

1 **A Tropical Speleothem Record of Glacial Inception,**
2 **the South American Summer Monsoon from 125 to 115 ka**

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18

19 **Abstract.**

20 Relatively few marine or terrestrial paleoclimate studies have focused on glacial
21 inception, the transition from an interglacial to a glacial climate state. As a result,
22 the timing and structure of glacial inception is not well known, nor is the spatial
23 pattern of glacial inception in different parts of the world. Here we present results
24 of a study of a speleothem from the Peruvian Andes that records changes in the
25 intensity of South American Summer Monsoon (SASM) rainfall over the period from
26 125-115 ka. The results show that late in the last interglacial period, at 123 ka,
27 SASM rainfall decreased, perhaps in response to a decrease in temperature and ice
28 cover in the high northern latitudes and associated changes in atmospheric
29 circulation. Then at 120.8 ka a rapid increase in SASM rainfall marks the end of the
30 last interglacial. After a more gradual increase between 120 and 117 ka, a second
31 abrupt increase occurs at 117 ka. This pattern of change is mirrored to a remarkable
32 degree by changes in the East Asian Monsoon. It is interpreted to reflect both a long-
33 term gradual response of the monsoons to orbitally-driven insolation changes and
34 to rapid changes in Northern Hemisphere ice volume and temperature. Both
35 monsoon systems are close to their full glacial conditions by 117 ka, before any
36 significant decrease in atmospheric CO₂.

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39 **1 Introduction**

40 Studies of Earth's transitions from glacial to interglacial states over the past several
41 hundred thousand years have focused on glacial terminations. In particular, the last
42 glacial termination, covering the period from approximately 20-10 ka has been
43 dissected in great detail to better understand how and why glacial conditions yield
44 to a full interglacial (e.g. Cheng et al., 2009; Denton et al., 2010; Shakun et al., 2012;
45 and references therein). But relatively few paleoclimate studies have focused on the
46 details of the other transition between climate states - glacial inception. The relative
47 age of the most recent glacial inception, about 120 ka, is likely a factor since far
48 fewer high resolution archives of climate, either marine or terrestrial, extend so far
49 back in time.

50

51 As a result, inferred rates of glacial inception are primarily based on tuning to
52 orbitally driven insolation changes or marine records and are not firmly established
53 by absolutely dated chronologies (e.g.). Similarly, the timing and pattern of glacial
54 inception in different parts of the world are not well known. Speleothems have
55 often proven useful in adding absolute age chronologies to paleoclimate records, for
56 example, the age and duration of Dansgaard/Oeschger events (Wang et al., 2001;
57 Kanner et al., 2012). They can also yield decadal to sub-decadal resolution
58 paleoclimate information for many regions. Thus well-dated high resolution
59 speleothem records that cover the period of glacial inception have the potential to
60 eliminate uncertainty in the timing and rates of climate change during glacial
61 inception and the relationship between low and high-latitude records. In doing so,

62 they may also help establish the forcing necessary for the transition from one state
63 to another. Here we present a well-dated, high-resolution speleothem record of
64 changes in the South American Summer Monsoon from 125 to 115 ka, a period
65 covering the transition from the penultimate interglacial to the beginning of the last
66 glacial period.

67

68 **2 Material And Methods**

69 Sample P10-H1 is from Huagapo Cave (11.27°S; 75.79°W) ~3,850 meters above sea
70 level (masl) in the central Peruvian Andes. The sample is a calcite stalagmite 31.8
71 cm tall from an upper gallery of the cave approximately 700 meters from the main
72 entrance. The sample was cut into halves along the growth axis and polished. For
73 radiometric dating, 10 subsamples were taken about every 30 mm parallel to
74 growth layers. For stable oxygen and carbon isotope analysis, 318 subsamples were
75 taken every millimeter along the growth axis.

76

77 The radiometric dates were measured using a multi-collector, inductively coupled
78 plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICPMS) on a Thermo-Finnigan Neptune at the
79 Minnesota Isotope Laboratory with procedures similar to those described in (Cheng,
80 et al., 2009). The stable isotopic analyses were performed at the University of
81 Massachusetts using an on-line carbonate preparation system linked to a Finnigan
82 Delta Plus XL ratio mass spectrometer. Results are reported as the per mil
83 difference between sample and the Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite standard in delta
84 notation where $\delta^{18}\text{O} = (R_{\text{sample}}/R_{\text{standard}} - 1) * 1000$, and R is the ratio of the minor to

85 the major isotope. Reproducibility of the standard materials is better than 0.1‰.
86 Values are reported relative to the VPDB standard.

87

88 **3 Results**

89 Results of U/Th isotopic analyses (Table 1) show that stalagmite P10-H1 grew from
90 about 125.5 to 115.2 ka. All age determinations are in stratigraphic order and have
91 errors on the order of 0.3%. An age model for the oxygen stable isotope times series
92 was constructed using linear interpolation between each age determination and is
93 shown in Figure 1.

94

95 The oxygen isotope time series is shown in Figure 2, plotted together with data over
96 the same interval from Hulu Cave in central China (Kelly et al., 2006). The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
97 values for P10-H1 range from -12.3 ‰ to -17.1 ‰. From 125 to 123 ka the values
98 are centered on -13.5 ‰, then increase to between -12.5 to -13 from 123 to 121 ka.
99 At 120.8 ka, values decrease by more than 1 ‰ in about 120 y. They continue to
100 decrease more slowly over the next 4 ky to around -15.5 ‰, show a short-lived,
101 about 75 years in duration, increase of around 0.75 ‰, then, at 116.8 ka again
102 decrease rapidly to values between -16 to -17 ‰ for the remainder of the record.
103 The second rapid decrease occurs over about 150 y. We note that a cross plot of
104 oxygen versus carbon stable isotope ratios for P10-H1 has a correlation coefficient
105 (r^2) of 0.06.

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111 **4 Discussion**

112 **4.1 Interpretation of Oxygen Isotope Variability**

113 The oxygen isotope ratios of speleothem calcite primarily reflect changes in the
114 oxygen isotope ratio of local precipitation (Fairchild et al., 2006; Lachniet, 2009),
115 though factors such as kinetic isotope effects during calcite precipitation, cave
116 temperature, and the isotopic composition of the water vapor source may also be
117 important. We consider these latter three factors first. Kinetic isotope effects are
118 probably present in all speleothems (Daëron et al., 2011), yet kinetic effects can be
119 minimized by sampling at the center of the stalagmite growth axis (Dreybrodt,
120 2008), which was done here. Another test of whether kinetic effects are important
121 is the 'Hendy test' (Hendy, 1971). For sample P10-H1, as noted, carbon and oxygen
122 isotopic values along the growth axis are not correlated ($r^2 = 0.06$), indicating that
123 kinetic effects are not the an important influence on oxygen isotope variations.

124

125 Figure 2 shows that the least negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for P10-H1 occur from about 125-
126 121 ka, during the penultimate interglacial period. The most negative values, about
127 4.8 ‰ lower, occur at about 115 ka, as earth's climate made the transition to the
128 long glacial state that followed. Accompanying the transition to a glacial climate,
129 mean annual air temperatures likely decreased by, at most, 5 °C at the study site, if
130 we assume that the temperature change was less than or similar to that estimated

131 for the Last Glacial Maximum to Holocene transition (Porter, 2000). Cooler cave
132 temperatures should lead to enriched oxygen isotope ratios in calcite, by about 1
133 ‰, due to an increase in the equilibrium calcite-water isotopic fractionation (Kim
134 and O'Neil, 1997). In addition, the transition to a glacial climate resulted in
135 increased global ice volume and an increased oxygen isotope ratio of seawater of
136 around 0.5 ‰ (using sea level estimates for the time period and a sea
137 level/seawater isotopic ratios of about 0.1‰/10m). The combined effect of these
138 factors would be to increase the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ value of speleothem calcite by about 1.5 ‰.
139 Thus, the observed change of 4.8 ‰ in P10-H1 records the minimum amplitude of
140 changes in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of precipitation and the effective change in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of precipitation at
141 the site was approximately 6.3 ‰.

142

143 The relationship between $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of precipitation at the study site and climate is as
144 follows. During the SASM, as moisture is transported from the tropical Atlantic
145 across the continent, rainout of the heavy isotope leads to highly depleted rainfall in
146 the Amazon Basin. Via an 'amount effect' a stronger SASM leads to more negative
147 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in tropical South American rainfall $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ (Vuille and Werner, 2005).
148 Because the moisture source for the central Peruvian Andes is the Amazon Basin
149 (Garreaud et al., 2003), a similar relationship is observed for the tropical Andes,
150 where local precipitation $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ is strongly anti-correlated to rainfall amount
151 upstream in the Amazon Basin (Hoffmann et al., 2003; Vimeux et al., 2005). The
152 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of precipitation at the study site is an integrated signal of monsoon intensity
153 along the entire moisture path from the eastern Amazon Basin to the Altiplano

154 (Vuille and Werner, 2005; Vimeux et al., 2005). On orbital and millennial timescales,
155 paleoclimate studies have shown that the intensity of the SASM is related to changes
156 in the latitudinal position of the Atlantic Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ). A
157 more southerly mean position of the ITCZ leads to increased SASM intensity (Seltzer
158 et al., 2000; Cruz et al., 2005). Thus, speleothem $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ at the study site records
159 changes in the intensity of large-scale continental and maritime atmospheric
160 convection, and more negative speleothem $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ indicates enhanced SASM activity,
161 increased rainout, and a more southerly position of the ITCZ.

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163 Our record shows that the SASM was relatively weak during MIS 5.5, particularly
164 during the last 2000 years of the interglacial period. The SASM strengthened
165 rapidly, mainly in two approximately equal steps, at 121 ka and at 117 ka. The most
166 negative $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for P10-H1, around -17.0 ‰ between 117 and 116 ka, are less
167 than one per mil more enriched than samples from the same area during the LGM
168 (Kanner et al., 2012). And the ~5 ‰ range $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ observed in P10-H1 is only slightly
169 less than to the 5.5‰ change we observe in speleothems from this location from the
170 LGM to the early Holocene (Kanner et al., 2013, 2012). Thus the SASM was within
171 80-90% of its maximum intensity over the last glacial cycle at 116 ka, equivalent to
172 MIS 5.4.

173

174 The intensification of the SASM during deglaciation is a response to several factors.
175 In part, intensification is due to an increase in summer insolation over the Amazon
176 Basin, driving increased convective activity moisture transport. Numerous

177 paleoclimate studies from the EAM, IM, and SASM regions (Cruz et al., 2005b;
178 Fleitmann et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2008, 2005, 2001) and modeling results
179 (Kutzbach, 1981; Kutzbach et al., 2008; Ziegler et al., 2010) indicate that the primary
180 control on monsoon precipitation is summer insolation changes that follow
181 precession of earth's orbit. The P10-H1 time series parallels January insolation at
182 10°S (Fig. 2), though the response of the SASM to insolation is clearly non-linear.
183 The minimum in SASM intensity and the following increase lag insolation by a few
184 thousand years (Fig. 2). The increase also occurs mainly in two steps, not smoothly.
185 Maximum monsoon intensity, however, is reached at close to the maximum in
186 summer insolation at 10°S.

187

188 The non-linear relationship between SASM intensity and insolation indicates that
189 additional factors account for the timing and pace of low latitude climate change.
190 Paleoclimate studies of speleothem growth periods (Wang et al., 2008) and oxygen
191 isotope ratios (Kanner et al., 2012) during the last glacial period demonstrate that
192 the SASM increased rapidly in intensity during Heinrich events and during
193 Greenland stadials. Conversely, the SASM was relatively weak during Greenland
194 interstadials. These changes have been interpreted as reflecting millennial-scale
195 shifts in the mean ITCZ position (e.g. Kanner et al., 2012), a hypothesis that is
196 supported by modeling studies of the effect of land and sea ice on the ITCZ and
197 Hadley circulation in which cooling of the high northern latitudes results in the
198 establishment of an inter-hemispheric thermal gradient (Chiang and Friedman,
199 2012; Donohoe et al., 2012). Because the teleconnection between high and low

200 latitudes is through the atmosphere, the response of low-latitude atmospheric
201 circulation is very rapid (Schneider et al., 2014). In model studies, southward
202 movement of the ITCZ in response to imposed NH cooling occurs on the order of one
203 decade (Chiang and Friedman, 2012). Analogous to changes observed for D/O
204 events, the rapid increases in SASM (and EASM) intensity at 121 and 117 ka are
205 likely due in large part to rapid increases in ice cover and decreases in temperature
206 in the high northern latitudes that cause an almost immediate response in low-
207 latitude atmospheric circulation. Thus, the observed low and high latitude climate
208 changes are essentially synchronous.

209

210 **4.2 Comparison to other records**

211 **4.2.1 Comparison to changes in East Asian Summer Monsoon**

212 Our record of SASM changes over the transition from MIS 5.5 to 5.4 is mirrored to a
213 remarkable degree by observed changes in the East Asian Monsoon (Fig. 2) as
214 recorded in stalagmites from Dongge Cave in China (Kelly et al., 2006). These
215 records are shown on independent chronologies established by U/Th dating, but
216 with the scale for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ for Dongge inverted (Fig. 2). During the latter stages of MIS
217 5.5, the SASM is in a dry phase, while the EASM is in a wet phase. Isotopic values for
218 both speleothems are fairly constant during MIS 5.5, with the exception of a small
219 decrease of about 0.8 ‰ in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in Huagapo Cave that is mirrored by an
220 increase of about 0.5 ‰ in Hulu. Both D3 and P10-H1 show a rapid change of more
221 than 2 ‰ at 120.8 ± 0.5 ka, with a sudden increase in SASM intensity and decrease
222 in EASM intensity. In both records, the majority of this change occurs over less than

223 600 y and possibly as fast as 200 y. The absolute chronologies of these two tropical
224 speleothems indicate the end of the last interglacial period was associated with a
225 very large, rapid change in tropical hydrology that is synchronous in both
226 hemispheres within the error of the chronologies. The age estimate for rapid
227 climatic change that marks the end of the last interglacial period in Peru and Dongge
228 Cave is also within dating error of speleothems from China, 119 ± 0.6 ka, the
229 European Alps 118 ± 2 ka (Meyer et al., 2008) and the Eastern Mediterranean, $119 \pm$
230 3 ka (Bar-Matthews et al., 2003). Following this rapid shift is a period of slower
231 change from 121-117 during which both isotopic time series parallel their
232 respective summer insolation curves (Fig. 2). A second rapid shift is observed at
233 117 ka (117.5 in Dongge) with the SASM further strengthening and the EAM further
234 weakening.

235

236 **4.2.2 Comparison to ice core records**

237 Figure 3 shows the P10-H1 data along with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of ice from the NGRIP ice core, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
238 of values of atmospheric oxygen from the Vostok ice core and atmospheric methane
239 concentrations from the EPICA dome C core. To incorporate more broadly the P10-
240 H1 data with later changes in the SASM, we spliced data from stalagmite BT2 from
241 Botuvera Cave in southern Brazil (Cruz et al., 2005) to the end of the P10-H1 record.
242 As is the case for P10-H1, the oxygen isotopic values of BT2 are primarily a function
243 of the intensity rainfall in the SASM (Cruz et al., 2005). The growth period of BT2
244 overlaps growth of P10-H1 for about 2000 y. To put both data sets onto a common
245 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ scale, 12.5 ‰ was subtracted from the BT2 values, yielding very similar values

246 for the period of overlap. The BT2 age model was also adjusted for part of the record
247 presented here. Stalagmite BT2 has only four age measurements over the oldest 35
248 ky of deposition and the errors for these ages are all greater than 2% (Cruz et al.,
249 2005). The large isotopic shift at the start of GIS 24 is very well dated in
250 speleothems from Dongge Cave in China (Kelly et al., 2006) and the European Alps
251 (Boch et al., 2011). Therefore, the age of this shift in BT2 was adjusted to 108.0 ka to
252 match the better-dated records. The age adjustment ranges from a maximum of
253 2700 years at this shift, and decreases to 0 years for ages younger than 102 ka and
254 older than 114 ka. The portion of overlap between BT2 and P10-H1 was not
255 adjusted.

256

257 The addition of a record of SASM intensity over the period of glacial inception and
258 the early glacial period leads to the following observations. The GISs 23, 24 and 25
259 all appear to have a global signal, with increases in atmospheric methane and a
260 decrease in SASM intensity associated with each. Nearly every D/O event found in
261 the ice cores and speleothems is coupled with a parallel change in atmospheric
262 methane (Chappellaz et al., 2013), with Greenland interstadials associated with
263 higher methane concentrations. This relationship is also clearly present in the
264 earliest stages of the glacial period, with GISs 24, 25, and 26 expressed as positive
265 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ excursions in H09-10b, and increases in methane concentrations in the Vostock
266 and EPICA Dome C ice cores (Fig. 3). By aligning the rapid changes in methane with
267 rapid changes in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the speleothems, a chronology for changes in atmospheric
268 gas concentrations can be established that is independent of age models for the ice

269 cores themselves and independent of the lag in the age of trapped gases with
270 respect to the ice itself. Based on the observed relationship between methane
271 concentrations and millennial-scale events during MIS 3 from speleothems in the
272 region (Kanner et al., 2012), the three methane peaks very likely are coeval with the
273 millennial events in the tropics and with GIS 23, 24 and 25. If so, then either the GT4
274 chronology for Antarctic ice is a few thousand years too young, or the estimated gas
275 age-ice age difference is too large by a similar amount.

276

277 Ice core atmospheric oxygen $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data from Vostock are also shown in Figure 3. The
278 $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ values reach a first minimum following MIS 5.5 that is coincident with the
279 first minimum in atmospheric methane, which the speleothem chronologies place at
280 116 ka, just at the transition from GS25 to GIS25 (Landais et al., 2006). We show the
281 EDC methane record because it is higher resolution than Vostok methane (note that
282 both are on the same timescale). The large change in tropical hydrology associated
283 with this decrease supports the hypothesis that on millennial timescales $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$
284 responds strongly to changes in the monsoons (Bender et al., 1994; Hoffmann et al.,
285 2004). It is also worth noting that in the EPICA Dome C ice core, CO_2 concentrations
286 remain above 260 ppmv through the entire observed decrease in methane from 130
287 ka to 113 ka (GT4 timescale, or \sim 115 ka using the stalagmite timescale). Thus, CO_2
288 remains above 260 ppmv during the entire period of NH cooling and ice growth
289 through the first minimum in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in stalagmites P10-H1 and D3 in Peru and China,
290 respectively. These results are in accord with modeling studies that suggest that

291 orbital forcing alone is sufficient to result in the growth of ice sheets in the Northern
292 hemisphere.

293

294 The timing of glacial inception recorded in the speleothems in both hemispheres,
295 however, is considerably earlier, and, therefore, under conditions of higher summer
296 insolation than is usually used in modeling studies. Modeling results indicate that
297 tropical hydrology responds very rapidly to ice sheet expansion (Chiang and Bitz,
298 2005; Broccoli et al., 2006). Thus it is reasonable to infer from the speleothem $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
299 records that a rapid ice sheet growth began as early as 120 ka, at approximately the
300 mid-point in the insolation curve for NH summer insolation.

301

302 **4.3 Implications for sea-level reconstructions**

303 The speleothem $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ data and the accuracy of the dating of the curves, also have
304 implications for the timing of sea-level changes thought to have taken place during
305 MIS 5.5 and at the 5.5 to 5.4 transition. A number of studies have concluded that
306 there was a rapid sea-level rise near the end of MIS 5.5 (O'Leary et al., 2013; Dutton
307 and Lambeck, 2012; Thompson et al., 2011). This rise is thought to have been the
308 result of a rapid melting event in the high Northern latitudes. If so, it is likely that
309 this event would have impacted tropical hydrology, just as millennial scale events
310 did during glacial periods. We observe a nearly 1 per mille increase in speleothem
311 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in our Huagapo Cave record at 123 ka, coincident with an ~ 0.5 per mille
312 decrease in the Hulu cave record (Kelly et al., 2006). These data suggest a
313 significant weakening in the SASM and strengthening of the EASM, as models predict

314 for a warming of the high N latitudes and decrease in ice cover there. We suggest
315 that the abrupt change in tropical hydrology is associated with the late MIS 5.5 sea-
316 level change observed in other archives.

317

318 A related question is the timing of ice accumulation and sea-level fall at the end of
319 MIS 5.5. The speleothem records indicate that the end of MIS 5.5 in the tropics,
320 marked by a rapid weakening of the EASM and strengthening of the SASM, occurred
321 at 120.8 ± 0.4 ka (dating errors on P10-01 are less than 400 y, those for speleothems
322 D3 and D4 from Hulu are ~ 1000 y). We infer that these changes in the monsoon are
323 a direct response to high northern latitude cooling and increasing ice cover. In
324 contrast, coral records of the timing of the end of MIS 5.5 indicate that sea-level
325 remained at or above present sea-level until 115-117 ka (O'Leary et al., 2013;
326 Dutton and Lambeck, 2012; Thompson et al., 2011). While it is not possible to
327 make a direct estimate of sea-level fall from the speleothem records, it is unlikely
328 that the very large changes in tropical hydrology observed could have taken place
329 without at least several meters of sea-level equivalent ice growth. Thus, we suggest
330 that the coral ages used to estimate the timing of sea-level fall are several thousand
331 years too young, and are more impacted by diagenesis and the uncertainty in
332 seawater $\delta^{234}\text{U}$ than is commonly recognized.

333

334 **5. Conclusions**

335 A speleothem recovered from Huagapo cave in the Peruvian Andes records
336 variations in the intensity of South American Summer Monsoon rainfall in the

337 Amazon Basin from 125-114 ka, covering the transition from the penultimate
338 interglacial period to the following glacial period. SASM rainfall was relatively low
339 during the latter part of MIS 5.5, but increased rapidly at 120.8 ka as rapidly
340 decreasing temperatures and increasing ice cover in the high northern latitudes,
341 marking the beginning of the last glacial period, pushed the mean position of the
342 ITCZ to the south. By 116.8 ka the SASM intensity was as high as at any point during
343 the entire last glacial period. Both the timing and pattern of changes in the SASM
344 are mirrored to a high degree of fidelity by anti-phase changes in the East Asian
345 Summer Monsoon. The timing of these changes in tropical hydrology thus reveals
346 the nature of the interglacial to glacial transition at low latitudes. A full tropical
347 'glacial' state was reached before any decrease in atmospheric CO₂, suggesting that
348 insolation forcing alone is sufficient to terminate interglacial periods.

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 517

Table 1. ²³⁰Th dating results P10-H1.

Sample	²³⁸ U		²³² Th		²³⁰ Th / ²³² Th		d ²³⁴ U*		²³⁰ Th / ²³⁸ U		²³⁰ Th Age (yr)		²³⁰ Th Age (yr)		d ²³⁴ U _{Initial} **		²³⁰ Th Age (yr BP)***	
Depth (mm)	(ppb)		(ppt)		(atomic x10 ⁻⁶)		(measured)		(activity)		(uncorrected)		(corrected)		(corrected)		(corrected)	
								±										
11	338.8	0.5	1529	± 31	13890.2	±278	4,189.4	5.8	3.8023	0.0068	115,696	±373	115677	±373	5806.6	±10	115617	±373
45	407.4	±0.4	1242	±25	19793.7	±397	3958.2	±3.7	3.6593	0.0058	117197	±314	117125	±314	5258	±11	117065	±314
80	50.6	±0.1	128	±3	25978	±522	4351.9	±4.2	3.9865	0.0056	118503	±294	118493	±294	6080	±8	118433	±294
105	612.5	±0.7	48	±2	828184	±26136	4324	±4	3.9716	0.0060	118803	±305	118802	±424	6046	±7	118740	±424
144	404.5	±0.5	1658	±33	15959	±320	4306	±5	3.9679	0.0060	119264	±325	119247	±325	6029	±9	119187	±325
194	487.2	±0.6	2128	±43	14944	±300	4260.8	±4.3	3.9600	0.0057	120519	±311	120500	±311	5987	±8	120440	±311
212	416.1	±0.5	1139	±23	24631	±495	4368	±4	4.0887	0.0061	122641	±320	121629	±442	6175	±8	121567	±442
231	676.0	±0.8	7134	±143	6391	±128	4366.4	±4.1	4.0908	0.0059	122811	±314	122769	±316	6174	±8	122709	±316
253	491.7	±0.6	7723	±155	4372	±88	4420.1	±4.5	4.1651	0.0060	124317	±328	124254	±330	6277	±9	124194	±330
290	509	±1	789	±16	45053.9	±908	4487.8	±4.7	4.2334	0.0075	125006	±390	124999	±390	6386	±10	124939	±390

The error is 2s error. * $\delta^{234}\text{U} = ([^{234}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}]_{\text{activity}} - 1) \times 1000$. ** $\delta^{234}\text{U}_{\text{initial}}$ was calculated based on ²³⁰Th age (T), i.e., $\delta^{234}\text{U}_{\text{initial}} = \delta^{234}\text{U}_{\text{measured}} \times e^{-234\lambda T}$. Corrected ²³⁰Th ages assume the initial ²³⁰Th/²³²Th atomic ratio of $4.4 \pm 2.2 \times 10^{-6}$. Those are the values for a material at secular equilibrium, with the bulk earth ²³²Th/²³⁸U value of 3.8. The errors are arbitrarily assumed to be 50%.

***B.P. stands for “Before Present” where the “Present” is defined as the year 1950 A.D.

Figure captions

Figure 1. Age versus depth for stalagmite P10-H1. Error bars are 2 sigma.

Figure 2. $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for P10-H1 from Huagapo Cave in Peru plotted together with $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for stalagmites from Hulu Cave in China (Kelly et al., 2006) and the insolation curve for 10°S in January (Berger, 1978).

Figure 3. Oxygen isotope proxies for changes in the intensity of the South American Summer Monsoon, SASM (Cruz et al., 2005 and this paper), East Asian Monsoon, EASM (Kelly et al., 2006) and Greenland temperatures, NGRIP (Andersen et al., 2004), atmospheric methane concentrations from the Epica Dome C ice core (Spahni et al., 2005) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values for atmospheric oxygen from the Vostok ice core (Petit et al., 1999). The records are all on independent timescales.

Figure 1.

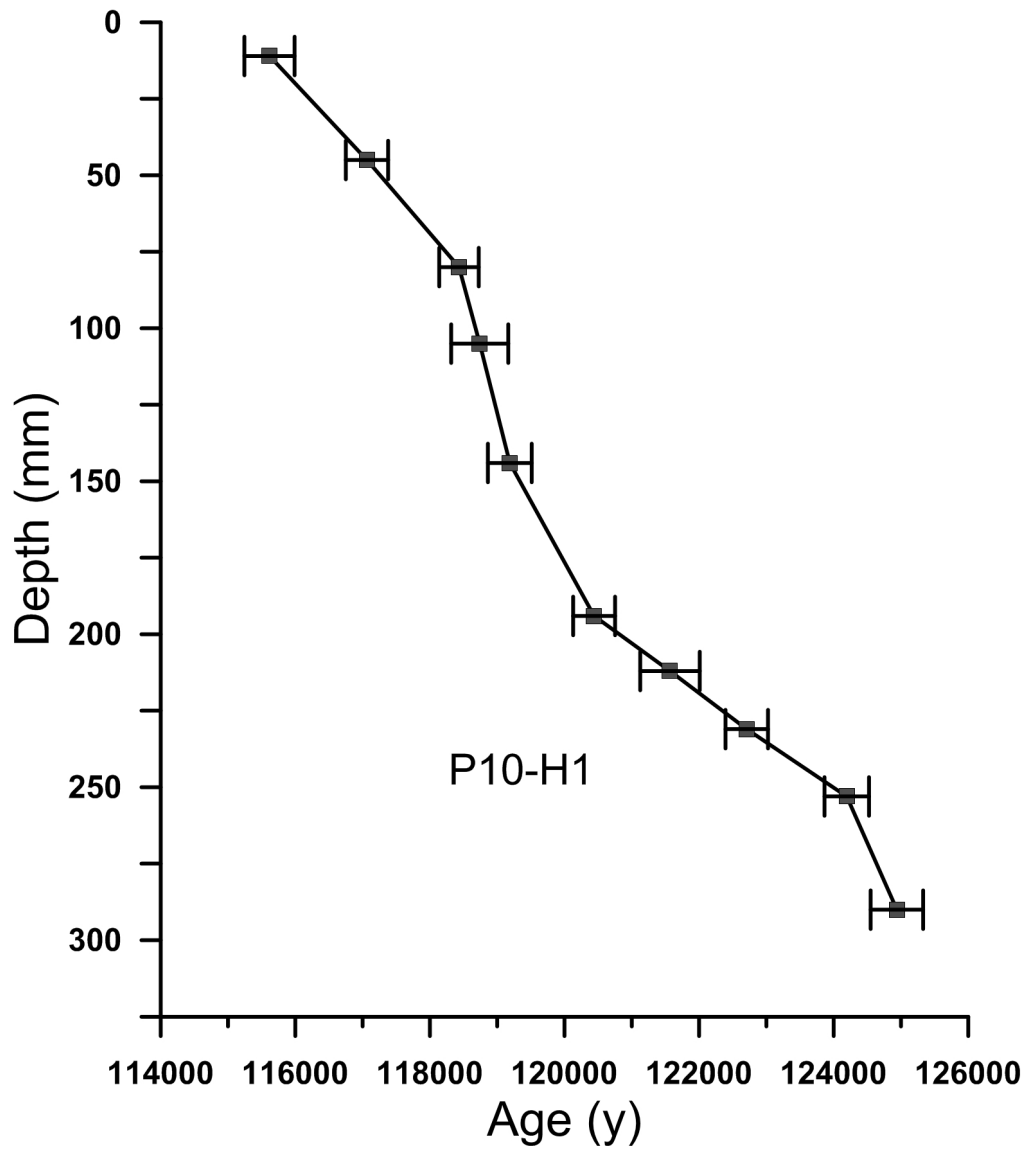


Figure 2

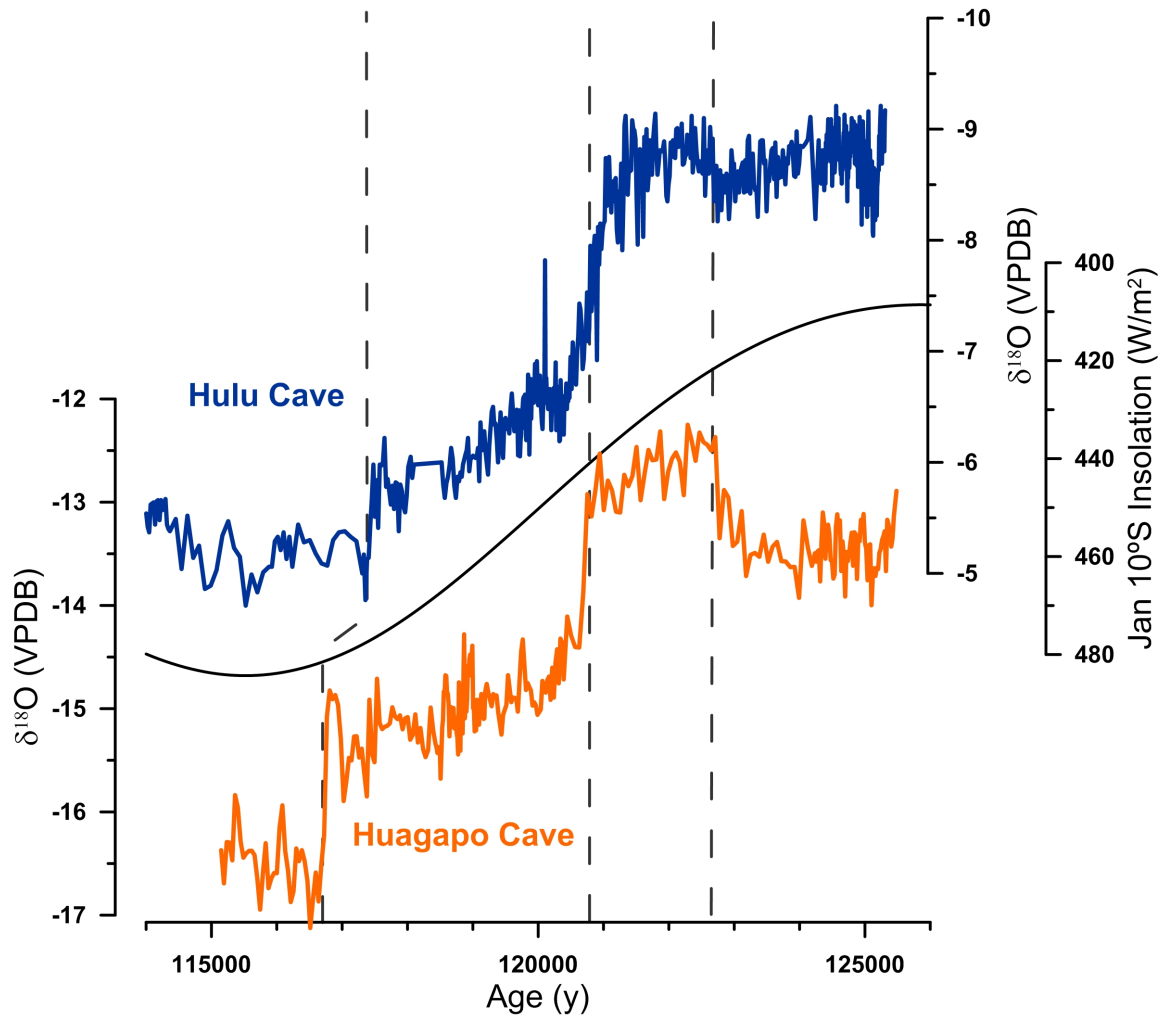


Figure 3

