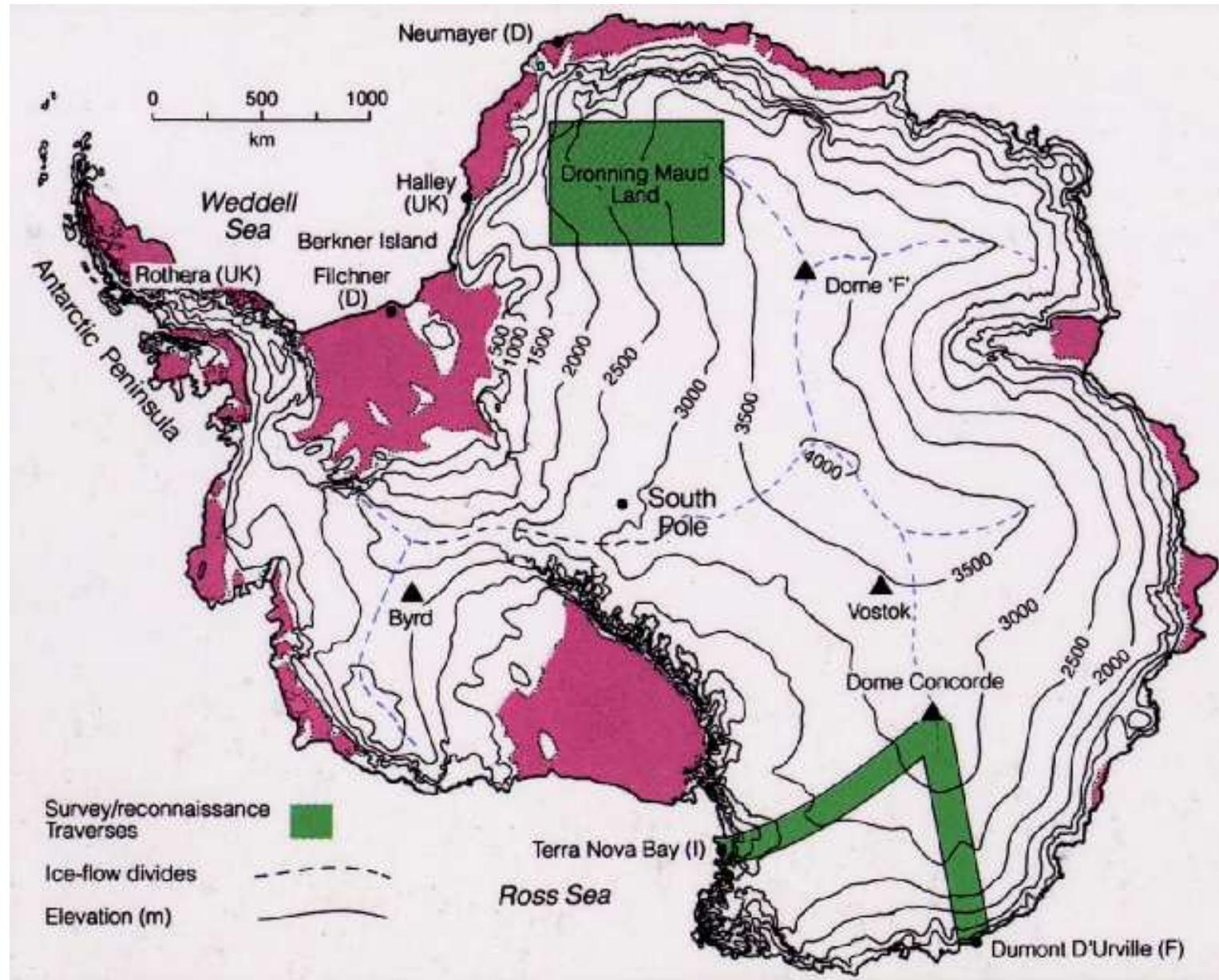
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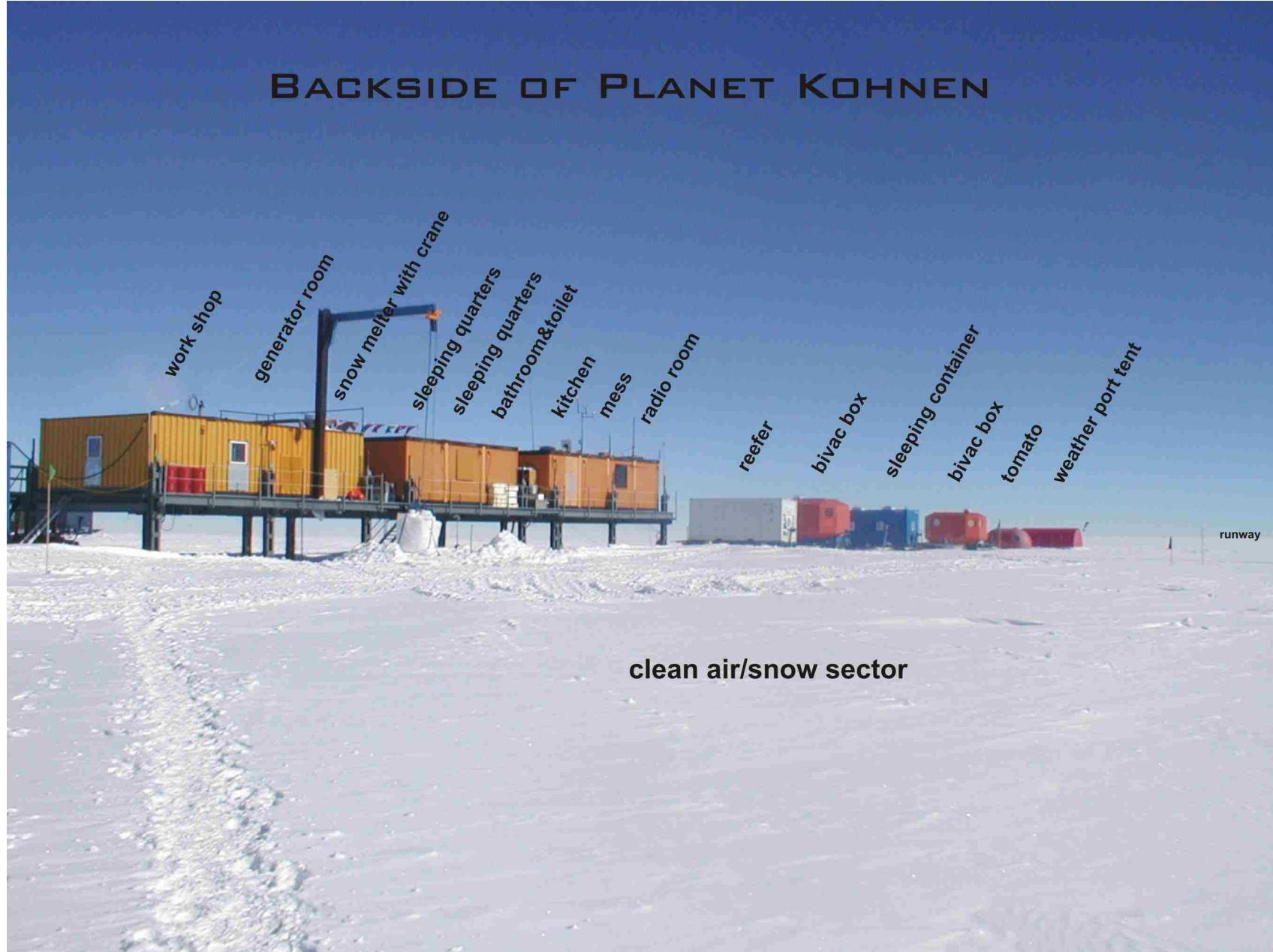


EPICA drilling sites:

Dome C (EDC): low accumulation rate; long time series (~8 glacial cycles)

Dronning Maud Land (EDML): high accumulation rate, high resolution

BACKSIDE OF PLANET KOHNEN



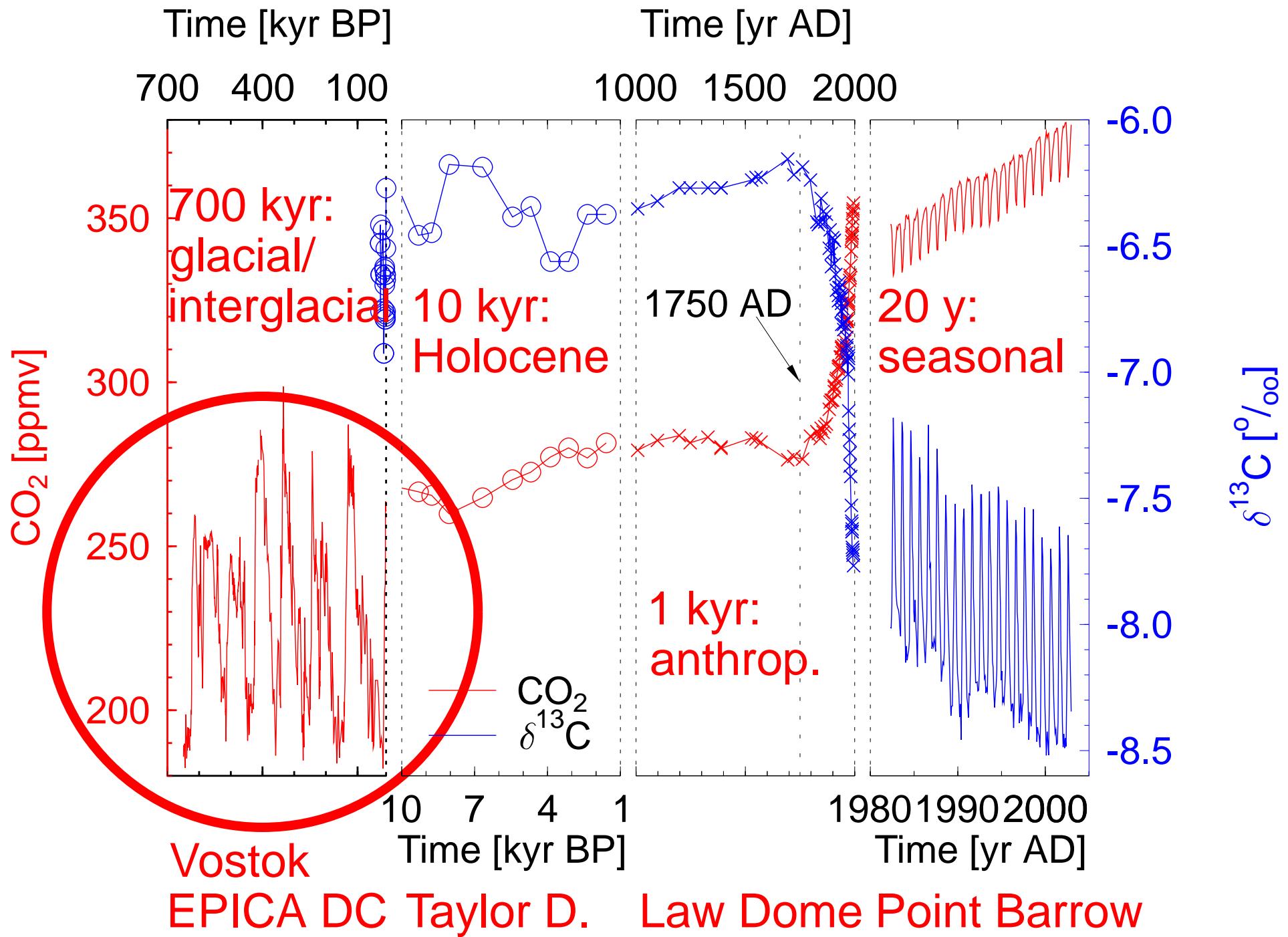
Kohnen station in Dronning Maud Land



Drilling team 2005/06 with last section of EDML (from 2774 m depth)

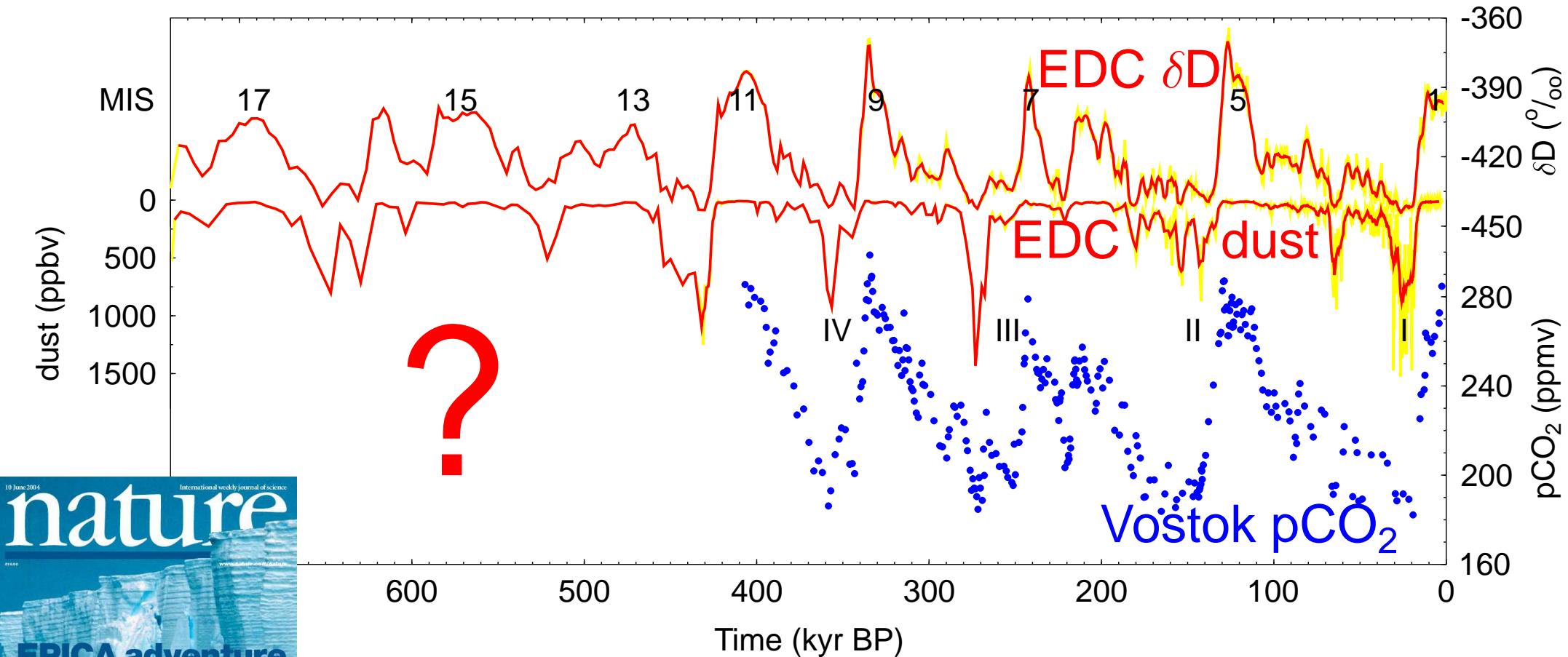


Scientific lab in Kohnen station



The EPICA challenge

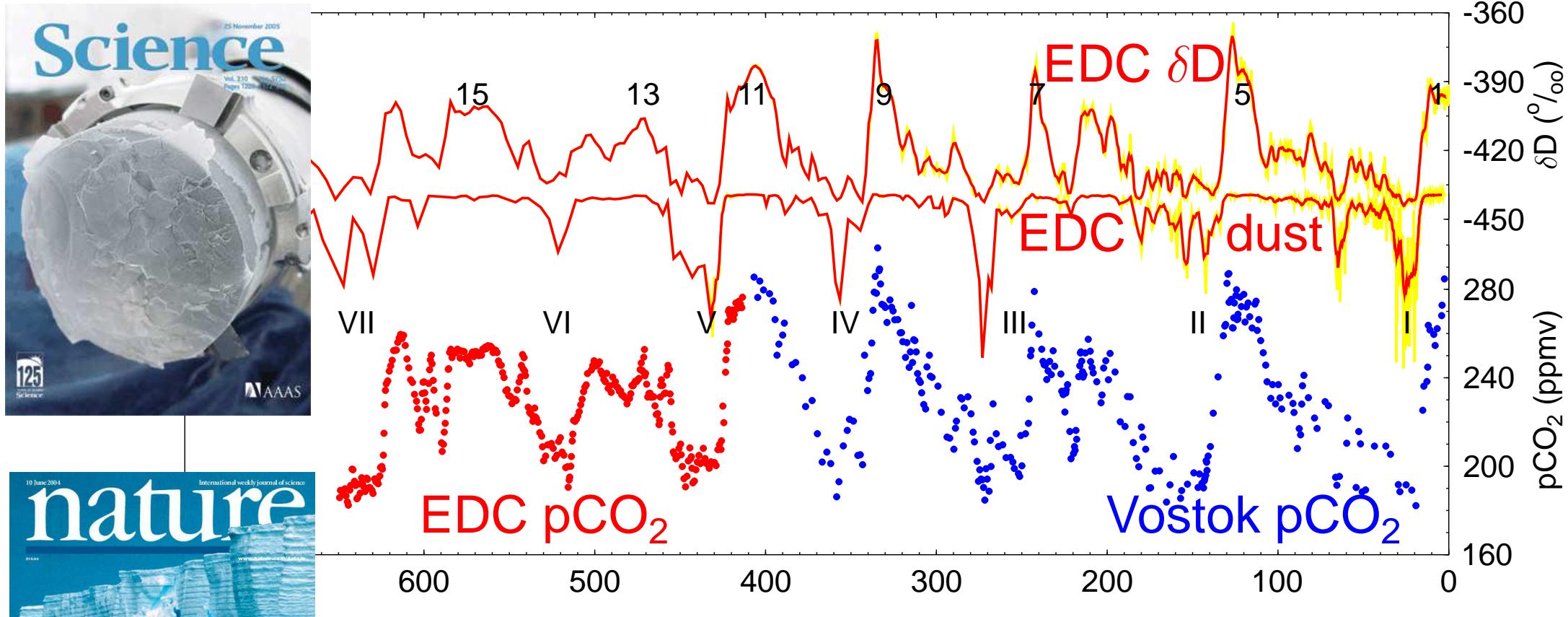
Predicting $p\text{CO}_2$ prior to Vostok (Wolff et al., 2004, 2005, EOS)
8 contributions: from regression analysis to full carbon cycle model



EPICA, 2004; Petit et al., 1999

The EPICA challenge

Predicting $p\text{CO}_2$ prior to Vostok (Wolff et al., 2004, 2005, EOS)
8 contributions: from regression analysis to full carbon cycle model



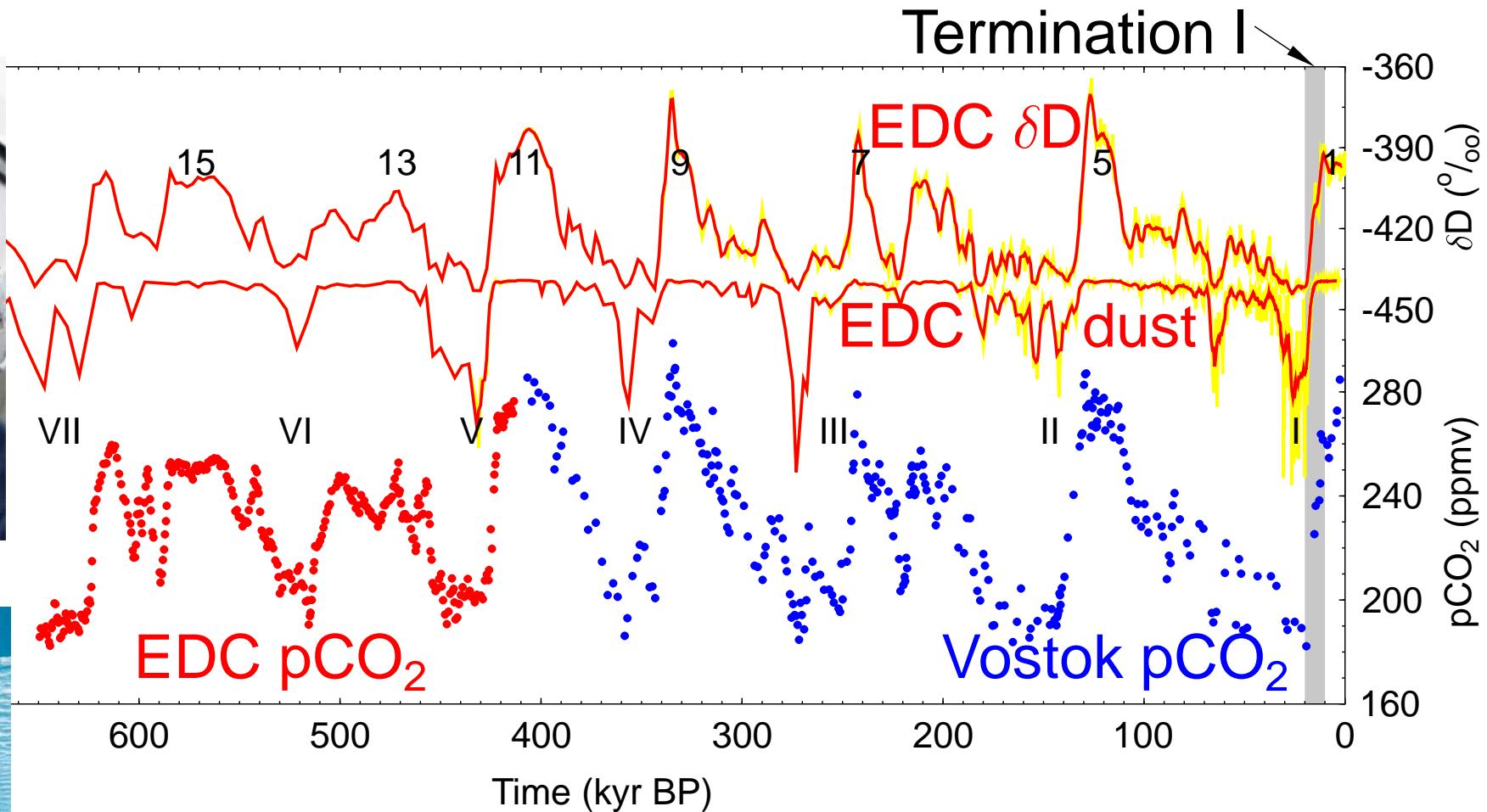
EPICA, 2004; Petit et al., 1999

Siegenthaler et al., 2005

The EPICA challenge

Our contribution to the EPICA challenge:

Carbon cycle model simulations based on results for Termination I



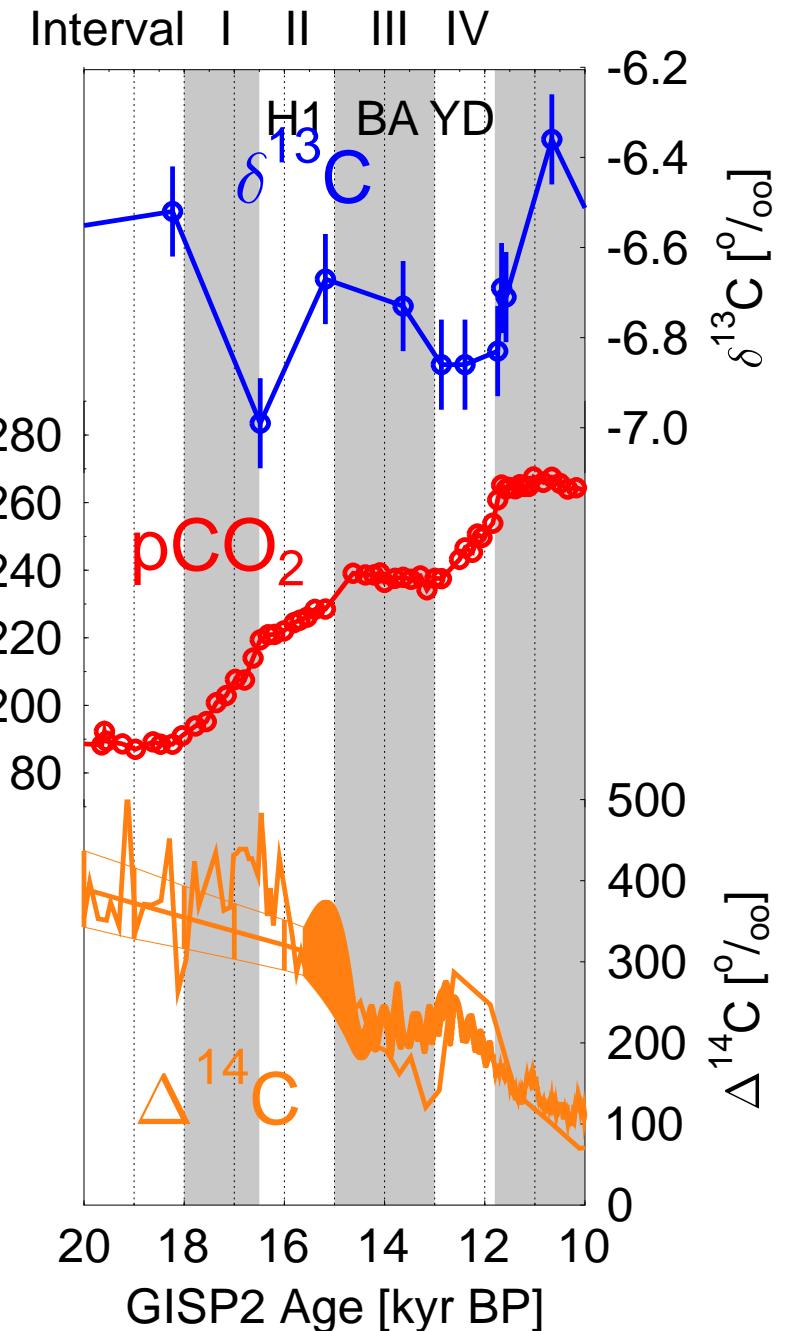
EPICA, 2004; Petit et al., 1999

Siegenthaler et al., 2005

Atmospheric carbon during Termination I

Interpret the temporal evolution of atmospheric CO₂, δ¹³C, ¹⁴C records by carbon cycle simulations.

Smith et al., 1999; Monnin et al., 2001;
Stuiver et al., 1998; Hughen et al., 2004



The global record of atmospheric CO₂
EPICA — European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica

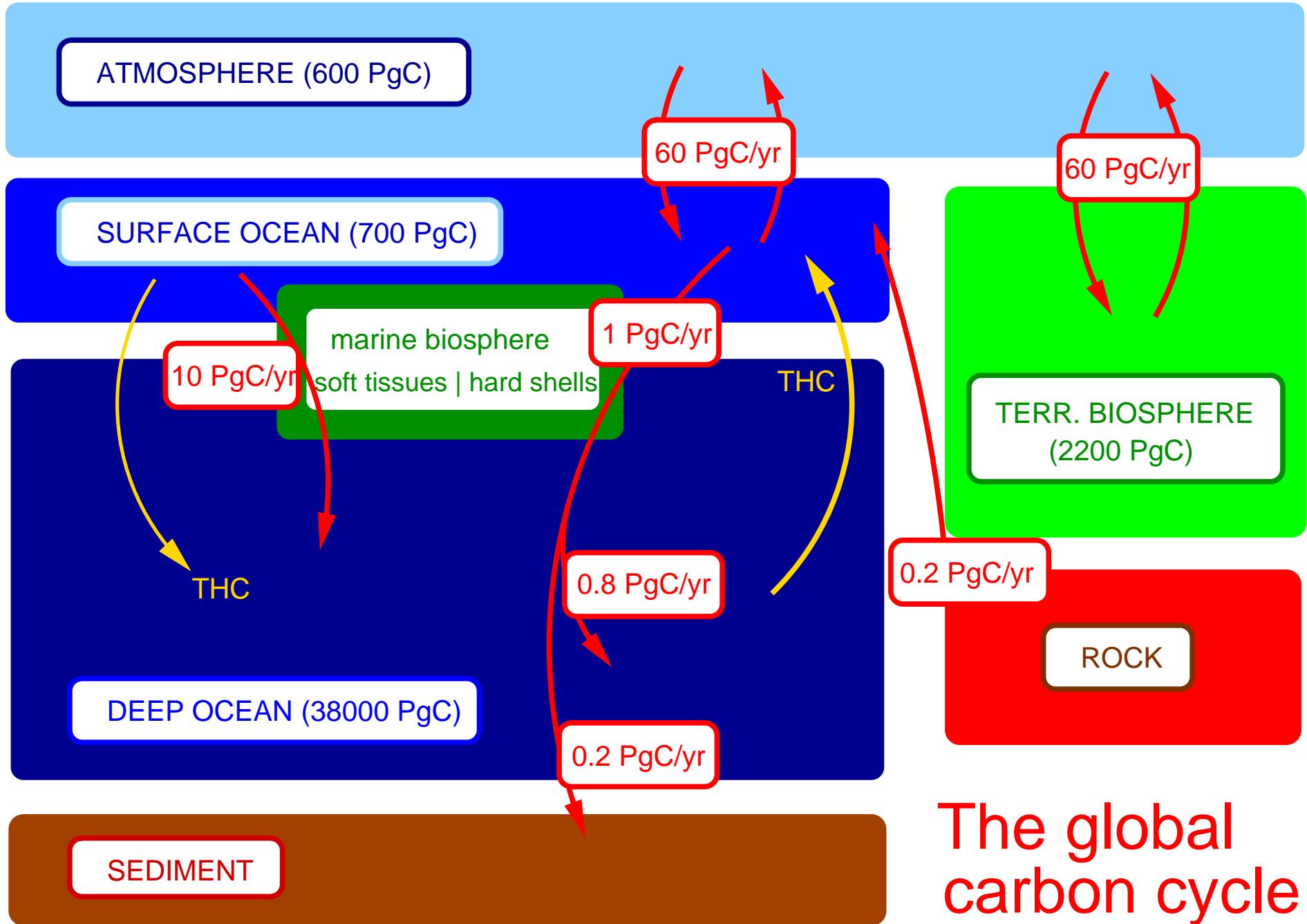
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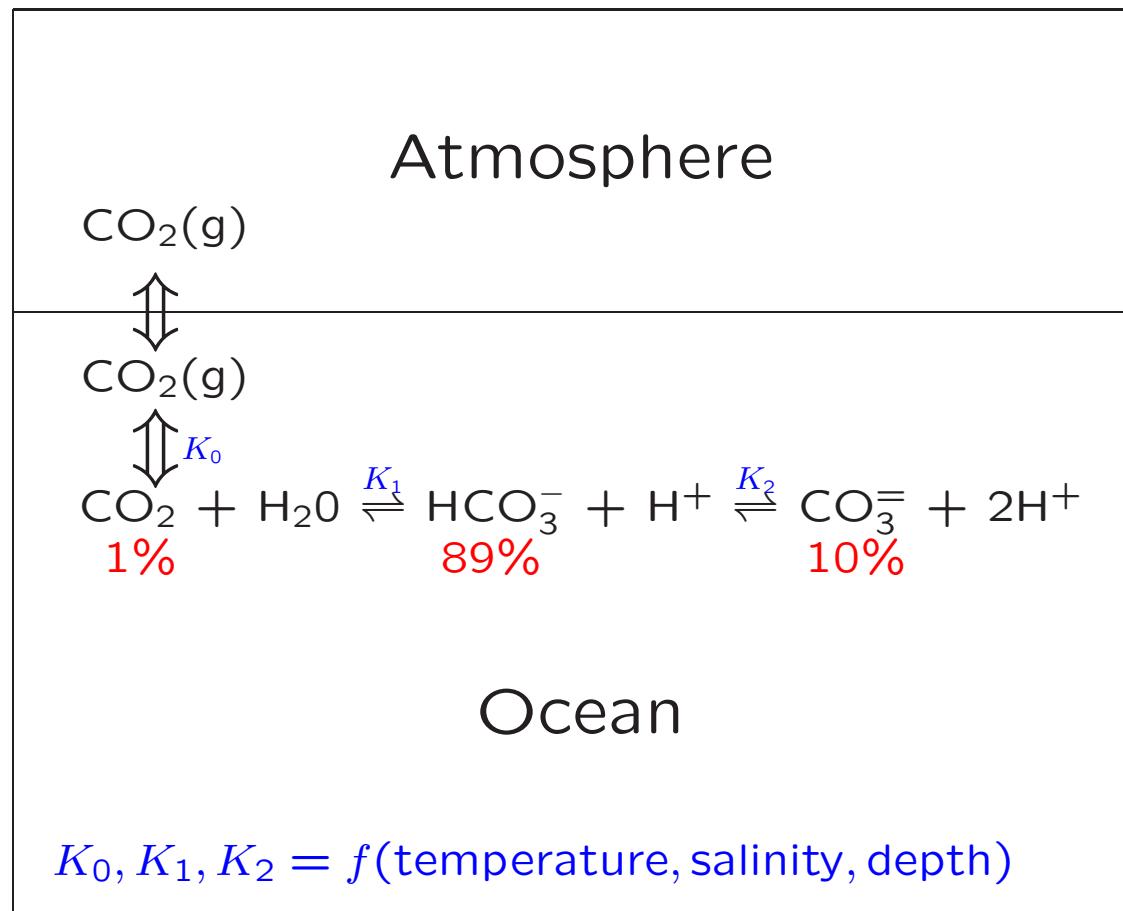


The global
carbon cycle

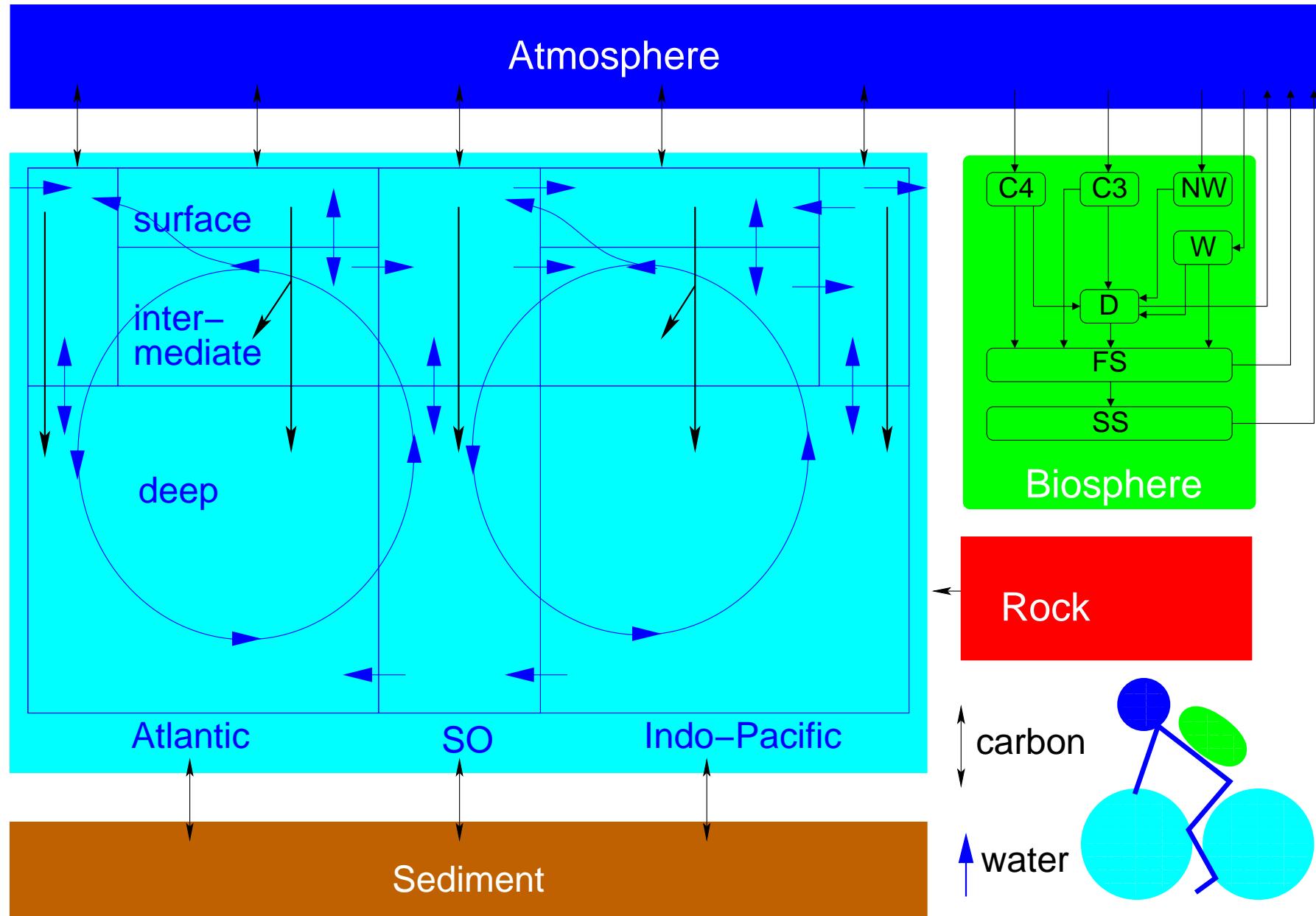
preindustrial reservoir sizes and annual fluxes

Carbonate System in the Ocean

Dissolved Inorganic Carbon (DIC) = $\text{CO}_2 + \text{HCO}_3^- + \text{CO}_3^{=}$

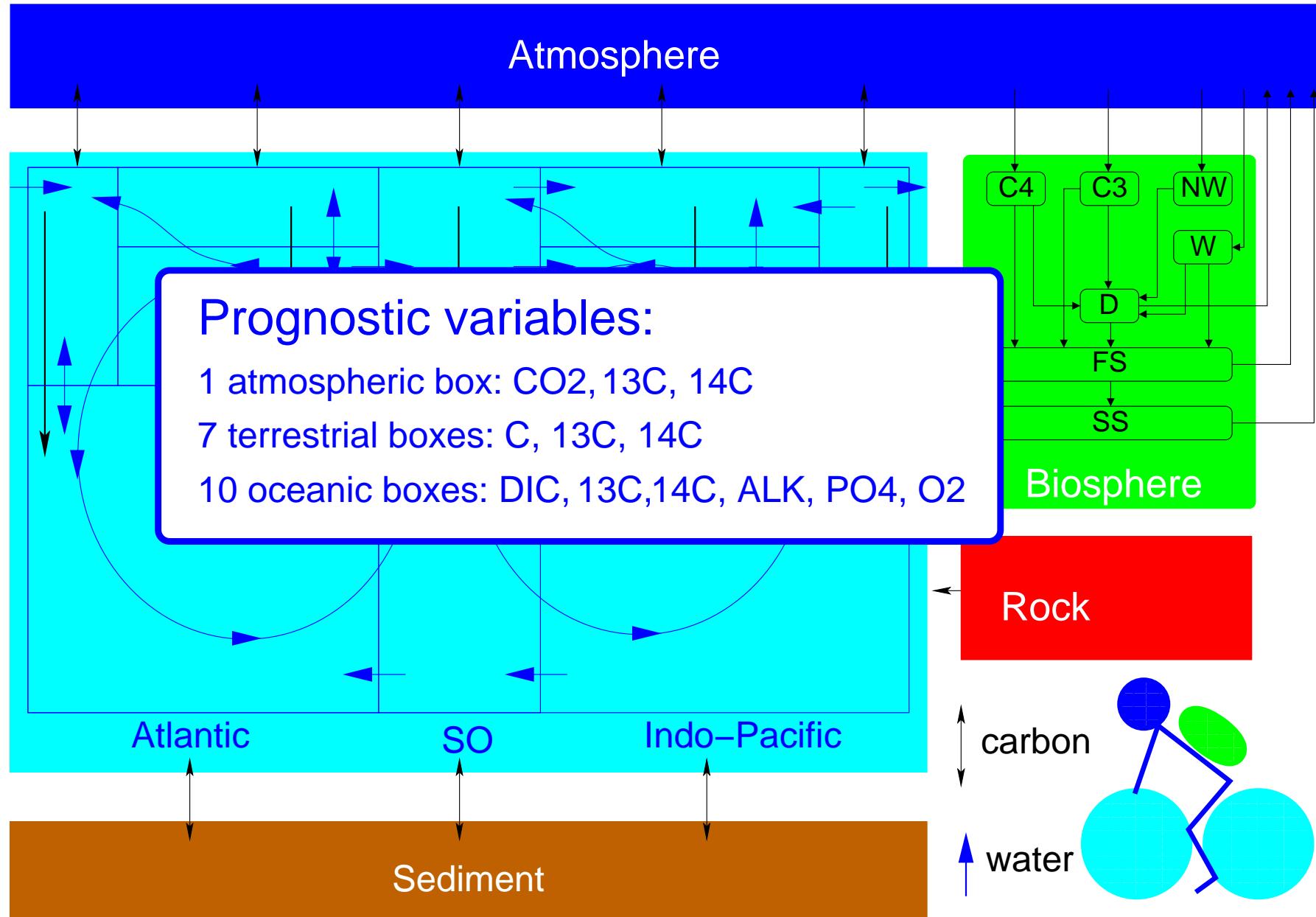


after Zeebe and Wolf-Gladrow, 2001



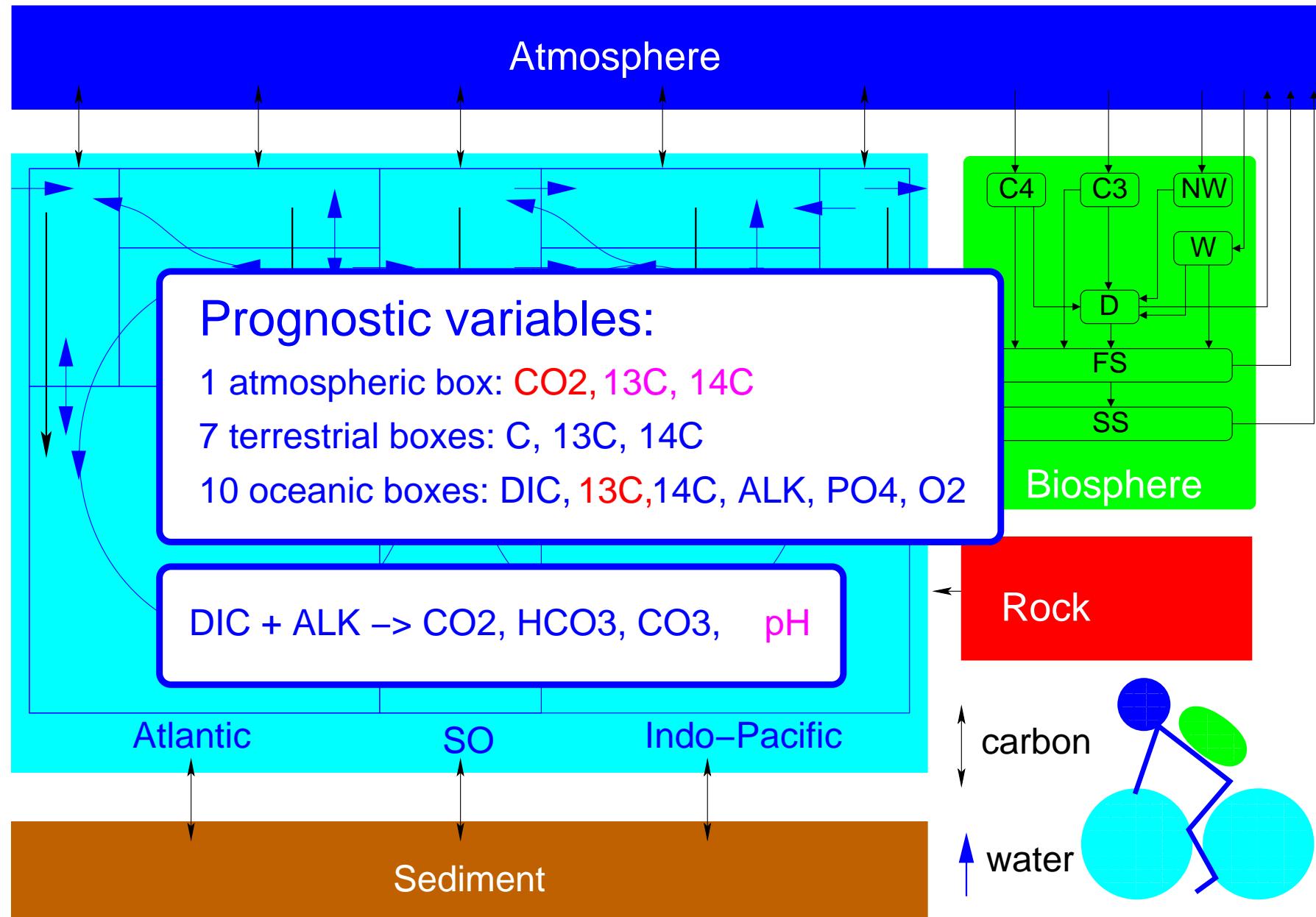
Box model of the Isotopic Carbon cYCLE

BICYCLE



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Overall objective and procedure for time-dependent simulations

Novelty:

- BICYCLE runs forward in time (no inverse studies)
- Transient simulations based on and forced with available paleo records

Three steps:

1. **Which** time-dependent processes were changing the carbon cycle on glacial/interglacial timescales?
2. **How** can we prescribe / force these processes in BICYCLE?
3. **What** are the impacts on CO₂?

Time-dependent processes:

Which

How

What

?

Physics (without ocean circulation)

- 1 Temperature
- 2 Sea level / salinity
- 3 Gas exchange / sea ice

Ocean circulation

- 4 NADW formation
- 5 Southern Ocean ventilation

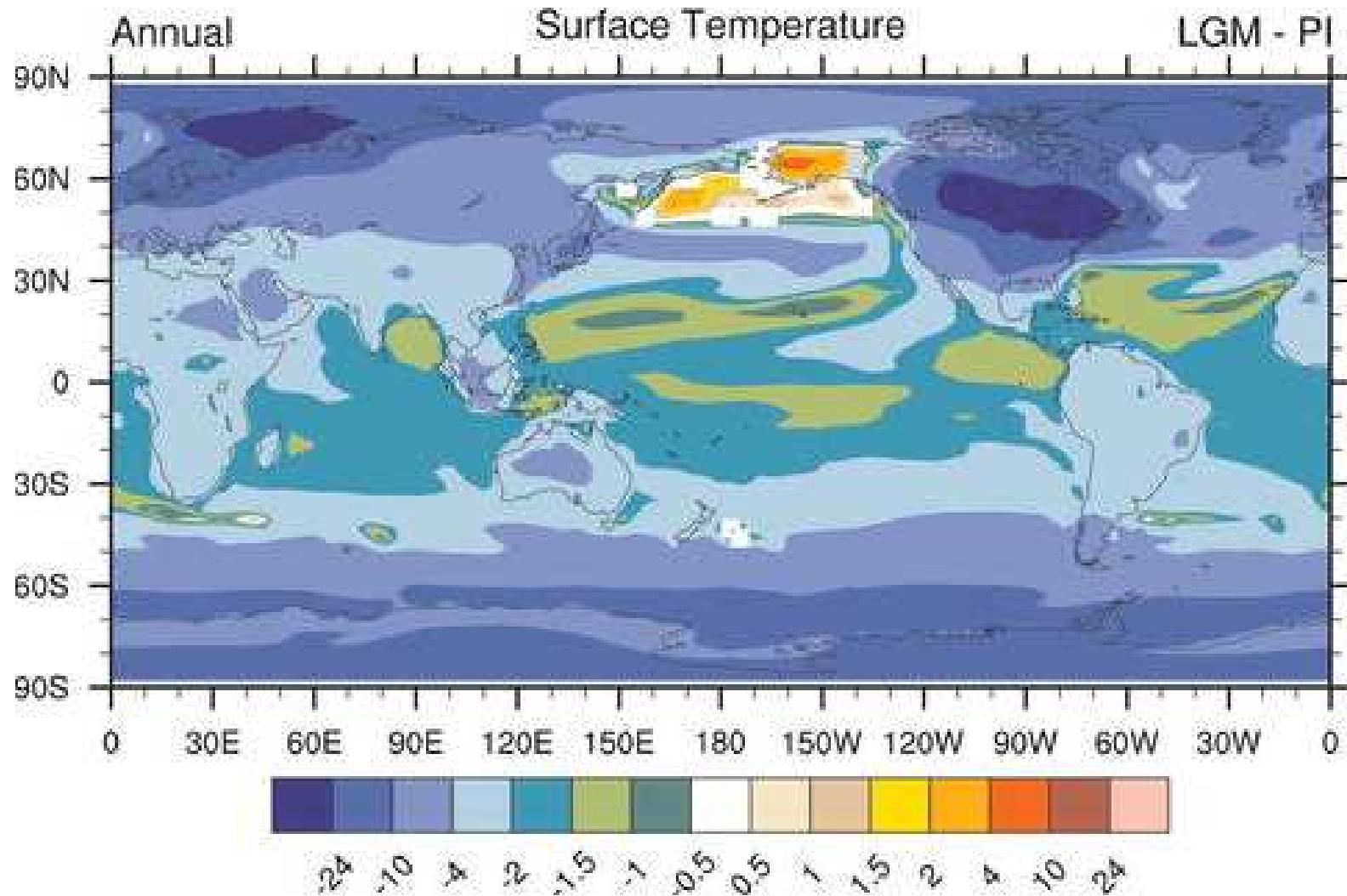
Biogeochemistry

- 6 Marine biota / iron fertilisation
- 7 Terrestrial carbon storage
- 8 CaCO_3 chemistry

1 Temperature

Simulation with the climate model CCSM3

LGM–Preindustrial: light blue: -(2-4)K

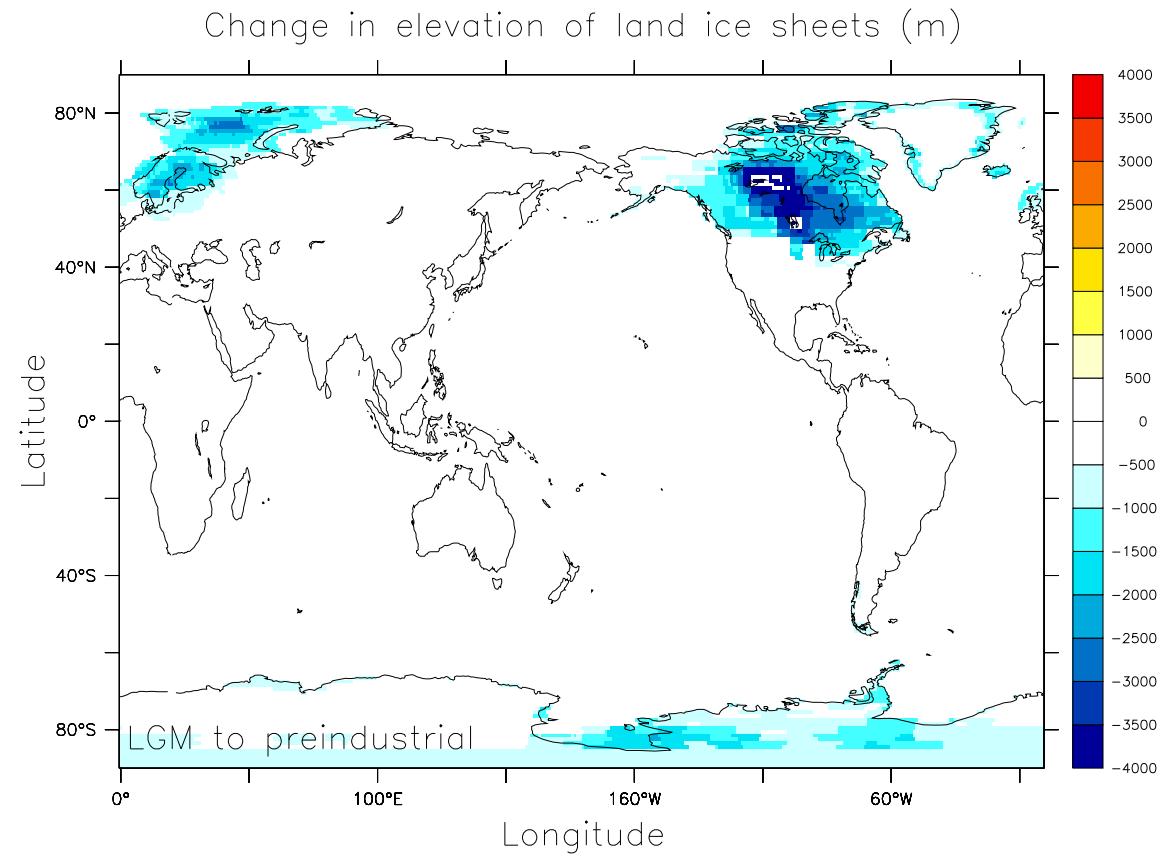
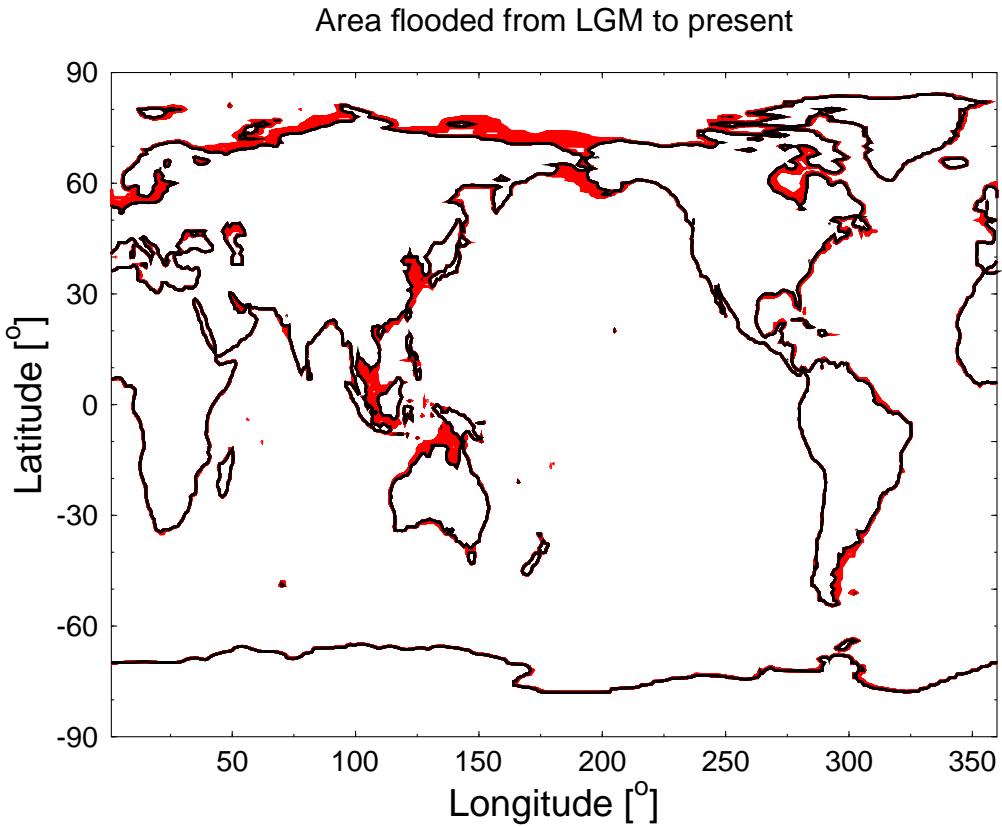


Time-dependent processes:

Which	How (T I)	What (ppmv)	?
Physics (without ocean circulation)			
1 Temperature	+(3–5) K	+30	!
2 Sea level / salinity			
3 Gas exchange / sea ice			
Ocean circulation			
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2 Sea Level / Salinity

Sea level rose during Termination I by 125 m; salinity dropped by 3%



Bathymetry from Scripps Institute of Oceanography

from ICE-5G, Peltier, 2004

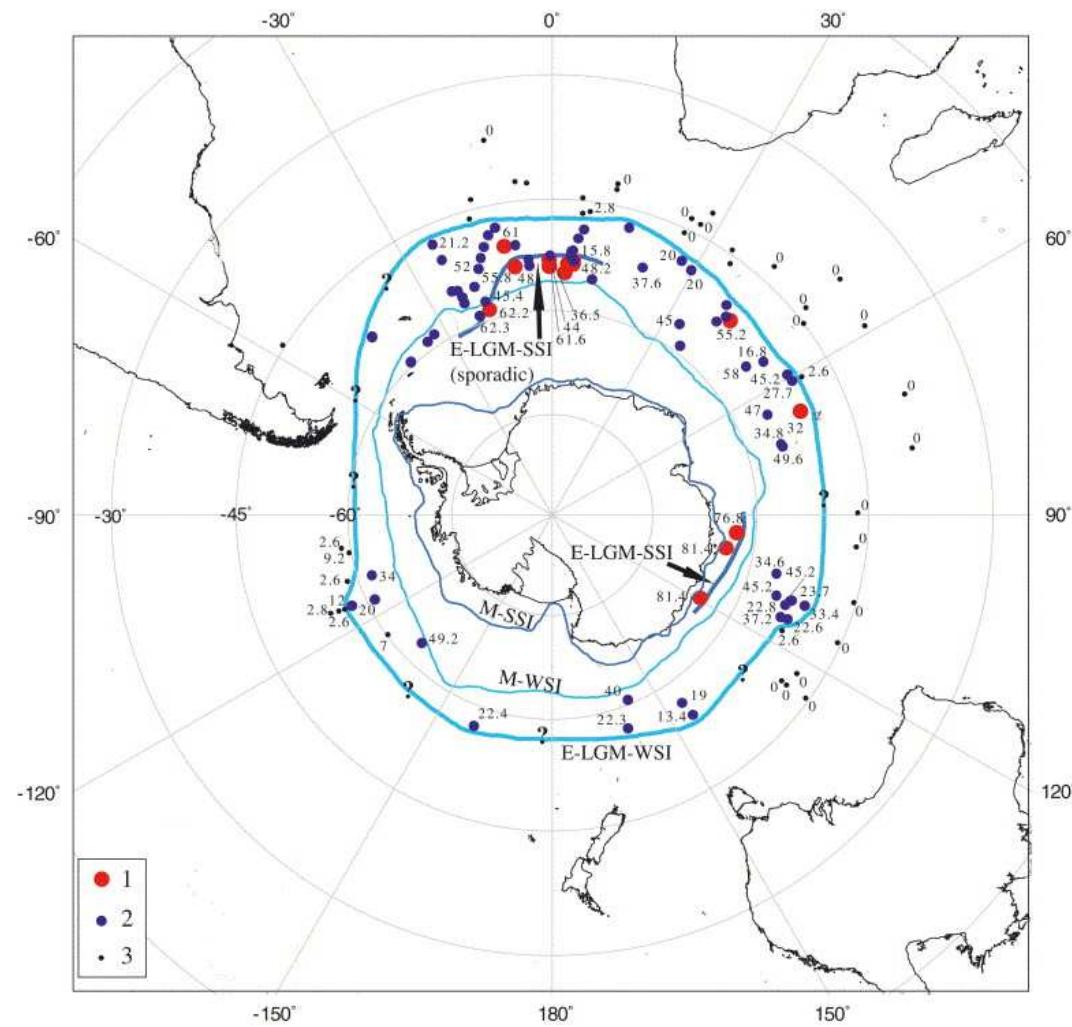
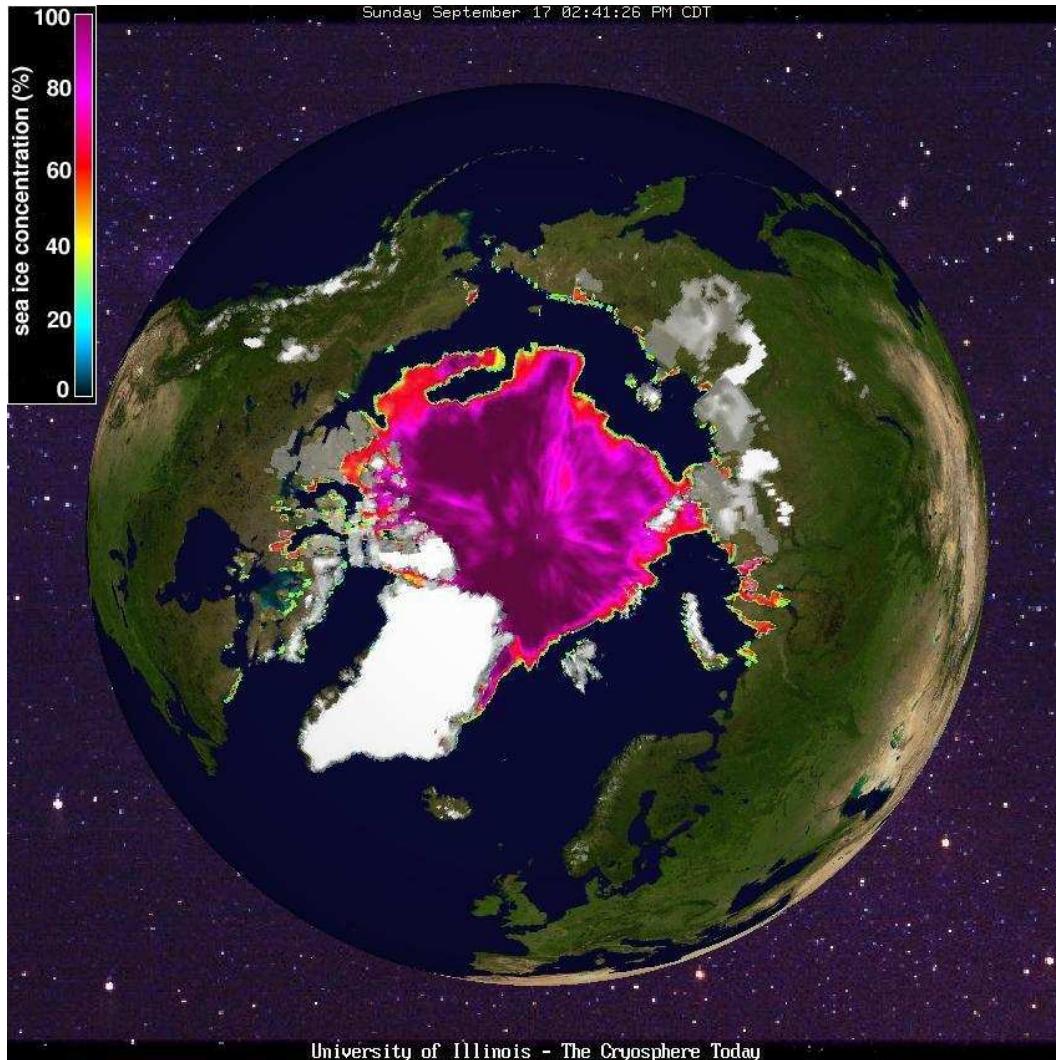
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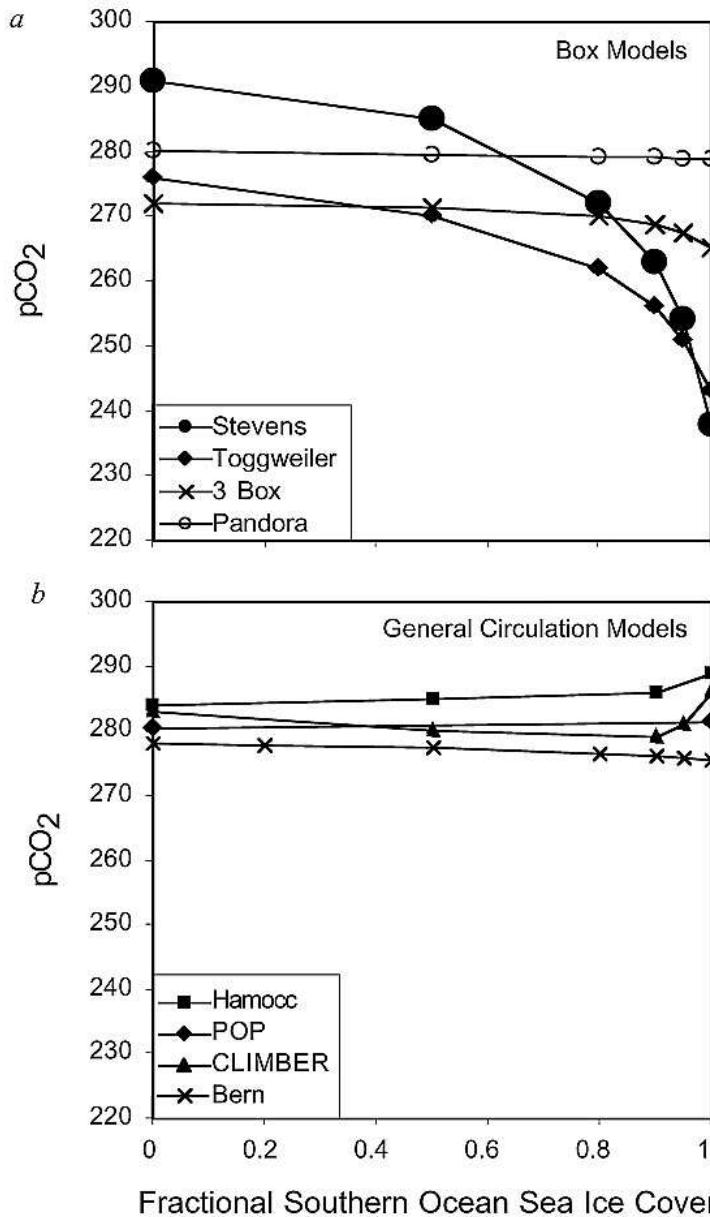
3 Gas Exchange / Sea Ice

Annual mean sea ice area shrunk by ~50% (Termination I)

Dynamics coupled to temperature in the high latitude surface boxes

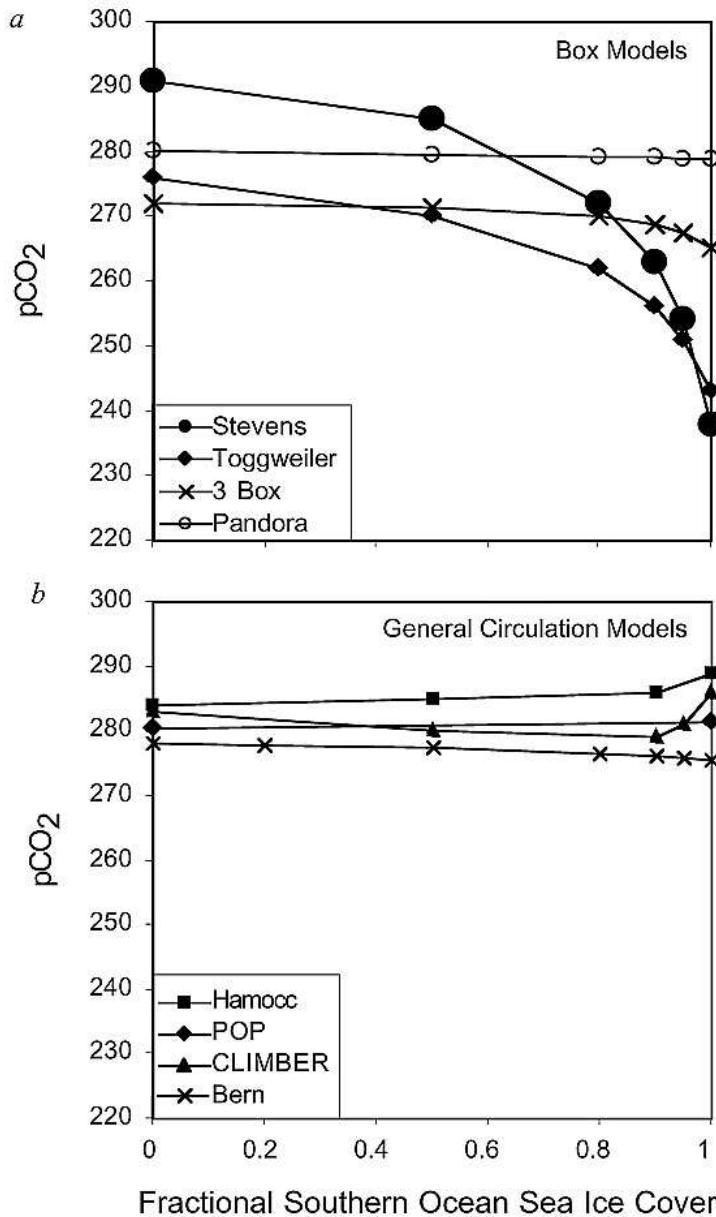


3 Gas Exchange / Sea Ice



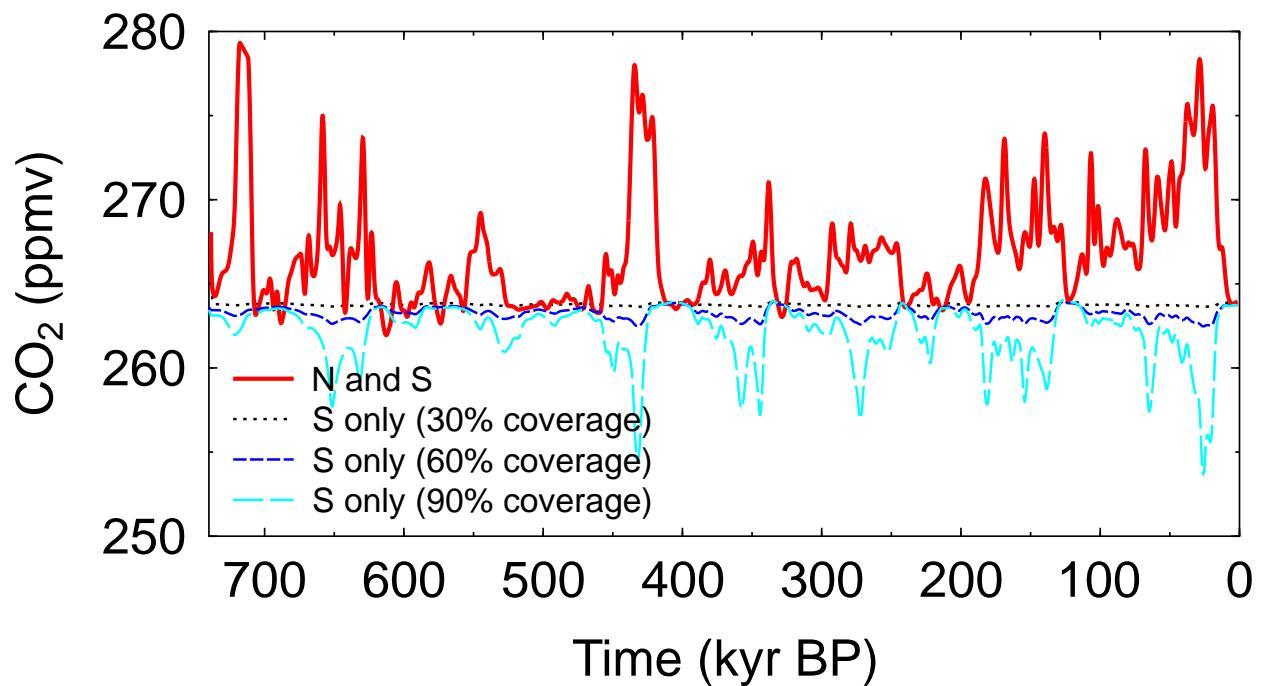
Model comparisons came to ambiguous results
Box models: full sea ice cover in SO reduces CO_2
GCMs: only small changes

3 Gas Exchange / Sea Ice



Archer et al., 2003

BICYCLE: Sea ice change in N and S
N is sink for CO₂; S is source for CO₂
S as in box models, but N dominates over S



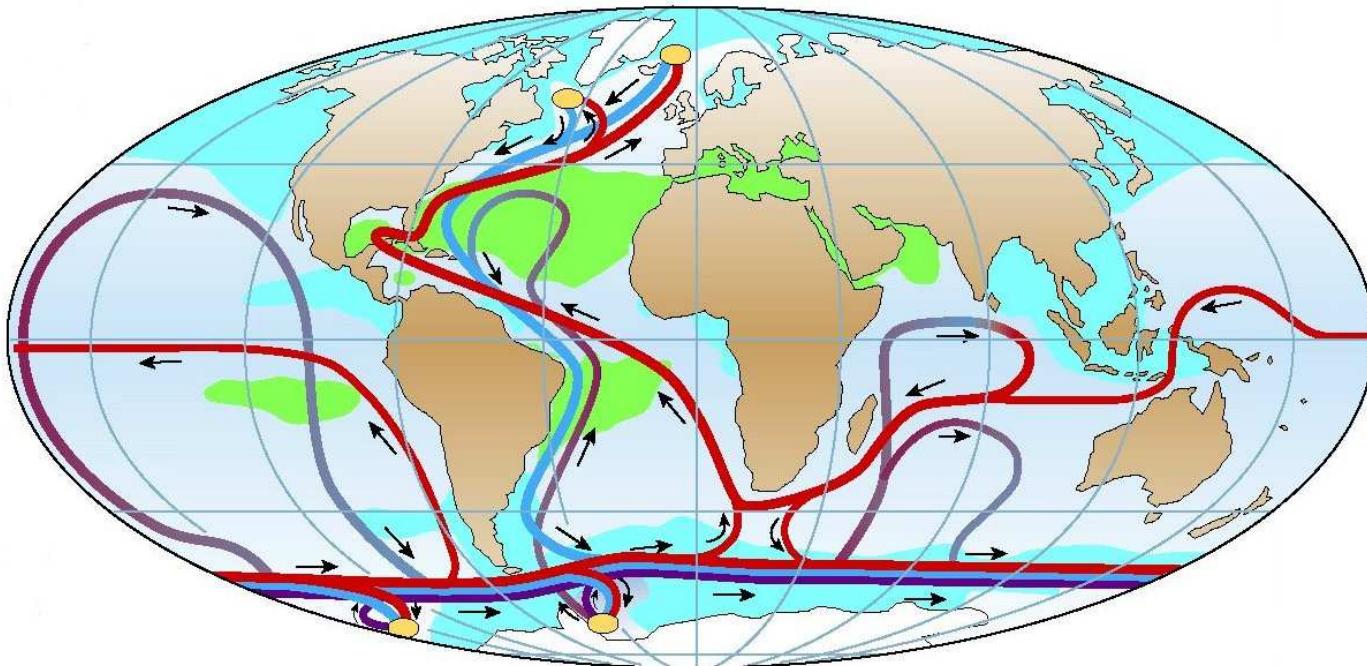
BICYCLE

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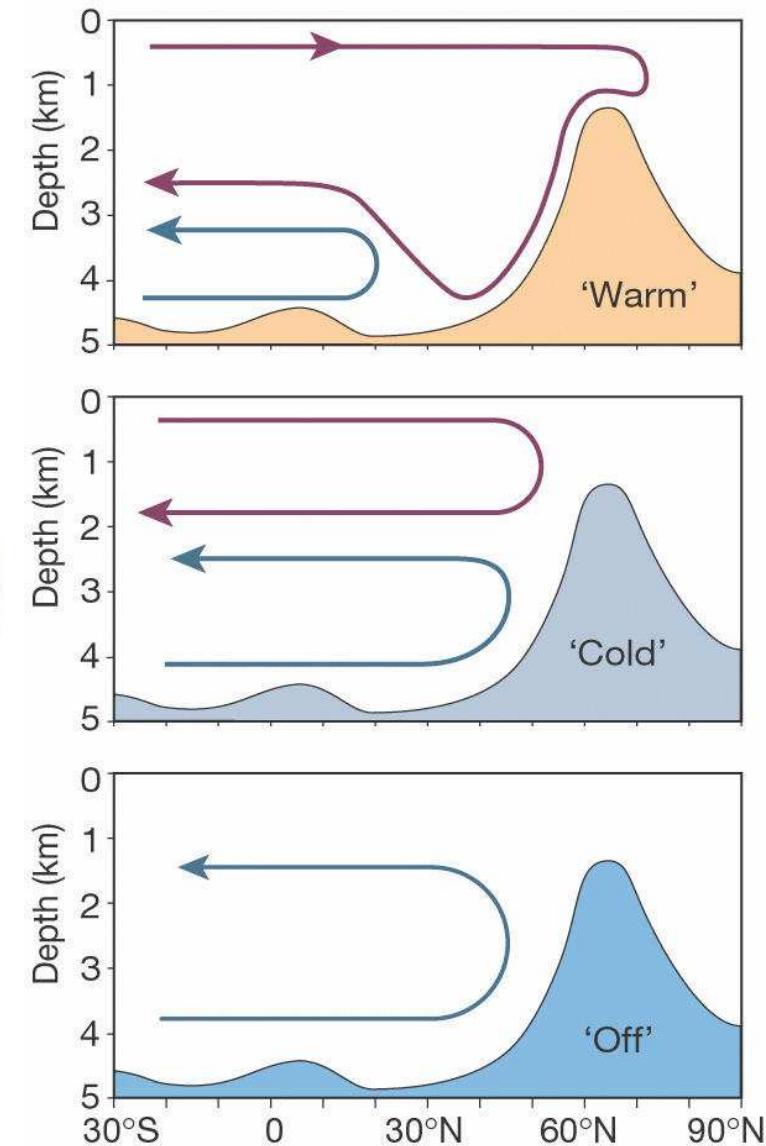
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Ocean circulation			
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4 NADW Formation

Conveyor belt



Changes in Atlantic THC

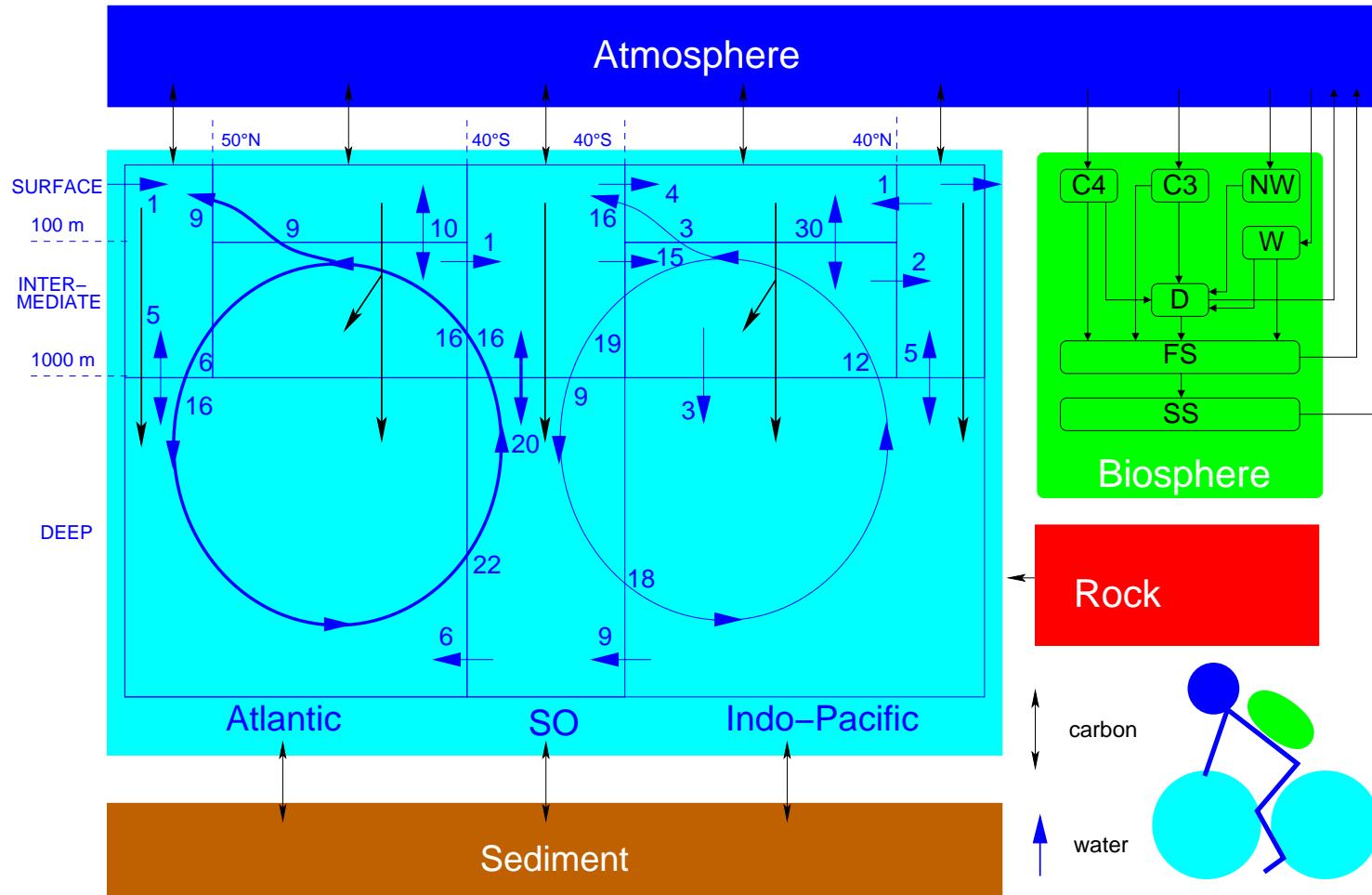


Rahmstorf, 2002

4 NADW Formation

Preindustrial circulation: WOCE data

Temporal changes: NADW reduce from 16 Sv to 10 Sv (0 Sv)



Box model of the Isotopic Carbon cYCLE

BICYCLE

Circulation after Ganachaud & Wunsch, 2000

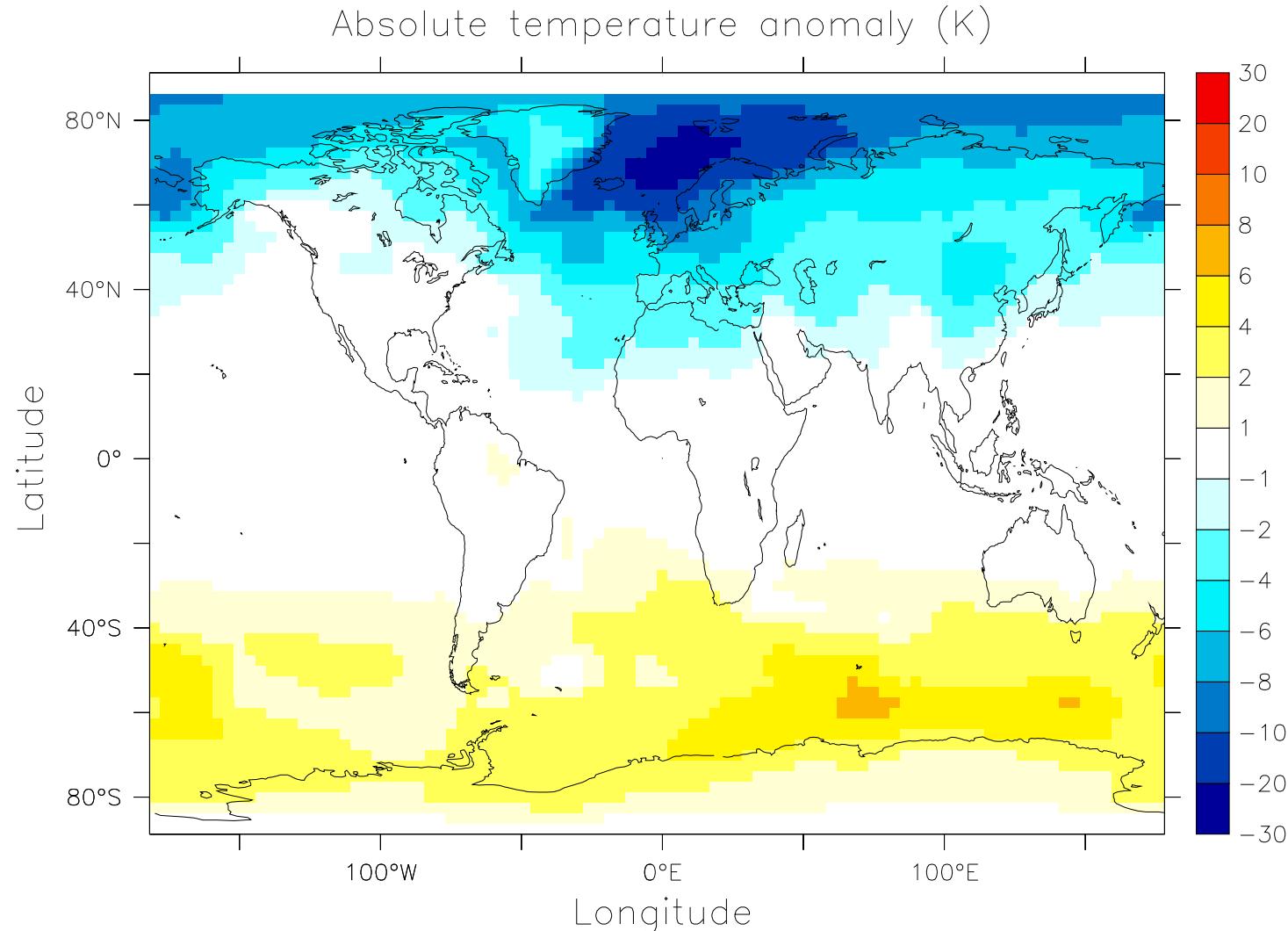
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4 Indirect effects of shutdown of NADW (not in BICYCLE)

Additionally, a NADW shutdown would lead to cooling in Eurasia

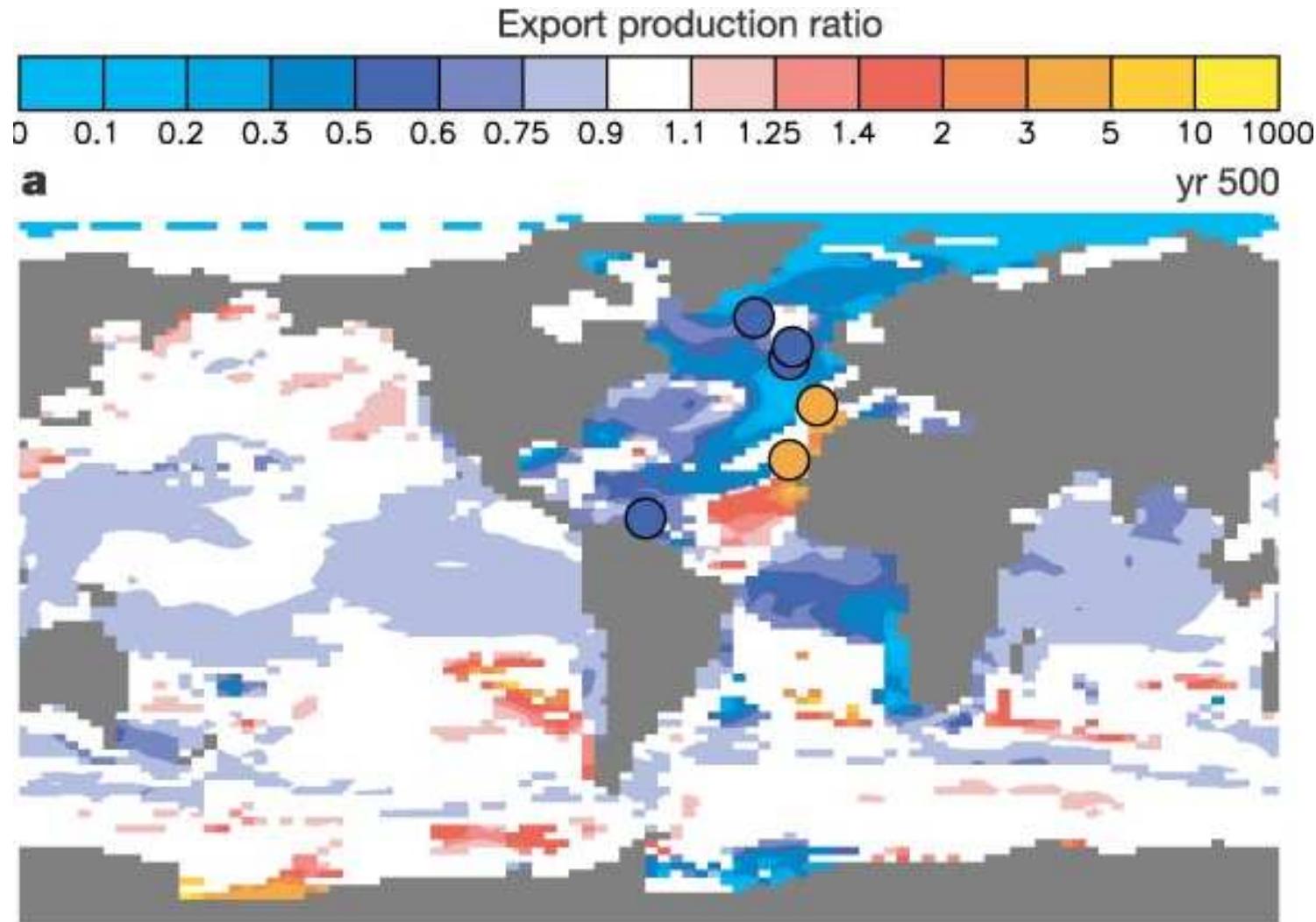
Temperature anomalies simulated with ECBILT-CLIO



Köhler et al., 2005, Climate Dynamics (after Knutti et al., 2004)

4 Indirect effects of shutdown of NADW (not in BICYCLE)

Reduction of marine export production (blue) in North Atlantic by 50%

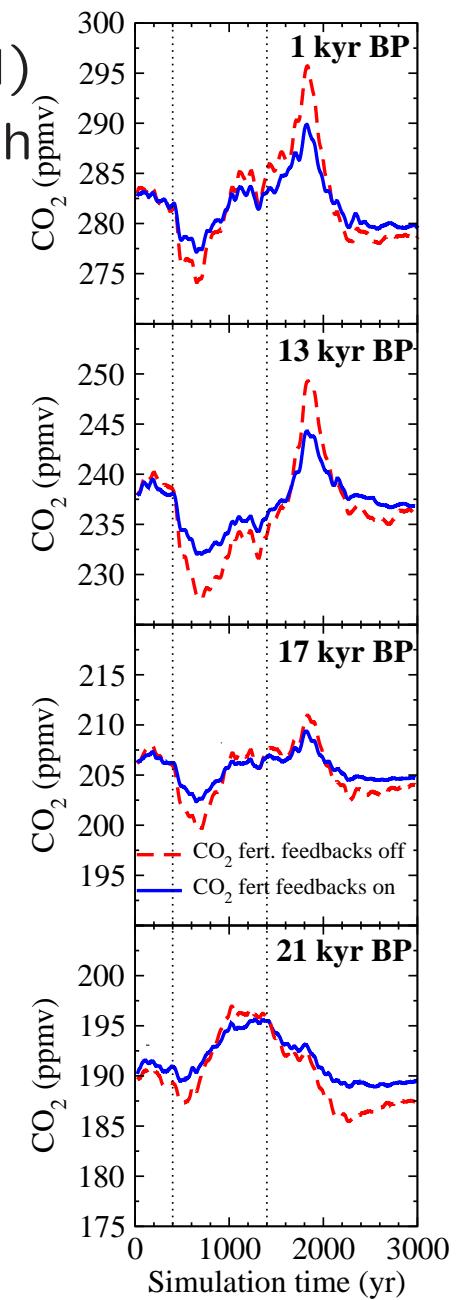
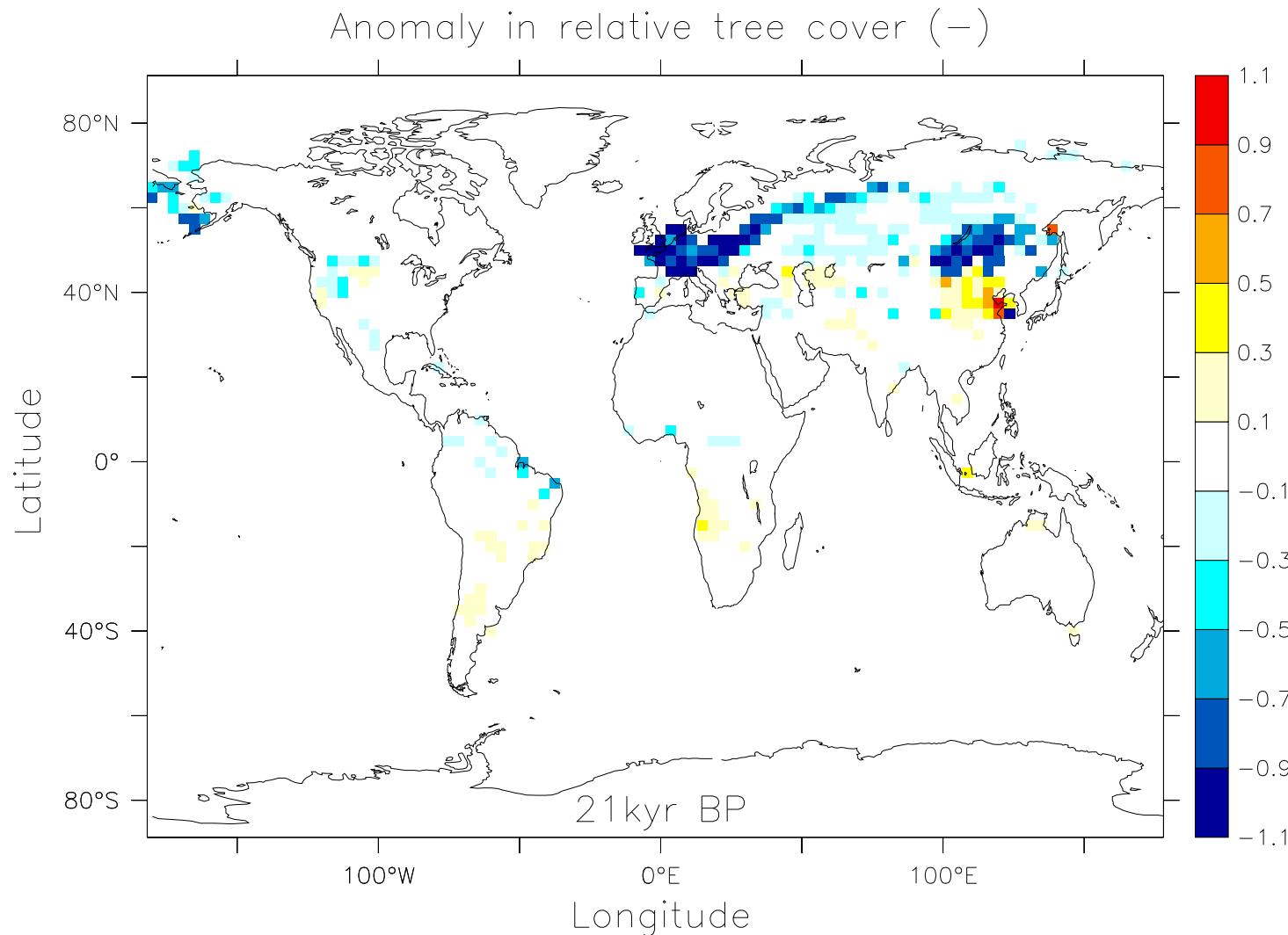


Schmittner ,2005

4 Indirect effects of shutdown of NADW (not in BICYCLE)

Cooling leads to southwards shift of treeline (LPJ-DGVM)

Competing effect of soil respiration and vegetation growth



Time-dependent processes:

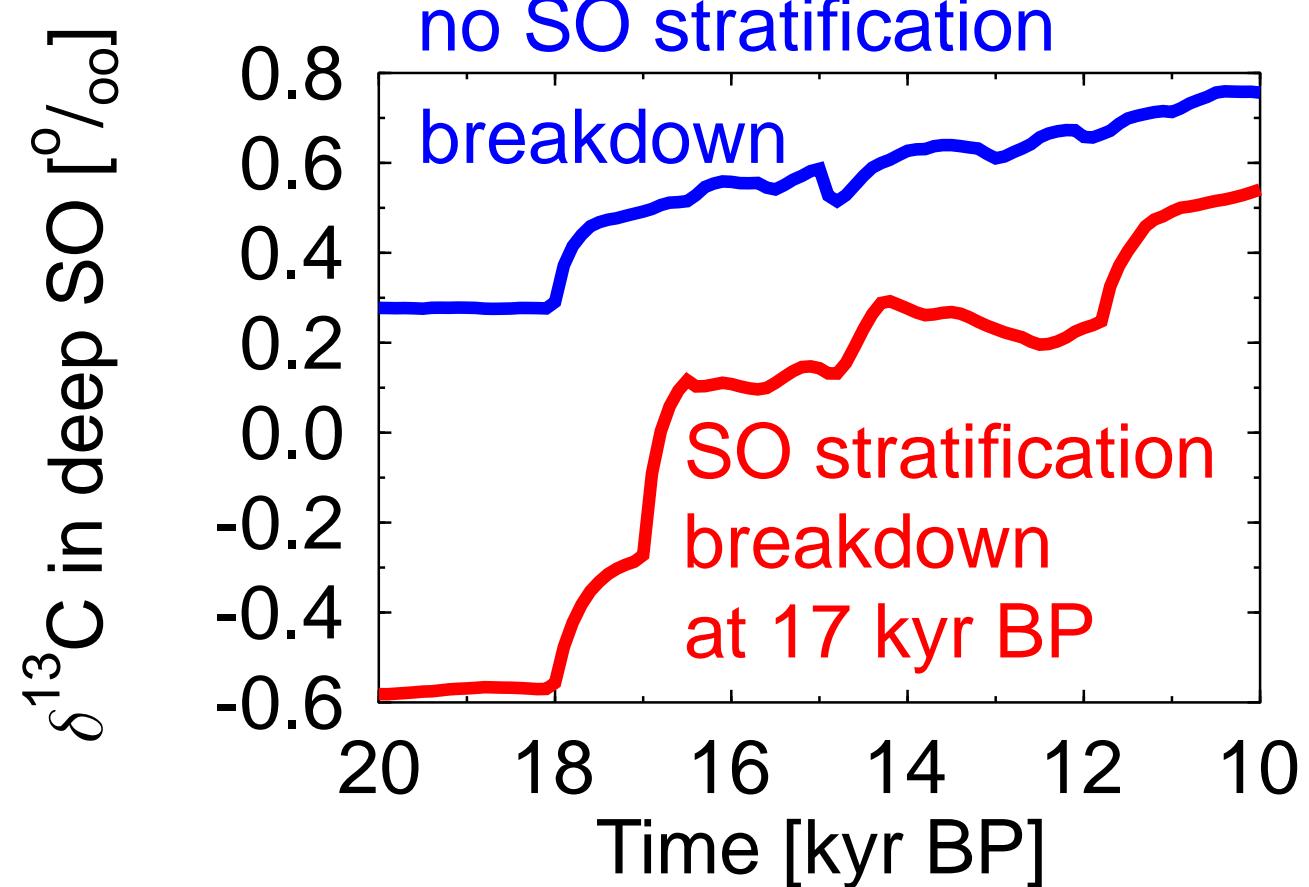
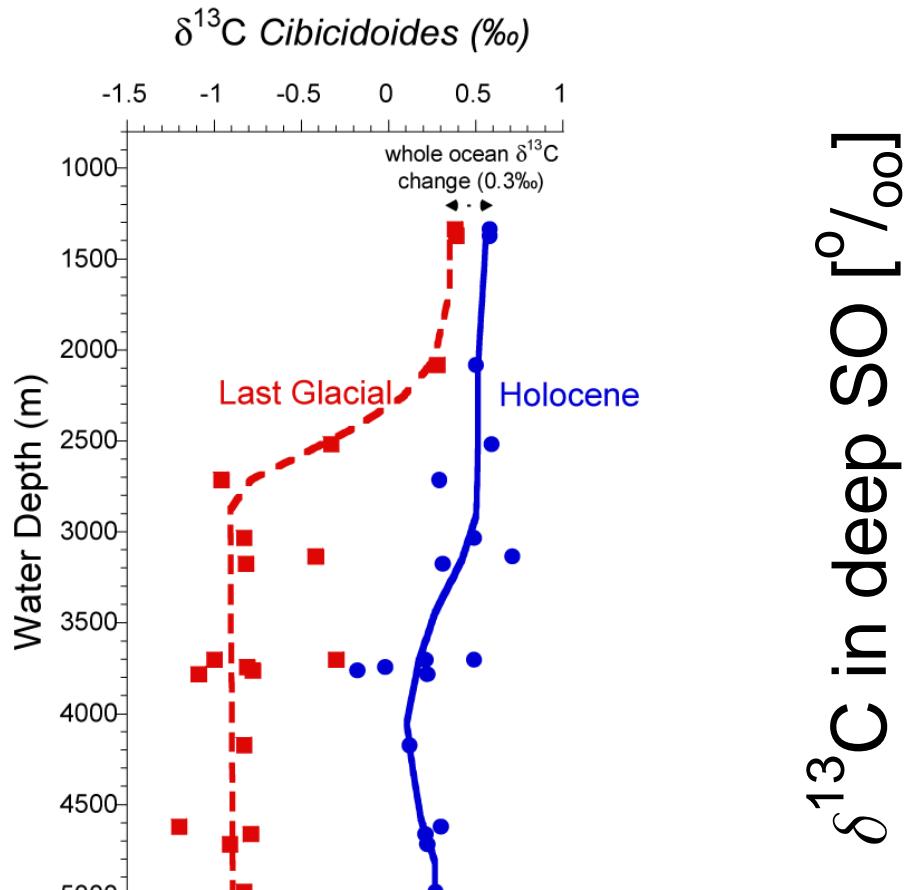
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Ocean circulation			
4 NADW formation	+6 Sv	+15	!/? (off)
5 Southern Ocean ventilation			
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8 CaCO ₃ chemistry			

5 Southern Ocean Ventilation

How to explain $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}(\text{PRE-LGM})=+1.2\text{\textperthousand}$ in deep Southern Ocean?

SO mixing reduced by 2/3 coupled to SO SST = f(EDC δD)

Different hypotheses on the physical cause behind this process

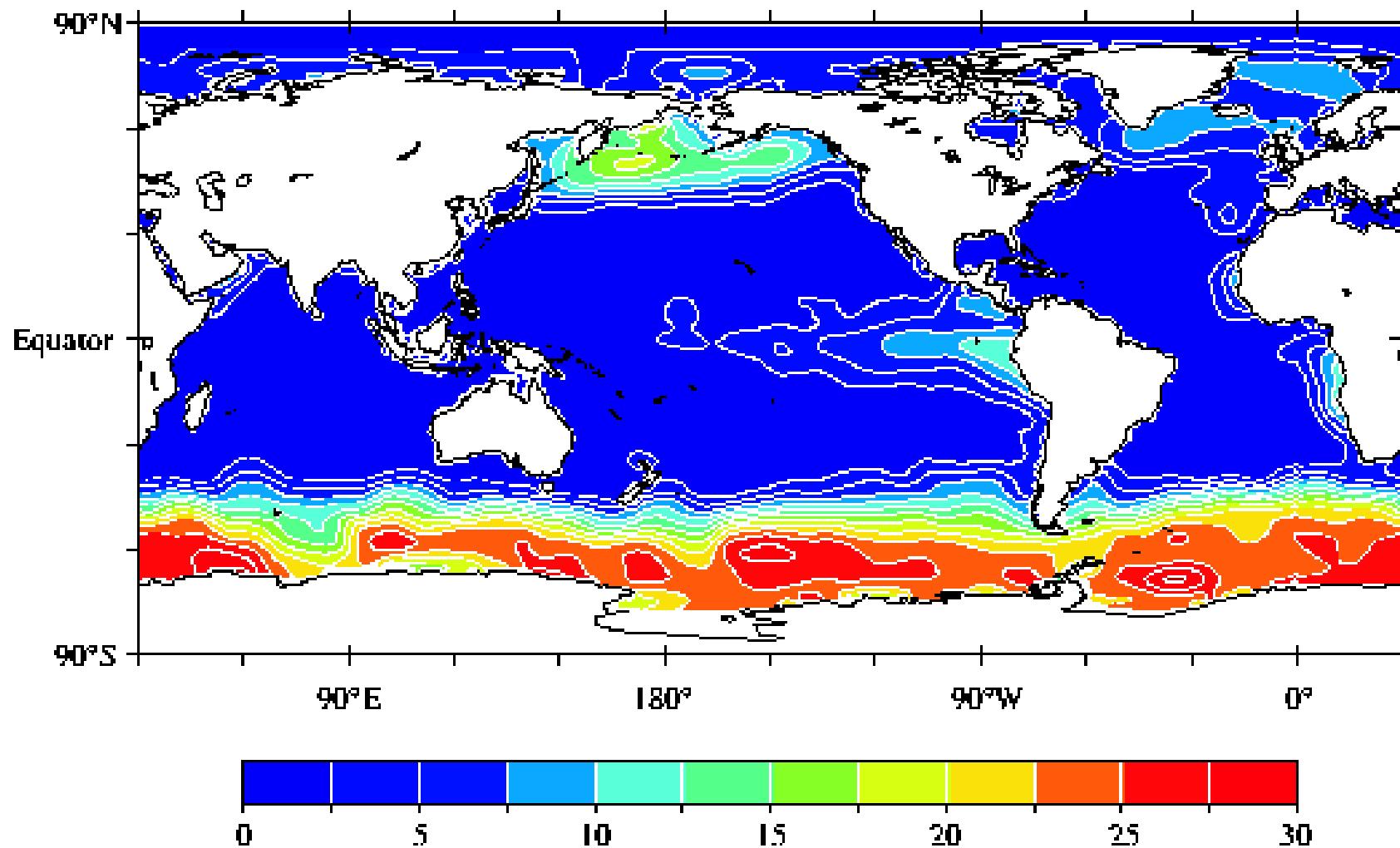


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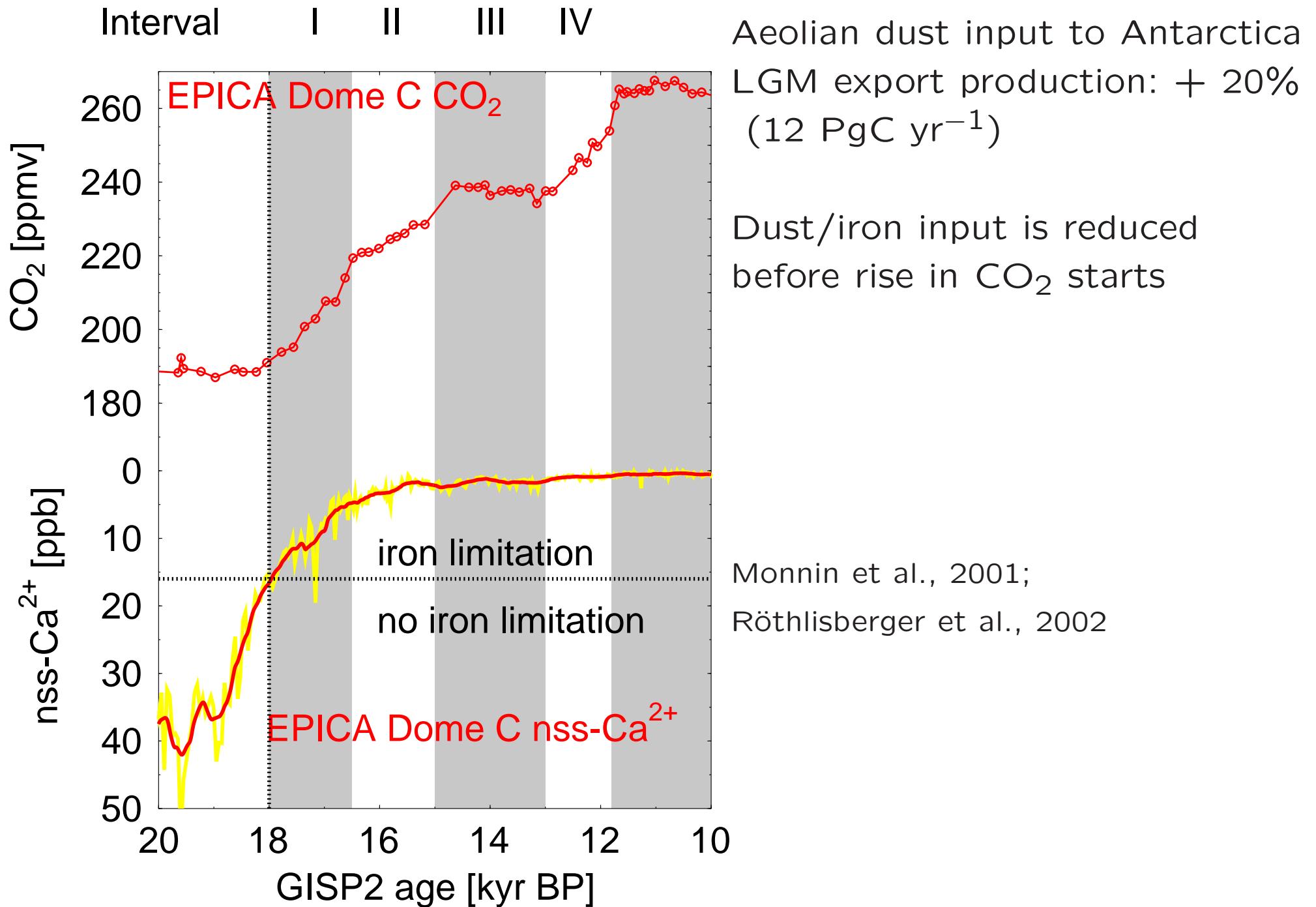
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6 Marine Biota / Iron fertilisation

Marine biological productivity might be Fe limited
in high nitrate low chlorophyll (HNLC) areas (Martin, 1990)



6 Marine Biota / Iron fertilisation



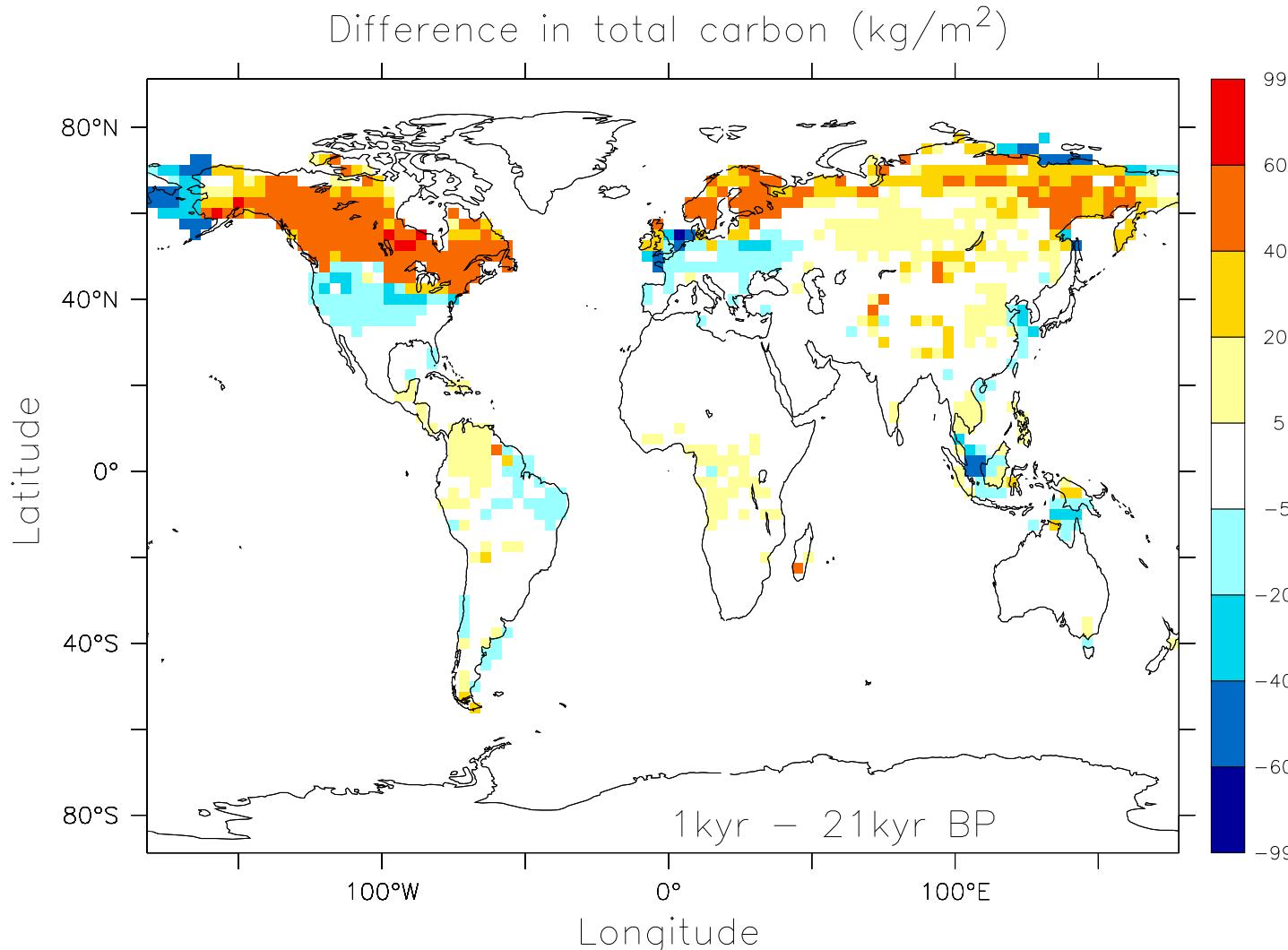
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Biogeochemistry			
6 Marine biota / iron fertilisation	-2 PgC yr ⁻¹	+20	?
7 Terrestrial carbon storage			
8 CaCO ₃ chemistry			

7 Terrestrial carbon storage

Model and data-based estimates range from 300 to 800 PgC

Example from LPJ-DGVM (Preindustrial–LGM)

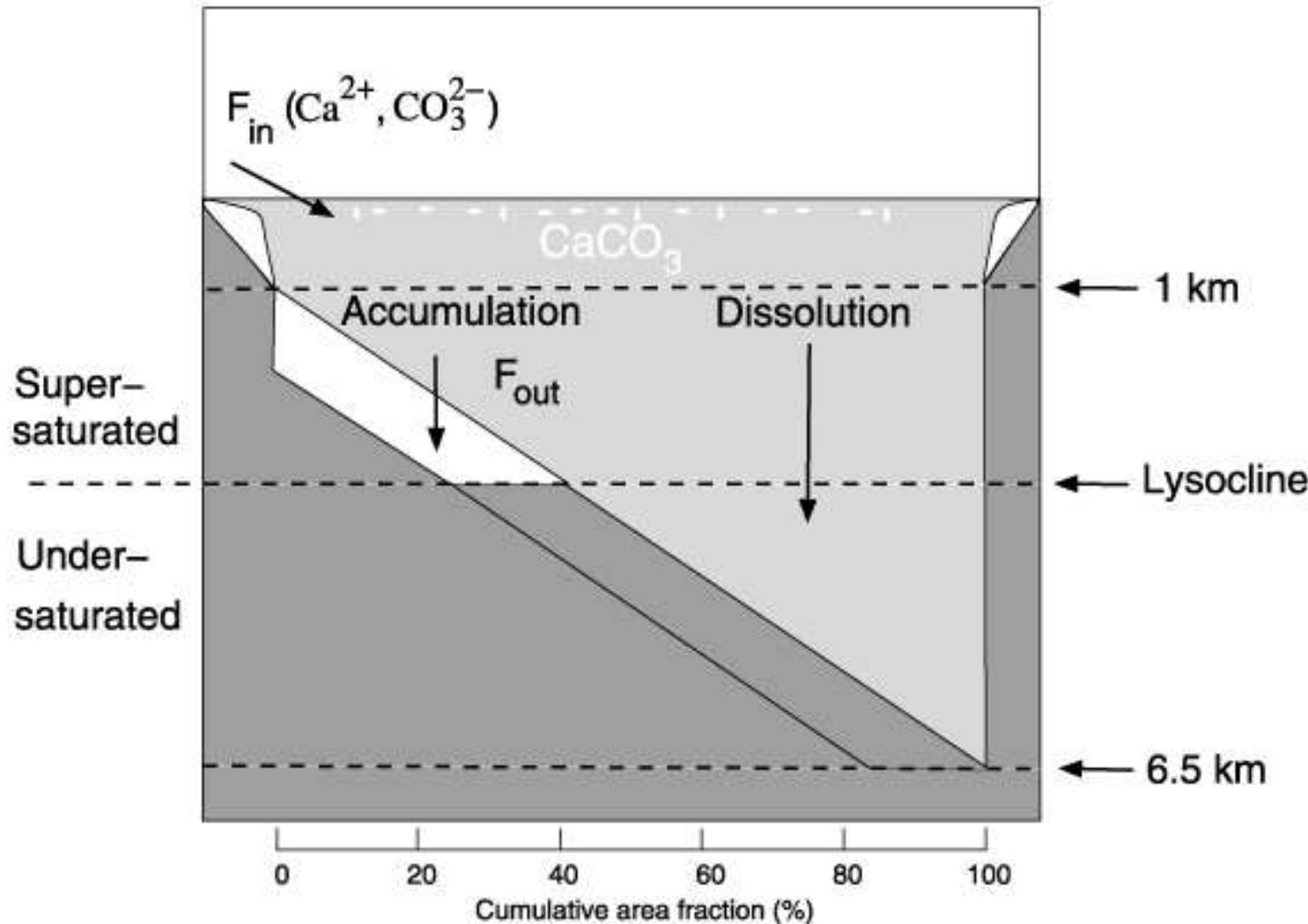


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Biogeochemistry			
6 Marine biota / iron fertilisation	-2 PgC yr ⁻¹	+20	?
7 Terrestrial carbon storage	+500 PgC	-15	!
8 CaCO ₃ chemistry			

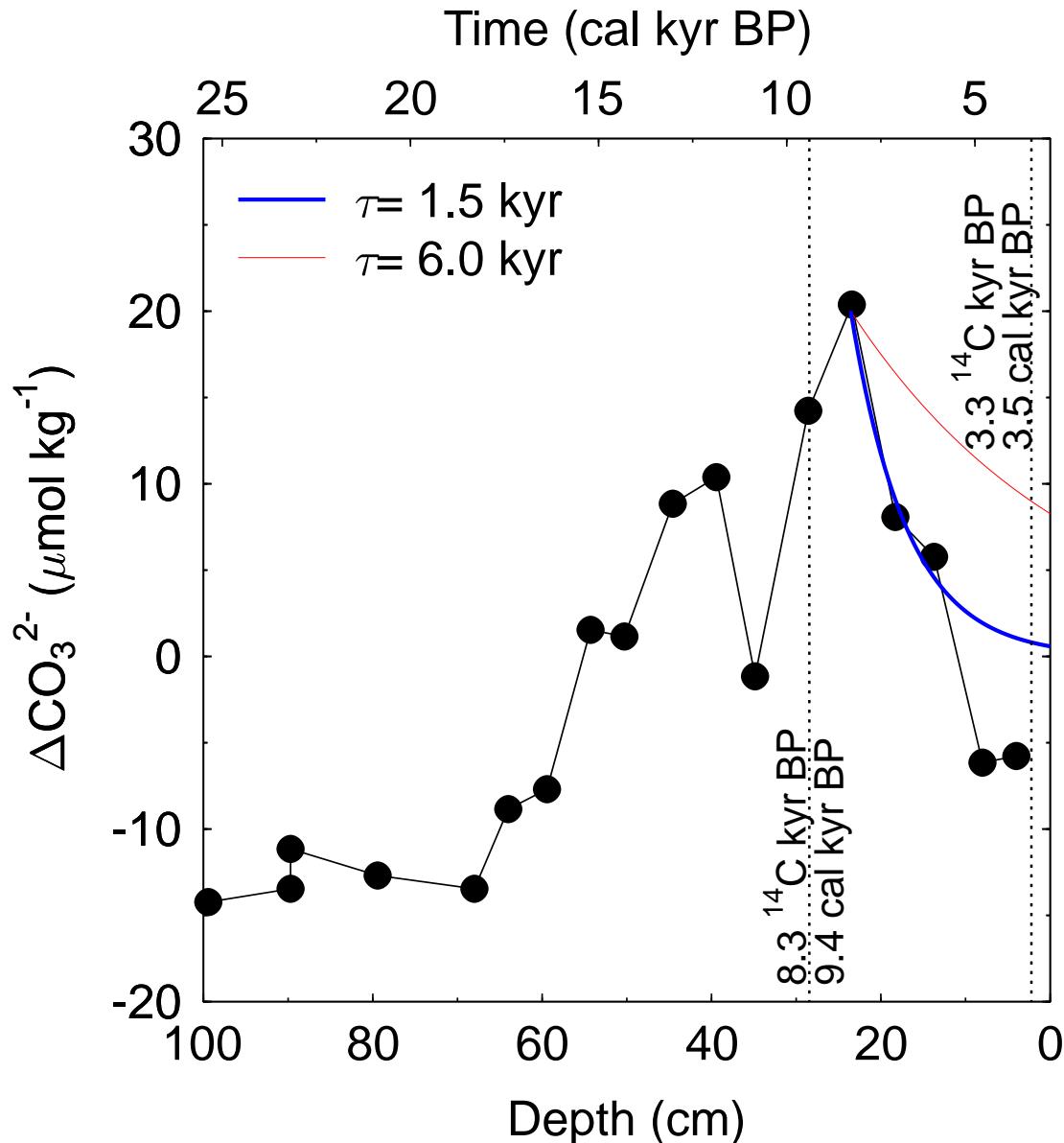
8 Carbonate compensation

Dissolution / accumulation of CaCO_3 depends on deep ocean $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$



8 Carbonate compensation

Anomalies in deep ocean $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ caused by carbon cycle variations relax to initial state with an e-folding time τ of 1.5 to 6 kyr



$\tau = 6.0$ kyr:

process-based
model

(Archer et al., 1997)

$\tau = 1.5$ kyr:

reconstruction of deep
ocean $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$
(Marchitto et al., 2005)

after Marchitto et al., 2005

Time-dependent processes:

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Ocean circulation			
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5 Southern Ocean ventilation	+20 Sv	+35	o
Biogeochemistry			
6 Marine biota / iron fertilisation	-2 PgC yr^{-1}	+20	?
7 Terrestrial carbon storage	+500 PgC	-15	!
8 CaCO_3 chemistry	$\tau=1.5 \text{ kyr}$	+20	?

Time-dependent processes:

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5 Southern Ocean ventilation	+20 Sv	+35	o
6 Marine biota / iron fertilisation	-2 PgC yr ⁻¹	+20	?
7 Terrestrial carbon storage	+500 PgC	-15	!
8 CaCO ₃ chemistry	$\tau=1.5$ kyr	+20	?
Sum		+75	
Sum (without sea ice)		+90	
Vostok (incl. Holocene rise)		+103	

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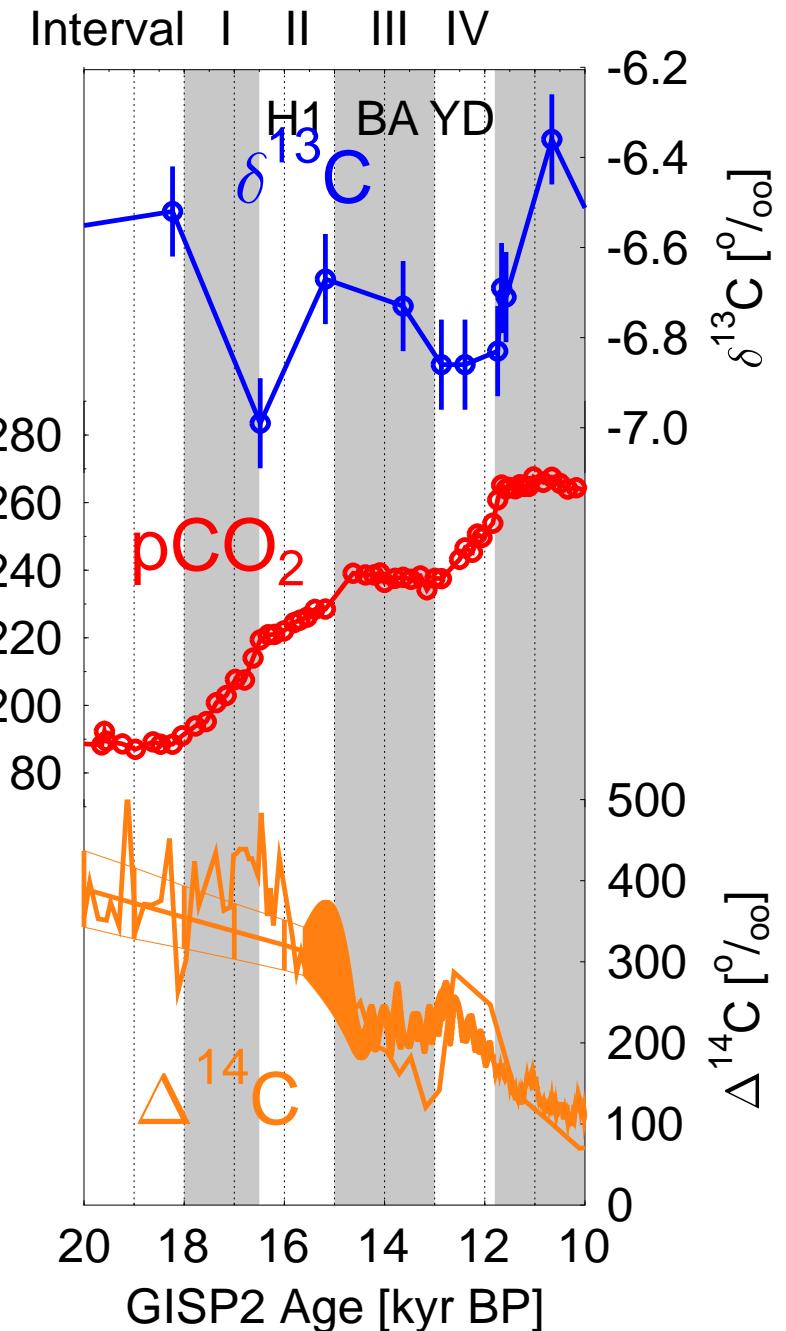
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Atmospheric carbon during Termination I

Interpret the temporal evolution of atmospheric CO₂, δ¹³C, ¹⁴C records by carbon cycle simulations.

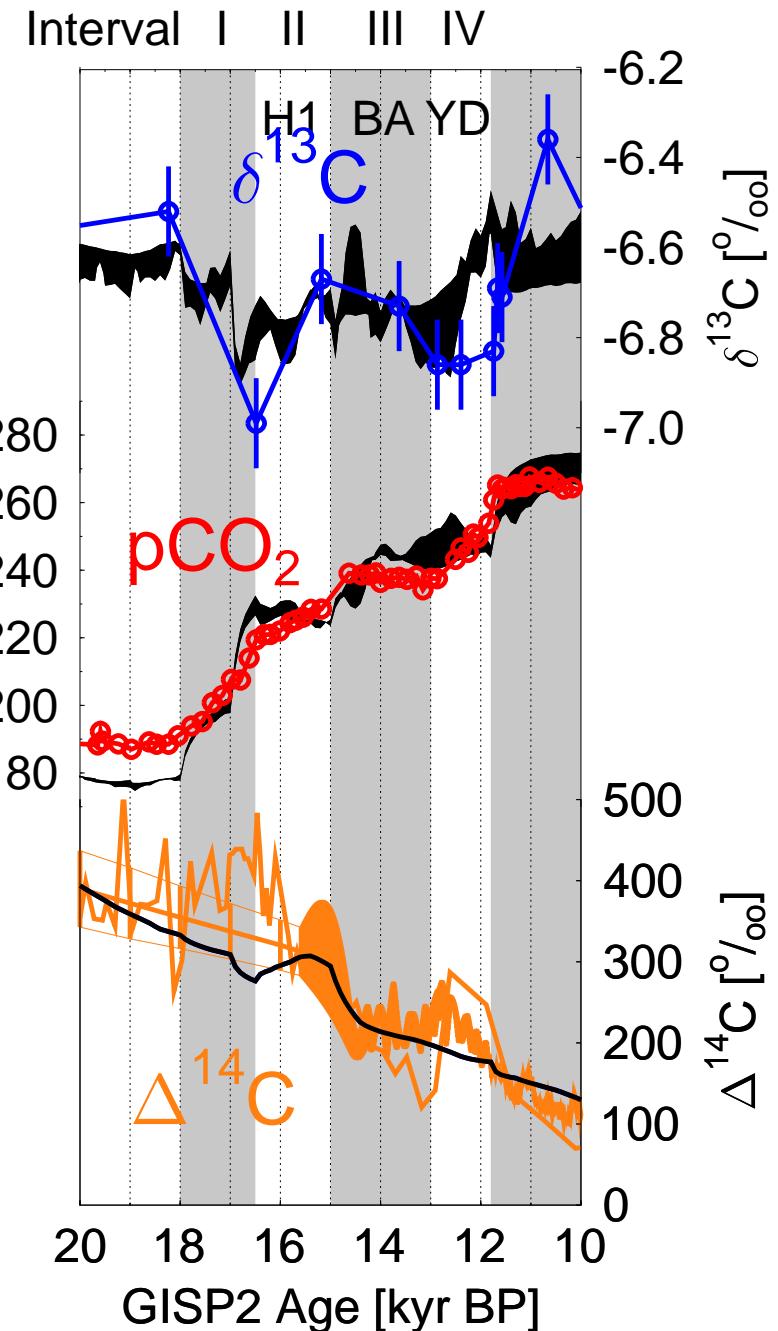
Smith et al., 1999; Monnin et al., 2001;
Stuiver et al., 1998; Hughen et al., 2004



Atmospheric carbon during Termination I

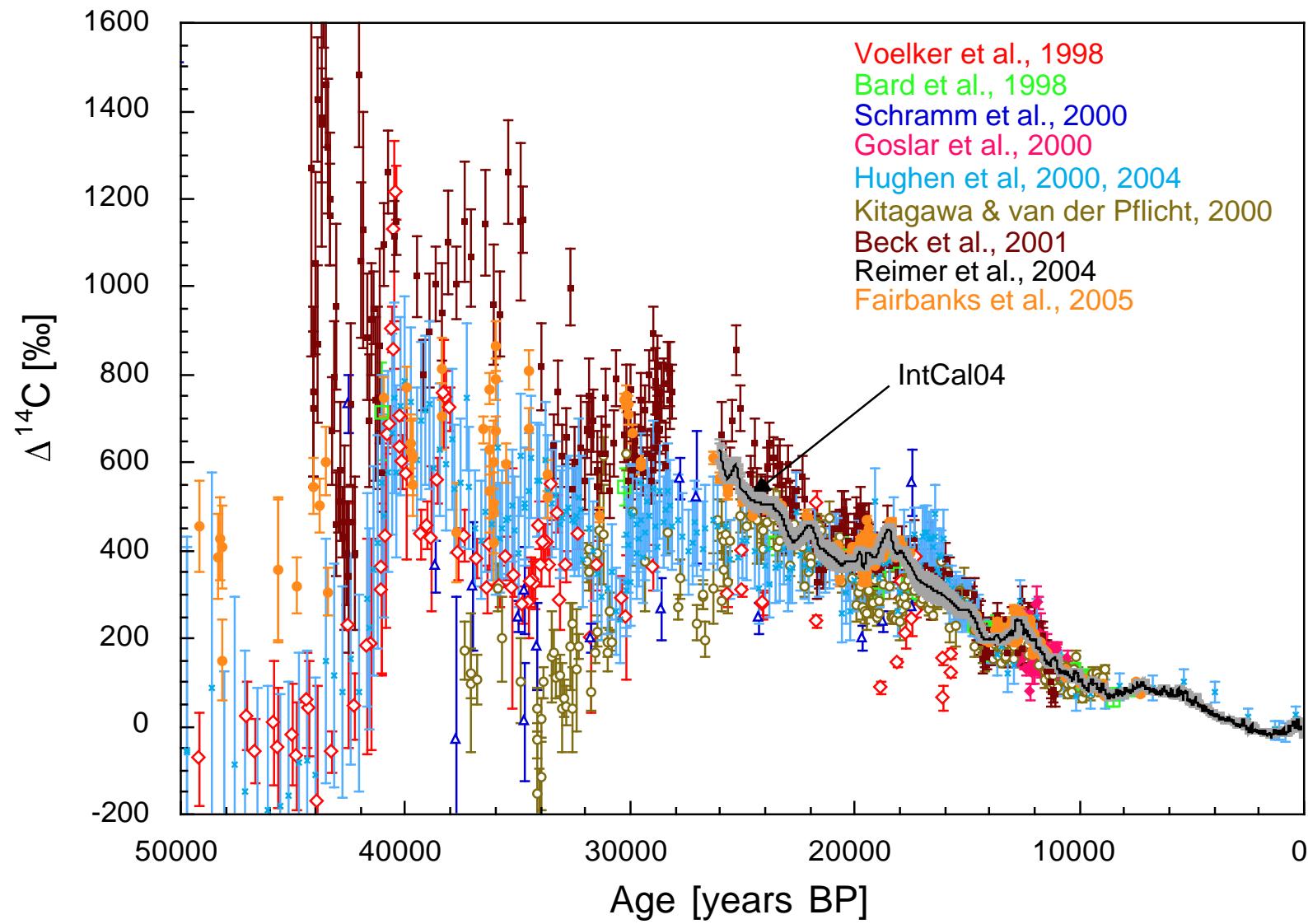
Not only the amplitudes but also the timing of the changes in CO_2 , $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, ^{14}C seems to be appropriate.

Smith et al., 1999; Monnin et al., 2001;
Stuiver et al., 1998; Hughen et al., 2004
Köhler et al., 2005,
Global Biogeochemical Cycles



^{14}C cycle

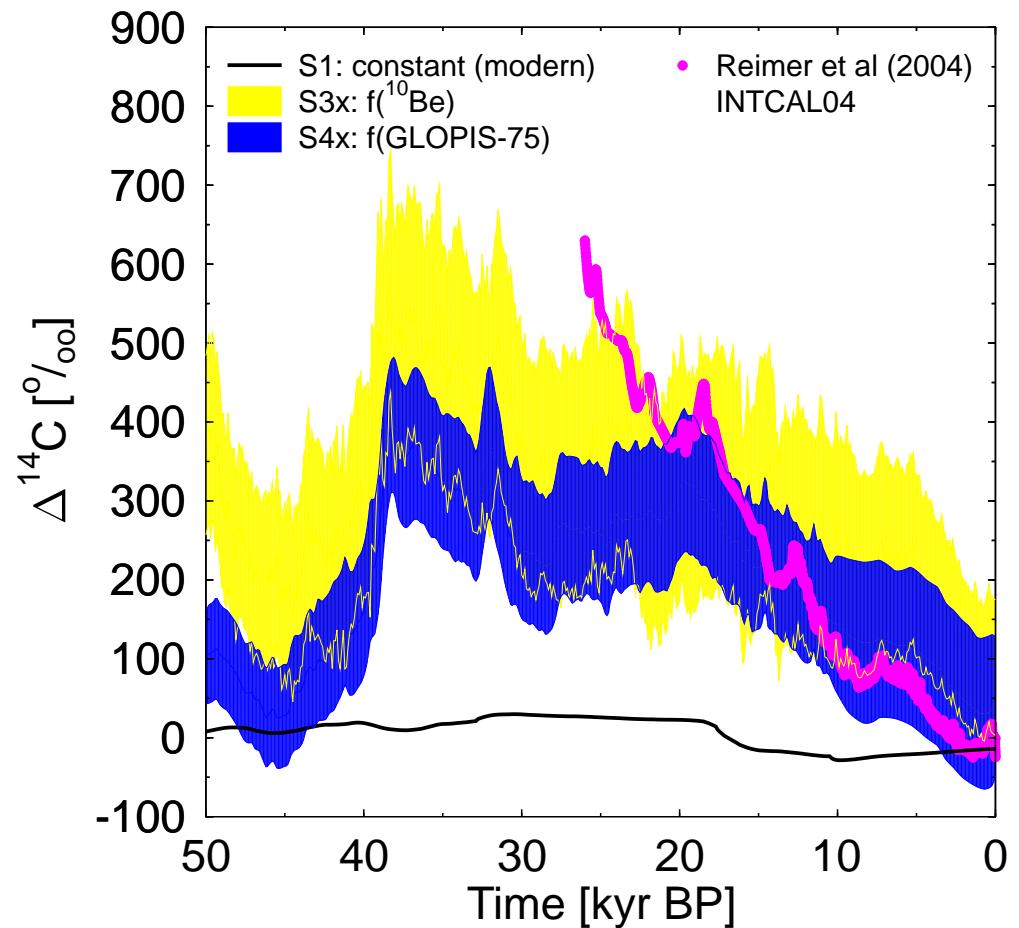
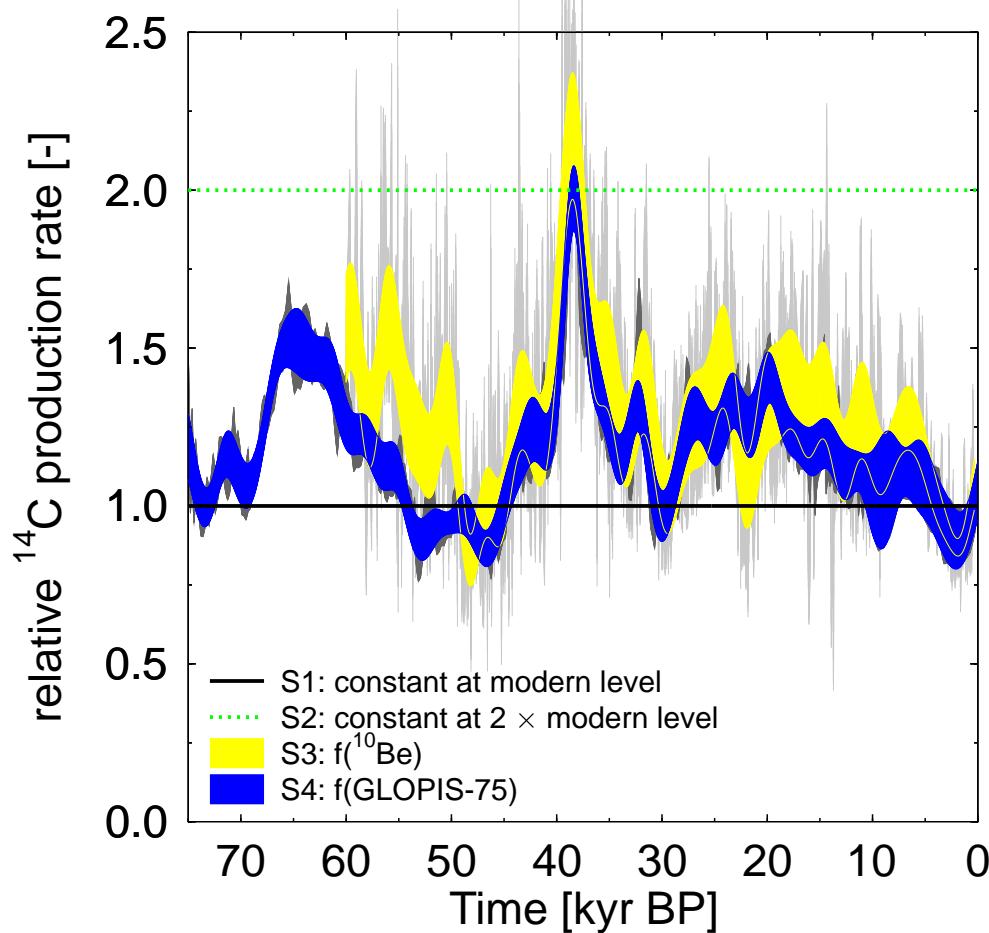
Atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ reconstructions are highly scattered
especially before 25 kyr BP



Köhler, Muscheler, Fischer, G-Cubed, in press

^{14}C cycle

$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ highly depends on the chosen ^{14}C production rate
GBC paper used coarsly resolved paleo magnetic stack SINT-200
below new paleo magnetic GLOPIS-75 or ^{10}Be are used



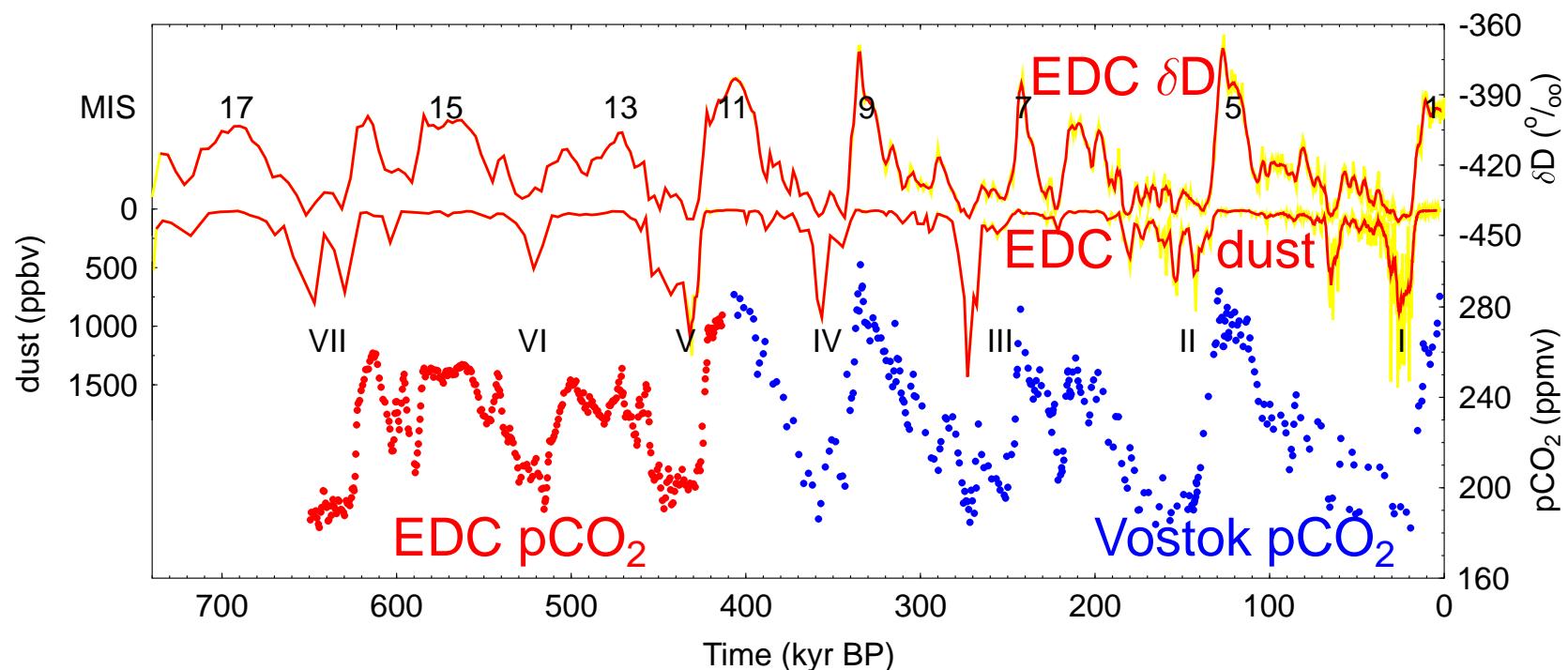
The EPICA challenge

Working hypothesis:

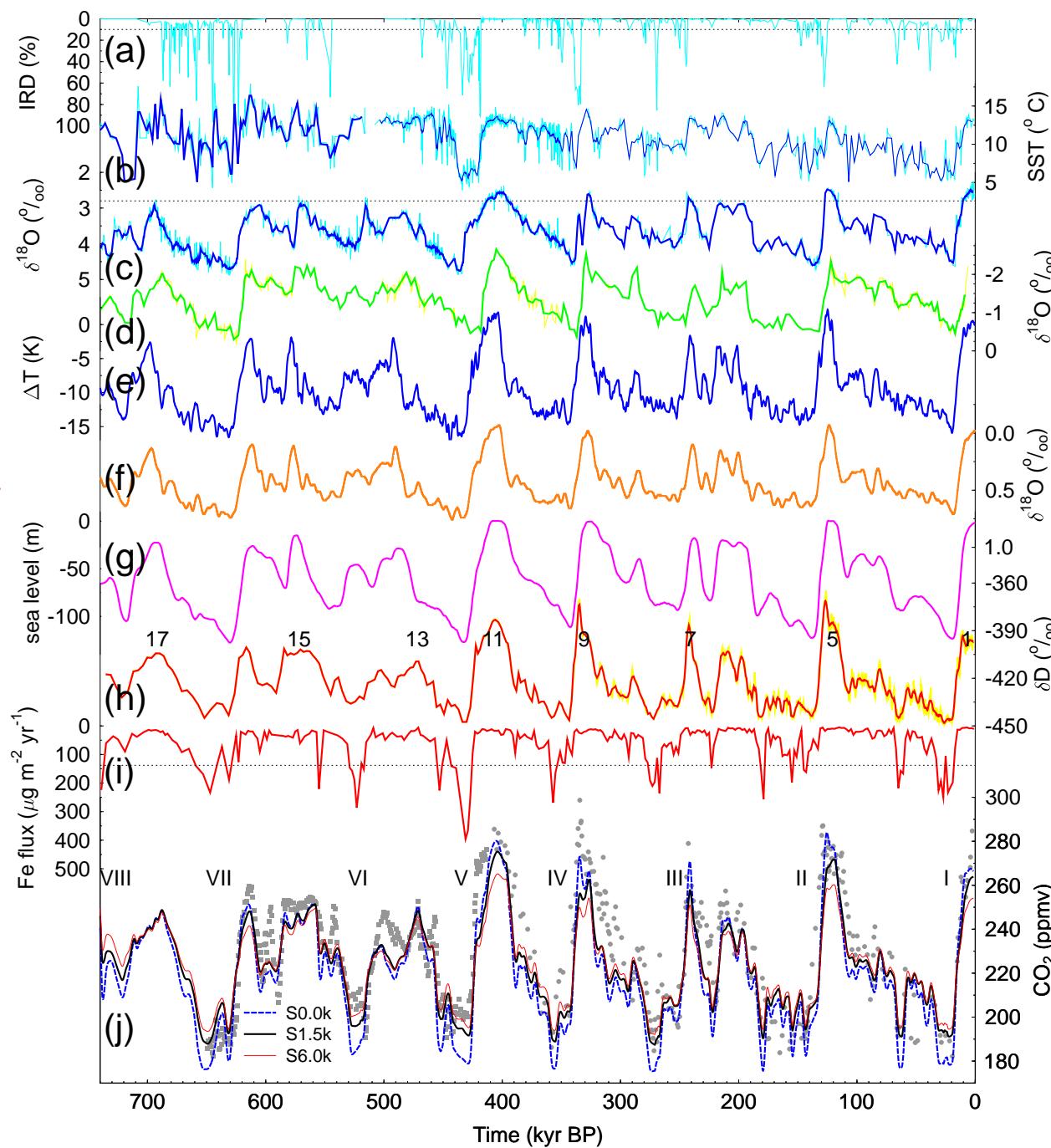
Our findings for Termination I are of general nature.

Approach:

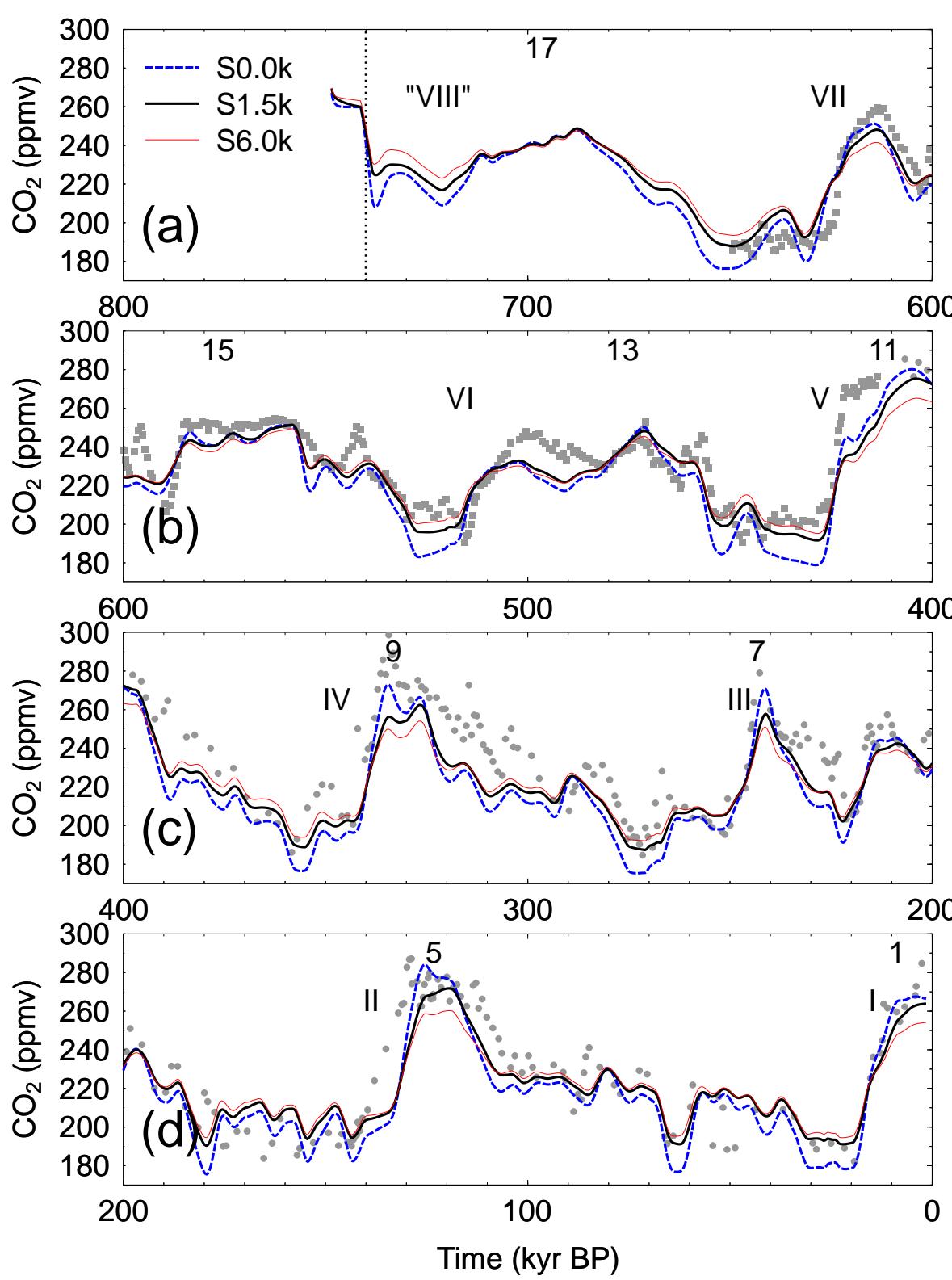
Use same assumptions and extend forcing data set back in time.



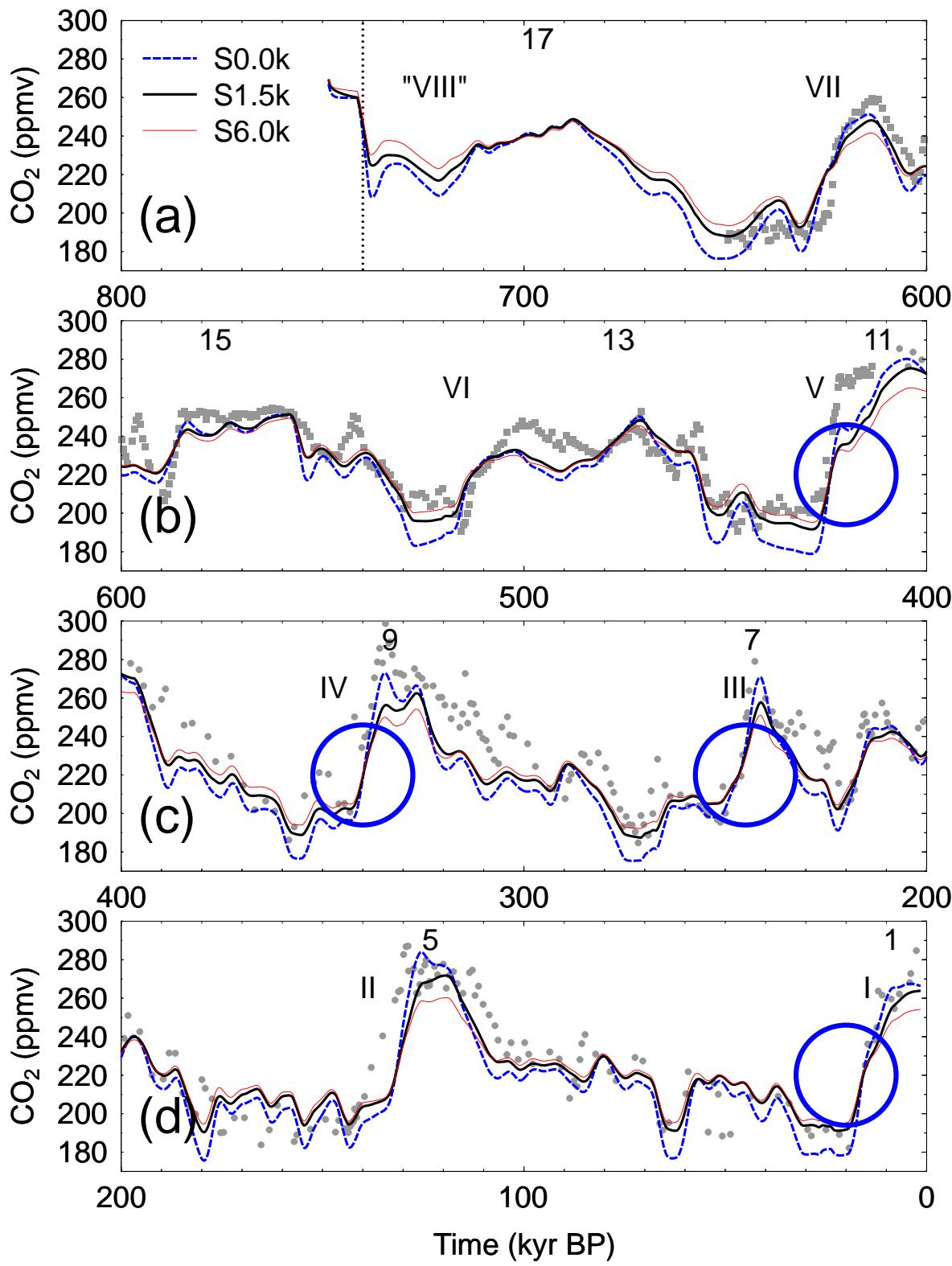
- a: Heinrich
- b: N-SST
- c: NADW
- d: EQ-SST
- e: NH ΔT
- f: deep sea ΔT
- g: sea level
- h: SO SST
- i: Fe fert.
- j: CO₂



The EPICA challenge



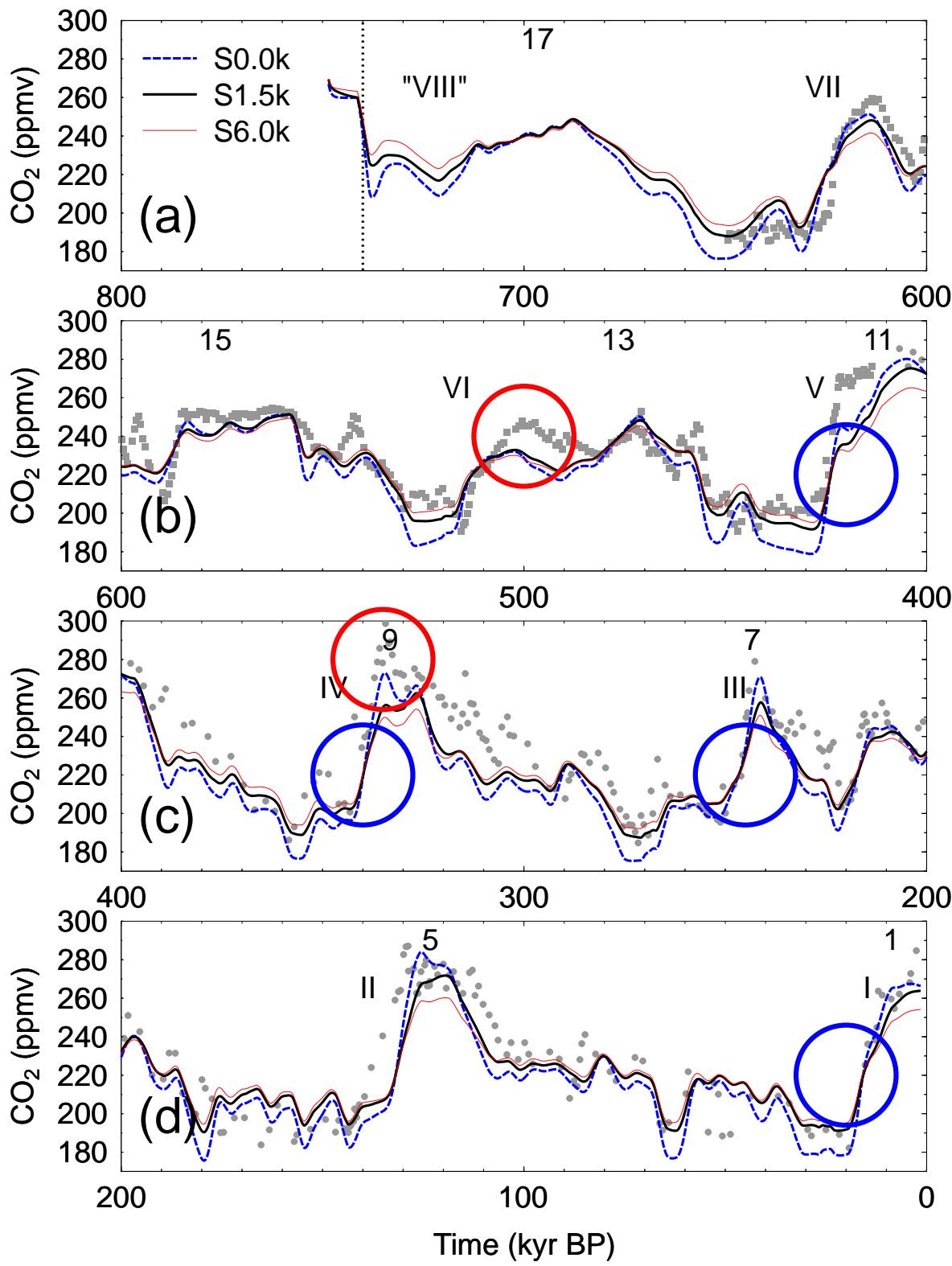
Köhler and Fischer, 2006,
Climate of the Past



The EPICA challenge

1. Terminations I, III, IV, V

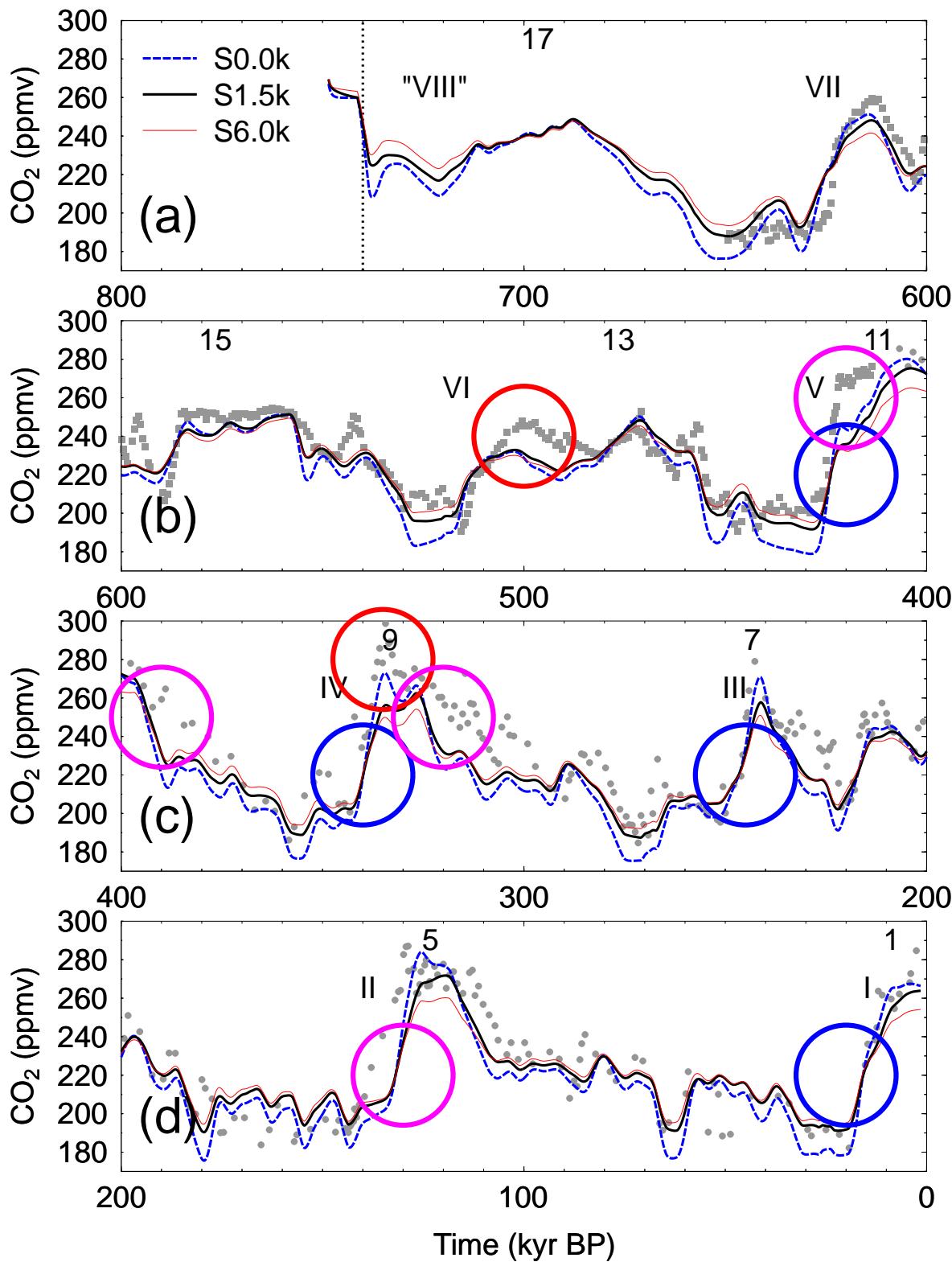
Köhler and Fischer, 2006,
Climate of the Past



The EPICA challenge

1. Terminations I, III, IV, V
2. Maximum peaks

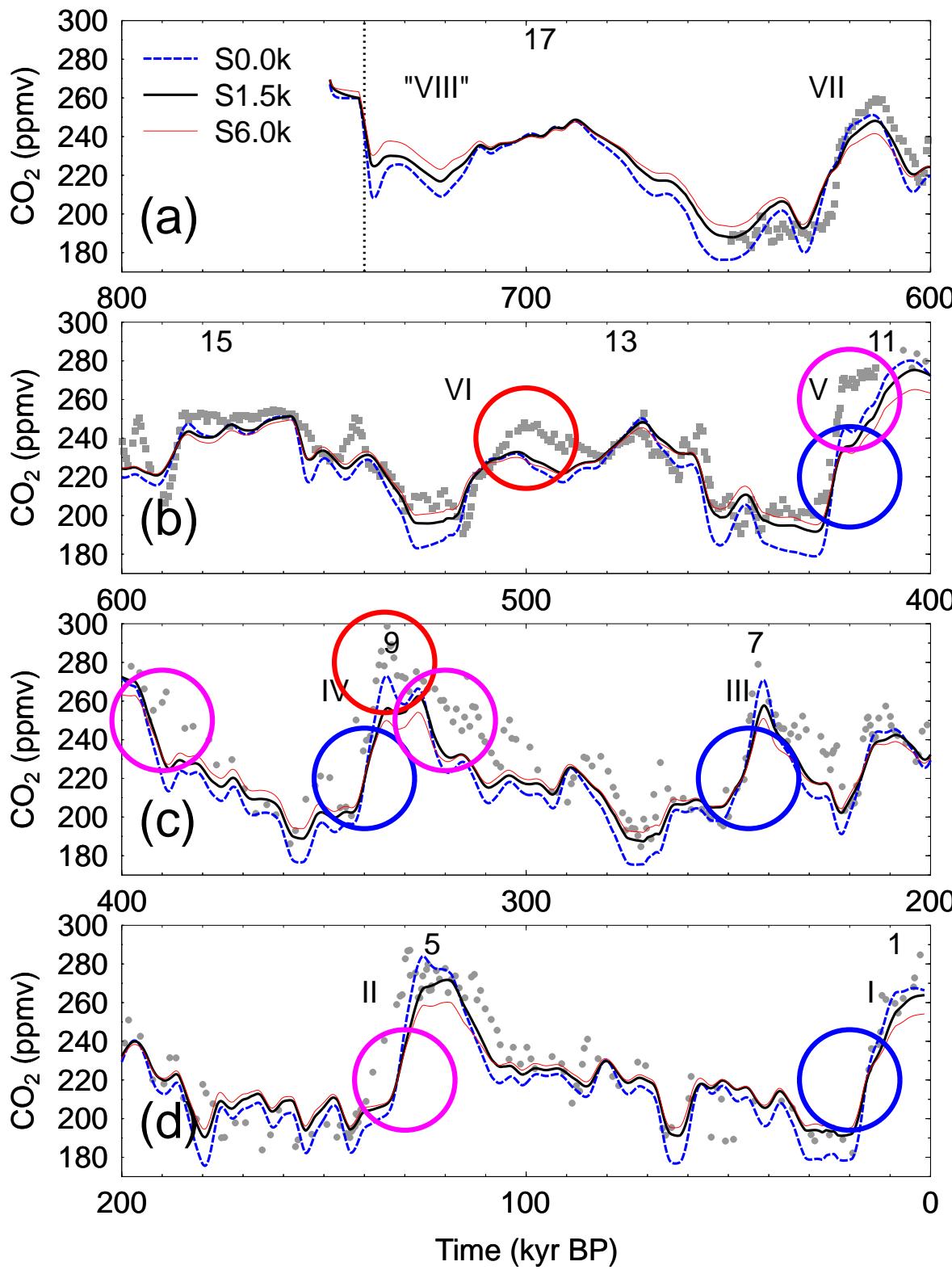
Köhler and Fischer, 2006,
Climate of the Past



The EPICA challenge

1. Terminations I, III, IV, V
2. Maximum peaks
3. Timing inconsistencies

Köhler and Fischer, 2006,
Climate of the Past



The EPICA challenge

1. Terminations I, III, IV, V
2. Maximum peaks
3. Timing inconsistencies

Solutions:

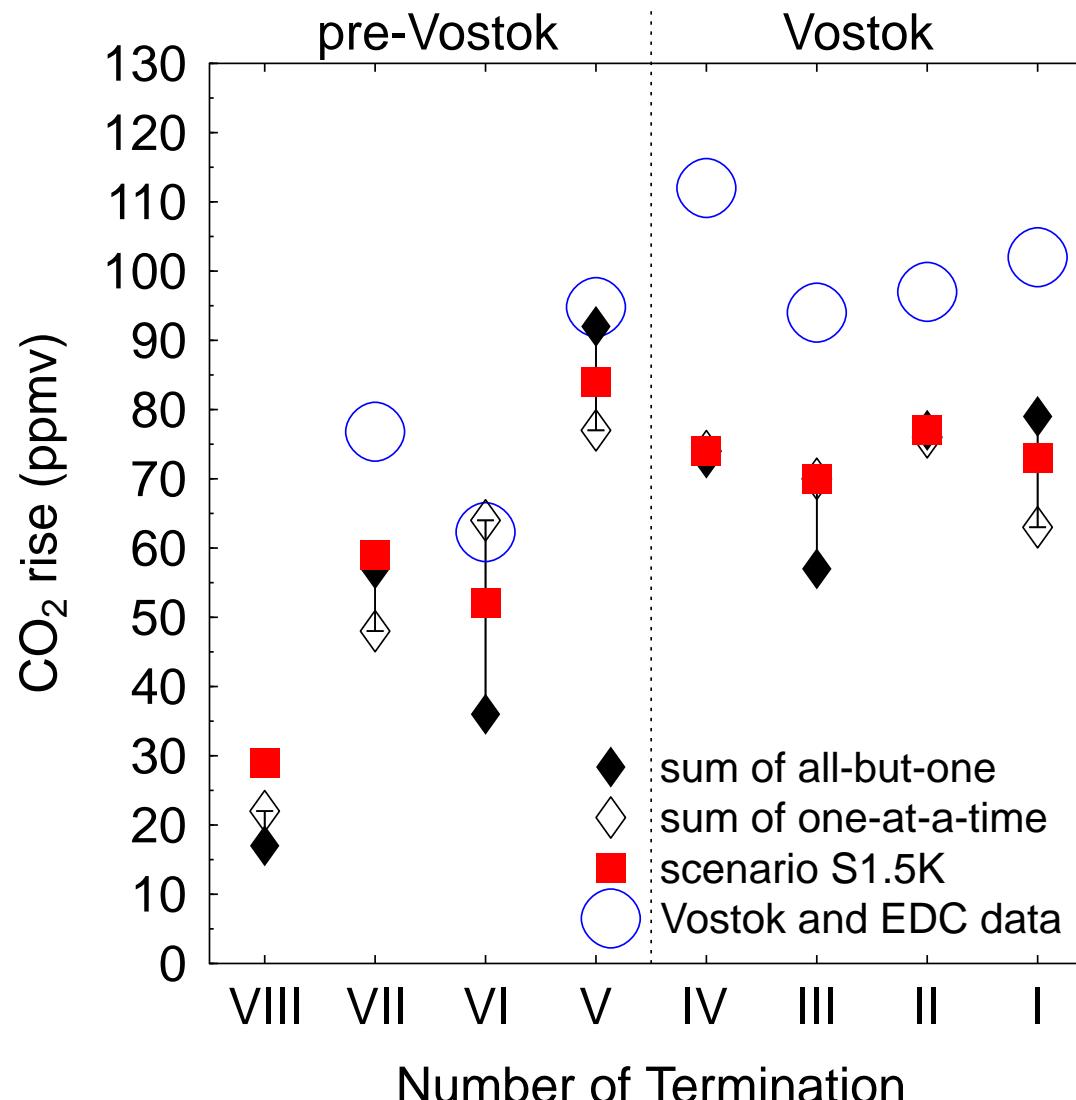
- A: Synchronisation errors?
- B: Missing processes?
- C: Are our findings for Termination I of general nature?

Köhler and Fischer, 2006,
Climate of the Past

Terminations I-VIII

combined simulation vs. ice core data

~20 ppmv per Termination are missing

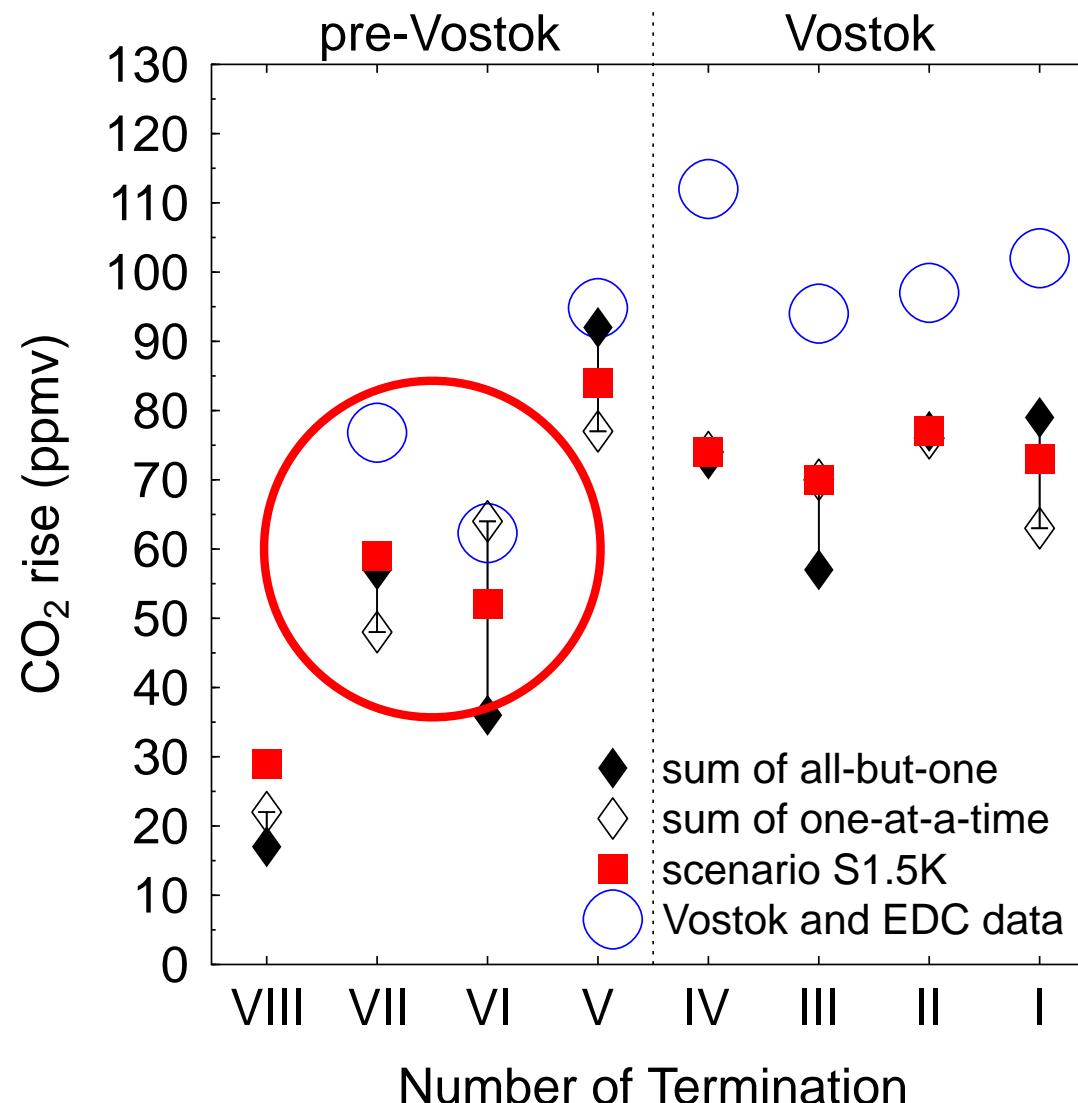


Köhler and Fischer, 2006, Climate of the Past

Terminations I-VIII

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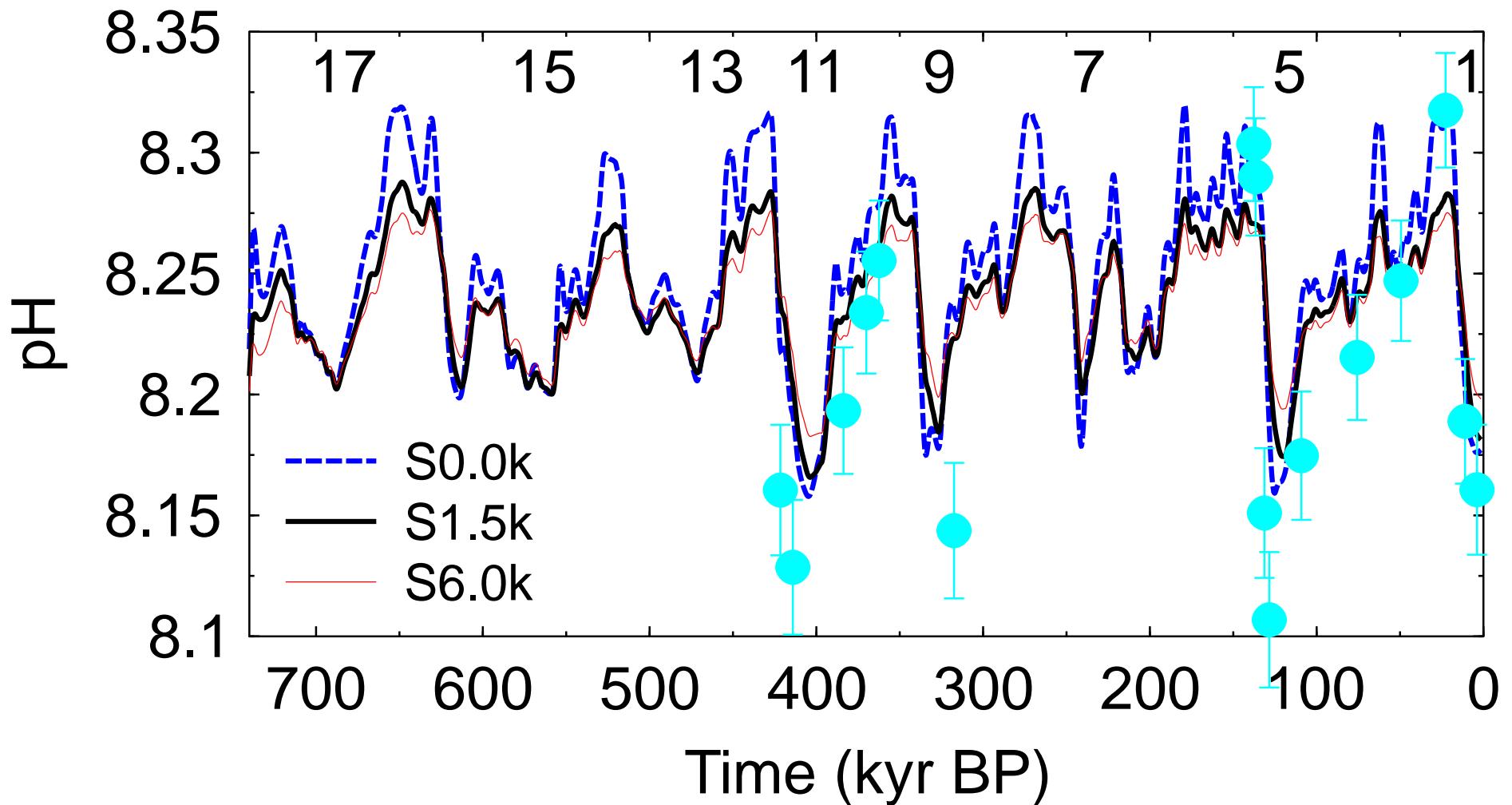
Termination VI, VII: smaller contributions from OCEAN CIRCULATION and SST



Köhler and Fischer, 2006, Climate of the Past

pH

pH from $\delta^{11}\text{B}$ in surface waters of equatorial Atlantic
only pH reconstruction available so far



The global record of atmospheric CO₂
EPICA — European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica

The global carbon cycle and the box model BICYCLE

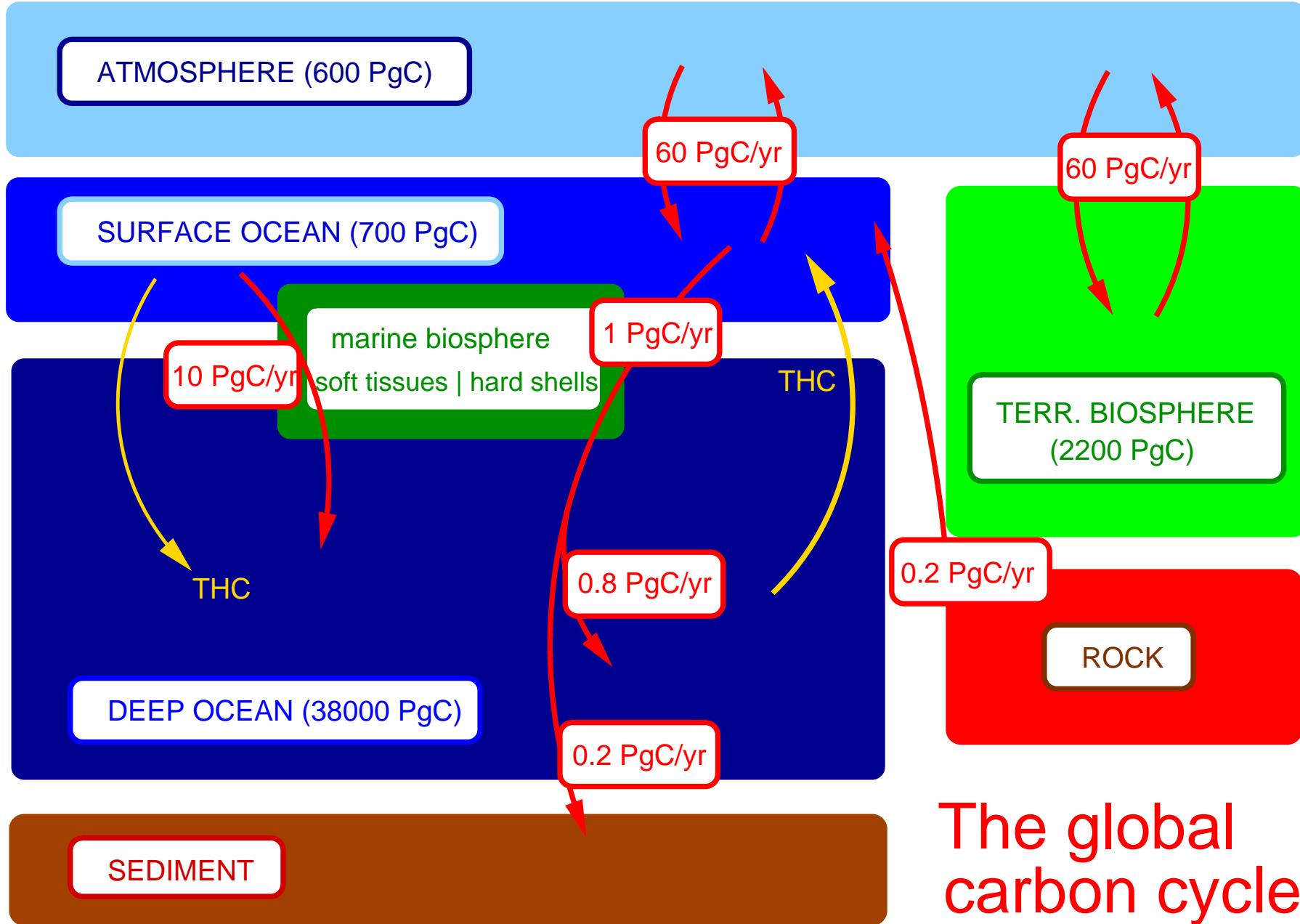
Time-dependent processes: motivations and simulation results

Combined scenarios

Open questions

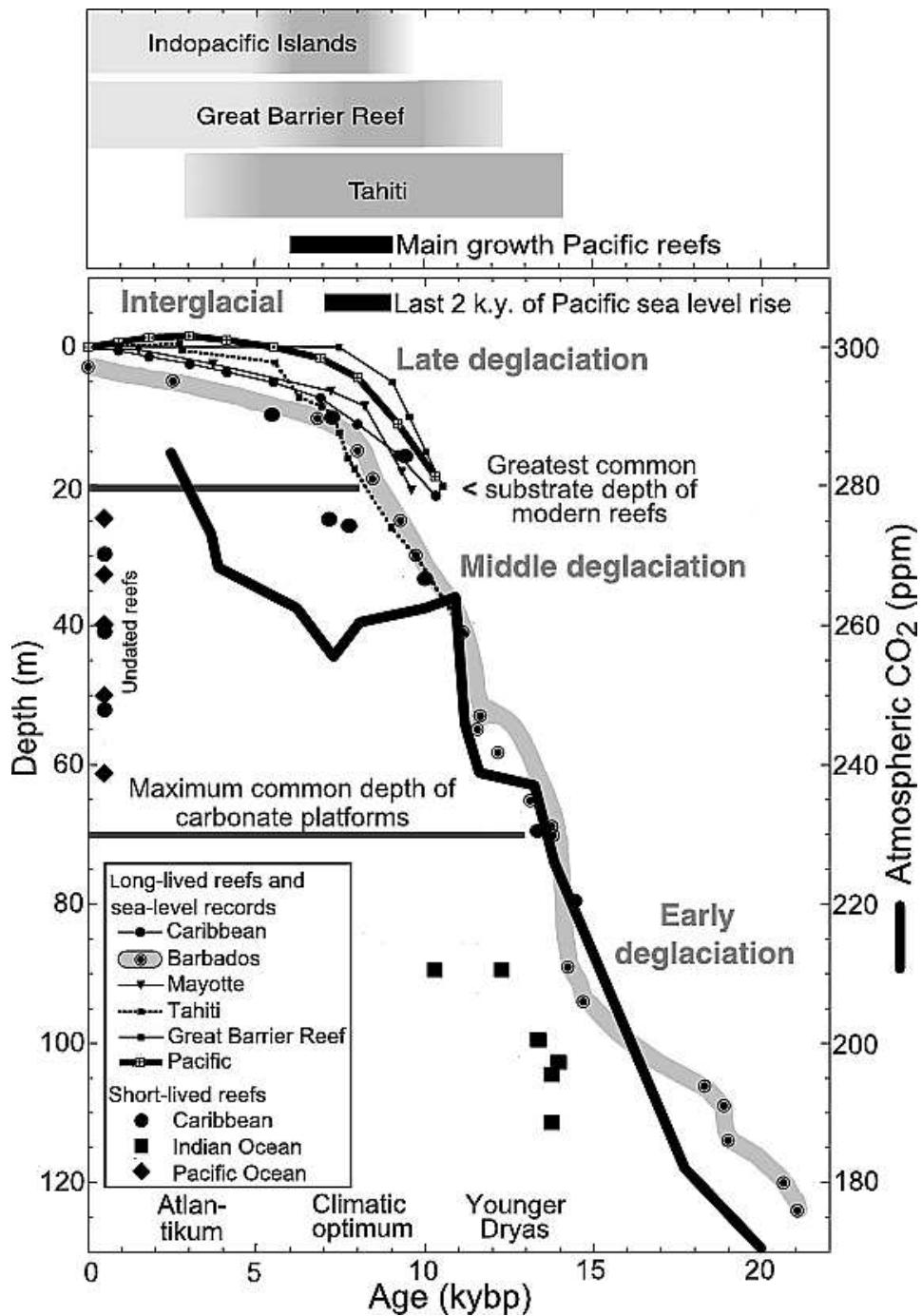
Conclusions

Missing: process-based sediment model; variation in riverine input



The global
carbon cycle

Coral reefs



CO₂ and sea level

Coral reef growth started after
MWP 1A (14 kyr BP)
sea level > 70 m below present
main coral growth in the Holocene

Vecsei & Berger , 2004

The global record of atmospheric CO₂
EPICA — European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica

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Conclusions

Take Home Messages

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Take Home Messages

1. There are reasonable data- and model-based evidences **which** processes were influencing the global carbon cycle on glacial/interglacial timescales.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Take Home Messages

1. There are reasonable data- and model-based evidences **which** processes were influencing the global carbon cycle on glacial/interglacial timescales.
2. The way **how** they are treated in a model depends on its architecture. Prescribing climate (box models) vs. internally calculated climate variability (climate models). More important is the agreement with paleo data sets.
- 3.
- 4.
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3. Not only the amplitudes, but also the timing of changes need to be addressed to quantify **what** impacts individual processes have on CO₂.
- 4.
- 5.

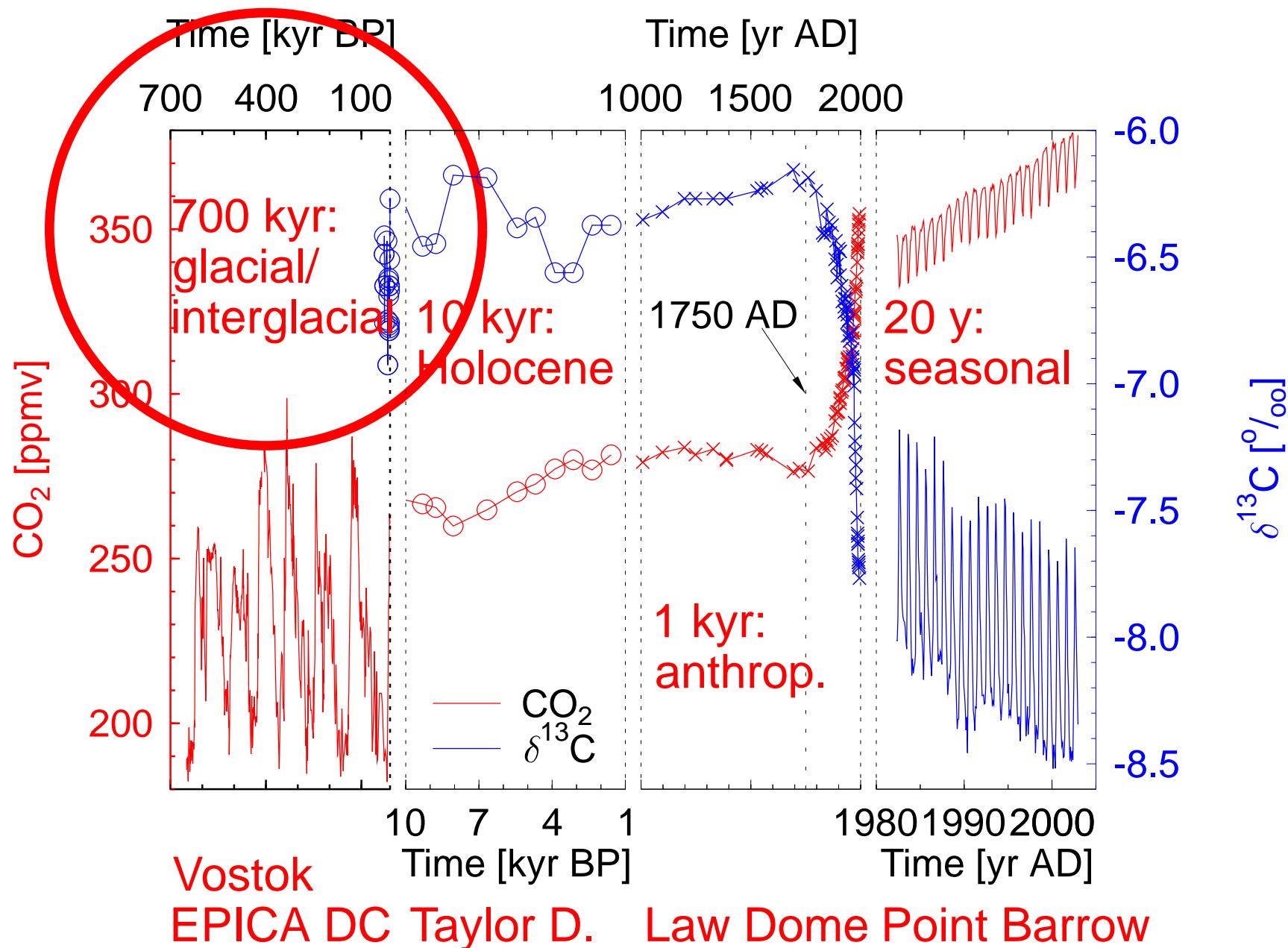
Take Home Messages

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5. Are our findings for Termination I of general nature?

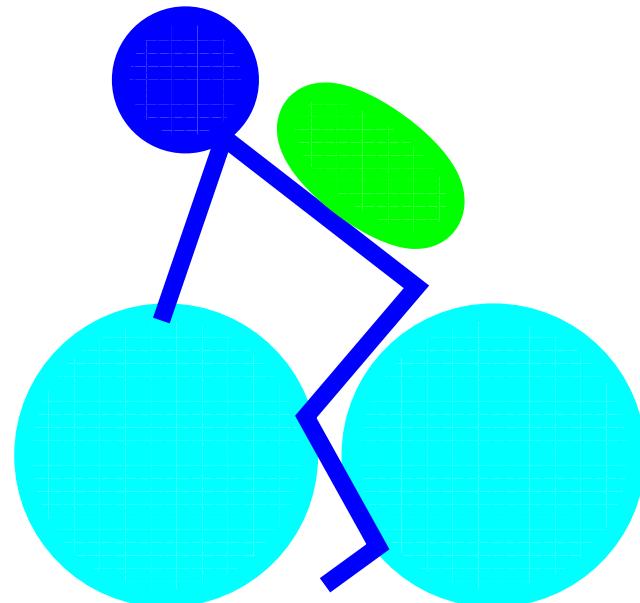
Future $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ data might verify or falsify our approach.



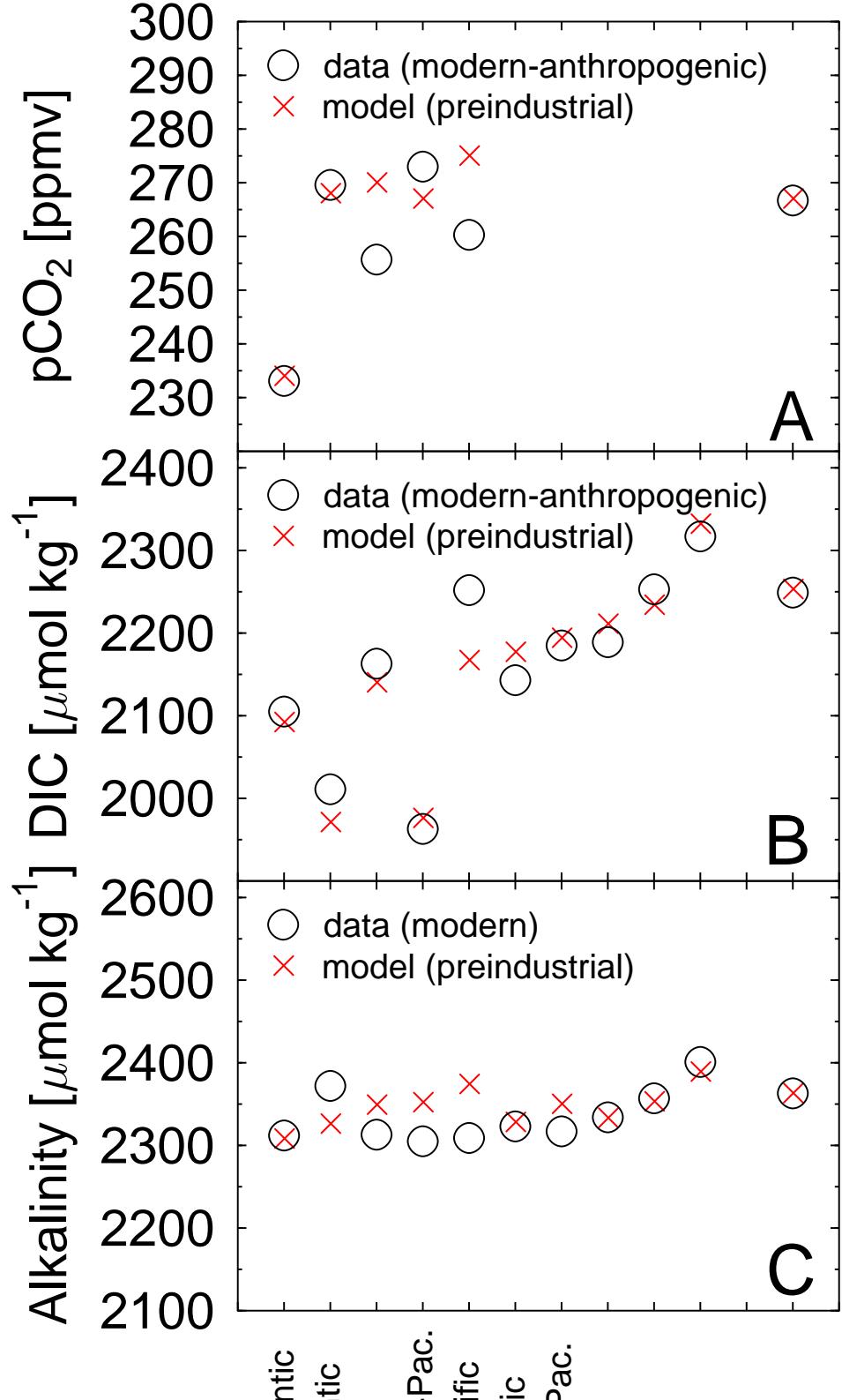


The End of an Ice Core (EDML): refrozen water entering borehole from below

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

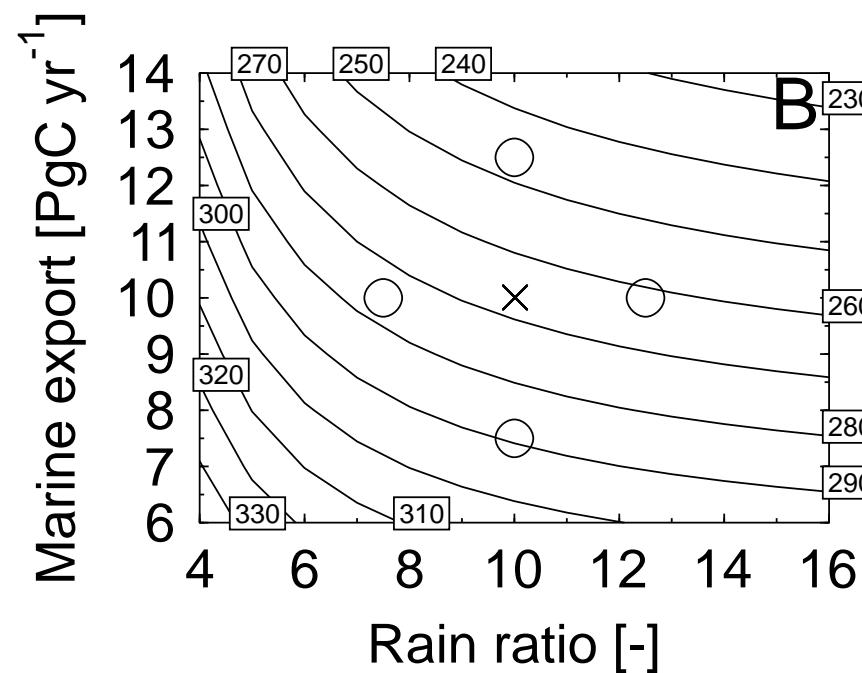
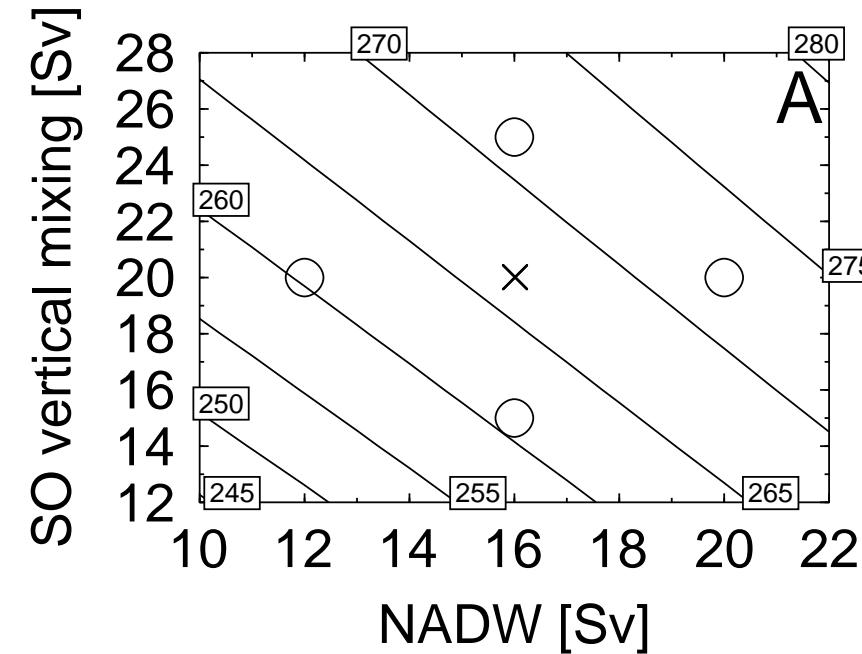


Data versus Model

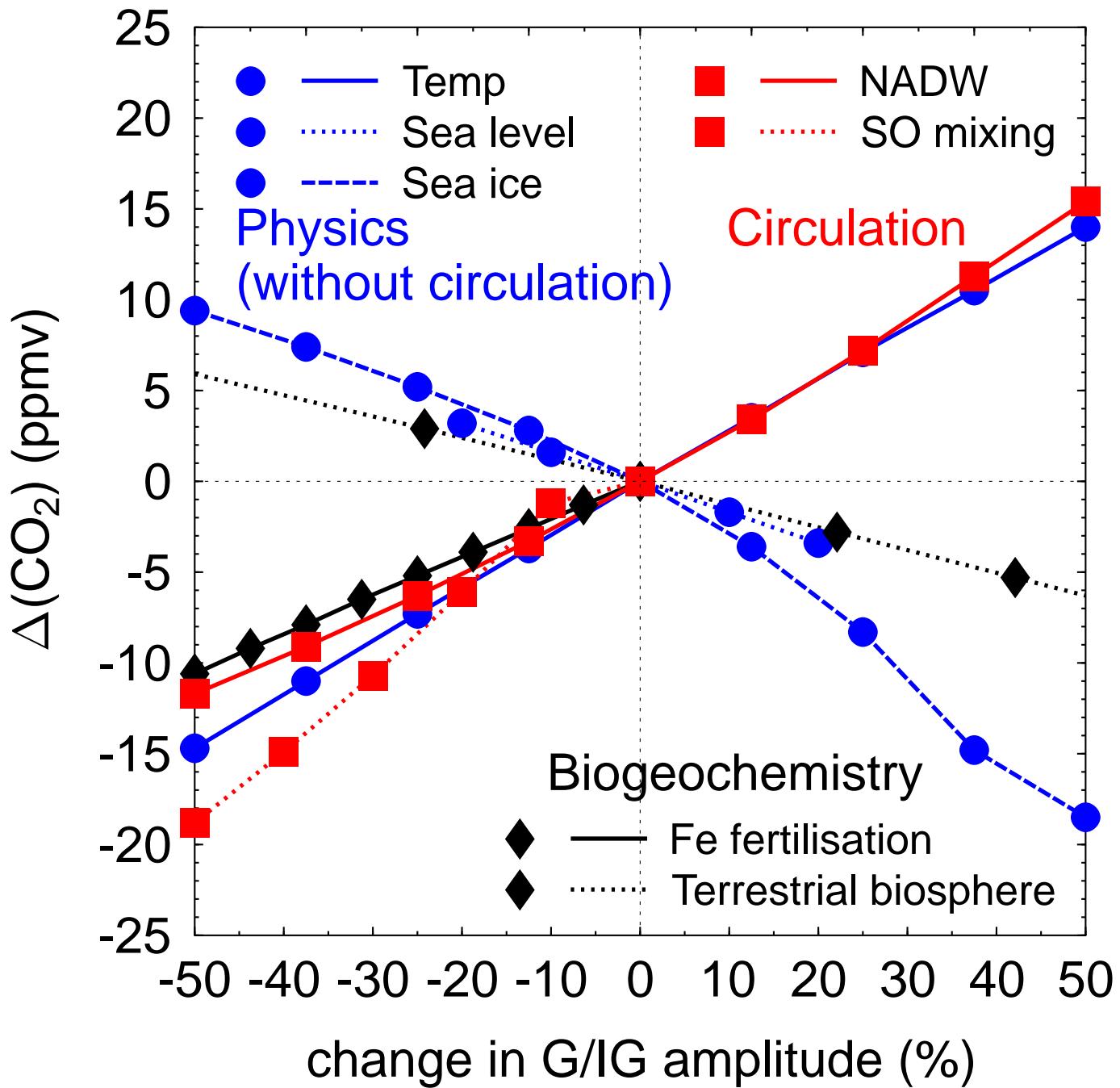


data from
Takahashi et al., 2002; Key et al., 2004

Sensitivity Analysis



Robustness of BICYCLE



Considered processes contributing to $p\text{CO}_2$ change

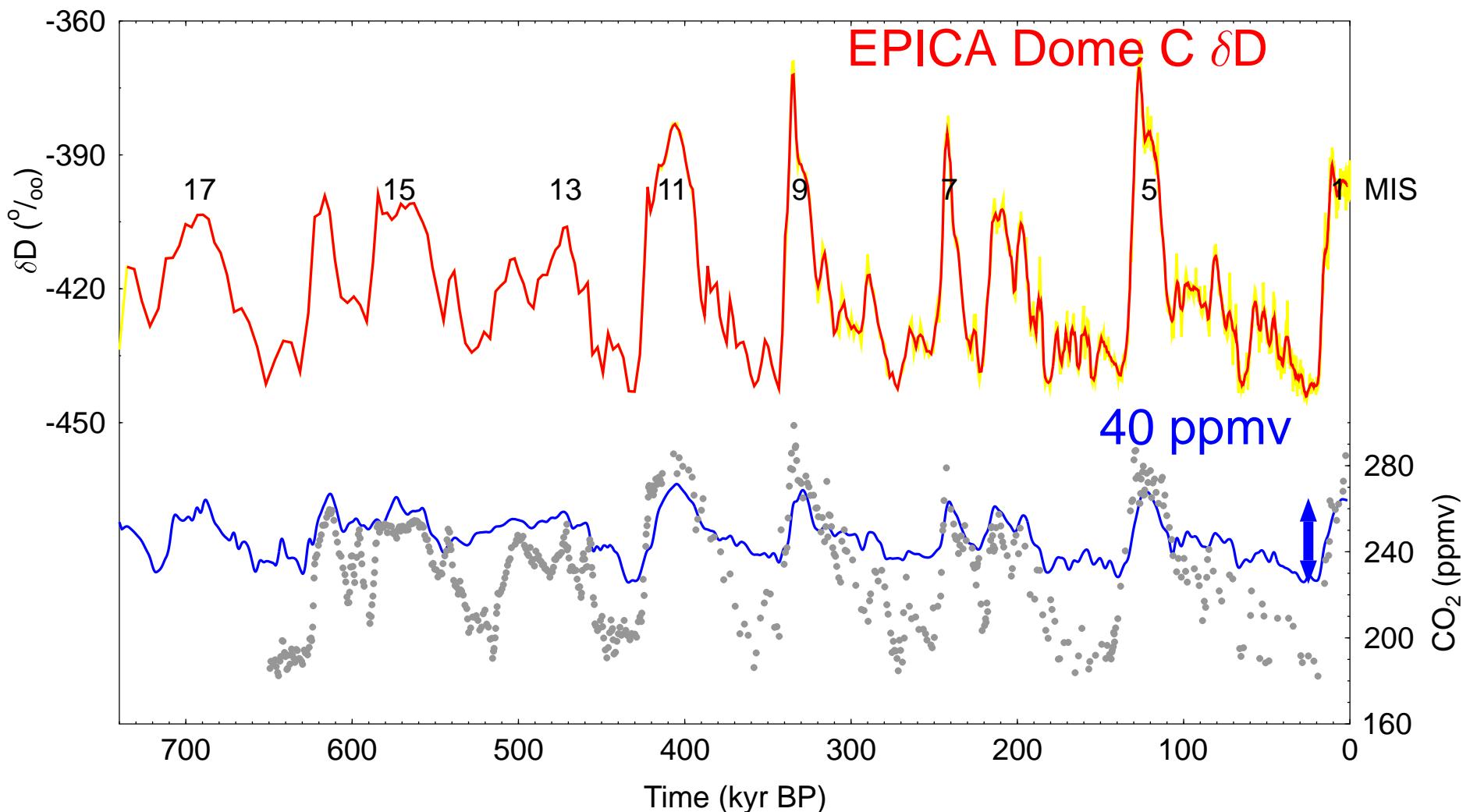
Process	Amplitude (REF vs. LGM)	Forced by
Physics		
Ocean temperatures	+ (3–5) K	plank. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, EDC δD
Salinity / sea level	+ 120 m	benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ SPECMAP
Gas exchange rates / sea ice	$\times 0.5$	$f(\text{SST})$
Ocean circulation		
NADW formation	16 vs. 10 Sv	benthic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$, $\delta^{13}\text{C}$
NADW formation / Heinrich events	shutdown	Ice rafted debris (IRD)
Southern Ocean vertical mixing	29 vs. 9 Sv	$f(\text{SO SST})$
Biogeochemistry		
Fe fertilisation	export prod. –10%	EDC dust
Terrestrial biosphere	+ (400–1000) PgC	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$, models
CaCO_3 chemistry	AOB: –(1500–2100) PgC	lysocline

Contributions to $p\text{CO}_2$ change during Termination I

Process	$\Delta p\text{CO}_2$ (ppmv)	
	single process	in combined scenarios
Physics		
Ocean temperatures	+38	+24
Salinity / sea level	-16	-11
Gas exchange rates / sea ice	-14	-11
Ocean circulation		
NADW formation	+13	+16
Southern Ocean vertical mixing	+30	+37
Biogeochemistry		
Fe fertilisation	+20	+27
Terrestrial biosphere	-19	-21
CaCO_3 chemistry	+4	+44

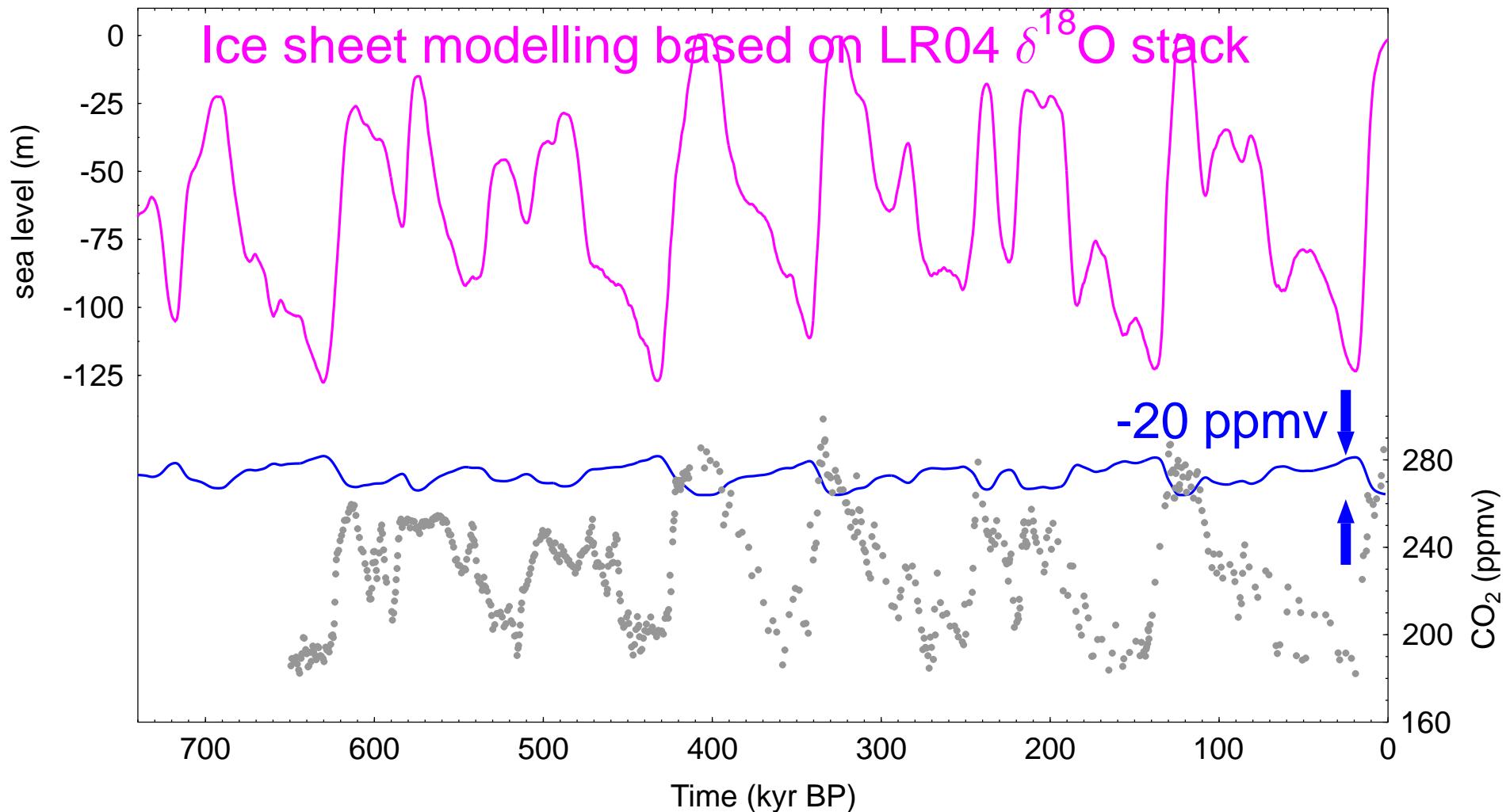
1 Temperature

Temperature rise during Termination I: 3–5 K
EPICA Dome C is one example of 7 temperature curves feeding the model



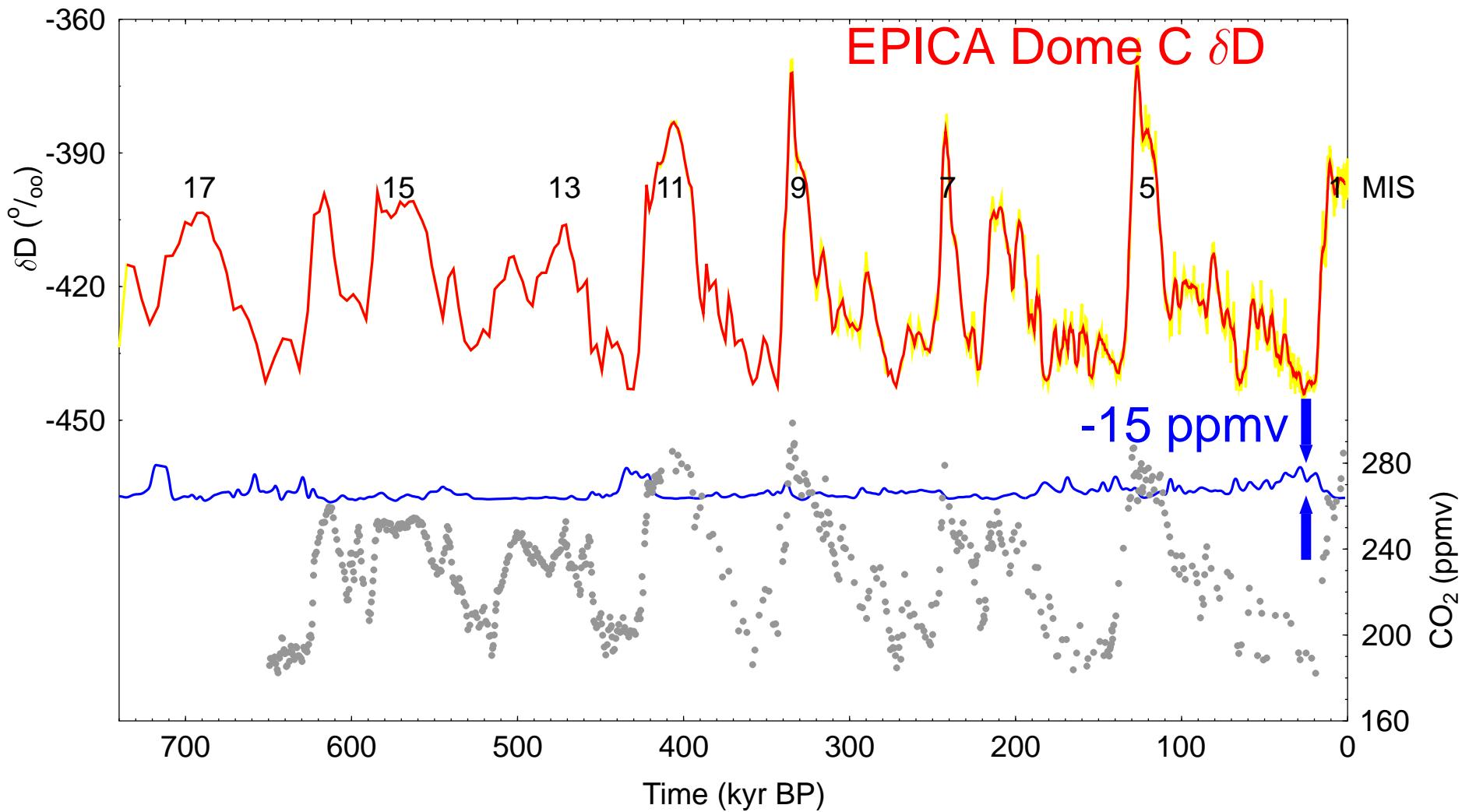
2 Sea Level / Salinity

Sea level rise during Termination I: 125 m
Salinity dropped by 3%; ocean volume changes



3 Gas Exchange / Sea Ice

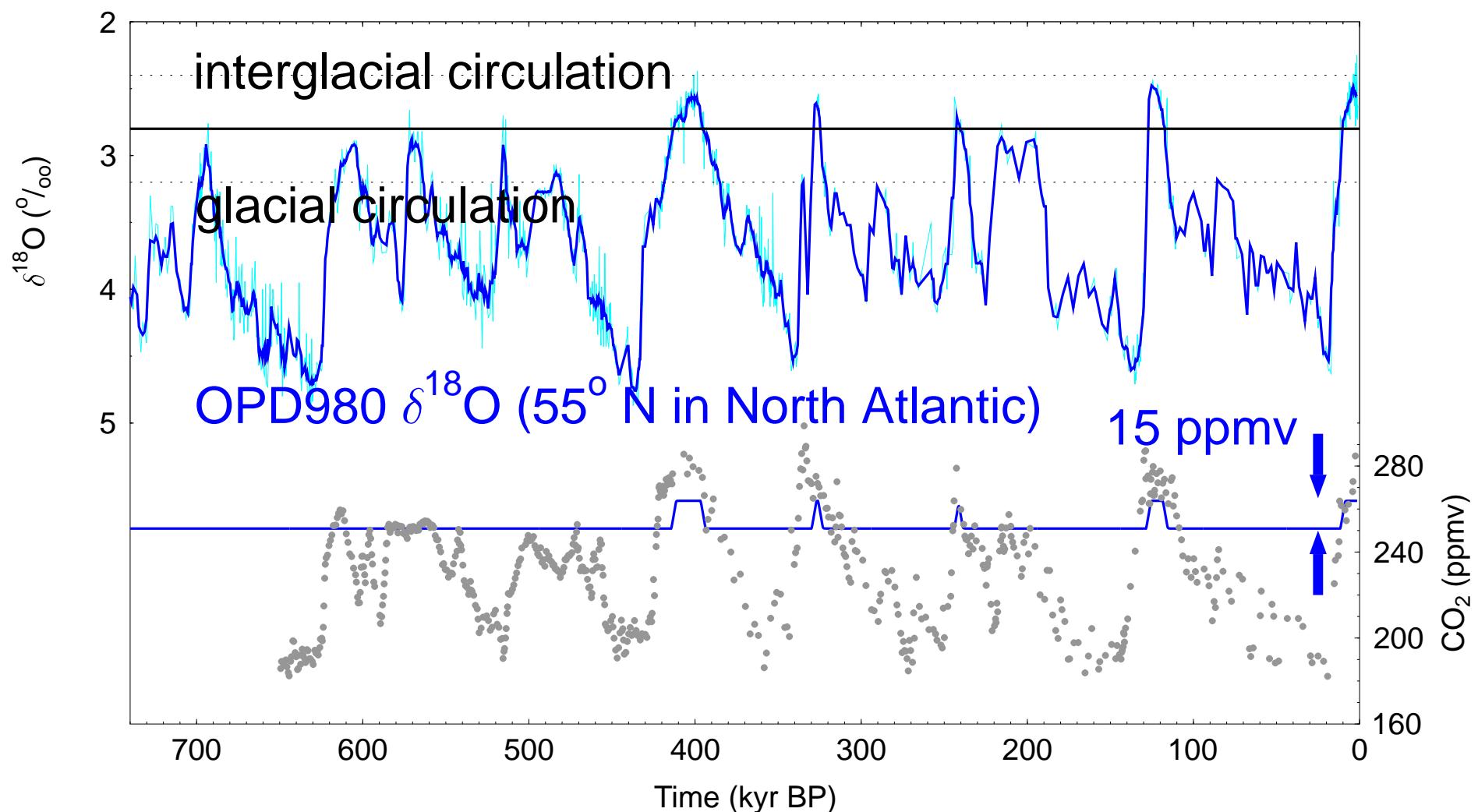
Sea ice shrunk by ~50% during Termination I



EPICA, 2004

4 NADW Formation

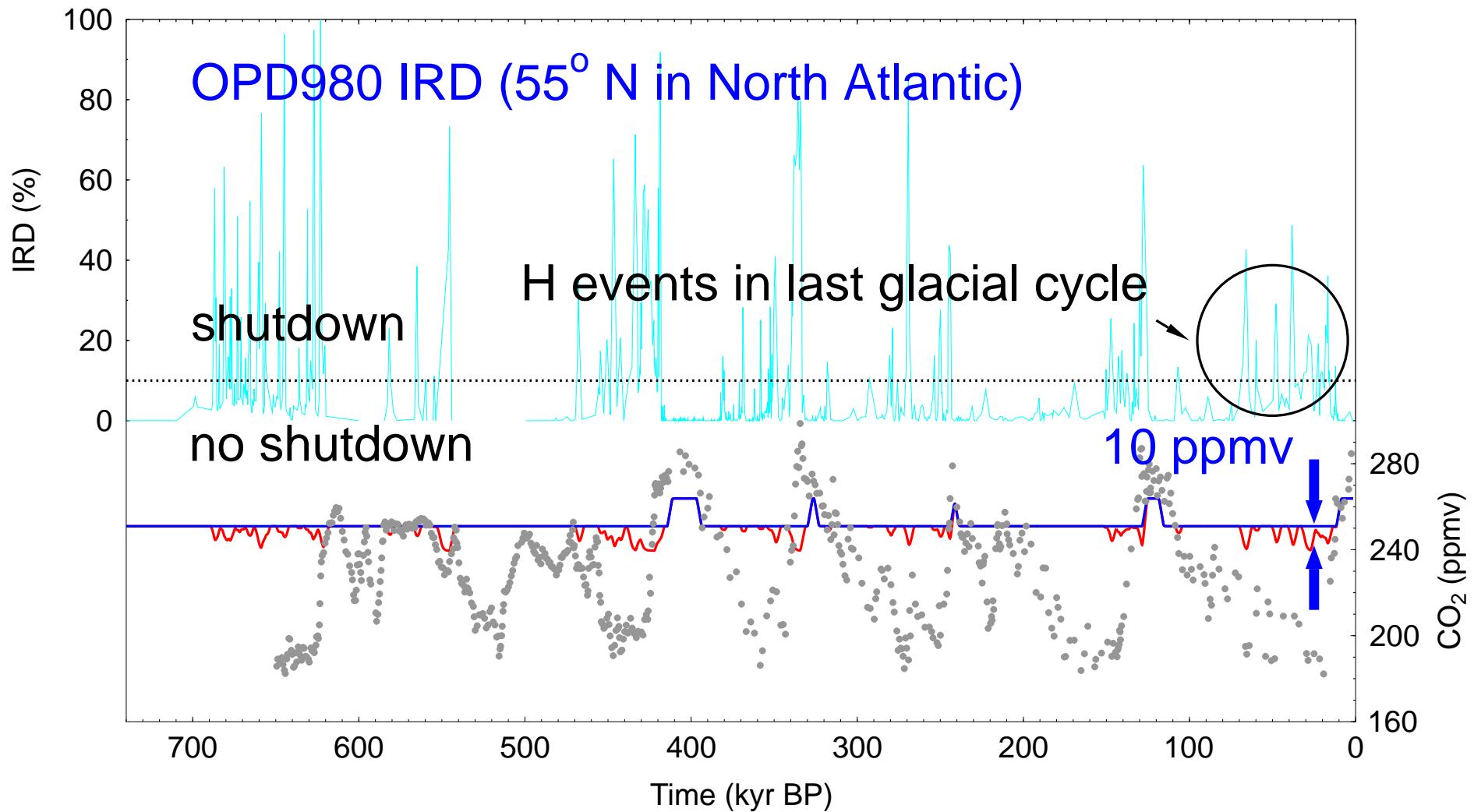
Switch from glacial to interglacial circulation
Only direct effect of change in ocean circulation



4 Shutdown in NADW Formation

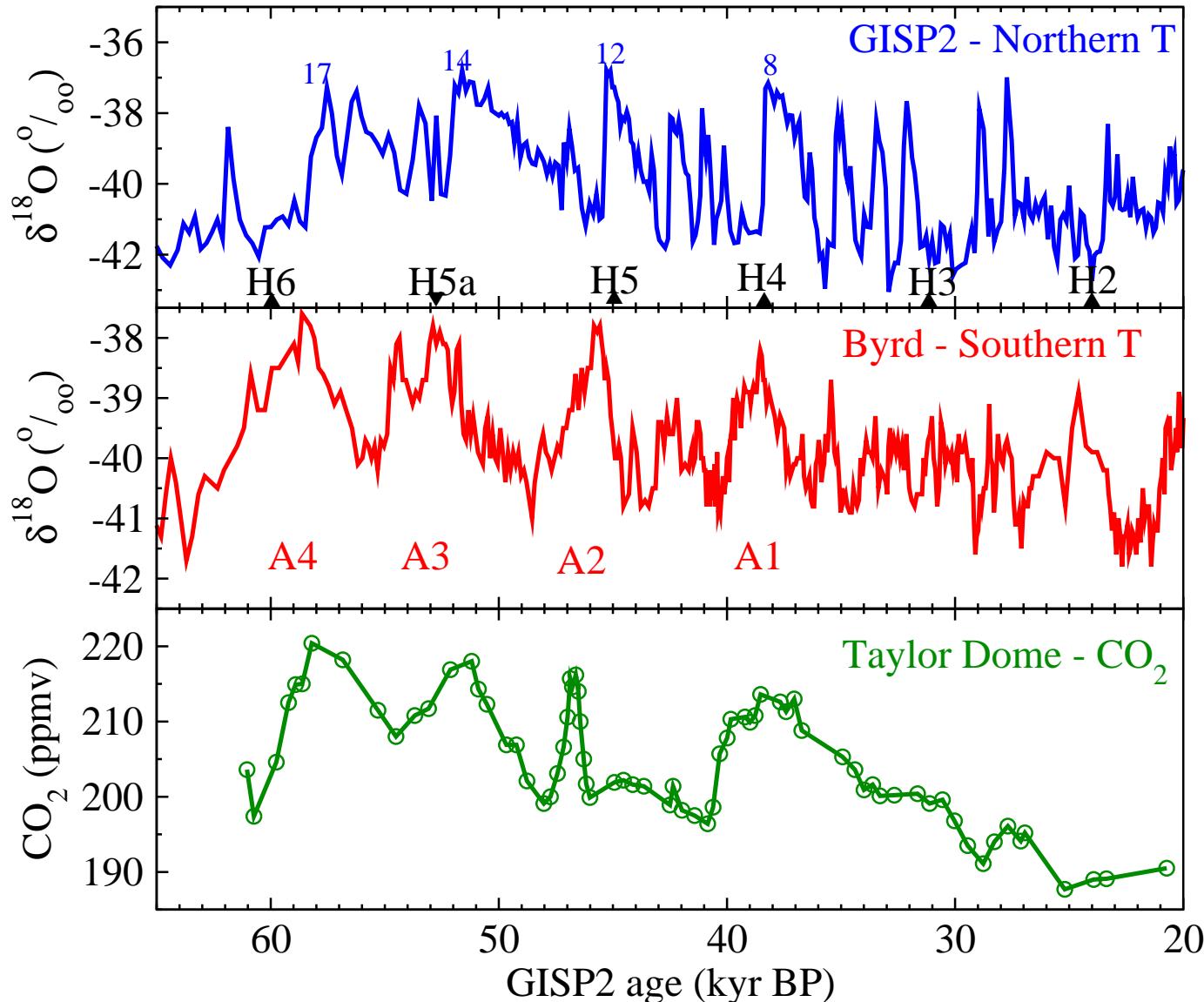
Ice rafted debris (IRD): Shutdown of NADW formation

In BICYCLE this influences nutrients, but not T, S, sea ice



4 Indirect effects of shutdown of NADW (not in BICYCLE)

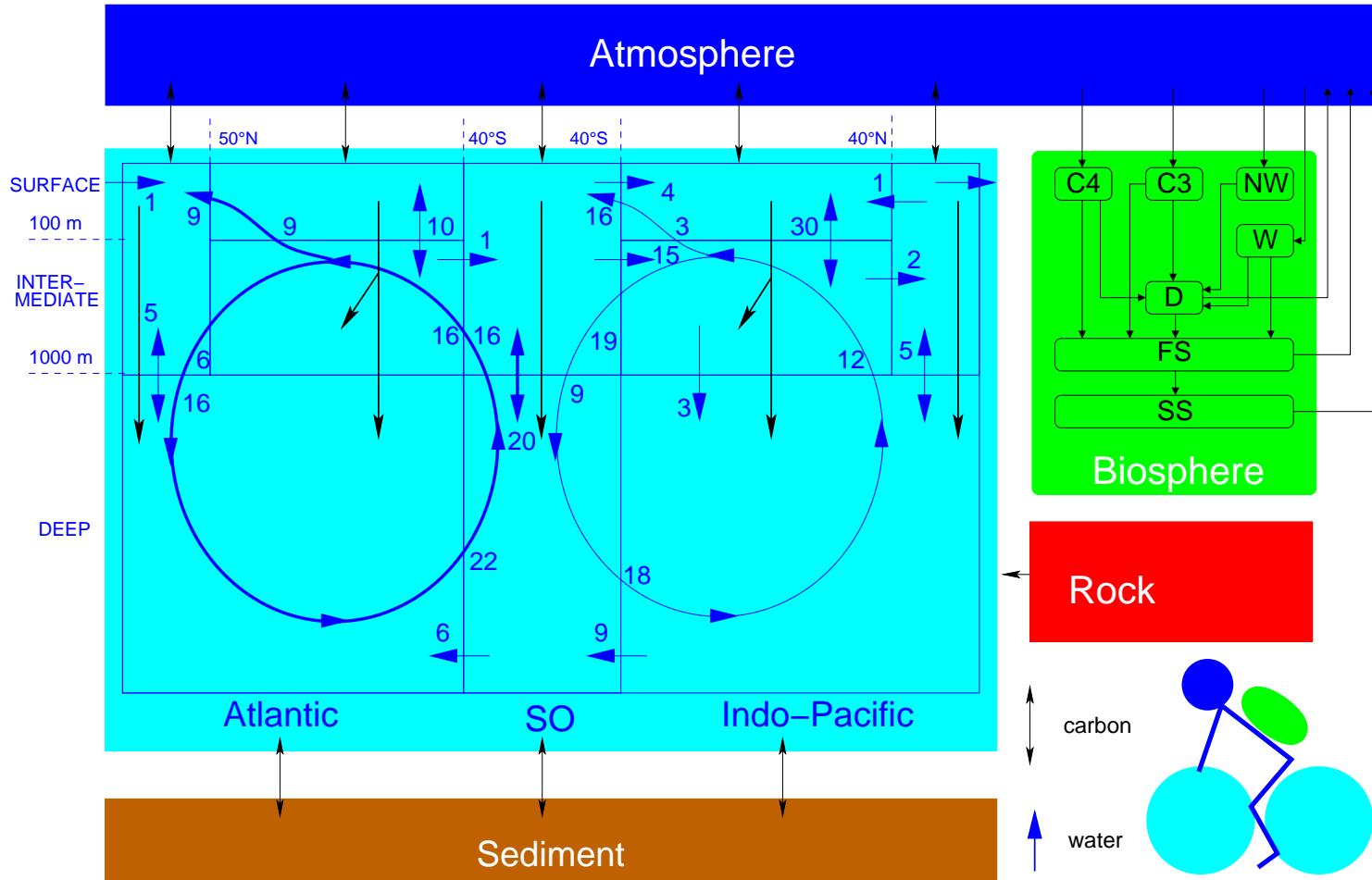
Temperature anomalies follow the concept of a bipolar seesaw



Johnsen et al., 1972; Grootes & Stuiver, 1997; Indermühle et al., 2000

5 Southern Ocean Ventilation

Preindustrial circulation: WOCE data
SO mixing reduced by 2/3 coupled to SO SST = $f(\text{EDC } \delta D)$



Box model of the Isotopic Carbon cYCLE

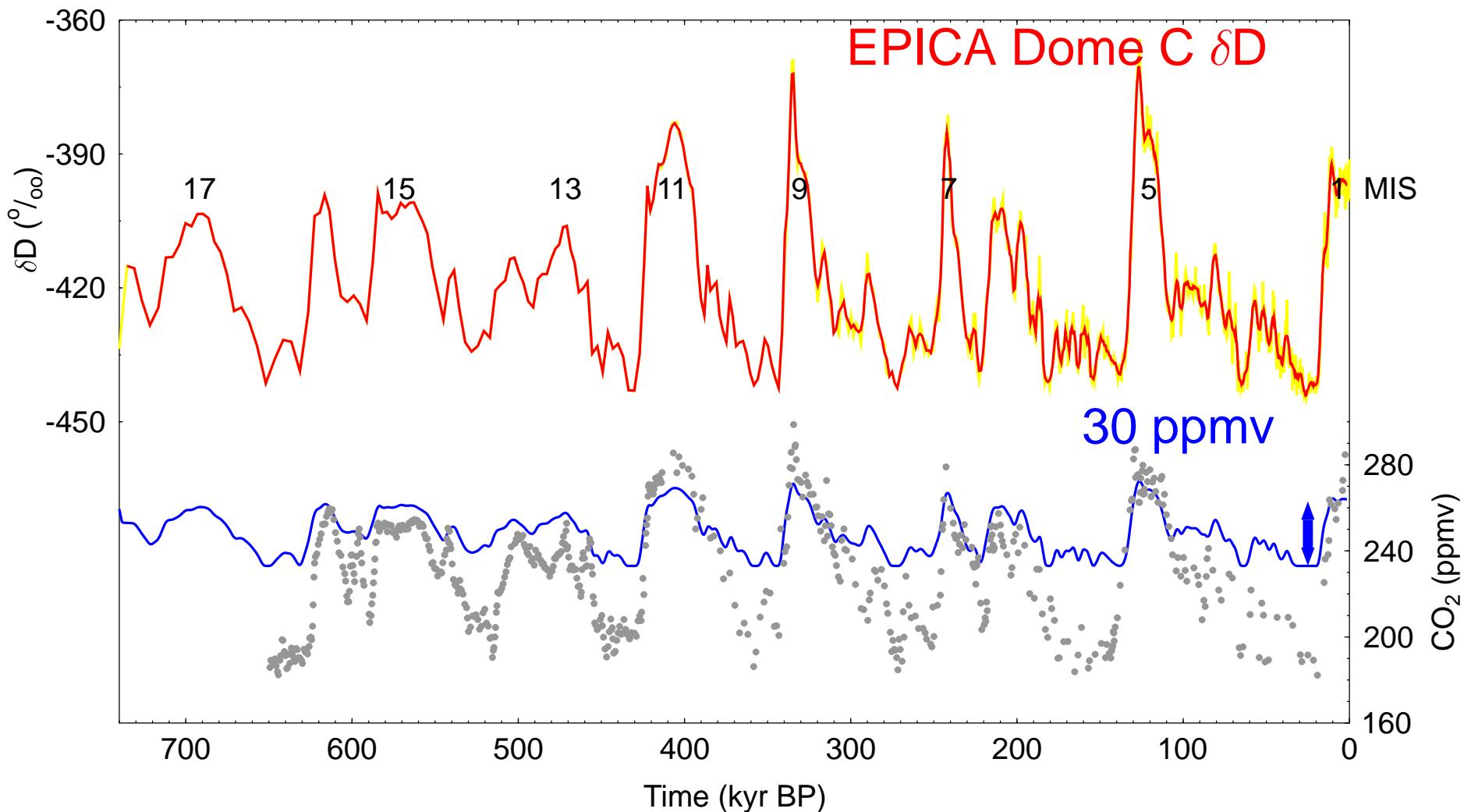
BICYCLE

Circulation after Ganachaud & Wunsch, 2000

5 Southern Ocean Ventilation

Probably cause: northwards shift of westerly winds (e.g. Toggweiler et al., 2006)

Southern Ocean vertical mixing = $f(\text{SO SST}) = f(\text{EDC } \delta D)$

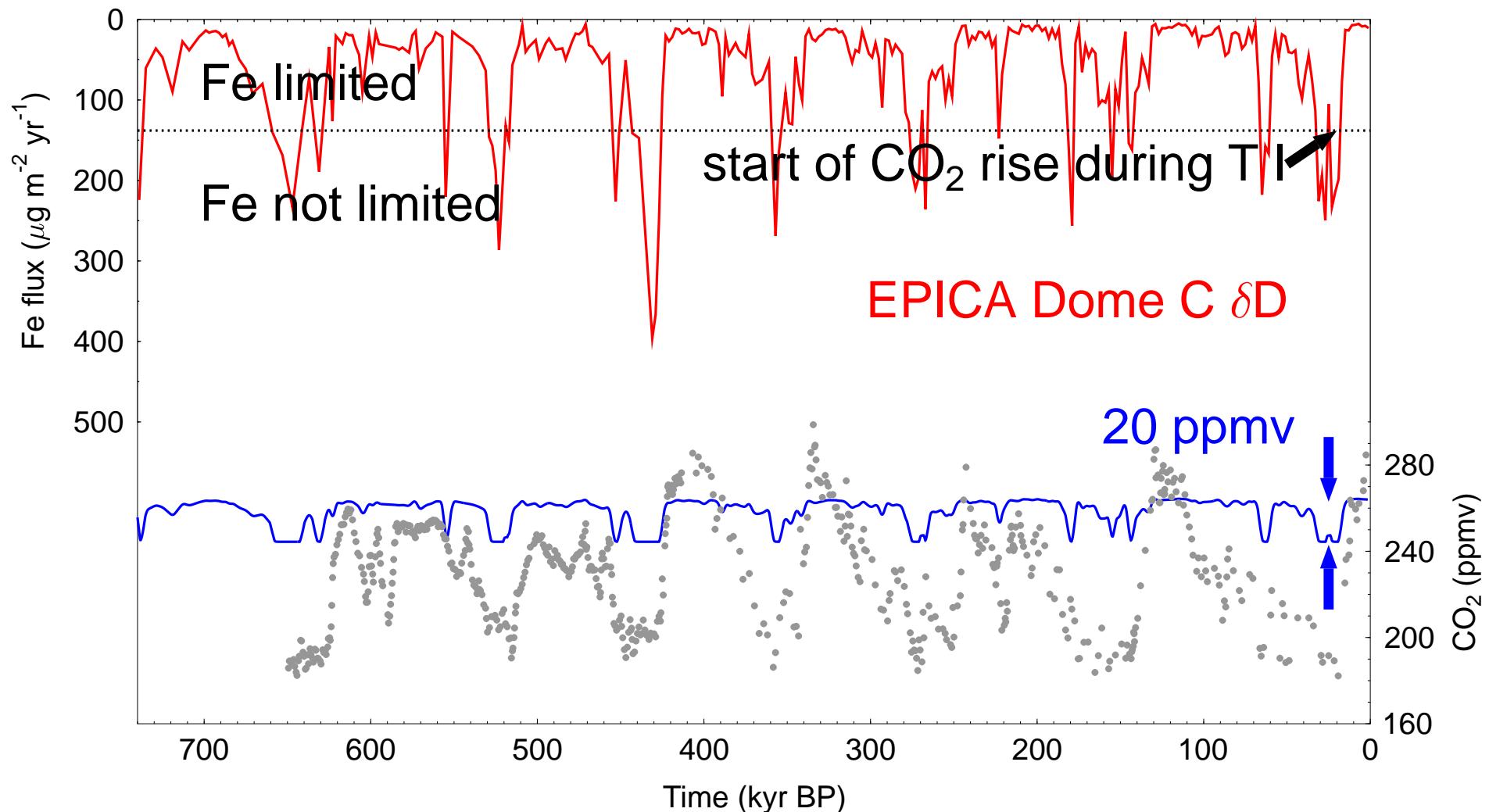


EPICA, 2004

6 Marine Biota / Iron fertilisation

Aeolian dust input to Antarctica / the Southern Ocean

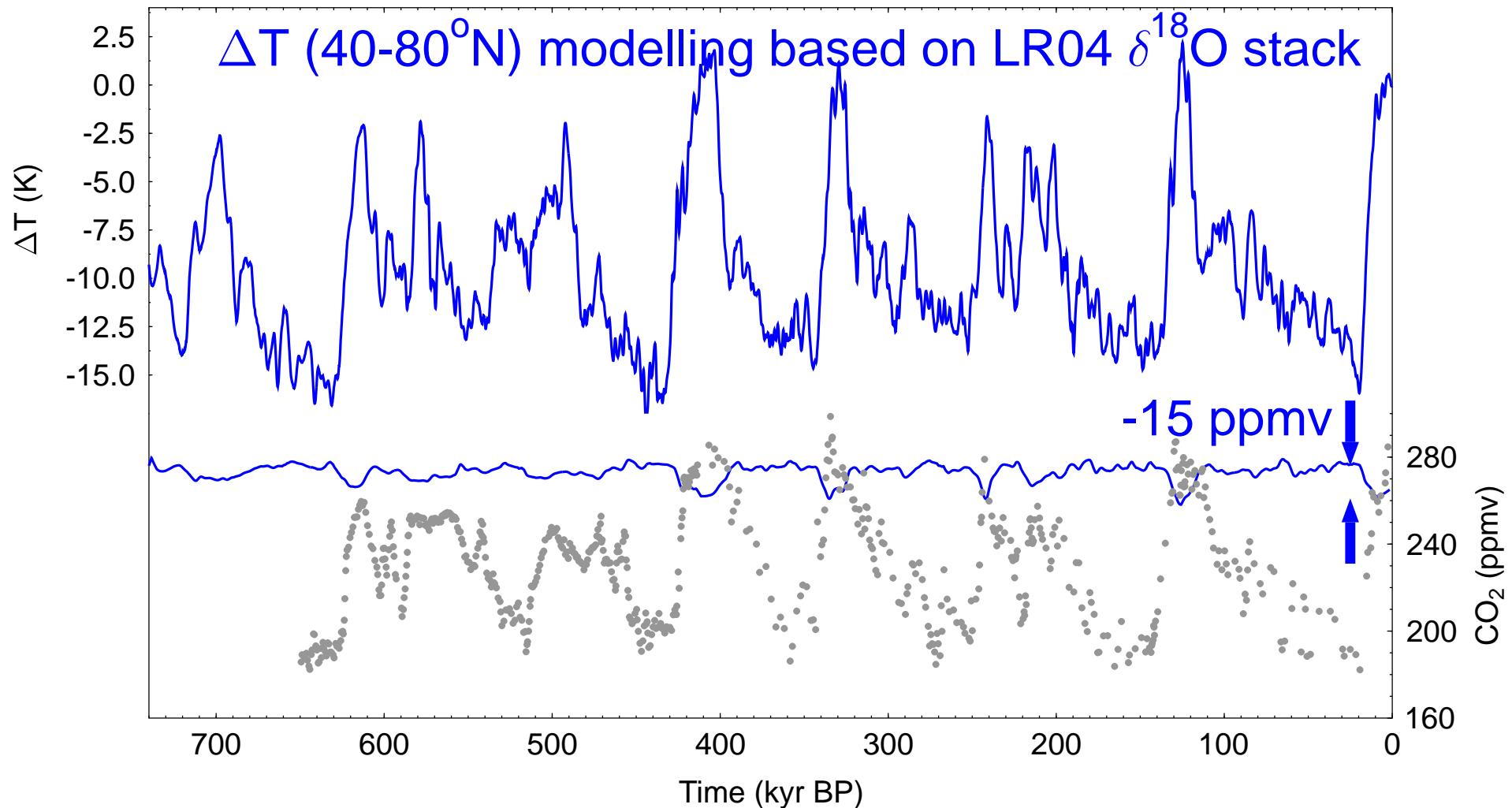
Glacial export production: + 20% (12 PgC yr^{-1})



7 Terrestrial Carbon Storage

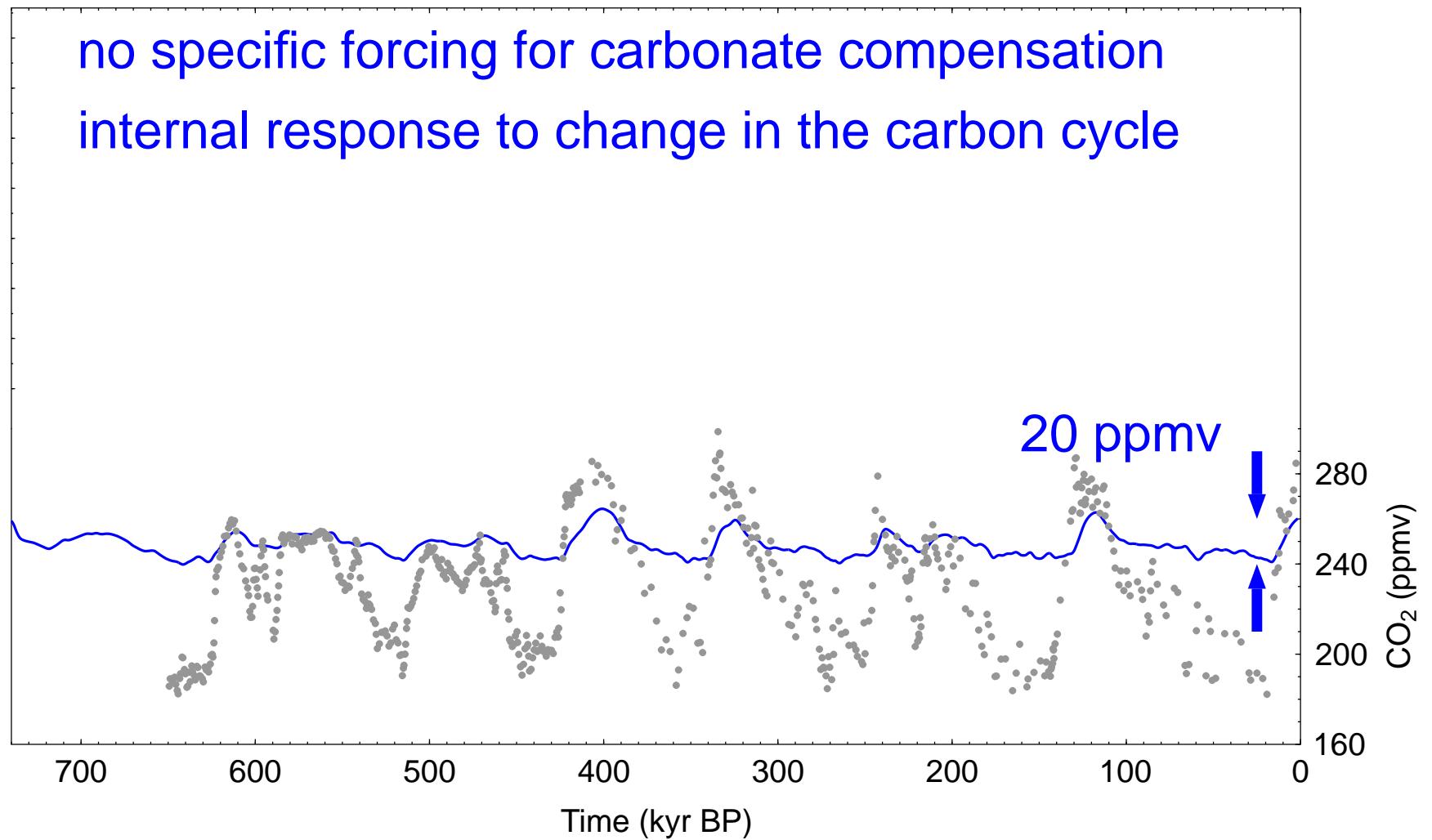
$$\text{NPP} = f(\text{CO}_2, \text{climate})$$

$$\Delta C\text{-TB (PRE-LGM)} = 500 \text{ PgC}$$



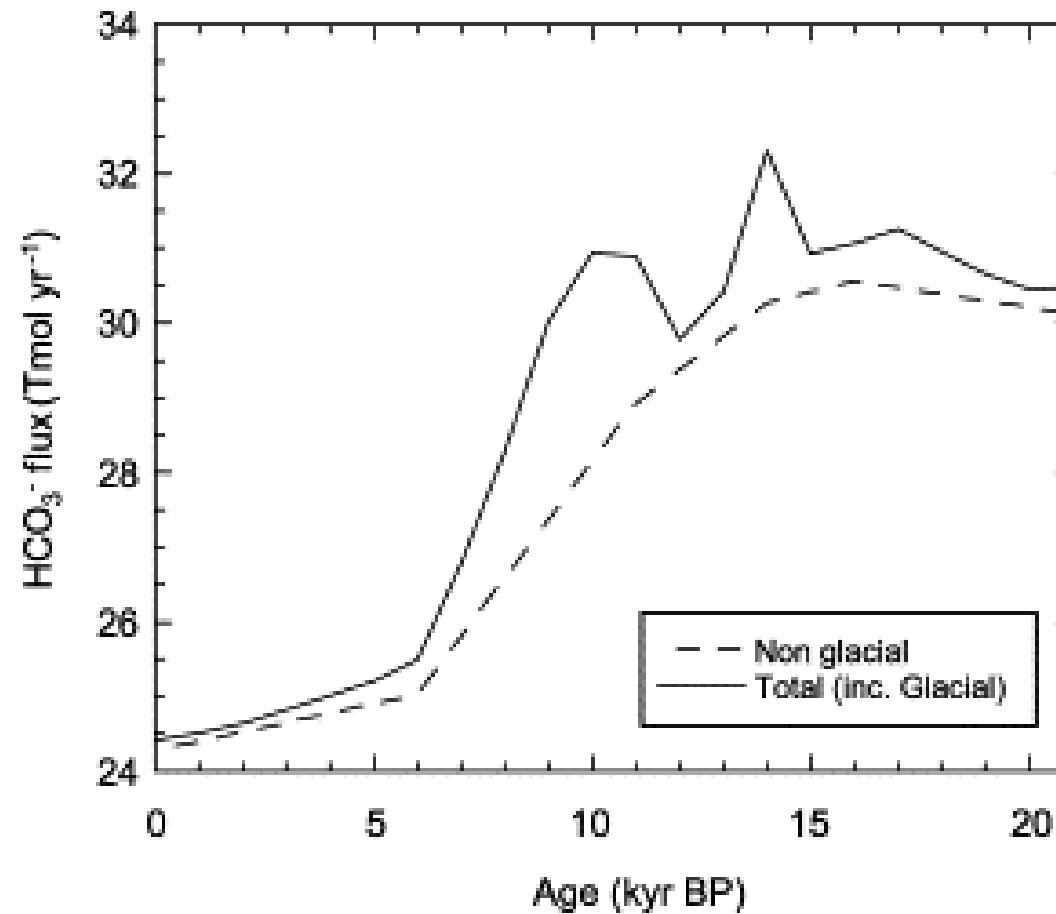
8 Carbonate compensation

$(\tau = 1.5 \text{ kyr})$

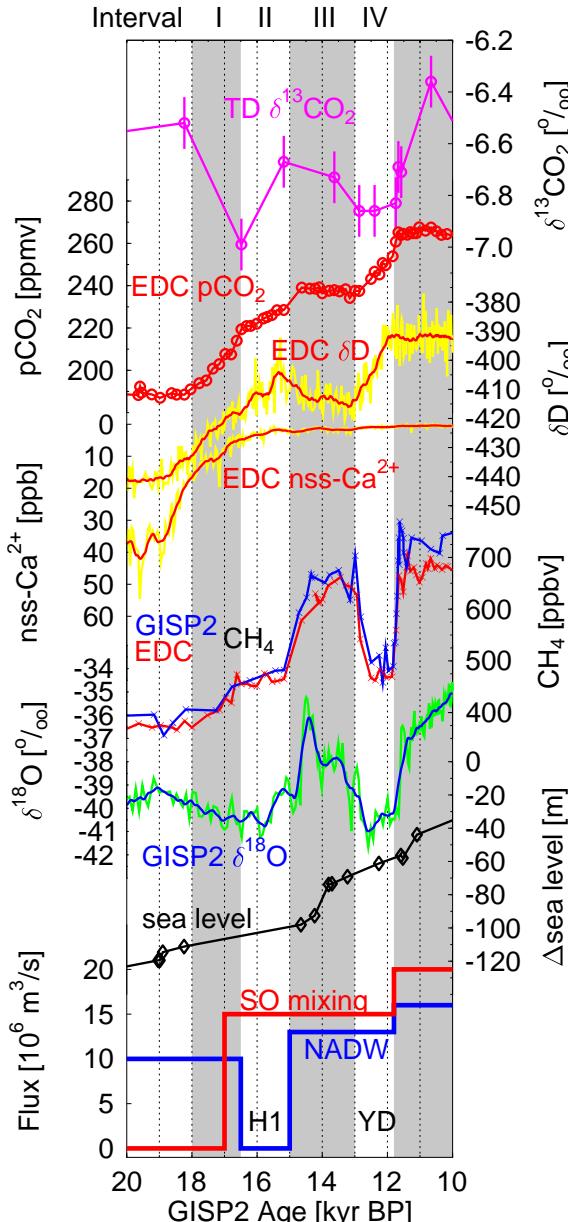


Terrestrial weathering and CaCO_3 chemistry

Variation in riverine input of HCO_3^-
Process-based sediment model



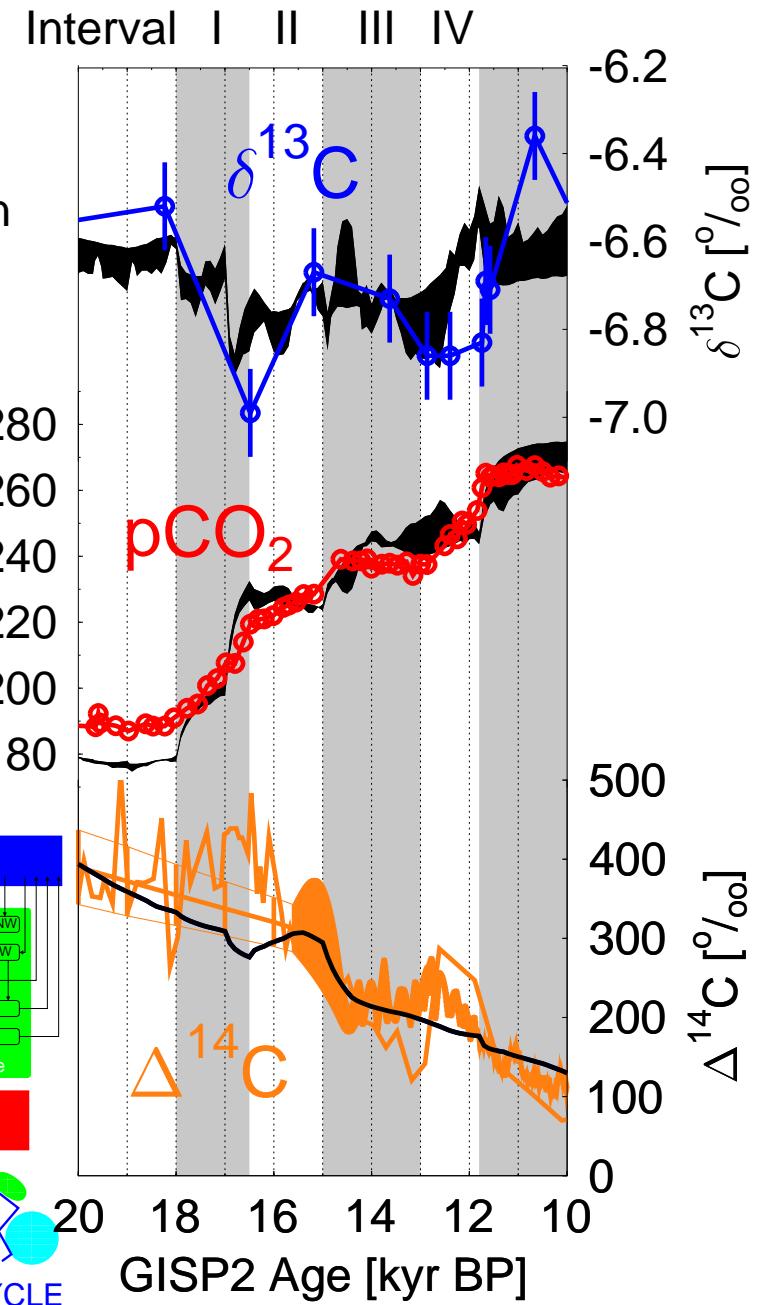
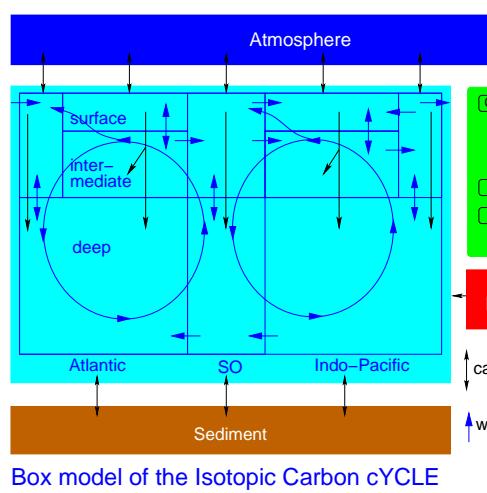
Jones et al., 2002



Termination I

Assumptions on changes in

- Fe fertilization in SO
- Ocean circulation (NADW, SO mixing)
- Climate (ΔT , sealevel, sea ice)
- CaCO_3 chemistry
- terrestrial biosphere



Forcing

⇒

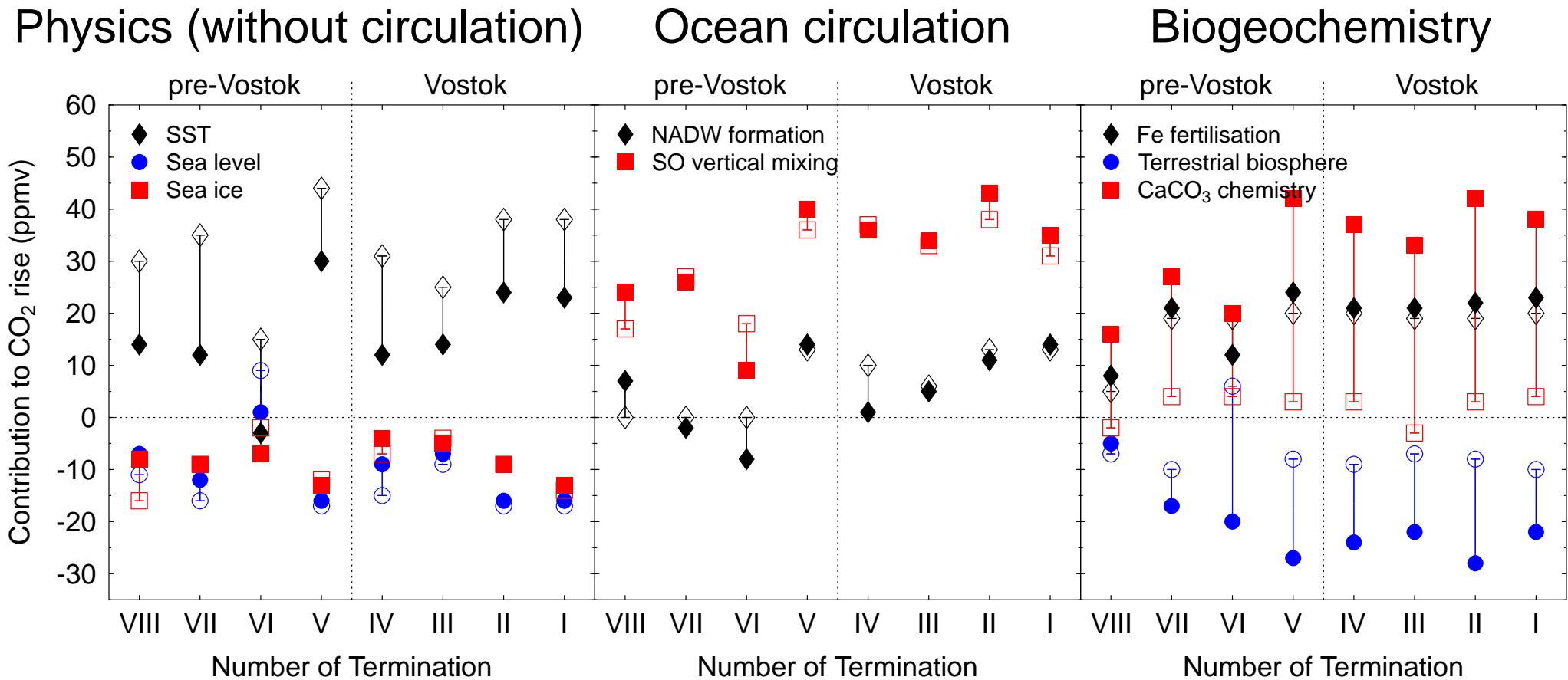
Model

⇒

Results

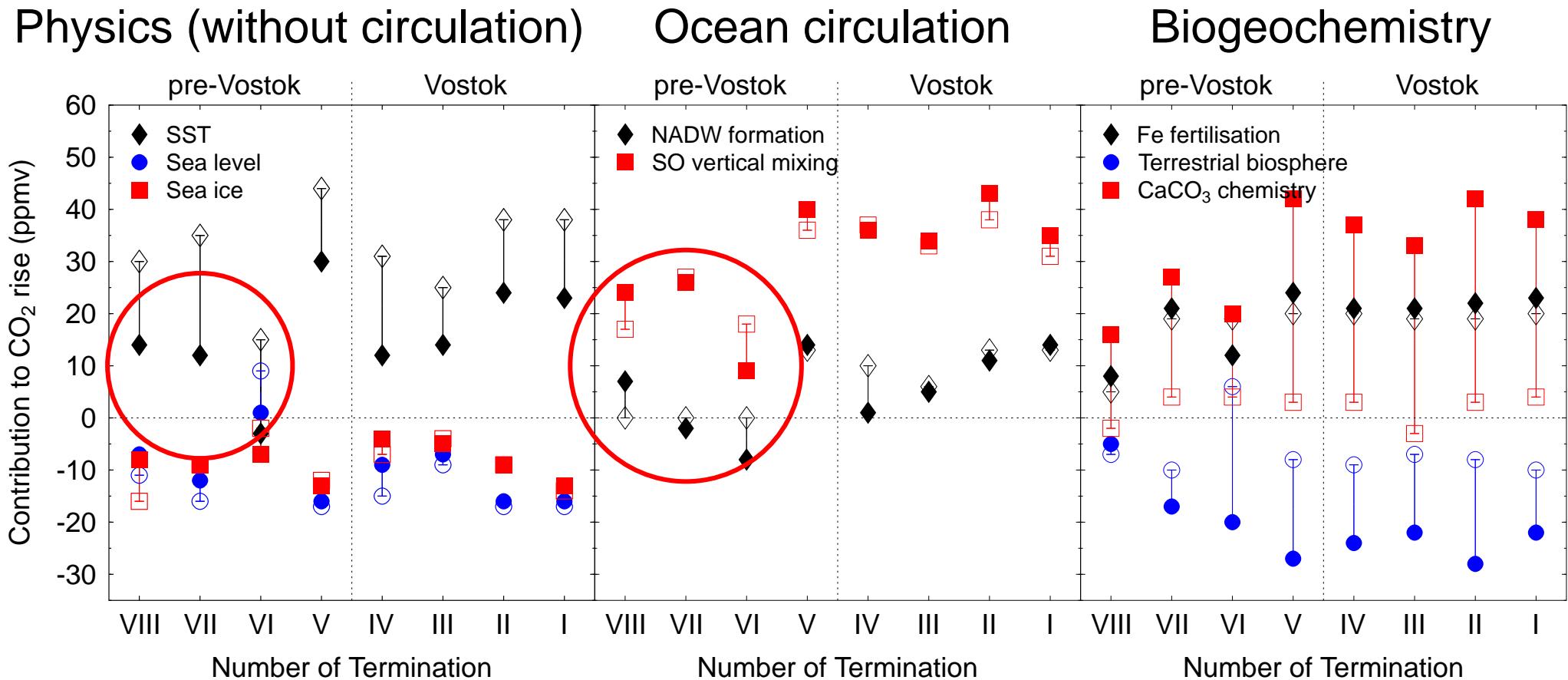
Processes during Terminations I-VIII

Two different estimates of individual contribution
Concentrate on CLOSED symbols

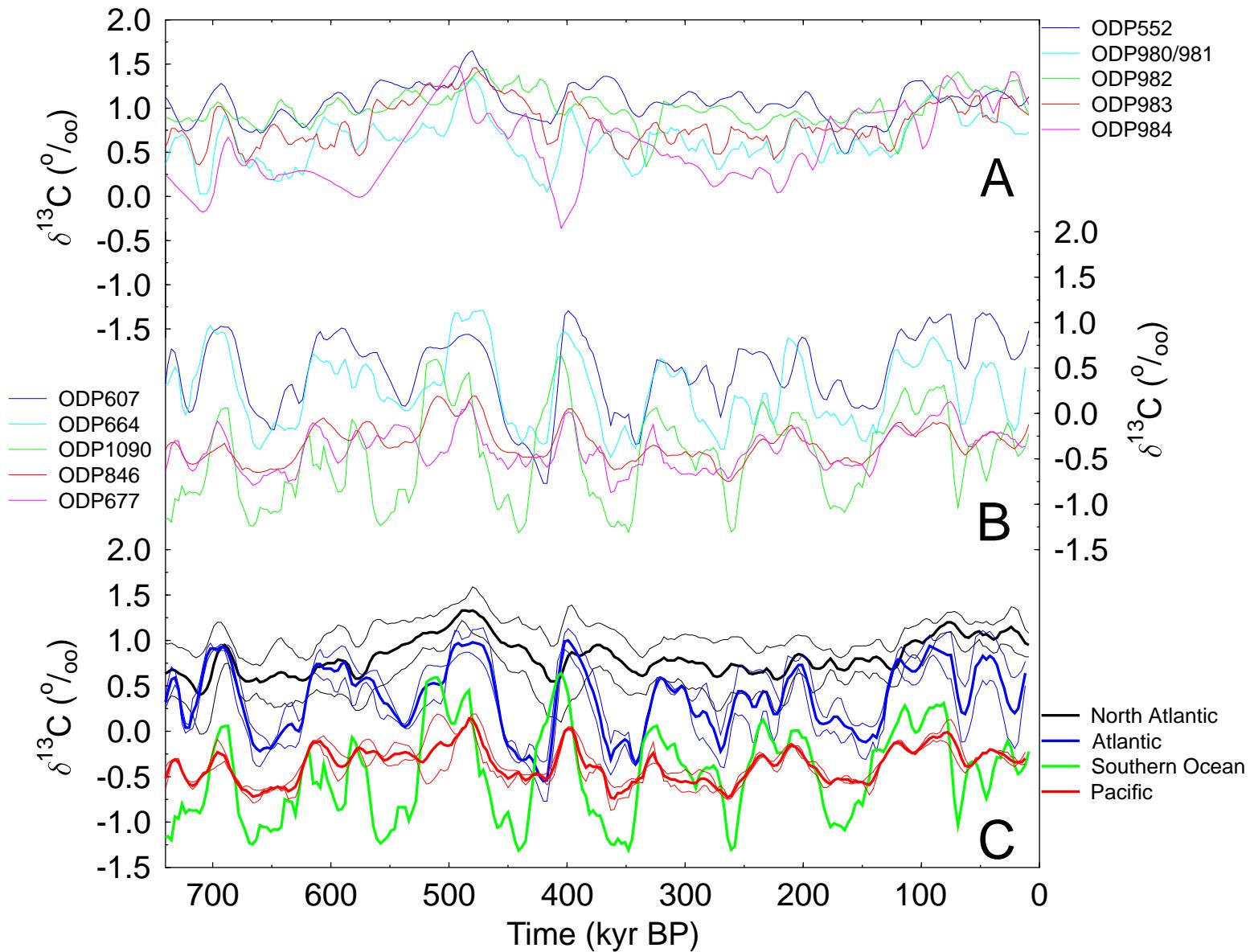


Processes during Terminations I-VIII

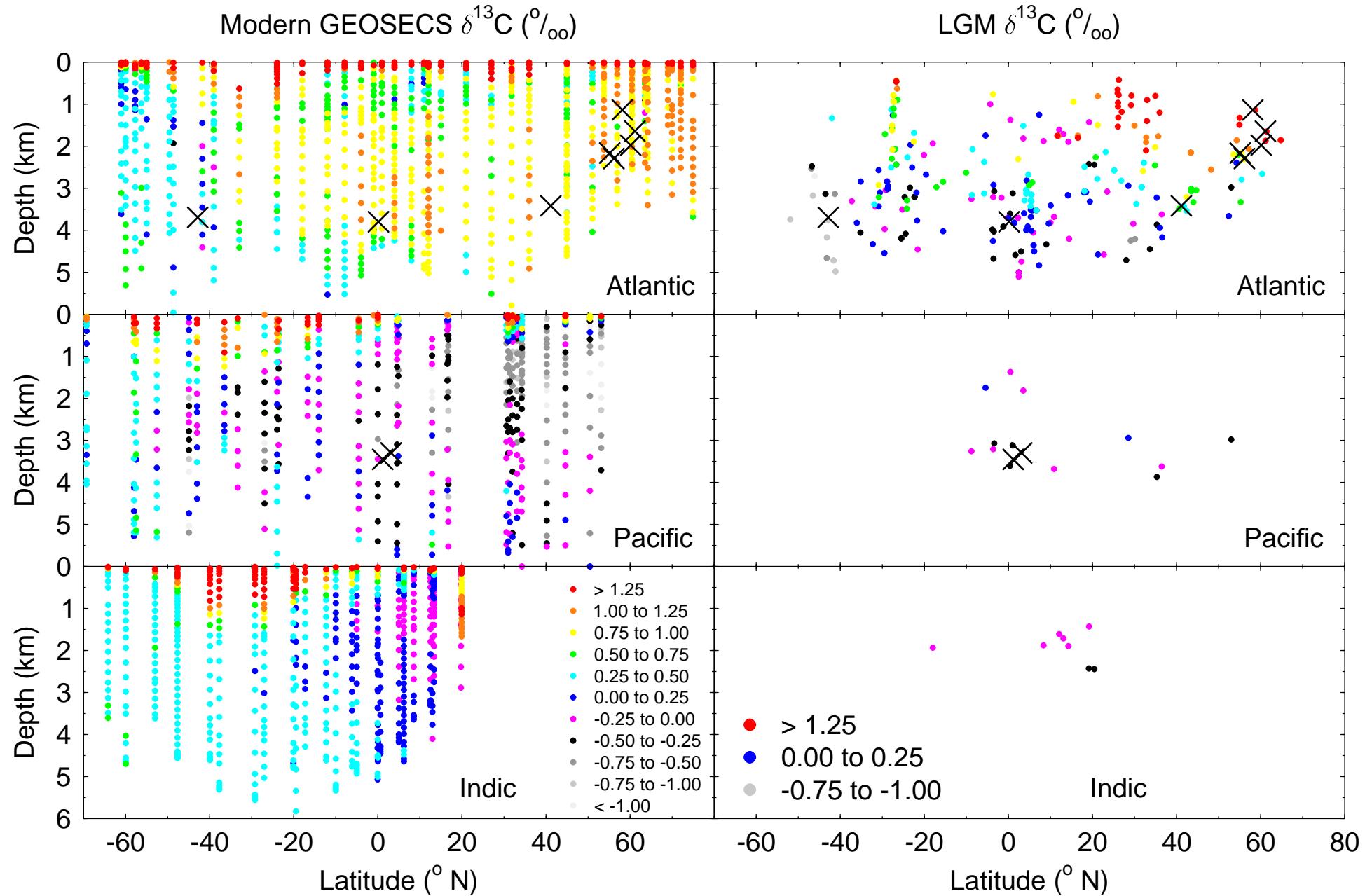
Smaller contributions from OCEAN CIRCULATION and SST
prior to Termination V



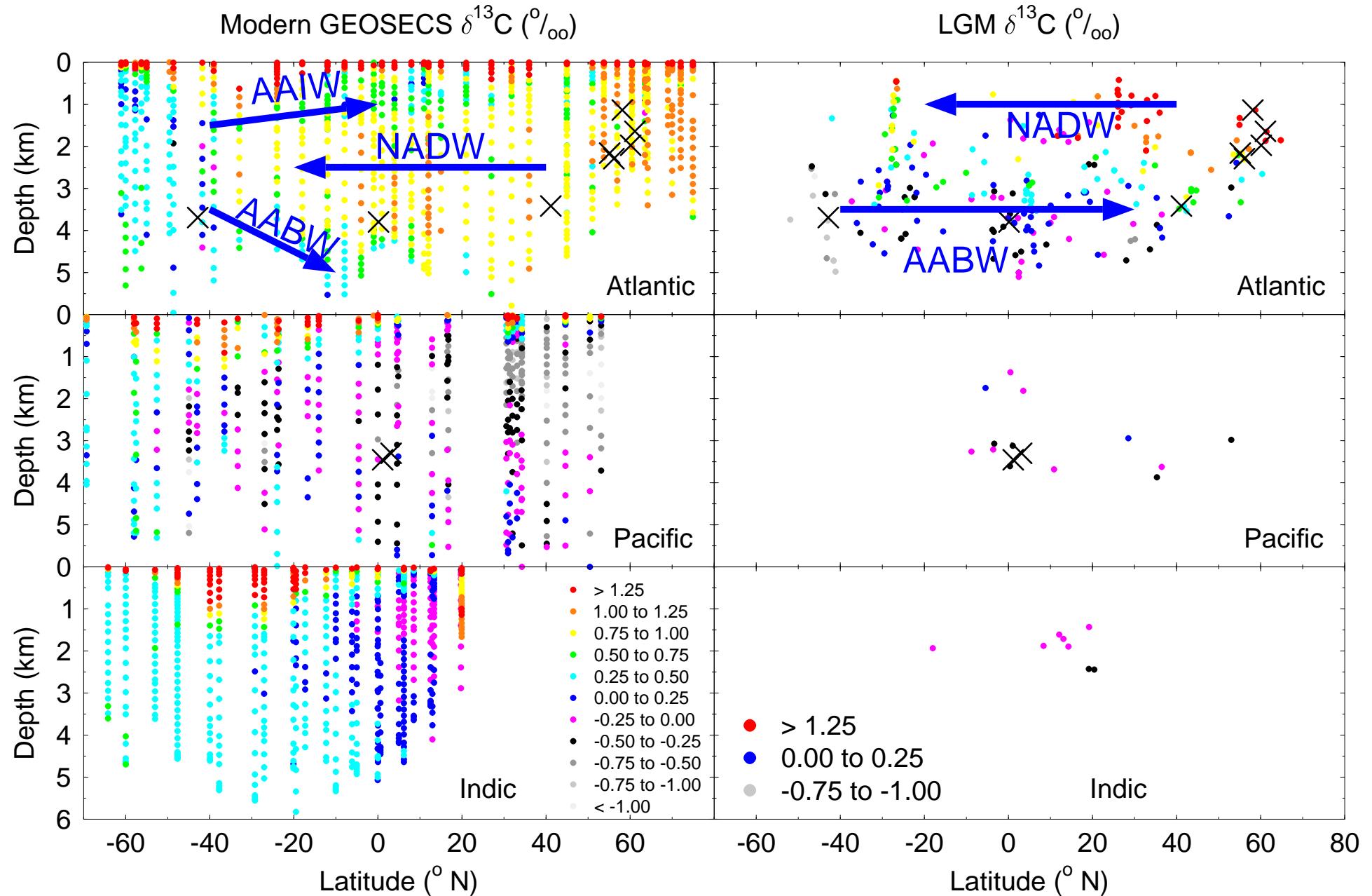
Benthic ^{13}C cycle



2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$: How representative are single cores?

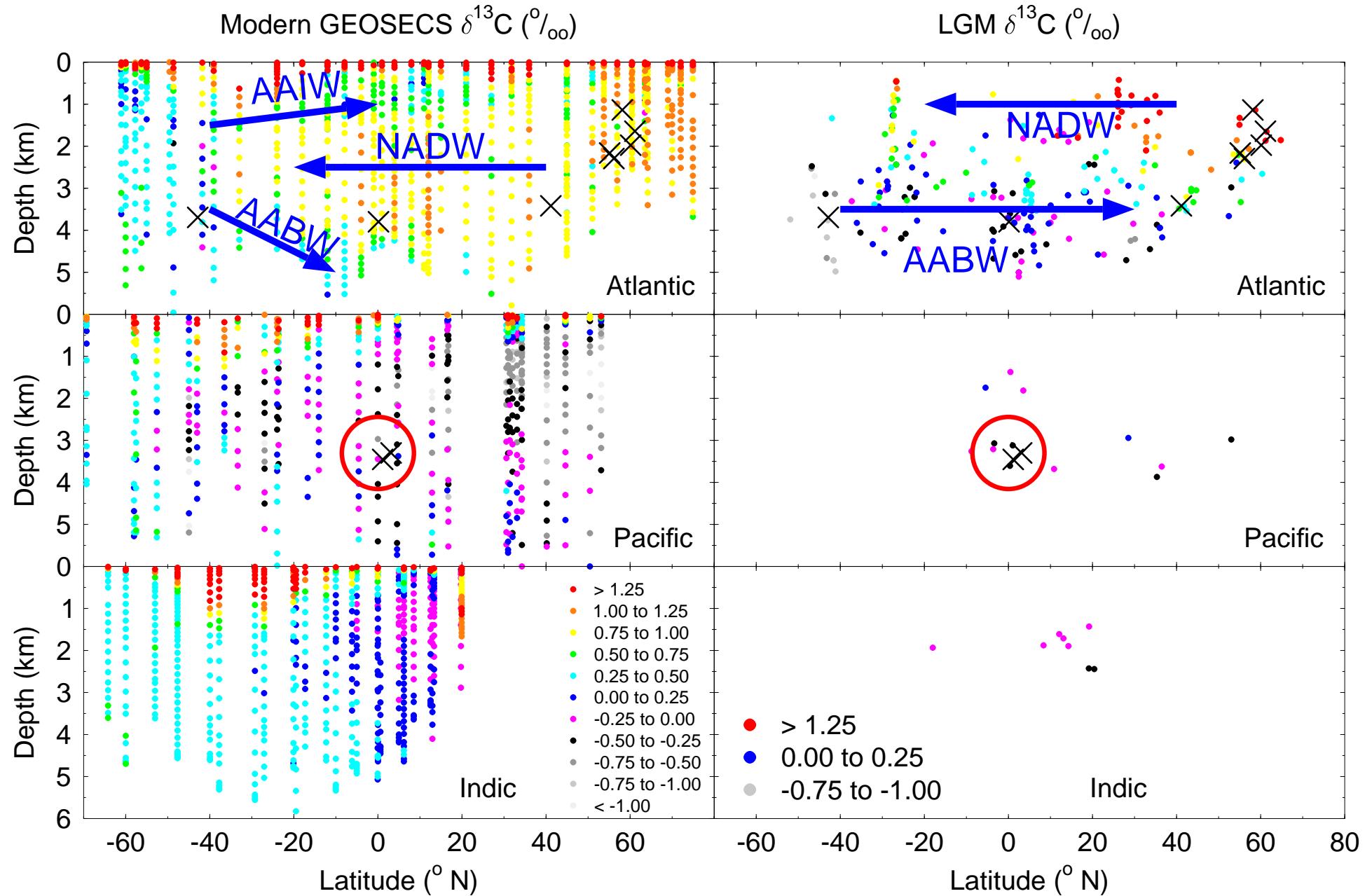


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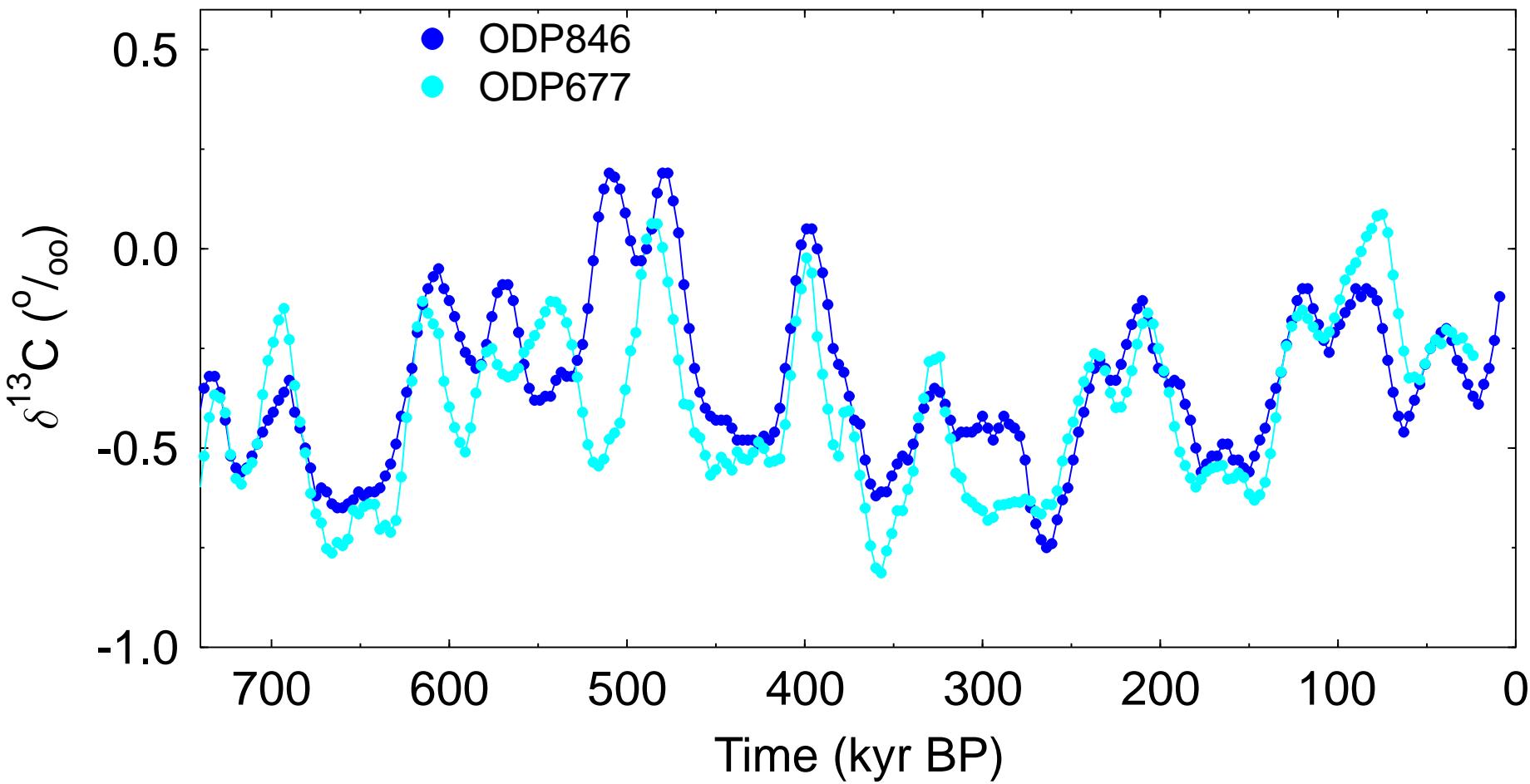
Deep Atlantic sites: water source shifts, not basin wide representative

2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$: How representative are single cores?



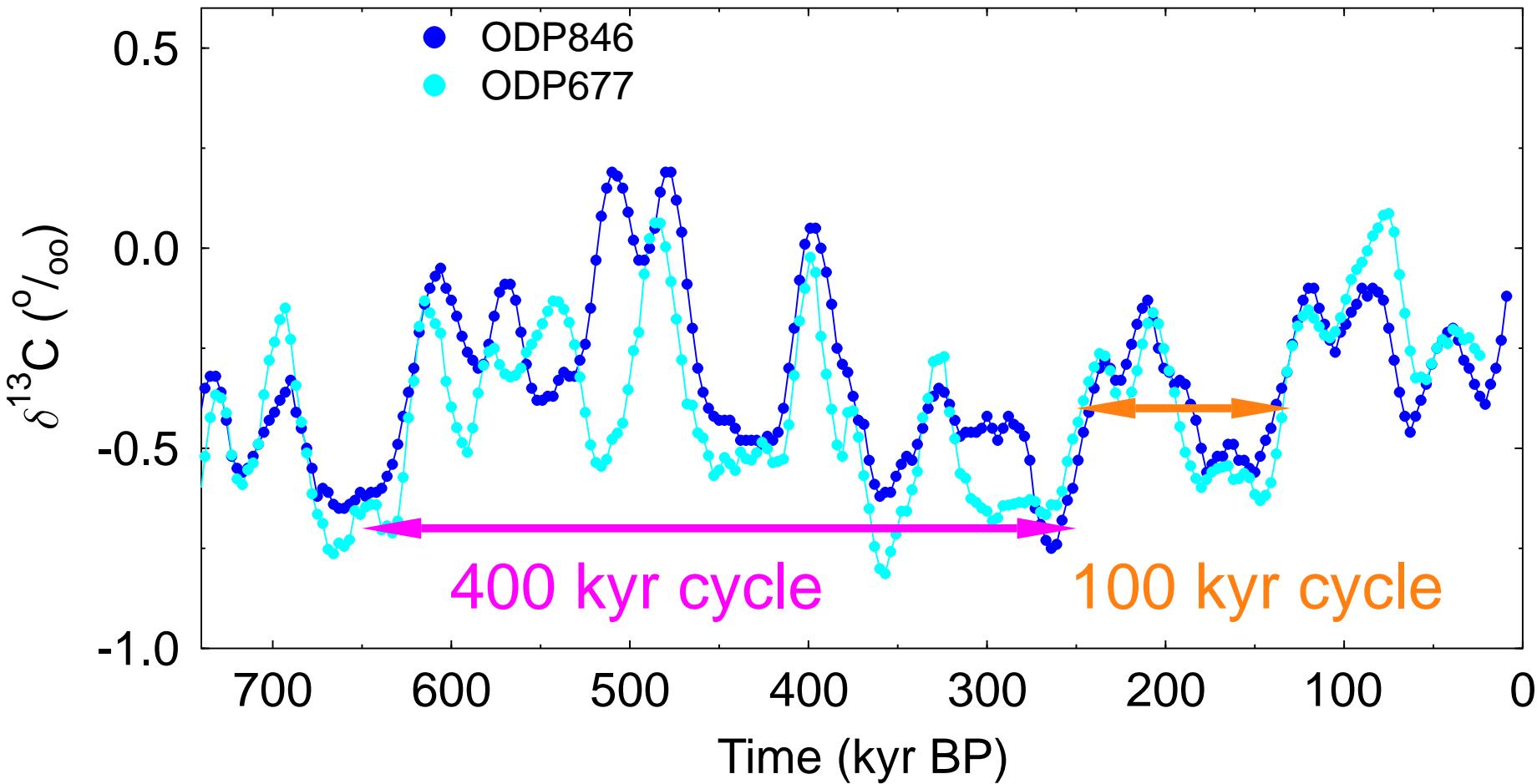
Deep Pacific sites: more homogeneous $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ distribution

2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in the Deep Pacific Ocean



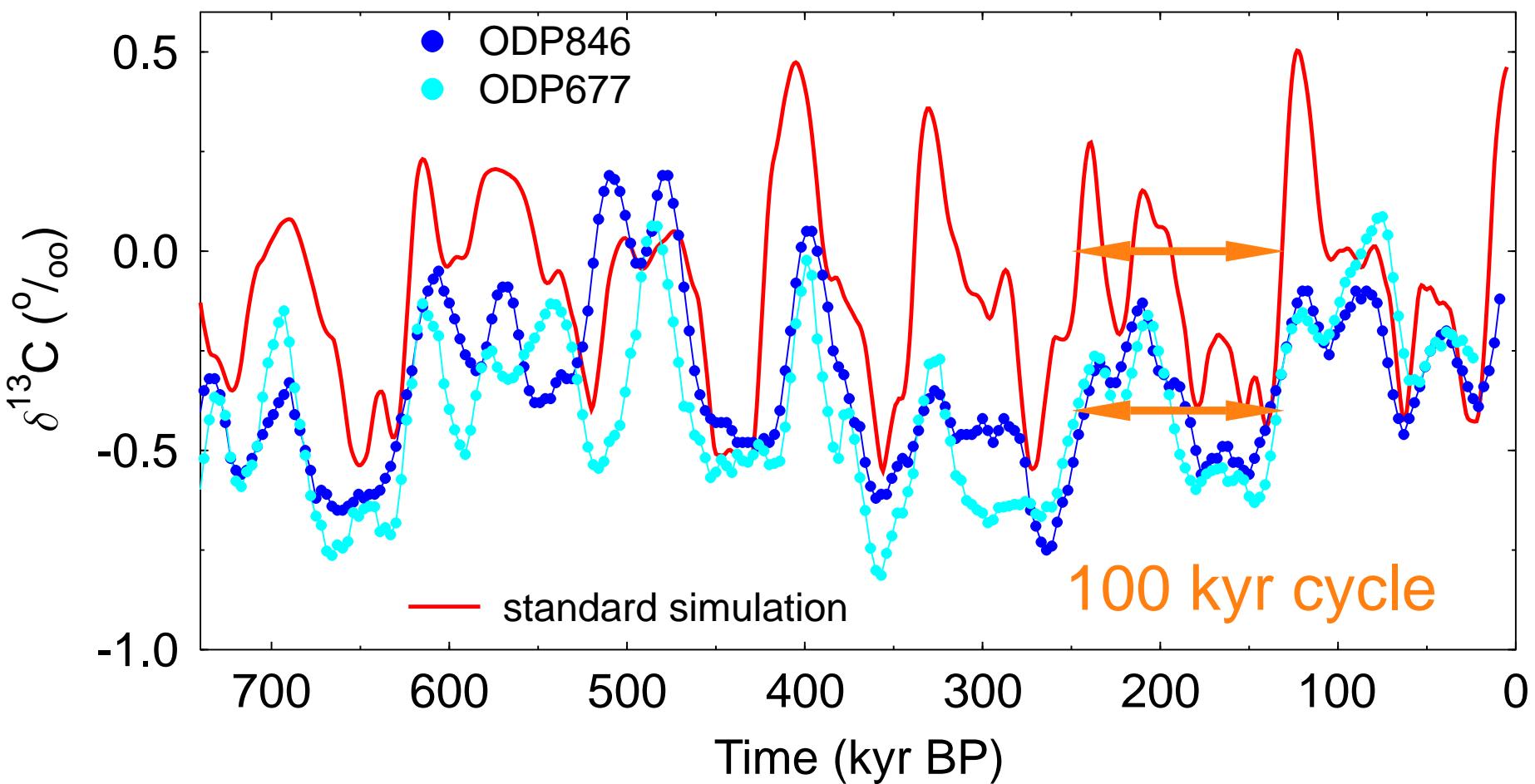
Raymo et al., 1997, 2004

2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in the Deep Pacific Ocean



Raymo et al., 1997, 2004

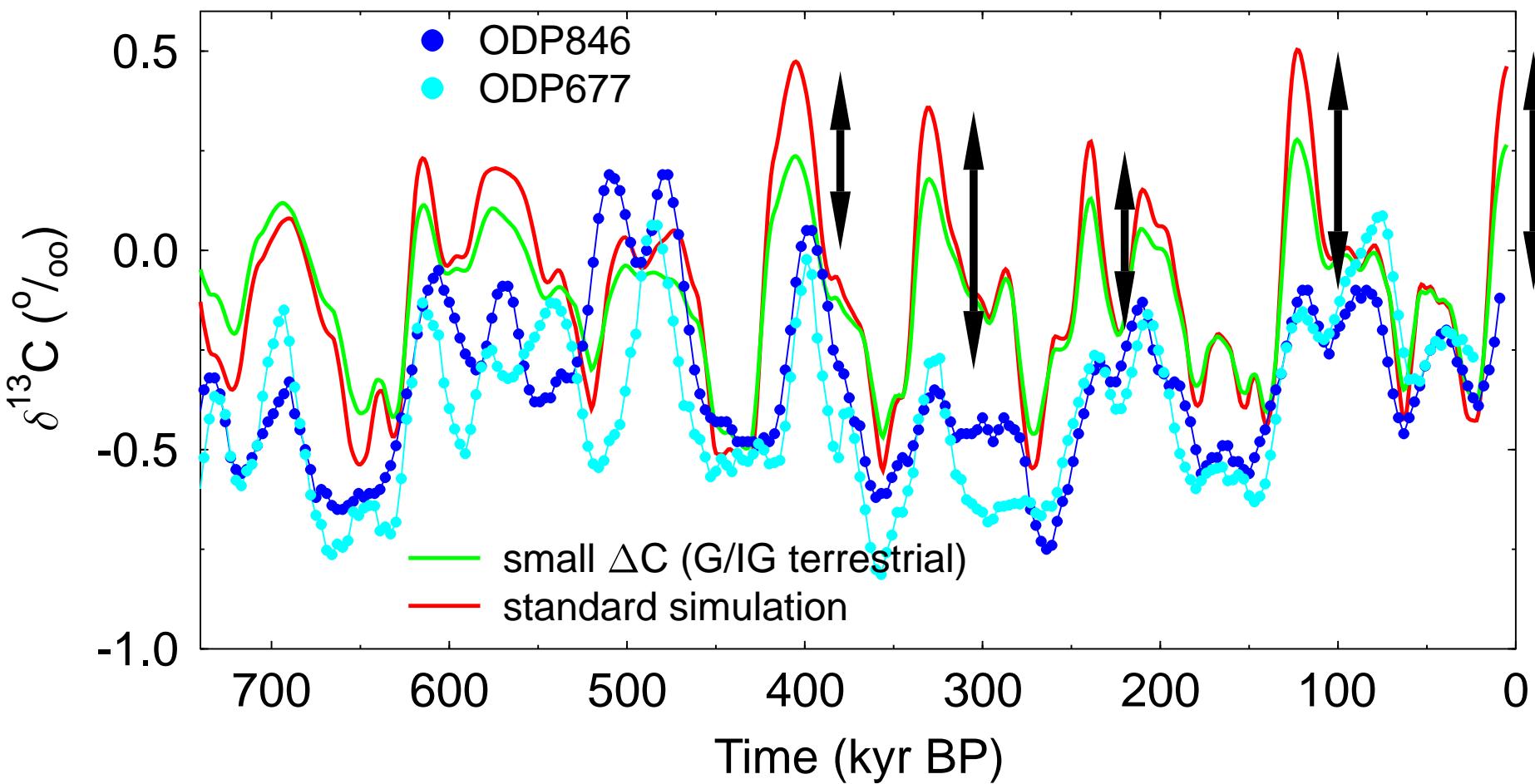
2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in the Deep Pacific Ocean



100 kyr cycle: supported

400 kyr cycle: not found in simulations, sediment model missing

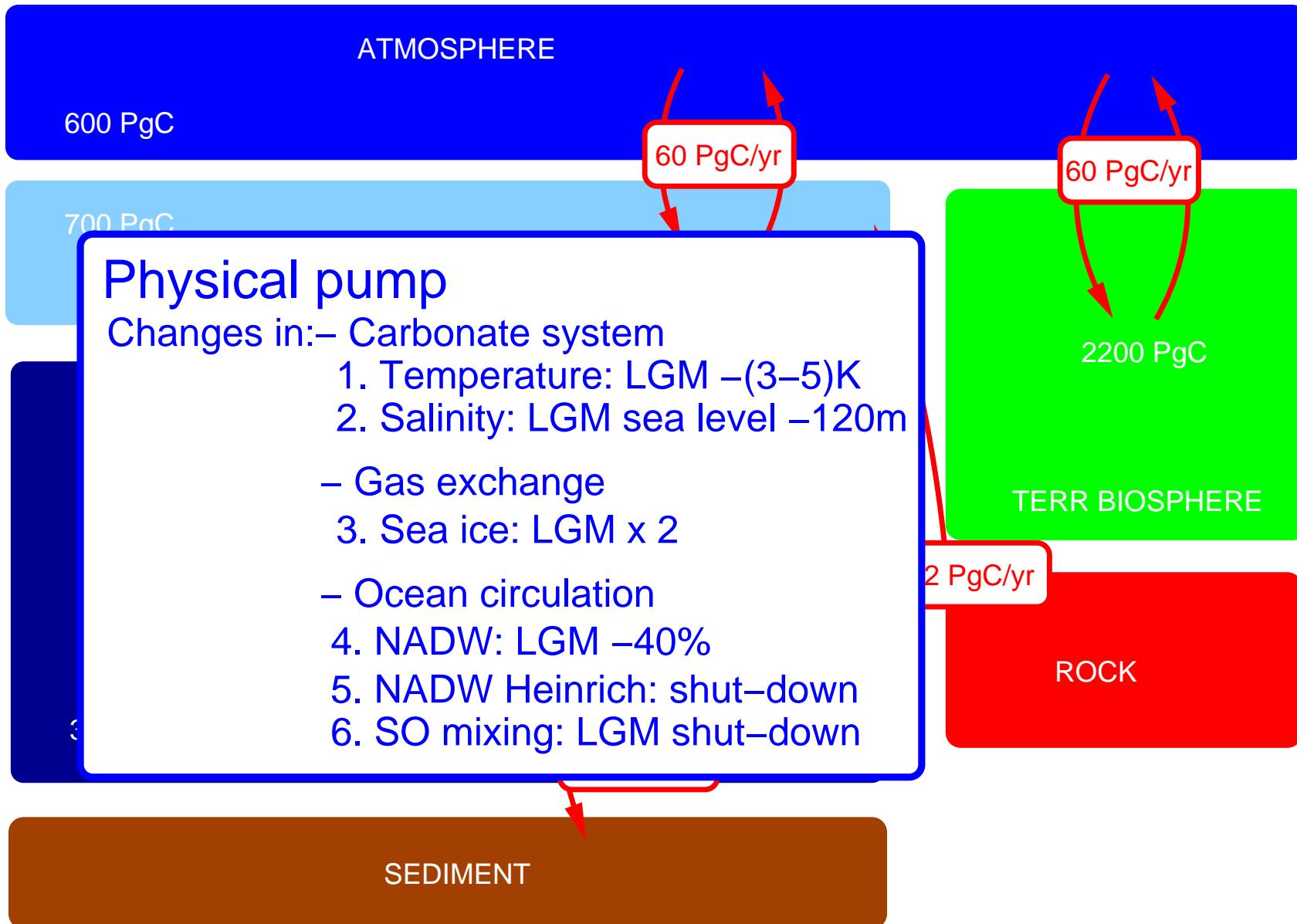
2. Benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ in the Deep Pacific Ocean



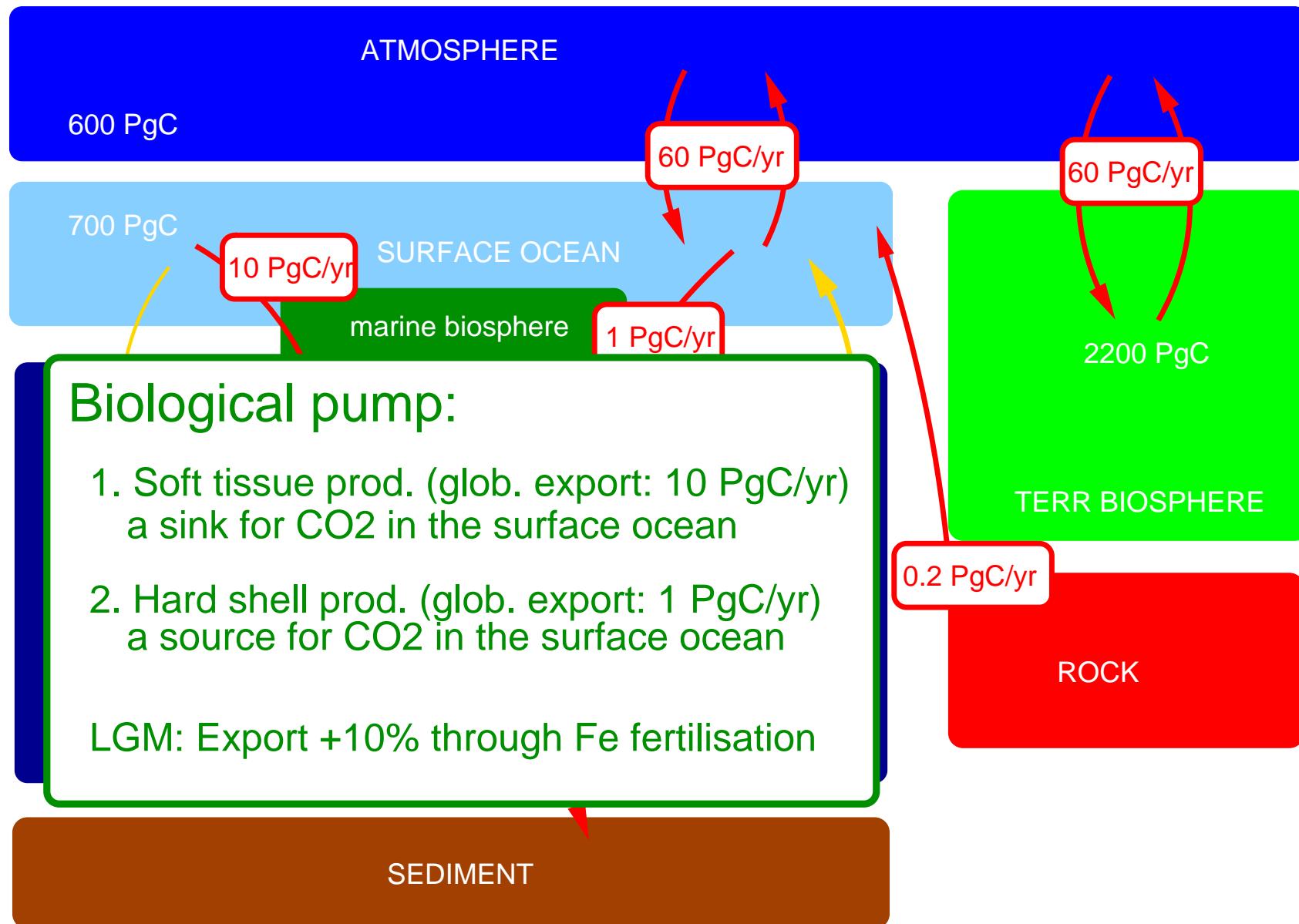
$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ during interglacials in the 100 kyr world:

- Terrestrial biosphere?
- Missing delay of CaCO_3 compensation by 10 kyr?
- Representative of time series for basin wide changes?

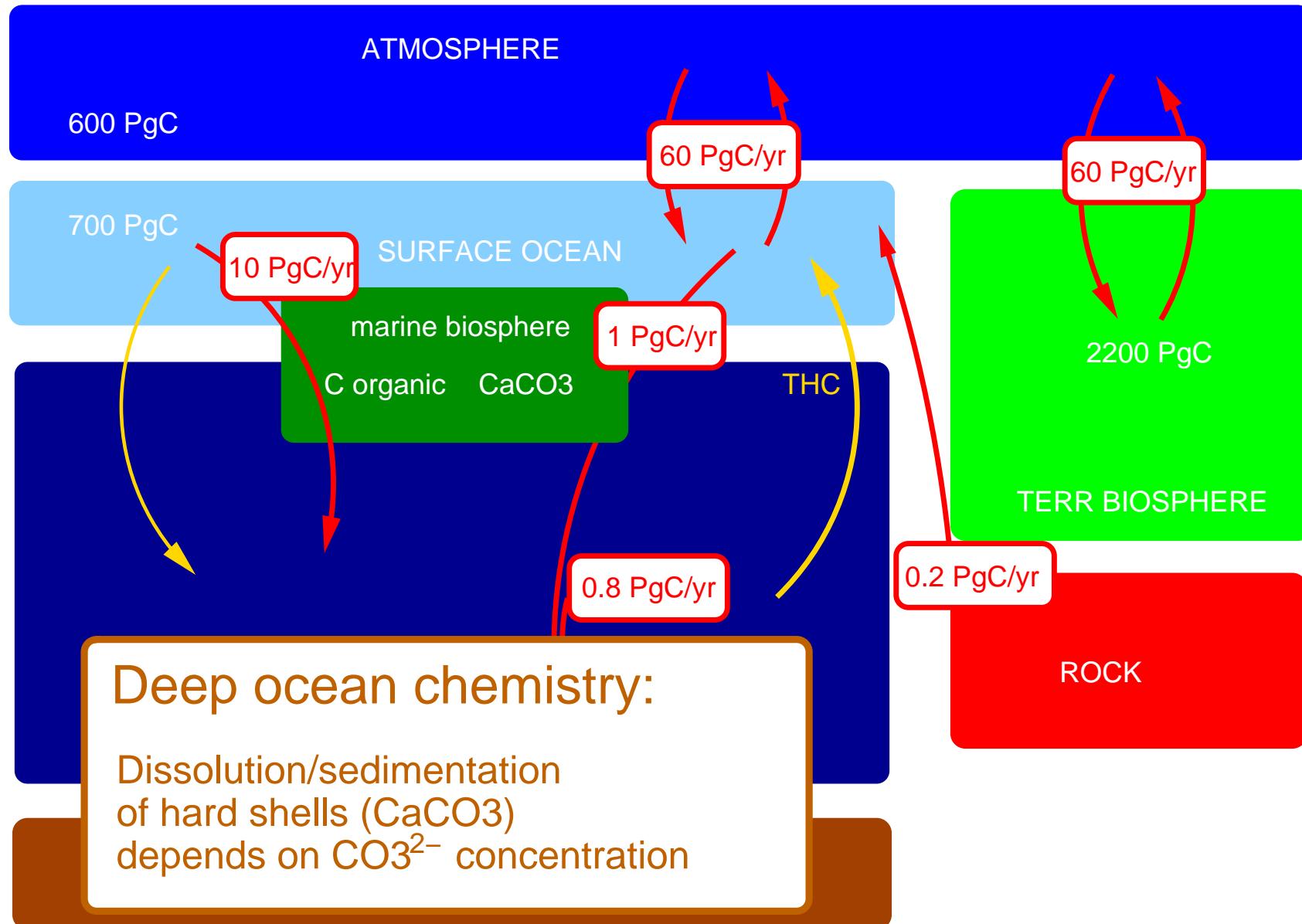
The Physical Pump



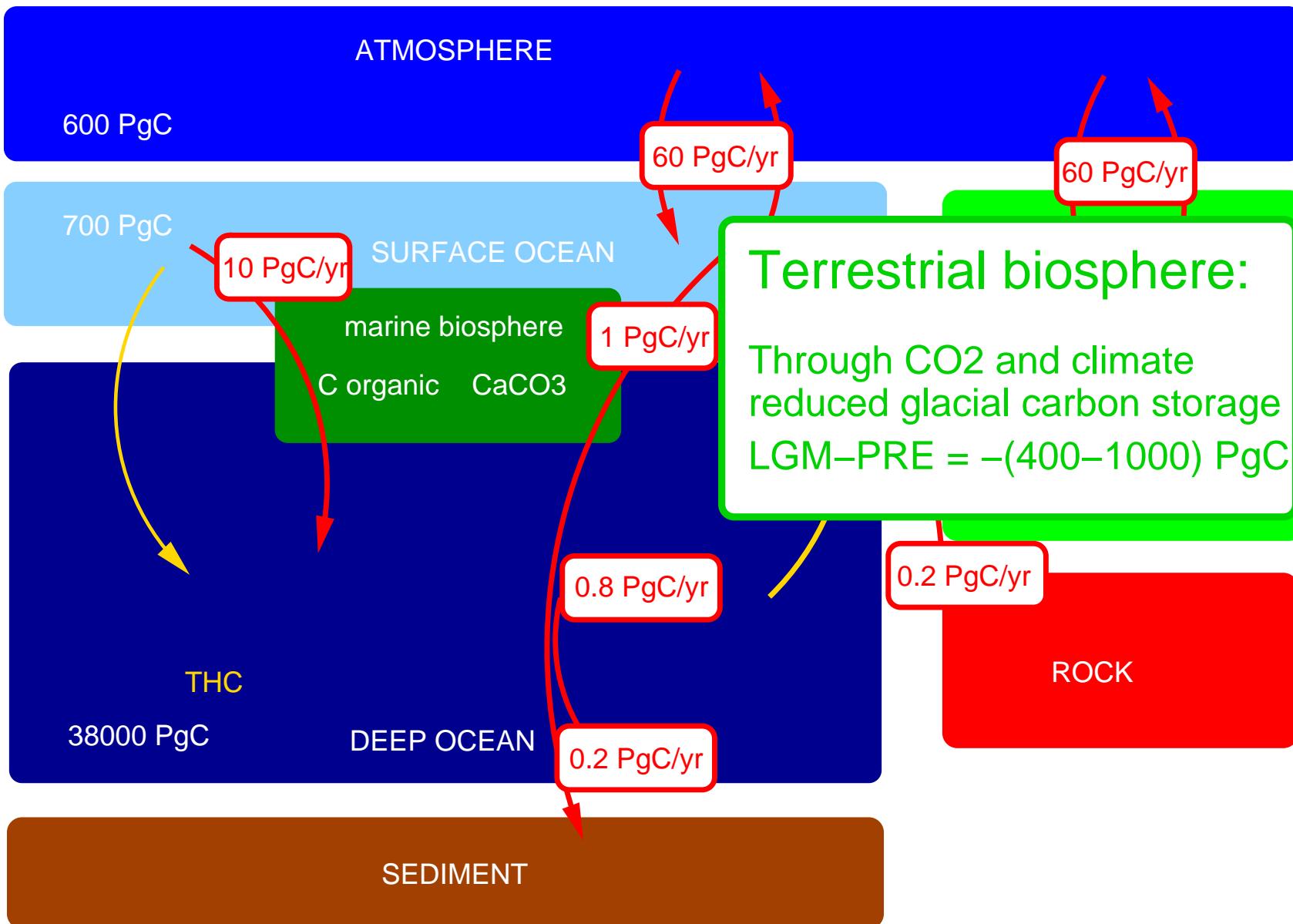
The Biological Pump



CaCO_3 chemistry



The terrestrial biosphere



Preindustrial ocean circulation

