## Lesen im Gedächtnis der Erde - oder wie durchbohrt man einen Eisschild?

Expedition report of the research project EPICA in 2002, presentation for the public

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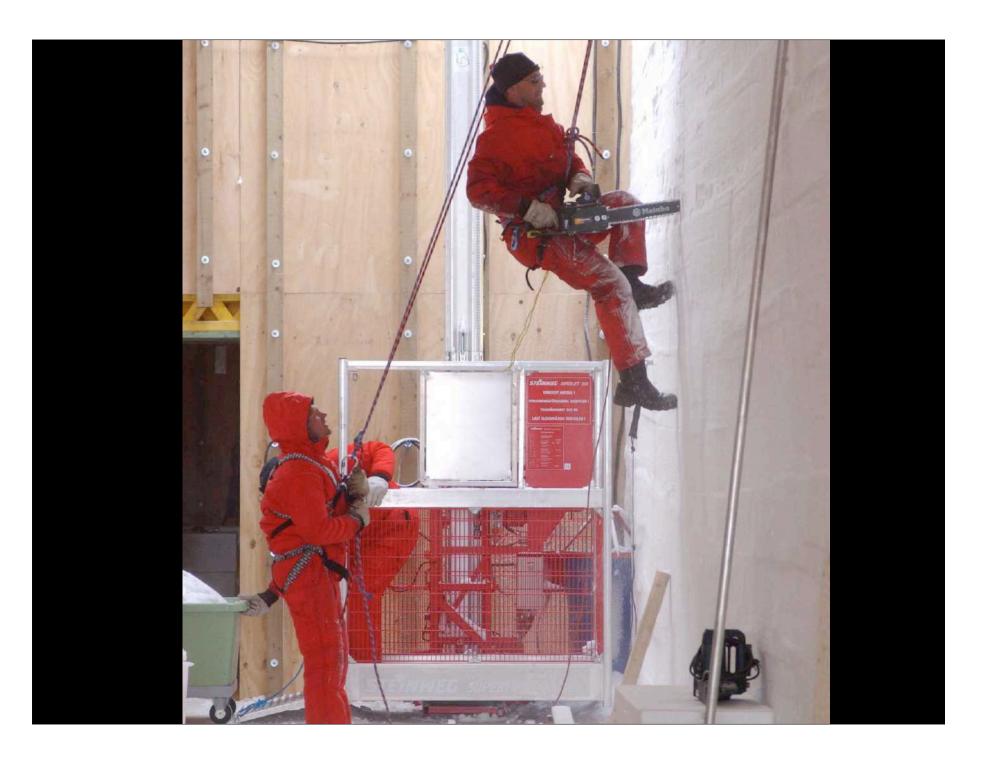






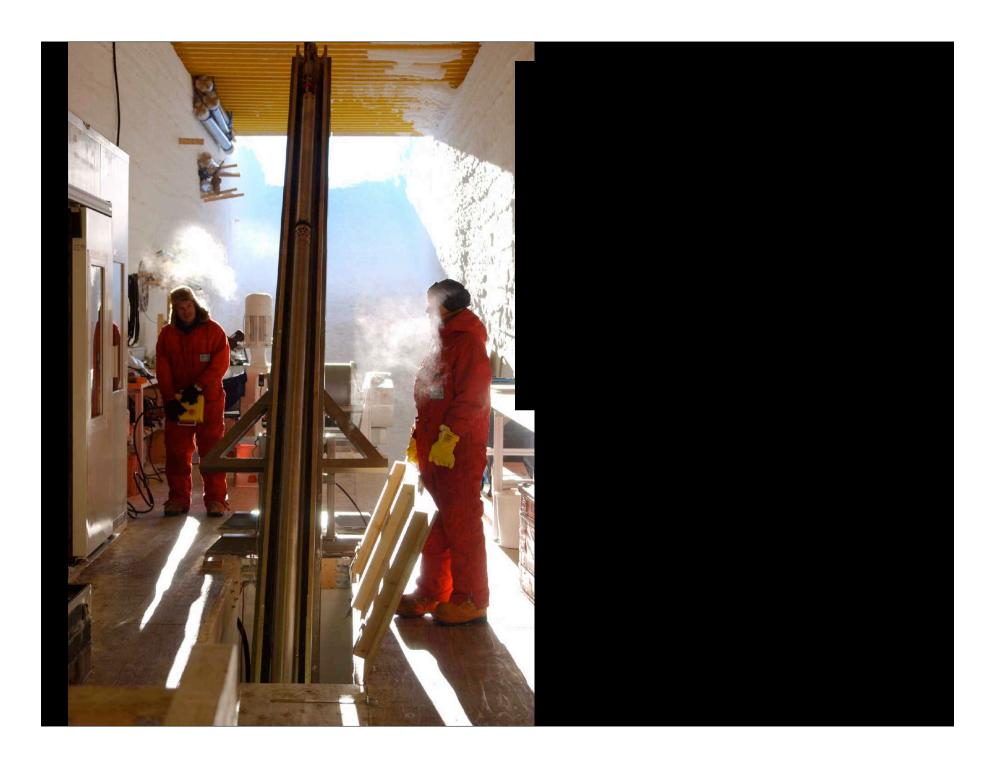








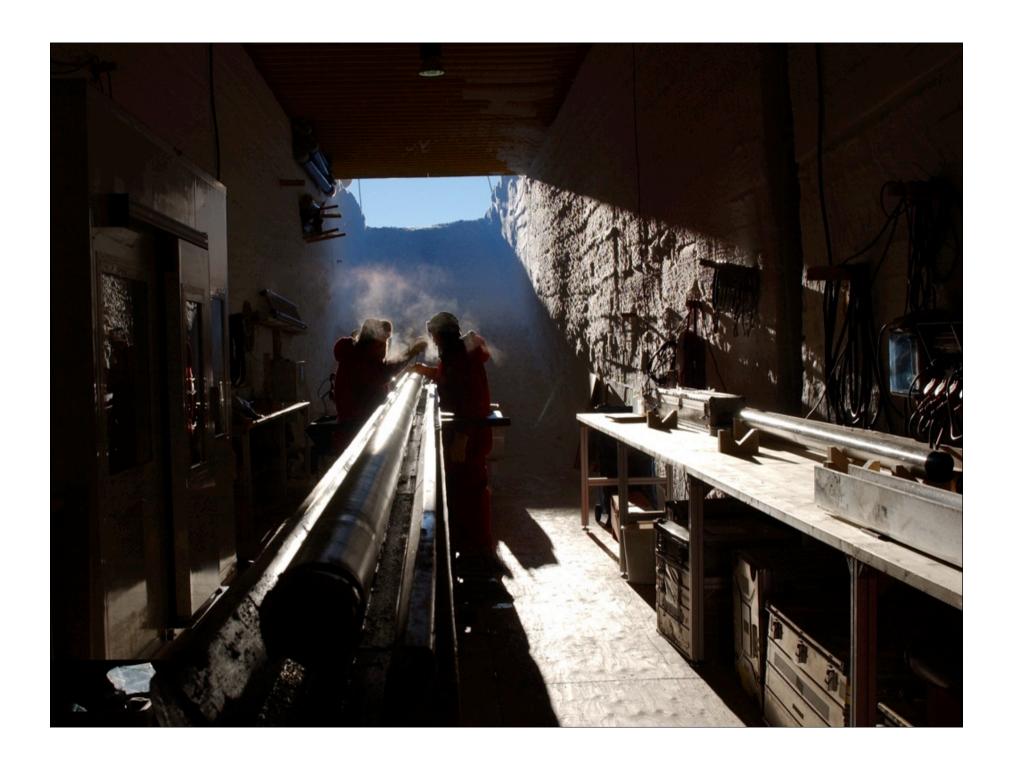










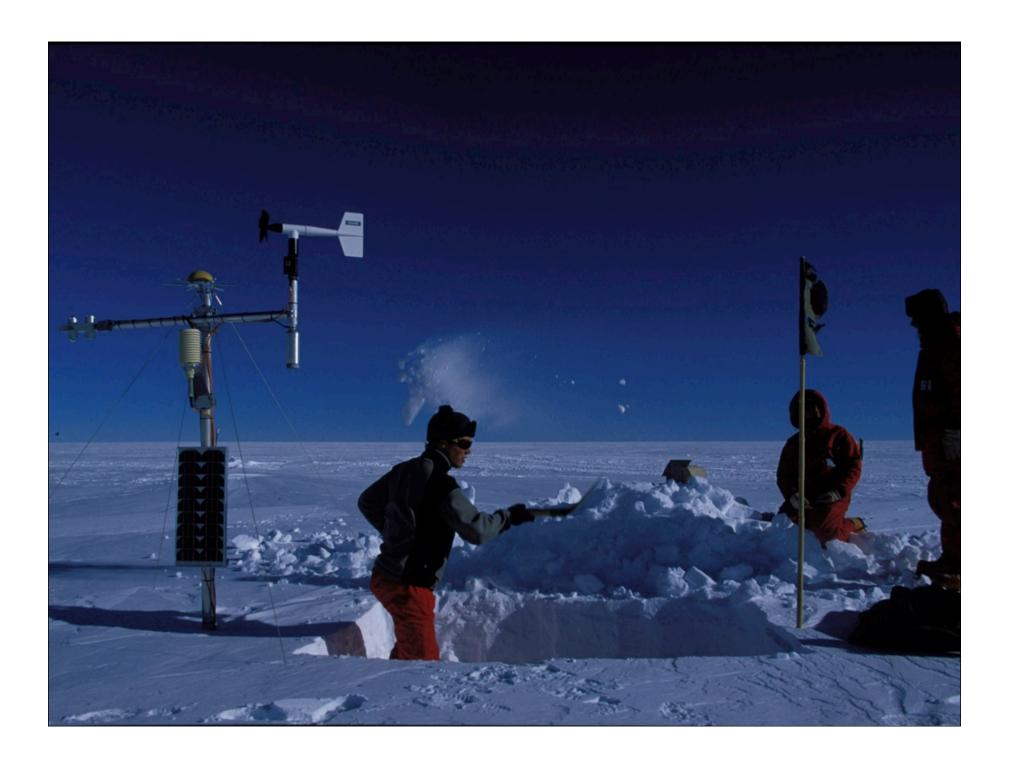




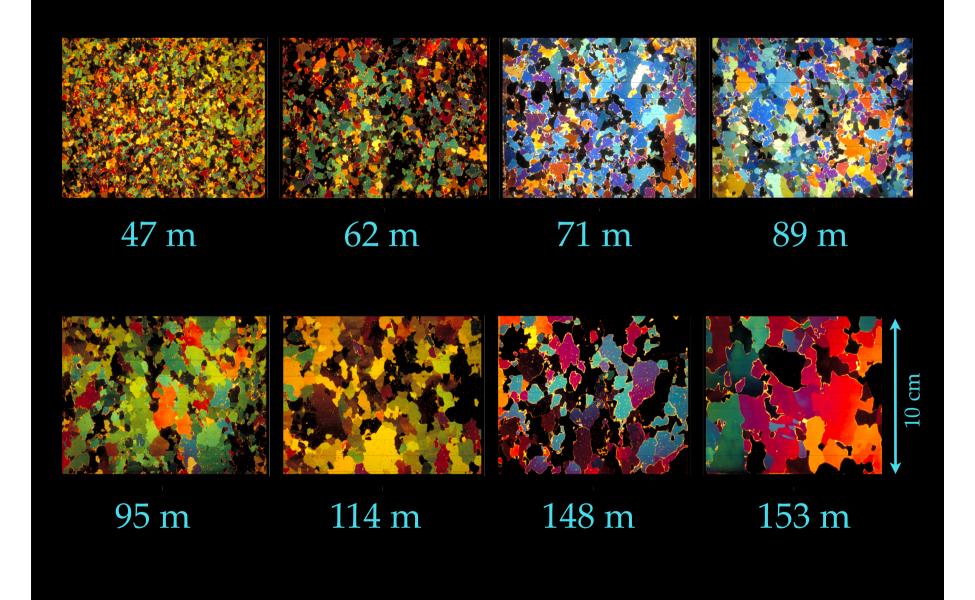




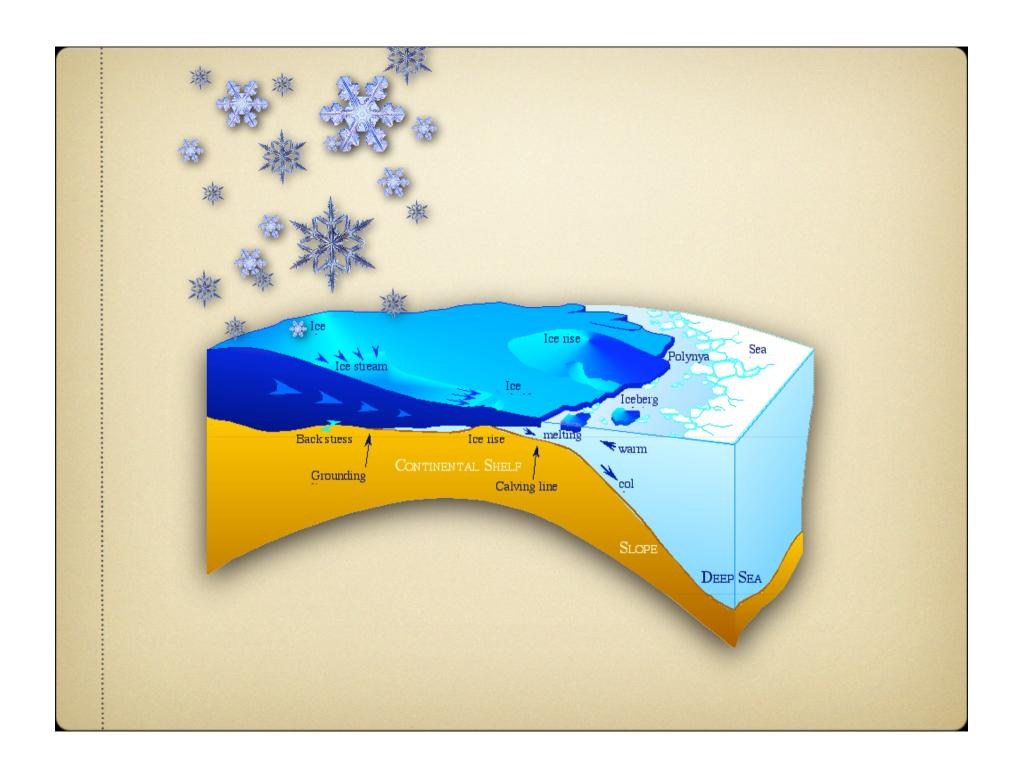


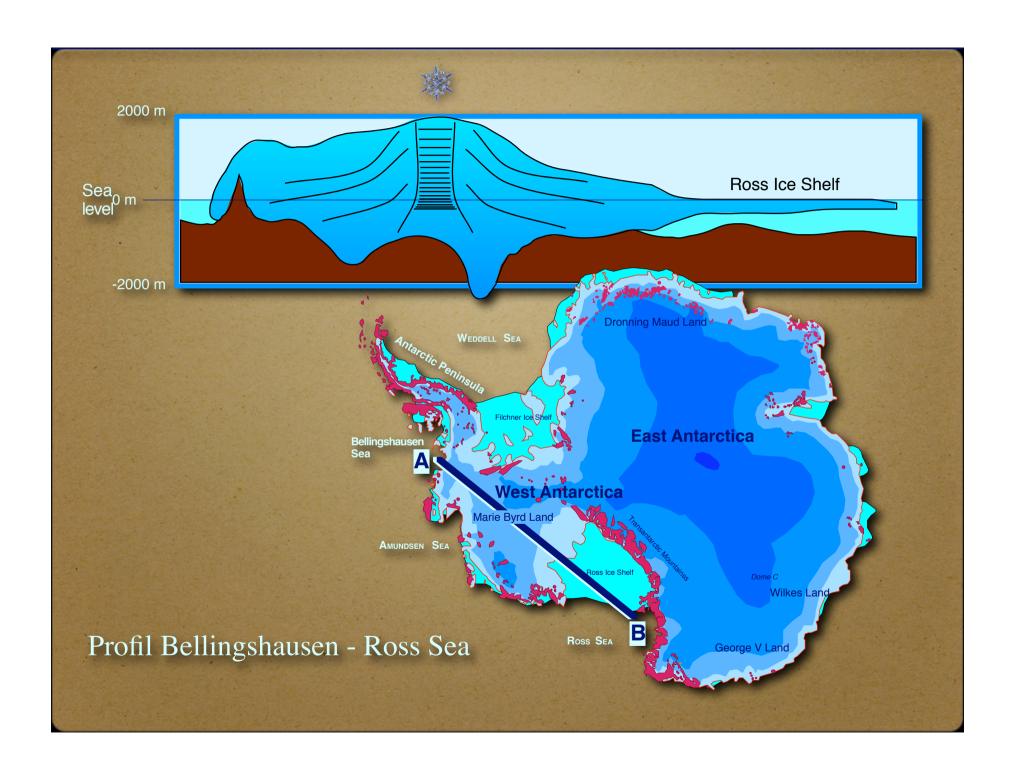








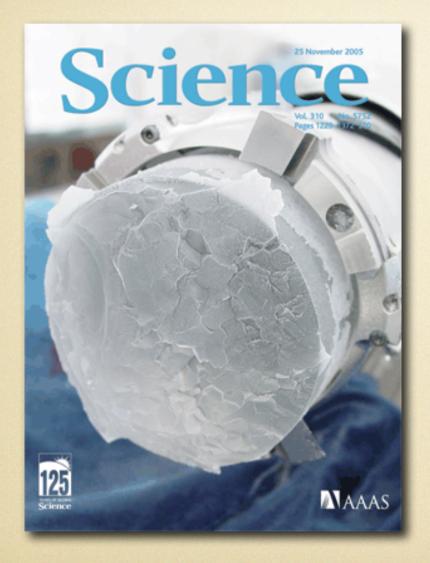






0 m Schnee 50 m Firn 100 m Eis

Poren = weiss



The CO<sub>2</sub> record from the EPICA Dome C ice core reveals that atmospheric CO, variations during glacial-interglacial cycles had a notably different character before and after 430 kyr B.P. Before MIS 11, the amplitude of temperature was lower, and the duration of the warm phases has been much longer since then. In spite of these differences, the significant covariation of δD and CO2 is valid in both periods, Before MIS 11, CO. concentrations did not exceed 260 ppmv This is substantially lower than the maxima of the last four glacial cycles. The lags of CO, with respect to the Antarctic temperature over glacial terminations V to VII are 800, 1600, and 2800 years, respectively, which are consistent with earlier observations during the last four glacial cycles.

Our measurements have revealed an unexpected stable climate phase (MIS 15.1) during which the atmospheric CO, concentration was 251.5 ± 1.9 ppmv for many millennia (28,000 years, based on the EDC2 time scale), although the duration of MIS 15.1 is uncertain because of possible inaccuracies in the Dome C EDC2 time scale between MIS 12 and 15. However, the roughly 30,000-year duration of MIS 11 (and possibly MIS 15.1) demonstrates that long interglacials with stable conditions are not exceptional. Short interglacials such as the past three therefore are not the rule and hence cannot serve as analogs of the Holocene, as postulated recently (24). Examining δD as a function of CO<sub>2</sub>, we observe that the slope during the two new glacial cycles compared to the last four cycles is essentially the same. Therefore, the coupling of Antarctic temperature and CO, did not change significantly during the last 650 kyear, indicating rather stable coupling between climate and the carbon cycle during the late Pleistocene

## References and Notes

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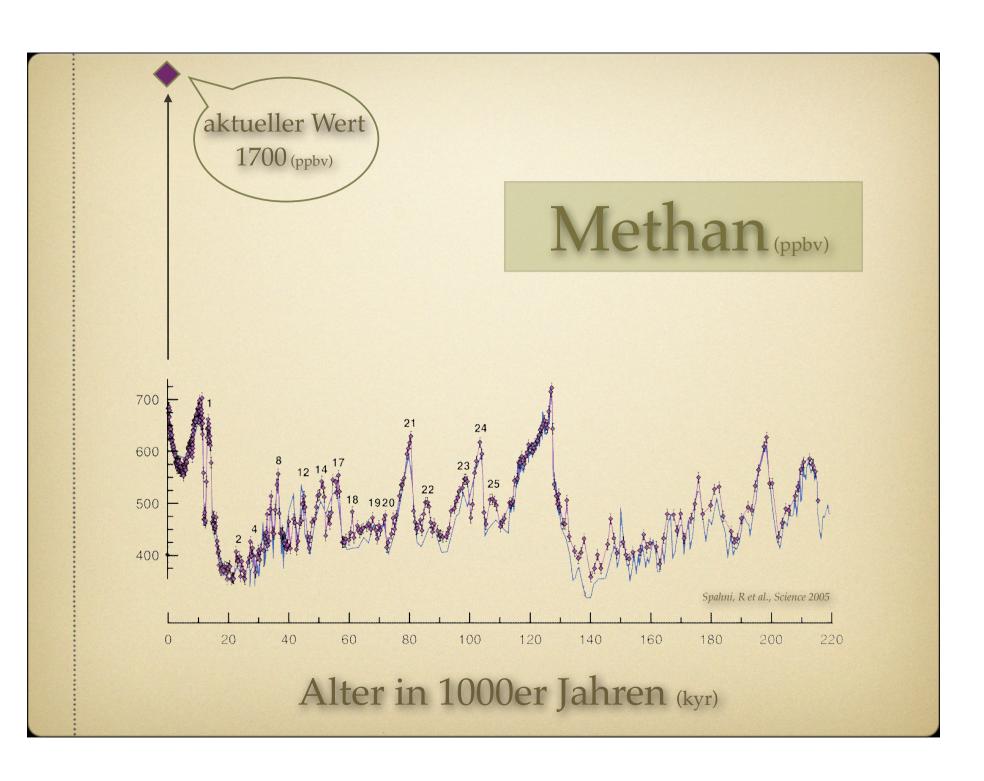
## **Atmospheric Methane and Nitrous** Oxide of the Late Pleistocene from Antarctic Ice Cores

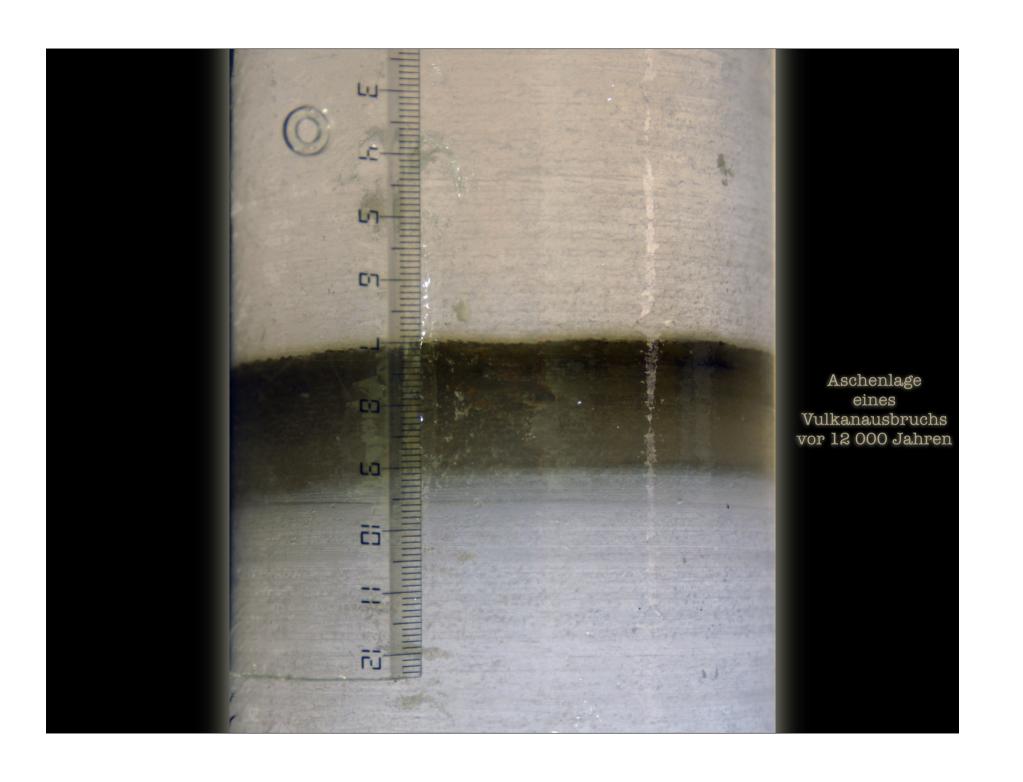
Renato Spahni, 1 Jérôme Chappellaz, 2 Thomas F. Stocker, 1\* Laetitia Loulergue, Gregor Hausammann, Kenji Kawamura, † Jacqueline Flückiger, 1 Jakob Schwander, 1 Dominique Raynaud, 2 Valérie Masson-Delmotte,3 Jean Jouzel3

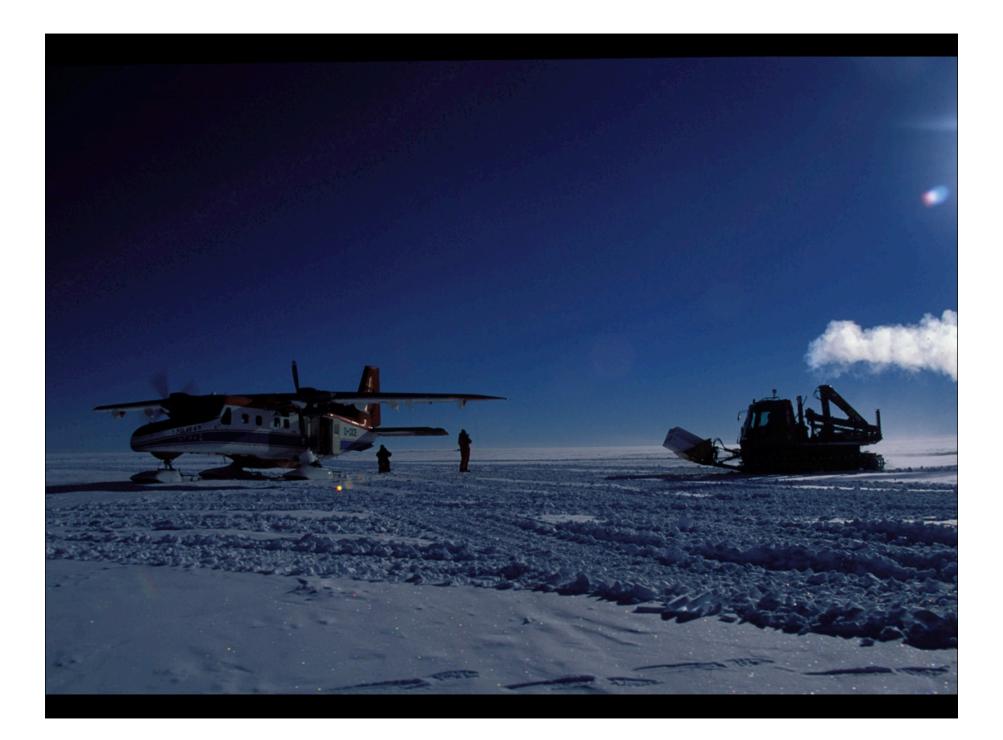
The European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica Dome C ice core enables us to extend existing records of atmospheric methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) back to 650,000 years before the present. A combined record of CH, measured along the Dome C and the Vostok ice cores demonstrates, within the resolution of our measurements, that preindustrial concentrations over Antarctica have not exceeded 773 ± 15 ppbv (parts per billion by volume) during the past 650,000 years. Before 420,000 years ago, when interglacials were cooler, maximum CH, concentrations were only about 600 ppbv, similar to lower Holocene values. In contrast, the N<sub>2</sub>O record shows maximum concentrations of 278 ± 7 ppbv, slightly higher than early Holocene values.

was characterized by ice age cycles with relatively short warm periods (interglacials) and longer cold periods (glacials) (1). The

Earth's climate during the late Pleistocene the past four climatic cycles back to marine isotope stage (MIS) 11, about 420 thousand years before the present (420 kyr B.P.) (2). That record demonstrated the high correla-Vostok ice core provided an archive of tion of temperature changes with greenhouse climate and atmospheric composition over gas concentration changes in the atmo-

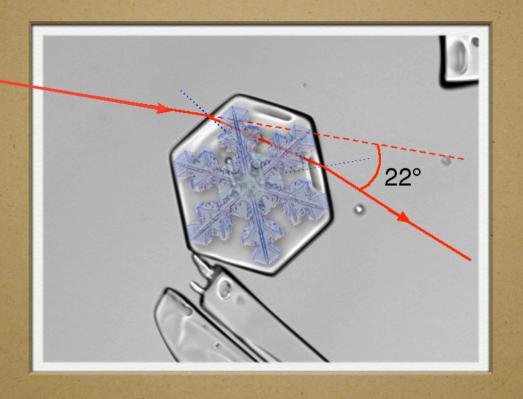












Lichtbrechung am hexagonalen Eiskristall

## Zirkumzenitalbogen 22°-Halo Horizontalkreis Horizontalkreis Lichtsäule Nebensonne Nebensonne

