

1 **Volcanic synchronization of Dome Fuji and Dome C**  
2 **Antarctic deep ice cores over the past 216 kyr**

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15

16 **Abstract**

17 Two deep ice cores, Dome Fuji (DF) and EPICA Dome C (EDC), drilled at remote dome  
18 summits in Antarctica, were synchronized to improve our understanding of their chronologies.  
19 Within the past 216 kyr, 1401 volcanic tie points have been identified. DFO2006 is the  
20 chronology for the DF core that strictly follows  $O_2/N_2$  age constraints with interpolation using  
21 an ice flow model. AICC2012 is the chronology for five cores including the EDC core, and is  
22 characterized by glaciological approaches combining ice flow modelling with various age  
23 markers. A precise comparison between the two chronologies was performed. The age  
24 differences between them are within 2 kyr, except at Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 5. DFO2006  
25 gives ages older than AICC2012, with peak values of a difference of 4.5 kyr and 3.1 kyr at  
26 MIS 5d and MIS 5b, respectively. Accordingly, the ratios of duration (AICC2012/DFO2006)  
27 range between 1.4 at MIS 5e and 0.7 at MIS 5a. When making a comparison with accurately  
28 dated speleothem records, the age of DFO2006 agrees well at MIS5d, while the age of

1 AICC2012 agrees well at MIS5b, supporting their accuracy at these stages. In addition, we  
2 found that glaciological approaches tend to give chronologies with younger ages and with  
3 longer durations than age markers suggest at MIS 5d-6. Therefore, we hypothesize that the  
4 causes of the DFO2006/AICC2012 age differences at MIS 5 are: (i) overestimation in surface  
5 mass balance at around MIS 5d-6 in the glaciological approach and (ii) an error in one of the  
6 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age constraints by ~3 kyr at MIS 5b. Overall, we improved our knowledge of the  
7 timing and duration of climatic stages at MIS 5. This new understanding will be incorporated  
8 into the production of the next common age scale. Additionally, we find that the deuterium  
9 signals at DF and EDC lead at MIS 5d-5e and at ~200 kyr BP, respectively, which should be  
10 discussed comprehensively.

11

## 12 **1 Introduction**

13 Ice-core records are rich archives of climate history over time scales of glacial-interglacial  
14 cycles up to ~800 kyr before present (BP) (e.g., EPICA Community Members, 2004;  
15 Kawamura et al., 2007; Petit et al., 1999). In ice core studies, dating is a central issue that  
16 must be investigated in order to better constrain the timing, sequence and duration of past  
17 climatic events and stages (e.g., Bazin et al., 2013; Kawamura et al., 2007; Parrenin et al.,  
18 2004, 2007a; Veres et al., 2013; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2010). Good age-models are in  
19 general important in paleoclimatology, not only for Antarctic ice cores, because ice core  
20 chronologies are often cited and used in paleoclimatic studies. Recently, efforts to establish a  
21 common age scale of several Antarctic ice cores (Vostok, EPICA Dome C (EDC), EPICA  
22 Dronning Maud Land (EDML) and Talos Dome (TALDICE)) have been made (Bazin et al.,  
23 2013; Lemieux-Dudon et al., 2010; Veres et al., 2013). The latest common age scale is called  
24 the Antarctic Ice Core Chronology 2012 (AICC2012). For the past 60 kyr, the age scale was  
25 constrained by layer counting of Greenland's ice cores (see Veres et al., 2013). For ice older  
26 than 60 kyr, dating of Antarctic cores is based on various approaches combining ice flow  
27 modelling with orbital tuning age markers and other age markers. Typical orbital tuning  
28 markers include the isotopic composition of oxygen (hereinafter,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ ) from air bubbles,  
29 total air content (TAC), and the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> ratios of occluded air. Typical maximum age  
30 uncertainties of these markers are claimed to be ~6 kyr, ~4 kyr (Bazin et al., 2013) and ~2 kyr  
31 (Kawamura et al., 2007; Parrenin et al., 2007b; Hutterli et al., 2009), respectively, although  
32 some studies suggest that larger errors can occur in some O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> ratio age markers (e.g.,

1 Hutterli et al., 2009; Landais et al., 2012). As a result, age uncertainties depend on the  
2 availability and choice of these kinds of age markers for each of the deep ice cores such as  
3 EDC (Parrenin et al., 2007a), Vostok (Parrenin et al., 2004; Suwa and Bender, 2008) and DF  
4 ice cores (Kawamura et al., 2007, Parrenin et al., 2007a). To better constrain common age  
5 scales, synchronization of deep ice cores using common events such as volcanic markers is a  
6 very important task.

7 Usually in ice core studies, electrical conductivity measurements are performed first because  
8 such methods are useful in quickly locating positions of volcanic events in the ice cores.  
9 These methods include electrical conductivity measurement (ECM) (e.g., Hammer, 1980;  
10 Wolff, 2000), dielectric profile (DEP) (e.g., Moore and Paren, 1987; Wilhelms et al., 1998)  
11 and ACECM (e.g., Fujita et al., 2002c). ACECM is a method to detect the complex  
12 admittance between electrodes dragged on the ice surface with a mm-scale resolution and at 1  
13 MHz frequency. In addition, fast ion chromatography (FIC) yields continuous records of ions  
14 including sulfate ions (Traversi et al., 2002). Although each of these electrical signals (ECM,  
15 DEP and ACECM) and signals from chemical analysis has its own characteristic, they are  
16 equally useful in locating acidic spike events in ice cores from the plateau of East Antarctica  
17 (see references given for each method above). Fallout of sulfuric acid is known to occur for  
18 one or more years following eruptions due to its residence time in the atmosphere (e.g., Gao  
19 et al., 2006; Hammer et al., 1980). Volcanic signals found in an Antarctic ice core can  
20 originate either from volcanoes located in the middle southern latitudes (e.g., South America  
21 and the South Pacific) and the high southern latitudes (the Antarctic continent and the  
22 subantarctic islands), or from volcanoes located in the low latitudes of either hemisphere (e.g.,  
23 Cole-Dai et al., 2000). Additionally, a low-latitude eruption must be sufficiently explosive to  
24 inject volcanic materials directly into the stratosphere in order for its aerosols to be  
25 transported to the polar atmosphere and deposited in Antarctic snow (e.g., Cole-Dai et al.,  
26 2000). These signals of volcanic events are very useful in synchronizing ice cores. For  
27 example, the EDC core has been volcanically synchronized with other major ice cores: with  
28 the Vostok ice core by 102 tie points covering 142 kyr BP (Parrenin et al., 2012), with the  
29 EDML ice core by ~320 tie points covering 150 kyr BP (Ruth et al., 2007; Severi et al., 2007),  
30 and with the TALDICE core by ~130 tie points covering 42 kyr BP (Severi et al., 2012).  
31 These tie points are used to build a common chronology (Bazin et al., 2013; Veres et al.,  
32 2013). We note that Bazin et al. (2013) also used gas stratigraphic links in addition to ice  
33 stratigraphic links.

1 The DF core was drilled at the dome summit in the Dronning Maud Land in East Antarctica,  
2 located at 77 °19 'S, 39 °42 'E (Figure 1) (Watanabe et al., 1999). The elevation is 3800 m  
3 relative to the WGS84 geoid, and the ice thickness is 3028 ( $\pm 15$ ) m (Fujita et al., 1999). The  
4 EDC core was drilled at one of the dome summits located at 75 °06 'S, 123 °21 'E, ~2000 km  
5 away from DF (Figure 1) (EPICA Community Members, 2004). The elevation of EDC is  
6 ~570 m lower than DF at 3233 m at WGS84, and the ice thickness is 3273 ( $\pm 5$ ) m (Parrenin et  
7 al., 2007b). In the published original age scale of the DF core called DFO2006 (Kawamura et  
8 al., 2007), there are 23 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers at an age span of between 80 kyr BP and 340 kyr  
9 BP. These O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> constraints were interpolated by ice flow modelling. Therefore,  
10 synchronization between the DF core and the EDC core means that the chronology strictly  
11 constrained by the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers of the DF core can be compared with AICC2012, the  
12 chronology for five cores including the EDC core, and characterized by glaciological  
13 approaches combining ice flow modelling with various age markers (Bazin et al., 2013; Veres  
14 et al., 2013). In the AICC2012 chronology, for the period of the past 216 kyr studied in this  
15 paper, ice age markers of TAC and the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> ratio were used from the EDC core and the  
16 Vostok core, respectively. In addition, gas age markers of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  have been used from the  
17 EDC, Vostok and TALDICE cores. These gas age markers were linked to the age of ice  
18 through assumptions of firn thickness and the lock-in depths of air. Note here that gas is  
19 trapped in polar ice sheets at 50–120 m below the surface, and the gas age is therefore  
20 younger than the age of the surrounding ice (ice age). Based on the DF-EDC synchronization  
21 in this paper, a precise comparison between the two age scales (DFO2006 and AICC2012)  
22 can be made, which is a major step toward improving our understanding of the chronology of  
23 Antarctic ice cores for the period over the past 216 kyr. In addition, Parrenin et al. (in review)  
24 reconstruct past changes in the ratio of surface mass balance (SMB ratio) between DF and  
25 EDC sites, based on the DF-EDC synchronization in this paper, and on corrections for the  
26 vertical thinning of layers.

27

## 28 **2 Methods**

### 29 **2.1 Datasets**

30 At each of the two sites described above, two deep ice cores have been drilled. At DF, the  
31 first core (DF1 core) was recovered during the period 1992-1998 to a depth of 2503 m

1 (Watanabe et al., 2003). The second 3035-m-long core (DF2 core), reaching nearly to the ice  
2 sheet bed, was drilled in the period 2004-2007 at a site ~43 m away from the DF1 borehole  
3 (Motoyama, 2007). At EDC, the first core (EDC96 core) was started in the 1996/1997 season  
4 to a depth down to 790 m. The second 3270-m-long core (EDC99 core), reaching nearly to  
5 the ice sheet bed, was started during the 1999/2000 season at a site 10 m away from the  
6 EDC96 core (EPICA Community Members, 2004). Ice core signals from these four cores  
7 were used in the synchronization work in this study. From these ice cores, we used data  
8 profiles indicative of strong acids originated from large volcanic eruptions (see Table 1).  
9 Resolutions are from 1 to 4 cm. For all these cores, depth determinations were based on the  
10 widely used method of logging of ice cores (e.g., Fujita et al., 2002a).

## 11 **2.2 Method of synchronization**

12 First, by using depth-profile graphs of the datasets described above and comparing between  
13 them, major tie points were extracted manually. Typically, we attempted to extract a tie point  
14 within at least each 5 m of depth, although this was not always possible. In glacial periods,  
15 there is often a lack of convincing tie points—presumably because of the frequent  
16 loss/disturbance of annual layers due to reworking of the snow surface by wind scouring  
17 under lower accumulation rate conditions and possible accumulation hiatuses, which remove  
18 the distinct volcanic layers. At an initial stage, ~650 tie points were extracted down to a depth  
19 of ~2180 m for both cores, using prominent peaks often common between ice core signals  
20 from different ice cores, and they often provided initial hints to recognize matching patterns  
21 of tie points. Tie points were found as patterns of appearance in ice core signals versus depth.  
22 This method of detection using pattern matching made us confident about identifying the  
23 candidate tie points. At deeper depths, there are still more tie point candidates, but they were  
24 excluded from this study because it became difficult to find candidate tie points due to the  
25 smoothing of signals by the diffusion of acid peaks (e.g., Barnes et al., 2003; Fujita et al.,  
26 2002c). Thus, we plan to perform detailed analysis of synchronization for deeper depths only  
27 in the future. Second, a semiautomatic computer-aided synchronization interface was  
28 constructed (see Figure A1 in Appendix A). Based on the initial ~650 major tie points, as  
29 many plausible minor tie point peaks as possible were extracted using the interface. A final  
30 determination was made by an operator who evaluated patterns of matching by careful  
31 observation of the shape, size and synchronicity of the candidate peaks. Using the PC  
32 interface, 1401 tie points were extracted. We note that even for cores at the same site (such as

1 EDC96 and EDC99, DF1 and DF2), there are variable relative depth offsets caused by  
2 borehole inclinations, cumulative small errors of ice core logging, fractures, post-coring  
3 relaxations of the core and surface snow redeposition processes such as sastrugi. Thanks to a  
4 successful synchronisation, the offsets were also extracted (data not shown) to avoid any  
5 complexity caused by the variable relative depth offsets between cores at the same dome sites.  
6 For the EDC core, we converted all depths into depths equivalent to the DEP data of the  
7 EDC99 core because these data cover the longest continuous depth span at EDC. We also  
8 converted all the DF2 depths into equivalent depths of the DF1 core. The heights of the peak  
9 signals were highly variable due to spatially and temporally heterogeneous depositional  
10 conditions by winds on the surface of the ice sheet (Barnes et al., 2006, Kameda et al., 2008,  
11 Wolff et al., 2005). However, synchronization was always conducted by finding patterns of  
12 peaks regardless of peak height. When the patterns of data fluctuations (locations of multiple  
13 peaks of signals in terms of relative depth) agreed between two or more sets of data at DF and  
14 EDC, they were extracted as tie points with confidence even if some of the peaks in the  
15 pattern matching were small. When we synchronized volcanically between the EDC core and  
16 the DF core, the ECM data of the Vostok ice core (Parrenin et al., 2012) were also  
17 synchronized at the same time. See the graph of Vostok ECM data in the interface in Figure  
18 A1. Between DF and Vostok, and between EDC and Vostok, we identified more than 800 tie  
19 points covering the past 140 kyr. The simultaneous nature of the synchronization work for the  
20 three deep ice cores provided an opportunity for crosschecks (triple check of the pattern  
21 among DF, EDC and Vostok), and we were able to identify tie points confidently. Assessment  
22 of the confidence associated with the 1401 tie points is given in Appendix B of this paper. In  
23 Figure 2, we provide an example of a set of extracted tie points over a depth span of  
24 approximately 20 m. In addition, in Supplementary Information A, we provide 79 sets of  
25 graphs showing all records of the synchronization covering the past 216 kyr. In this paper, the  
26 Vostok data are not developed in order to focus our discussions on the relations between the  
27 two dome sites at DF and EDC. We also note that tephra matches were not used in the  
28 synchronization work because among deep ice cores from East Antarctica (DF, EDC and  
29 Vostok), tephra layers that were identified from the same origins (eruptions) were rare (see  
30 Narcisi et al., 2005). In this paper, we compare several examples of the tephra matches with  
31 matches of the volcanic marker (acidic) peaks.

32

## 1 **3 Results**

### 2 **3.1 Features of the tie points**

3 The EDC-DF volcanic matching consists of 1401 depth tie points (Figure 2 and all records of  
4 synchronization in Supplementary Information A). Data are distributed heterogeneously in  
5 time on a time-series graph (Figure 3). In Figure 3, depths of the tie points in each ice core are  
6 plotted versus time using a single common age scale. In the present case, we tentatively use  
7 the DFO2006 scale at the bottom axis with the AICC2012 scale at the top axis as a reference.  
8 In Figure 3, the variations in the slope on the profiles are due to variable surface mass balance  
9 (SMB) multiplied by thinning effects after deposition. For the periods of MIS 3 and 5, a  
10 relatively large number of tie points were found, typically 10-20 points over every 1 kyr  
11 (Figure 3 bottom). The variations in the number of tie points are due to the variable number of  
12 major volcanic eruptions, variable atmospheric circulation on the earth, variable depositional  
13 environment such as SMB, possible signal diffusion effects in ice after deposition and  
14 variable number of datasets available for the synchronization work. It became harder to find  
15 tie points in the deeper part of the cores, in particular in some cold periods such as MIS 6 (see  
16 Figure 3). This was presumably because of the frequent occurrence of periods of very low  
17 surface accumulation or accumulation hiatuses during MIS 6 and additional effects from  
18 diffusion of sulfuric acid in ice.

19 We note that the previous interglacial period (i.e. 120-130 kyr BP) has about twice the  
20 number of match points as the Holocene (i.e. 0-10 kyr BP). Because the availability of  
21 datasets depends on depth range (see Table 1), the number of tie points for each time span  
22 does not simply reflect the occurrence frequency of large volcanic eruptions. From the ice  
23 sheet surface to a depth close to 900 m, no dataset from DF2 core was available for  
24 synchronization. We speculate that this situation limited the number of identified tie points.

### 25 **3.2 Difference between the age scales DFO2006 and AICC2012**

26 From these 1401 tie points, we can calculate the difference in age scales of the DF core and  
27 the EDC core. The differences in age scales are given in Figure 4a. We find that for the  
28 periods of MIS 1-4, 6 and 7a, the difference ranges between 0 and -2.0 kyr. Here, positive  
29 (negative) values mean that the DFO2006 chronology tends to have older (younger) ages than  
30 the AICC2012 chronology. In the period of MIS 5, the difference ranges between 0 and +4.5

1 kyr. The fact that the DFO2006 chronology is older than the AICC2012 chronology at the last  
2 interglacial had already been observed by Bazin et al. (2013) (see their Figure 7), and we  
3 confirmed it based on precise synchronization. A remarkable feature is that the age difference  
4 has peak values of +4.5 kyr and +3.1 kyr at timings of MIS 5d and MIS 5b, respectively.  
5 Before MIS 5d and after MIS 5b, differences decrease from the peak values, but cover the  
6 entire MIS 5 and the late stage of MIS 6 (age younger than ~150 kyr BP).

### 7 **3.3 Difference in event durations between DFO2006 and AICC2012 age scales**

8 We also investigated the difference in durations of climatic stages or events (of various time  
9 scales) between DFO2006 and AICC2012. In Figure 4a, the variable slope of the red profiles  
10 is related to the ratio of duration of the same climatic event on DFO2006 and AICC2012. A  
11 positive (negative) slope from the past toward present means longer (shorter) durations on  
12 AICC2012 compared to those on DFO2006. In Figure 4b, ratios of duration (in this paper  
13 called the duration ratio) between AICC2012 and DFO2006 ages are calculated by dividing  
14 durations in AICC2012 by durations in DFO2006 at each interval of the 1401 tie points. A  
15 smoothed line (50-point smoothing of the raw data (dots)), shows the mean tendency. The  
16 duration ratio has large fluctuations. The smallest value (0.7) and largest value (1.4) are found  
17 at MIS 5a and MIS 5e, respectively. The duration ratio is relatively stable between the  
18 Holocene and MIS 4 (94.2 kyr BP) with a  $\sigma$  (standard deviation) value of 0.08. Between MIS  
19 5 and the late stage of MIS 6 (from 150 kyr BP to 94.2 kyr BP),  $\sigma$  is 0.18. Between 216 kyr  
20 BP and 150 kyr BP,  $\sigma$  is 0.10. Clearly, fluctuation of the duration ratio is large between MIS 5  
21 and the late stage of MIS 6.

22 In addition, the duration ratio between several discrete intervals are given in Table 3. As  
23 discrete intervals, we used the two different time scales equivalent to depths of the  $O_2/N_2$  age  
24 markers of the DF core (see Figure 4b and Table 2). In intervals of the precessional cycles of  
25 the  $O_2/N_2$  age markers (9-14 kyr), the difference in durations ranges approximately within  $\pm 3$   
26 kyr.

27

## 28 **4 Discussions**

29 We first describe what may potentially cause the age differences. After that, phasing between  
30 the deuterium records is described. We also examine compatibility between several examples



1 of the tephra matches and the matches of the volcanic marker (acidic) peaks. The age scale for  
2 the DF core, DFO2006, is an interpolation between the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age constraints using  
3 glaciological ice flow modelling (Kawamura et al., 2007). In contrast, the age scale  
4 AICC2012 is the best compromise between a background chronology (based on modelling of  
5 the SMB, snow densification into ice and ice flow) and observations (absolute ages or certain  
6 reference horizons, and stratigraphic links among several cores and orbital ages) (Bazin et al.,  
7 2013). AICC2012 is more a “glaciological chronology” than DFO2006 is because it gives  
8 more weight on the glaciological sedimentation models. Therefore, the age differences  
9 between the two chronologies are caused by both dating approaches and the complex effects  
10 from elements used in the dating approaches. To understand the age differences, we should  
11 consider: (i) errors in age constraints, (ii) SMB errors, (iii) errors in estimation of ice thinning,  
12 (iv) possible propagation of the errors through stratigraphic links, and (v) effects from  
13 differences in the dating approaches.

#### 14 **4.1 Examination of chronologies in terms of age markers**

##### 15 **4.1.1 Comparison of the DFO2006/AICC2012 ages with the ages of the** 16 **absolutely dated speleothem records from China**

17 In order to examine possible causes of the DFO2006/AICC2012 age differences, DFO2006  
18 and AICC2012 ages are compared with the ages of the absolutely dated speleothem records  
19 from China (hereinafter referred to as speleo age) (Cheng et al., 2009) based on  
20 synchronization between the EDC core record and the Chinese speleothem records (Barker et  
21 al., 2011) and on the DF-EDC volcanic synchronization. The ages of speleothems from  
22 Sanbao Cave were determined using the <sup>230</sup>Th dating technique by Cheng et al. (2009).  
23 Speleothem synchronization makes the assumption that rapid changes in speleothem δ<sup>18</sup>O are  
24 synchronous with rapid changes in the temperatures in Greenland, which were in turn  
25 deduced as the inflection points in the Antarctic deuterium record. Details of the comparison  
26 are given in Figure 4d. At MIS 1-5a, 5e and 6, both chronologies (DFO2006 and AICC2012)  
27 are within 2 kyr of the speleo age. At MIS 5b, the speleo age and the AICC2012 ages agree  
28 quite well, whereas only the DFO2006 age deviates by up to 3 kyr. In contrast, at MIS 5d, the  
29 speleo age and the DFO2006 ages agree quite well, whereas only the AICC2012 age deviates  
30 by up to 4 kyr. At MIS 7a, the DFO2006 and the AICC2012 ages agree well, whereas only  
31 the speleo age deviates by up to 4 kyr. However, the features used to match the speleothem

1 with the EDC deuterium at this depth are ambiguous, so it is possible that the matching  
2 process at this depth is in error. In summary, based on the comparison with the ages of the  
3 absolutely dated speleothem records, we suggest as follows.

4 (i) Except at MIS 5b and MIS 7a, the DFO2006 chronology is supported by the absolutely  
5 dated speleothem records from China. At MIS 5b, DFO2006, one of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers  
6 with the ID F4 at 94.2 (±1.4) kyr BP (on DFO2006), deviates from the speleothem ages by  
7 about 3 kyr toward the older direction. On the other hand, in the interval 0-100 kyr BP, the  
8 AICC2012 and speleothem ages agree very well. Thus, from this comparison, it is very likely  
9 that one of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers at 94.2 (±1.4) kyr BP at MIS 5b is a major source of error.

10 (ii) Except at MIS 5d and MIS 7a, AICC2012 chronology is supported by the speleothem  
11 records. At MIS 5d, AICC2012 deviates from the speleothem ages by about 4 kyr toward the  
12 younger direction. On the other hand, at MIS 5d, the DFO2006 and speleothem ages agree  
13 very well. Thus, it is very likely that an error in AICC2012 age at MIS 5d is a major source of  
14 the DFO2006/AICC2012 age differences.

15 (iii) At MIS 7a, only the absolute speleothem age deviates. This may suggest that an incorrect  
16 matching between the speleothem and ice core rapid changes has been made. It is important to  
17 remember that even absolute ages will induce an error if they are applied incorrectly.

18 In addition, we find another feature of the DFO2006 chronology to support the belief that the  
19 94.2 (±1.4) kyr BP age at MIS 5b is in error. In Figure 4e, we show the thicknesses of annual  
20 layers in the ice sheet, calculated from a relation between depth and age. We find a sharp step  
21 of the annual layer thickness at 94.2 kyr BP. Such a step can appear only when ice flow  
22 modelling requires a different annual layer thickness before and after the 94.2 kyr BP age  
23 constraint. We note that annual layer thickness does not have such a step at 94.2 kyr BP on  
24 the AICC2012 chronology. We also note that we still find a few other such steps at F9 and  
25 F12. However, these steps are very small compared to the step at F4. From the step at F4, we  
26 deduce that the step will become smaller if we shift the 94.2 kyr BP age constraint toward the  
27 younger direction. This agrees with the possible 3 kyr error toward the older direction  
28 identified by comparison with the speleothem records.

29 Moreover, in Figure 4b, the duration ratio has a sharp step at 94.2 kyr BP, suggesting that the  
30 age constraints with the ~3 kyr error caused a bias to the duration ratio; before (after) the 94.2  
31 kyr BP age constraint, the ratio is larger (smaller) because of the smaller (larger) denominator

1 in the AICC2012/DFO2006 duration ratio. Thus, the duration ratios at intervals F3-F4 and  
2 F4-F5 are affected by the ~3 kyr error.

3

#### 4 **4.1.2 Crosschecks between the DFO2006/AICC2012 chronologies and their** 5 **age markers**

6 To understand the possible error of -4 kyr (where minus means an error toward the younger  
7 direction) of the AICC2012 age at around MIS 5d, we perform crosschecks between the two  
8 chronologies (AICC2012 and DFO2006) and the age markers used in building these two  
9 chronologies. We calculate [DFO2006 marker ages - AICC2012 age] and [DFO2006 age -  
10 AICC2012 marker ages], and then we observe the results at around MIS 5d. The calculated  
11 results are shown as marker symbols in Figures 4a and 5a, respectively, and also given in  
12 Tables 2 and 4, respectively. Here, we examine only ice ages of the markers (such as TAC  
13 markers, O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers and some other ice age markers such as <sup>10</sup>Be, ACR-Holocene  
14 transition and volcanic tephra) and ice ages of the chronology, to avoid complications of the  
15 analysis introduced by gas age markers or gas age links. In Figure 4a, the data points are on  
16 the red dotted line of the DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference, because DFO2006 is strictly  
17 constrained by the age markers. In Figure 4a, the ID at each data point is the ID of each age  
18 marker in Table 2. Error bars are 2σ-confidence intervals of the age markers (Table 2). We  
19 have already discussed the most likely error of the 94.2 kyr BP marker at F4, and so we  
20 exclude this marker from our discussion here. We find that the DFO2006/AICC2012 age  
21 differences violate the 2σ-confidence intervals at points with IDs F5, F6 and F7. Therefore, in  
22 terms of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age constraints, the AICC2012 chronology at MIS 5d is out of the  
23 acceptable range.

24 In Figure 5a, the data points are not on the DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference (red dotted  
25 line) because AICC2012 is a glaciological time scale. In Figure 5a, the number at each data  
26 point is the ID of each age marker in Table 4. Blue symbols and green symbols are for age  
27 markers from the EDC core and the Vostok core, respectively (Bazin et al., 2013). The O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>  
28 age markers with IDs C9 and C10 are from the Vostok core, originally published by Suwa  
29 and Bender (2008). Bazin et al. (2013) attributed 4 kyr as the 2σ-confidence intervals of these  
30 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers instead of the 2 kyr intervals originally assessed by Suwa and Bender  
31 (2008). Bazin et al. (2013) used conservative values of the uncertainty because of their

1 questions about the phasing of the local insolation curve and O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> curve. However, we use  
2 here the 2 kyr intervals given by the original authors. This choice is supported partly by the  
3 fact that the DFO2006 chronology agrees well with the absolutely dated speleothem records  
4 from China except at MIS 5b and MIS 7a. We find here that the DFO2006/AICC2012 age  
5 differences nearly violate the 2 $\sigma$ -confidence intervals of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> constraints at points C9  
6 and C10; again, in terms of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age constraints, AICC2012 chronology at MIS 5d is out  
7 of the acceptable range.

8 A remarkable feature in Figure 5a is that in periods of MIS 5c, 5d and 5e, the  
9 DFO2006/AICC2012 age differences (red dotted line) are systematically larger than values of  
10 [DFO2006 age - AICC2012 marker age] by 1-3 kyr. Thus, the 1-3 kyr differences are  
11 apparently not driven by the age incompatibility between the ice age markers used for  
12 establishing the two chronologies. We should examine remaining possibilities.

13

## 14 **4.2 Possible causes of the DFO2006/AICC2012 age differences at around MIS** 15 **5d**

### 16 **4.2.1 Possible effects of ice thinning**

17 One of the possibilities for the age difference at MIS 5d is errors in the estimation of vertical  
18 thinning in glaciological modelling in AICC2012. However, we find no glaciological  
19 explanation that at the two coring sites of DF and EDC, errors in the estimation of vertical  
20 thinning occur only at MIS 5d. In addition, according to the concept of conservation of mass,  
21 a thinner layer at one location can only be explained if this layer is thicker in a neighbouring  
22 location. However, no irregularity is seen in the isochronal layers observed by radio echo  
23 sounding (e.g., Fujita et al., 1999, 2012, Tabacco et al., 1998). Parrenin et al. (in review)  
24 further discuss this point. They argue that potential errors in thinning estimation are not a  
25 major cause for the DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference that we see at MIS 5d.

### 26 **4.2.2 Influence by links from other cores**

27 We consider a possibility of complex effects of the other ice core orbital markers and  
28 numerous stratigraphic links with the influence of background scenarios. Bazin et al. (2013)  
29 used numerous gas age markers of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  from the Vostok core and the TALDICE core for  
30 periods covering MIS 5. These numerous gas age makers are linked with the ice age of the

1 AICC2012 through assumptions of firn thicknesses at each site and lock-in depths. However,  
2 there is a circumstantial evidence that raises a question as to the possibility of influence by  
3 links from other cores. The previous age scale of the EDC core is known as EDC3 (Parrenin  
4 et al., 2007a). EDC3 is the glaciological chronology based on the use of a set of independent  
5 age markers, and the SMB and mechanical flow modelling. Bazin et al. (2013) showed that  
6 the timing and duration of MIS 5 in AICC2012 is basically unchanged compared to EDC3.  
7 We performed analysis of the DFO2006/EDC3 age difference in the same way as the analysis  
8 of the DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference. We found that the basic profile of the  
9 DFO2006/EDC3 age difference is similar to the DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference (purple  
10 line in Figure 5a). Again, we find a peak value of +3.6 kyr at MIS 5d. Because the EDC3 age  
11 scale is independent of any stratigraphic links to other ice cores, appearance of this peak value  
12 means that influence by links from other cores introduced to the AICC2012 gave no major  
13 effects to the observed features of the age differences. In addition, according to Bazin et al.  
14 (2013), the ice age difference between the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> chronology and the δ<sup>18</sup>O<sub>atm</sub> chronology on  
15 the Vostok ice have no anomalous bias that occur particularly at periods around MIS 5 (see  
16 Figure 4 in Bazin et al., 2013). We therefore exclude this possibility as well.

### 17 **4.2.3 Influence of surface mass balance**

18 We are interested in the remaining possibility, errors in estimating SMB at around MIS 5d in  
19 the glaciological flow modelling. To examine this possibility, we introduce a comparison  
20 between DFO2006 chronology with the glaciological chronology of the same DF core,  
21 DFGT2006 (Parrenin et al., 2007a) in Figure 5b. In building DFGT2006 chronology, as  
22 compared to DFO2006, Parrenin et al. (2007a) used a smaller number of the age markers with  
23 a larger uncertainty setting to less constrain the age by the age markers, in order to observe  
24 features of the glaciological chronology. In Figure 5b, we find that the DFO2006/DFGT2006  
25 age difference has a peak of difference at 5d, very similar to both the variation of the  
26 DFO2006/AICC2012 age difference (Figure 4a) and that of the DFO2006/EDC3 age  
27 difference (Figure 5a). Based on this similarity, we hypothesize that the DFO2006/AICC2012  
28 age difference at MIS 5d is most related to a difference in dating approaches, between the  
29 O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age-markers-based dating and the glaciological dating. We argue that the most  
30 plausible cause is the error in estimation of SMB.

31 The large difference between the DFO2006 and glaciological-chronologies (such as  
32 AICC2012, EDC3 and DFGT2006) at MIS 5d is explained by an overestimation of the SMB

1 as compared to true SMB values at each site in a period from the late stage of MIS 6 until  
2 MIS 5d in all the glaciological chronologies. If this overestimation occurs, ice around MIS 5d  
3 will have a systematic bias causing younger ages. Consequently, the duration of a period from  
4 the late stage of MIS 6 until MIS 5d will have a systematic bias causing longer intervals.

5

### 6 **4.3 Phasing between 216-kyr-long deuterium records at Dome Fuji and Dome** 7 **C**

8 We describe the phasing of the climatic record of the ice cores, and we preliminarily discuss  
9 phasing between the 216-kyr-long deuterium records in the DF and EDC cores. Our intention  
10 is to observe possible differences in timing in the deuterium records from the two remote  
11 dome sites in East Antarctica. Deuterium records at DF and EDC are from Uemura et al.  
12 (2012) and Jouzel et al. (2007), respectively. In Figure 6, they are plotted against common  
13 chronologies, again tentatively DFO2006 in the bottom axis and AICC2012 in the top axis.  
14 Each of the three graphs shows an age span of 75 kyr. Looking at the phasing closely, there  
15 are stages where differences in graph shapes are apparent. A remarkable feature is that over a  
16 period of approximately 20 kyr at MIS 5d-5e, the decrease in the deuterium record at DF  
17 leads to the decrease in the deuterium record of the EDC (see Figure 6b). Another noticeable  
18 feature is that EDC signals seem to lead at ~200 kyr BP. In order to see the average phasing  
19 over the 216 kyr, the correlation coefficient of the deuterium records, shifted by x years, was  
20 calculated. The correlation coefficient had a maximum when DF leads by 60 years. We argue  
21 that the observed features above are not caused by errors in synchronization as it is very  
22 unlikely that our pattern matching caused a systematic shift in synchronization. Even if some  
23 points were mismatched within the pattern matching, such errors would be random, and they  
24 would cancel each other out in the correlation analysis. We argue that the appearance of the  
25 phase shift of 60 years is an average over changing phasing, such as relatively apparent  
26 examples at MIS 5d-5e and at ~200 kyr BP. If we assume that most of the millennial scale  
27 changes are following the bipolar seesaw pattern, then the Southern Ocean signal likely has a  
28 delay in it (WAIS Divide Project Members, 2015) compared to the northern hemisphere  
29 signal. It seems plausible that the delay is a little less in the Atlantic compared to the Indian  
30 and Pacific sectors. We therefore suggest that an average delay as small as 60 years can occur  
31 naturally. In future studies, we clearly need further exploration of the apparent phenomena at  
32 MIS 5d-5e and at ~200 kyr BP. This topic requires comprehensive discussions combining

1 knowledge of paleoclimatic records, climate dynamics and ice sheet dynamics, which is  
2 beyond the scope of this paper.

#### 3 **4.4 Comparison with stratigraphic links of visible ash layers**

4 Using the geochemical analysis of visible ash layers in the two cores, Narcisi et al (2005)  
5 proposed stratigraphic links between DF and EDC at four depths within the past 216 kyr.  
6 This was based partly on tephra stratigraphic links between DF and Vostok that had been  
7 proposed earlier (Kohno et al., 2004). We confirm that three of the links (DF  
8 1361.89/EDC1265.1 m, DF 1849.55/EDC 1796.3 m, DF 2170.18/EDC 2150.9 m) are  
9 consistent with the matches we have made using the pattern of volcanic marker peaks in this  
10 study, thus independently supporting the matches we have proposed at these depths. The  
11 fourth one (DF 2117.75/EDC 2086.6 m) is not consistent with our synchronisation, and we  
12 were unable to find a plausibly consistent match if we insisted on this tephra stratigraphic link.  
13 In fact, Narcisi et al (2005) specifically questioned the reality of the link at this depth between  
14 DF on the one hand and EDC and Vostok on the other, because the similarity between the  
15 geochemical signature was not as high as expected for tephtras with an identical source. Our  
16 study therefore supports this suspicion, and we suggest that the tephra at DF (2117.75 m) and  
17 EDC (2086.6 m) are of different ages. Most likely the DF-Vostok link at this depth is also  
18 incorrect. This highlights the danger of using even partly-geochemically fingerprinted  
19 stratigraphic matches of single layers in isolation, especially across the continent where it will  
20 be unusual for tephtras transported in the troposphere to be recorded simultaneously at such  
21 distant sites as EDC and DF.

22

#### 23 **5 Concluding remarks and future prospects**

24 Based on the DF-EDC synchronization with the 1401 tie points, a precise comparison  
25 between several important age models was carried out. The models include DFO2006,  
26 AICC2012, EDC3, DFGT2006 and ages of the speleothem records from China. This  
27 comparison between various chronologies brought us new insights into the chronologies of  
28 deep ice cores as well as of the relationship between climatic records from the two sites.  
29 Important results are summarized as follows.

- 1 (i) Two very deep ice cores in East Antarctica drilled at Dome Fuji and Dome C were  
2 precisely synchronized in terms of ice using 1401 tie points for a very long period covering  
3 the last 216 kyr.
- 4 (ii) Now and in the future, analyses of ice core records over 216 kyr can be conducted  
5 precisely on a common age scale, either AICC2012, DFO2006 or an improved age model  
6 from both cores. Preliminary analysis for the phasing between deuterium records at DF and  
7 EDC was performed. We found that the deuterium signals at DF and EDC lead at MIS 5d-5e  
8 and at ~200 kyr BP, respectively.
- 9 (iii) For a long period of the latest 100 kyr, the AICC2012 chronology compares well with the  
10 speleothem age, suggesting that AICC2012 is the most reliable age model for this time  
11 interval.
- 12 (iv) At MIS 5d, 5e and 6, the DFO2006 chronology compares well with the speleothem age,  
13 suggesting that DFO2006 is reliable in this time interval.
- 14 (v) At MIS 7a, even the ages inferred from the absolutely dated speleothem records from  
15 China may have errors as large as 4 kyr, a matter that should be further investigated. This may  
16 suggest that an incorrect matching between the speleothem and ice core rapid changes has  
17 been made.
- 18 (vi) Duration ratio (AICC2012/DFO2006) ranges between 0.7 at MIS 5a and 1.4 at MIS 5e.  
19 Fluctuations are large at MIS 5. The fluctuation in the duration ratio is clearly caused by the  
20 complex effects of the errors in the two chronologies. Thus, we must be very careful in  
21 estimations of durations in climate modelling and flux studies where correct values of  
22 durations are very important.
- 23 (vii) One of the  $O_2/N_2$  age markers in the DF core at 94.2 kyr BP probably has an error of 3  
24 kyr toward the older direction, which should be further investigated by additional ice core  
25 measurements of  $O_2/N_2$ .
- 26 (viii) At MIS 5d, 5e and late stage of 6, the glaciological approach of the age models are very  
27 likely to have suffered from errors in estimation of surface mass balance. The relative SMB at  
28 DF and EDC is further investigated in our companion paper by Parrenin et al. (in review)  
29 based on this DF-EDC volcanic synchronization.
- 30 (ix) In this paper, we found that over a period of approximately 20 kyr at MIS 5d-5e, a  
31 decrease in the deuterium record at DF leads to a decrease in that of the EDC (Figure 6b). In



1 addition, in the companion paper, Parrenin et al. (in review) found that within the last glacial  
2 inception (MIS 5c-5d), the past changes in the ratio of surface mass balance (SMB ratio)  
3 between EDC and DF deviates by up to 20% from what is expected based on differences in  
4 water stable isotope records. Clearly, we need a comprehensive discussion on this new  
5 knowledge clarified based on this DF-EDC volcanic synchronization.

6 (x) The reliability of the synchronization was based on a matching of patterns. During some  
7 cold periods, such a matching of patterns was impossible. For such periods, we need  
8 additional information to find correlations between volcanic peak signals. In addition, this  
9 lack of matching patterns may provide us with information on depositional environments in  
10 the past.

11 (xi) A comparison between four proposed tephra stratigraphic links and the volcanic marker  
12 peaks highlights the danger of using even partly-geochemically fingerprinted stratigraphic  
13 matches of single layers in isolation.

14 Finally, the reliability of the orbital age markers such as  $O_2/N_2$  age markers and ages of the  
15 speleothem records is a key factor that influences the reliability of age models. The TAC age  
16 markers are another important set of ice age markers that are free from assumptions of firn  
17 thickness and the lock-in depths of air. The reliability of the  $O_2/N_2$  age markers and the TAC  
18 age markers is currently under investigation by many researchers (e.g., Bender, 2002; Fujita  
19 et al., 2009, 2014; Hutterli et al., 2009; Kawamura et al., 2004, 2007; Landais et al., 2012;  
20 Lipenkov et al., 2011; Raynaud et al., 2007; Suwa and Bender, 2008; Hörhold et al., 2012;  
21 Courville et al., 2007). It is beyond the scope of this paper to delve into this, but it seems clear  
22 that we need to better understand the physical processes in firn determining variations of both  
23  $O_2/N_2$  and air content. The new stratigraphic constraint established in this study will be  
24 incorporated into the next synchronized and optimized age scale of polar ice cores.

25

## 26 **Appendix A: PC interface to extract tie points**

27 Here we explain the PC interface used to search for tie points. Based on preliminary  
28 tie points, a detailed search can be conducted easily. Figure A1 shows the interface window.  
29 The procedures are given below. (The code of the interface is provided as a supplementary  
30 material (C) in this paper.)

1 (i) *Preparation of data files.* Each set of ice core data (ECM, DEP, ACECM or sulfate)  
2 should have a column of its original depth, data values and tentative depth equivalent to a  
3 single reference core (DF1 core in the case of this study). Data on tentative depth equivalent  
4 to a single reference core must be collected prior to the use of the PC interface.

5 (ii) *Loading of data.* All the data should be loaded in the program.

6 (iii) *Display graphs on PC interface.* We should display a depth-dependent profile of  
7 each set of data in a PC window. As in the example shown in Figure A1, multiple windows  
8 should be aligned vertically, so that we can compare the features of each dataset easily.  
9 Importantly, for the  $x$  axis, the tentative depth equivalent to a single reference core must be  
10 used in order that user can easily examine synchronicity between multiple sets of data. In the  
11 windows, data should be scalable both in the depth ( $x$ ) directions and the data value ( $y$ )  
12 directions. In addition, the  $x$  axis should be adjustable for offset of the depth scales for each  
13 core data.

14 (iv) *Extraction of local maxima from each set of data.* In the data profiles, the  
15 candidates for tie points should be found by extracting local maxima (dots in the centre of  
16 graphs in Figure 2). Importantly, the operator should be careful to maintain synchronization  
17 between graphs by adjusting the offset, otherwise it would be very difficult to find a matching  
18 pattern, and observing the pattern of the appearance of peaks is very important.

19 (v) The operator should decide whether to select a datum or not (1/0 switches in the  
20 right side of the image, in case of this study) by clicking “Record” on the right, the data—  
21 depth of peak, peak height and background level—should be recorded only for chosen data.

22 (vi) By shifting the depth range of windows, the operator should seek for further tie  
23 point candidates.

24

25

## 26 **Appendix B: Confidence level of the tie points**

27 We examine occurrence probability for choosing wrong tie points in the DF-EDC  
28 volcanic synchronization. As we described in the main text, our synchronization work was  
29 based on evaluation of pattern matching by careful observation of the shape, size and  
30 synchronicity of the candidate peaks. We describe here as to how accidental errors can rarely

1 happen within the pattern matching. The sequence of the 1401 tie points are distributed on a  
2 smooth profile in Figure B1. The 1401 DF-EDC tie points were within time span of the past  
3 216 kyr. Thus, the average time span from one tie point to another is ~154 years although the  
4 tie points are distributed irregularly along time. In depth scale, as we discuss below,  
5 candidates of tie points are found in most cases within 0.1 m in depth of the synchronicity. As  
6 the volcanic signal frequency in our proxy records is as rare as every ~154 years (on average),  
7 the probability for the accidental appearance of confusing volcanic signals within depths of  
8 ~0.1 m between two cores is very slight.

9 Conditions for choosing the wrong tie points by an operator of the PC interface are  
10 schematically shown in Figure B2. We assume that pattern matching is basically found. Our  
11 discussion here is for each single peak within matched patterns.

12

13 (i) The volcanic signal 1 in DF core and the volcanic signal 2 in EDC core must be  
14 significantly observable.

15 (ii) At the same time, the volcanic signal 1 in EDC core and the volcanic signal 2 in  
16 DF core must be faint or absent, to induce misjudgement of an observer.

17 (iii) These two peaks should be within depths of ~0.1 m or so of the location expected,  
18 assuming the layer thickness ratio between the adjacent volcanic match pairs remains constant.  
19 Otherwise, it is highly probable that the observer will not think that a pair of peak signals is a  
20 candidate of tie points.

21

22 The probability for the occurrence of these three conditions together is very small.  
23 From the viewpoint of an operator of the PC interface, almost all tie points were determined  
24 without ambiguity, because the operator rarely found indication of confusing candidates of  
25 volcanic peaks that could be sources of errors. When we searched for possible candidates of  
26 the tie points, we found each pair of candidates in most cases within 0.1 m of expected depths.  
27 We note that the variances of ~0.1 m are acceptable and understandable considering the past  
28 roughness of the Antarctic surface (Barnes et al., 2006). If we find a volcanic signal in one  
29 core but not at the expected depth in another core, we just ignore such a single signal and  
30 nothing is recorded. It is known that, due to spatial heterogeneity of deposition, a thickness of  
31 one year or more deposition is sometimes completely absent in the plateau region of East

1 Antarctica (e.g., Kameda et al., 2008; Koerner, 1971). In the present condition of the  
2 Holocene, the probability for the complete absence of an annual layer is greater than 8% at  
3 Dome Fuji. This fact implies that under conditions of a low accumulation rate in glacial  
4 periods, the probability for the complete absence of an annual layer is greater. Nevertheless,  
5 we are still confident of the identified pattern of peak signals. Thus, a lone peak is not a  
6 source of error as far as pattern matching is confidently observed. Figure B3 is given to show  
7 that candidates of the tie points were found within narrow depth range.

8         Along the sequence of the 1401 DF-EDC tie points, the depth span between adjacent  
9 tie points ( $\Delta z$ ) is calculated for depths of both DF and EDC cores.  $\Delta z$  ranged from 0.02 m  
10 (minimum) to ~29 m (maximum). In Figure B3, 12 XY plots,  $\Delta z$  at DF versus  $\Delta z$  at EDC,  
11 made using a logarithmic scale both in X and Y are shown. Figures labelled from a to l are for  
12 the age span of DFO2006 and at the Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) indicated in each figure.  
13 With these figures, we can see how the depth span between adjacent tie points was almost  
14 common along the DF core and along the EDC core, with only very small deviations of  $\Delta z$  of  
15 the order of 0.1 m.

16         Overall, as mentioned in the main text, determination by an operator was made  
17 confidently using the shape, size and synchronicity of the candidate peaks along the two ice  
18 cores. Among them, synchronicity within each matched pattern was quite good. As a result,  
19 smooth continuity of the trace in Figure B1 is also good. We therefore argue that they are  
20 almost unambiguous tie points, except possible very rare cases of accidental conditions  
21 indicated in Figure B2.

22         In addition, even if a few erroneous tie points are accidentally included within the  
23 1401 tie points found in this work, error size in depth is of the order of ~0.1 m. Therefore,  
24 there will be virtually no impact in further analysis.

25

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18

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1 Table 1: Summary of datasets of ice core signals used for synchronization.

2

Core	Name of measurement	Depth range used (m)	Measured properties	Measurement temperature (°C)	Depth resolution (cm)	Reference
DF1	ECM	2 - 2250	Direct current of solid ice	-20~-30	1	Fujita et al., 2002a, 2002b, 2002c
	AC-ECM	112 - 2250	High-frequency conductance of solid ice at 1 MHz	-20~-30	1	Fujita et al., 2002a, 2002b, 2002c
DF2	ECM	889 - 2250	Direct current of solid ice	-20	1	This study
	AC-ECM	889 -2250	High-frequency conductance of solid ice at 1 MHz	-20	1	This study
EDC96	ECM	99 - 788	Direct current of solid ice	-20	1	EPICA Community Members, 2004
	Sulfate	7 - 788	Concentration of sulfate ions		4	Udisti et al., 2000
	DEP	7 - 788	High-frequency conductivity of solid ice at 100 kHz	-20	2	Wolff et al., 2005
EDC99	ECM	772 - 3188	Direct current of solid ice	-20	1	EPICA Community Members, 2004
	Sulfate	769 - 2094	Concentration of sulfate ions		2	Udisti et al., 2004
	DEP	7 - 3165	High-frequency conductivity of solid ice at 100 kHz	-20	2	Wolff et al., 2005

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4

1 Table 2: Depths and AICC2012 ages of EDC core at depth/age of age markers of DF core

2

ID	Type	DF core <sup>a)</sup>			EDC core <sup>b)</sup>		Age difference
		Depth of DF1 core	Age of age marker (A)	2 $\sigma$ of age marker	Synchronized depth on EDC99 core	Age on AICC2012 chronology (B)	A - B
		(m)	(yr b2k)	(yr)	(m)	(yr b2k)	(yr)
F1	ACR-Holocene	371.00	12390	200	371.46	12296	94
F2	Be10 peak	791.00	41205	500	739.35	41227	-22
F3	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1261.55	81973	2230	1170.17	81923	50
F4	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1375.69	94240	1410	1278.73	91132	3108
F5	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1518.87	106263	1220	1417.10	103518	2745
F6	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1605.26	116891	1490	1498.03	112443	4448
F7	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1699.14	126469	1660	1614.13	122718	3751
F8	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1824.78	137359	2040	1769.25	135839	1520
F9	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1900.68	150368	2230	1849.02	152058	-1690
F10	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	1958.32	164412	2550	1910.13	164814	-402
F11	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	2015.00	176353	2880	1969.00	178365	-2012
F12	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	2052.25	186470	2770	2008.59	186471	-1
F13	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	2103.11	197394	1370	2066.08	198399	-1005
F14	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	2156.64	209523	1980	2131.85	209998	-475

3 a) age markers of DF core is from Kawamura et al. (2007)

4 b) AICC2012 chronology is from Bazin et al. (2013)

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6

1 Table 3: Duration between O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> time markers on two different time scales and their  
 2 differences and ratio.

ID	Age on the DF O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> time marker		Duration		Difference in duration	Duration ratio
	Start	End	on the DF O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub> time marker (C)	on the AICC2012 age scale (D)	D - C	D/C
	(yr b2k)	(yr b2k)	(yr)	(yr)	(yr)	
F3-F4	81973.3	94239.8	12267	9209	-3058	0.75
F4-F5	94239.8	106263	12023	12387	363	1.03
F5-F6	106263	116891	10628	8925	-1703	0.84
F6-F7	116891	126469	9578	10275	697	1.07
F7-F8	126469	137359	10890	13121	2231	1.20
F8-F9	137359	150368	13009	16219	3210	1.25
F9-F10	150368	164412	14044	12756	-1288	0.91
F10-F11	164412	176353	11941	13551	1610	1.13
F11-F12	176353	186470	10117	8106	-2011	0.80
F12-F13	186470	197394	10924	11928	1004	1.09
F13-F14	197394	209523	12129	11599	-530	0.96

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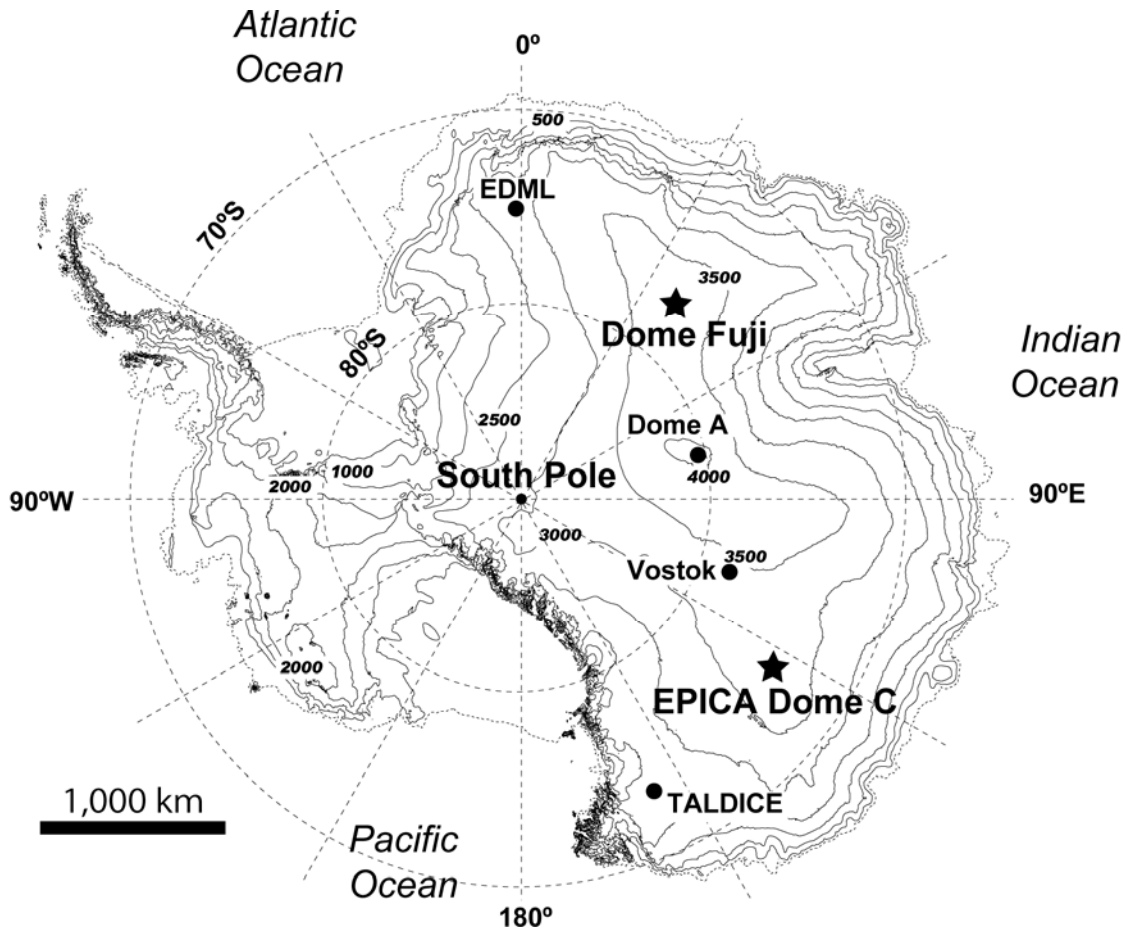
Table 4: Depths and DFO2006 ages of DF core at depth/age of age markers of AICC2012 chronology

ID	Type	Age markers used to constrain AICC2012 age scale				Age on DFO2006 chronology		Age difference
		Original core	Depth in original core (m)	Age of age marker (E) (yr b2k)	2 $\sigma$ of time marker (yr)	Synchronized depth on DF1 core (m)	Age on DFO2006 chronology (F) (yr b2k)	F - E (yr)
C1	Be10	Vostok	178.00	7230	100	233.27	7372	142
C2	TAC	EDC	501.65	22000	2879	514.14	20132	-1868
C3	TAC	EDC	693.67	39000	2211	738.20	36732	-2268
C4	Be10	Vostok	601.00	40700	950	781.66	39864	-836
C5	Be10	EDC	740.08	40700	950	791.81	40642	-58
C6	TAC	EDC	1255.93	87000	3082	1352.73	91495	4495
C7	Mt. Berlin tephra	EDC	1265.10	93250	4400	1361.74	92580	-670
C8	TAC	EDC	1377.67	101000	4031	1473.94	102438	1438
C9	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	Vostok	1675.00	121850	4000	1673.08	124172	2322
C10	O <sub>2</sub> /N <sub>2</sub>	Vostok	1853.70	132350	4000	1777.84	132221	-129
C11	TAC	EDC	1790.29	143000	6468	1843.81	140540	-2460
C12	TAC	EDC	2086.69	203000	6403	2121.00	200939	-2061

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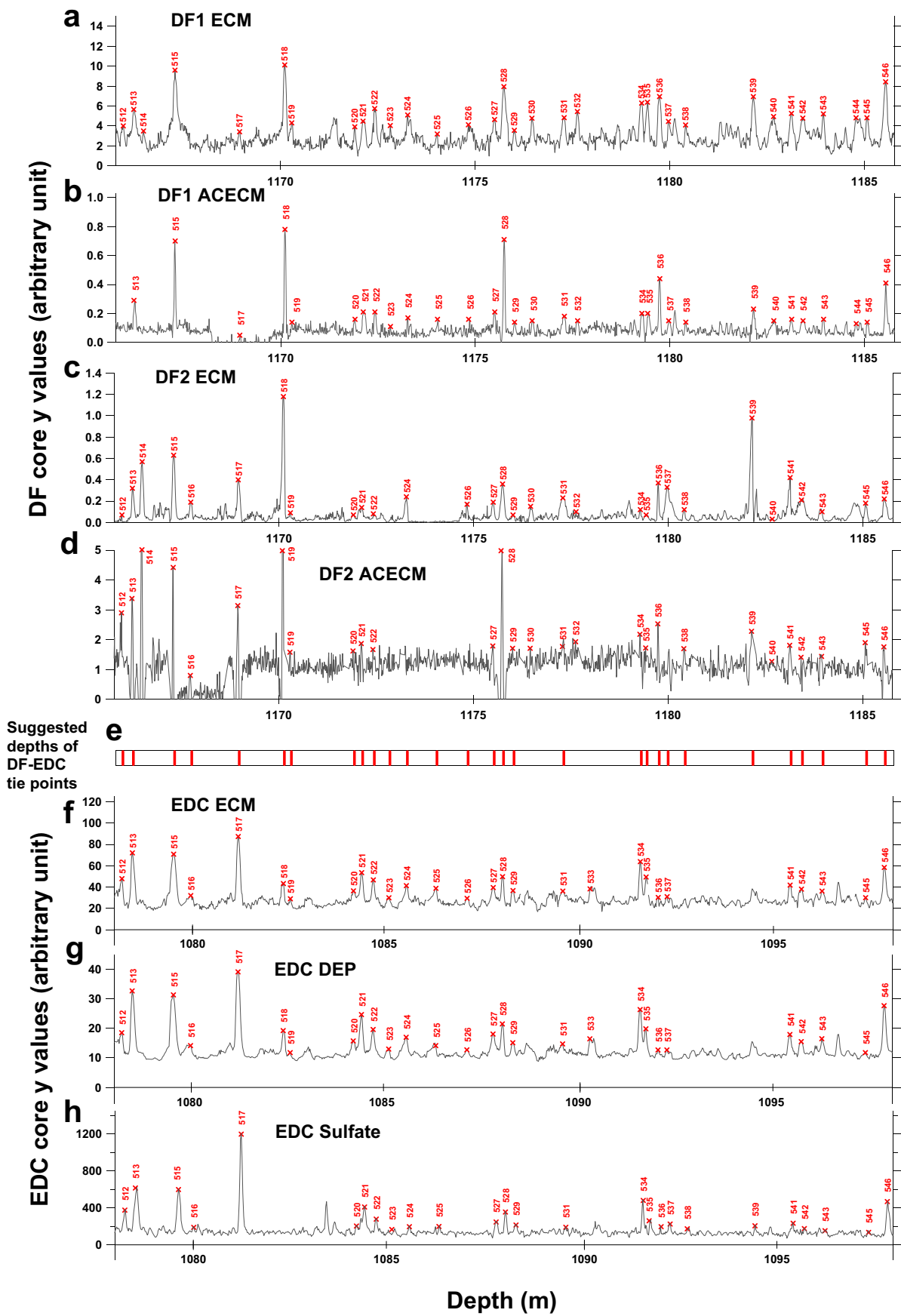
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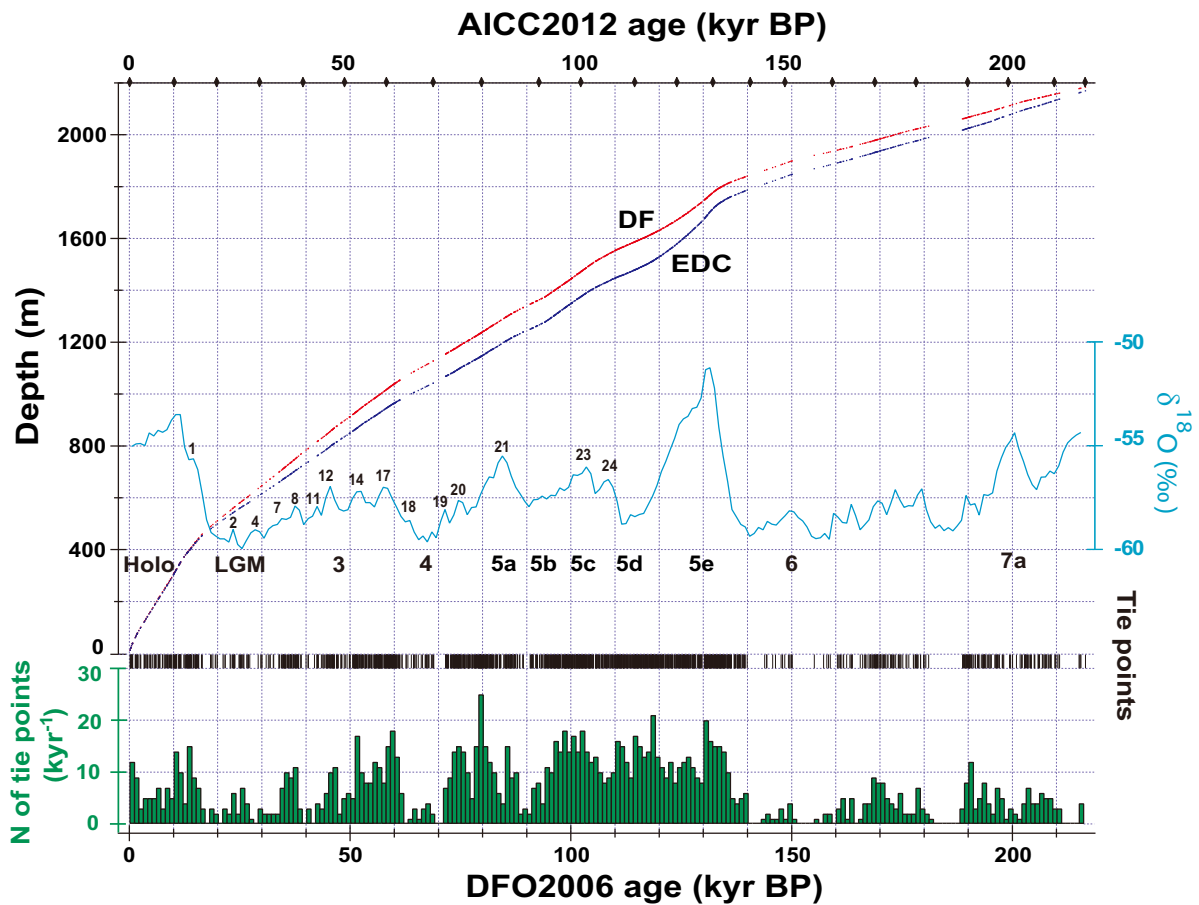
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3 Figure 1: Map of the continent of Antarctica with elevation contours every 500 m. The two  
4 ice coring sites used in this study, Dome C and Dome Fuji, are marked with stars.

5

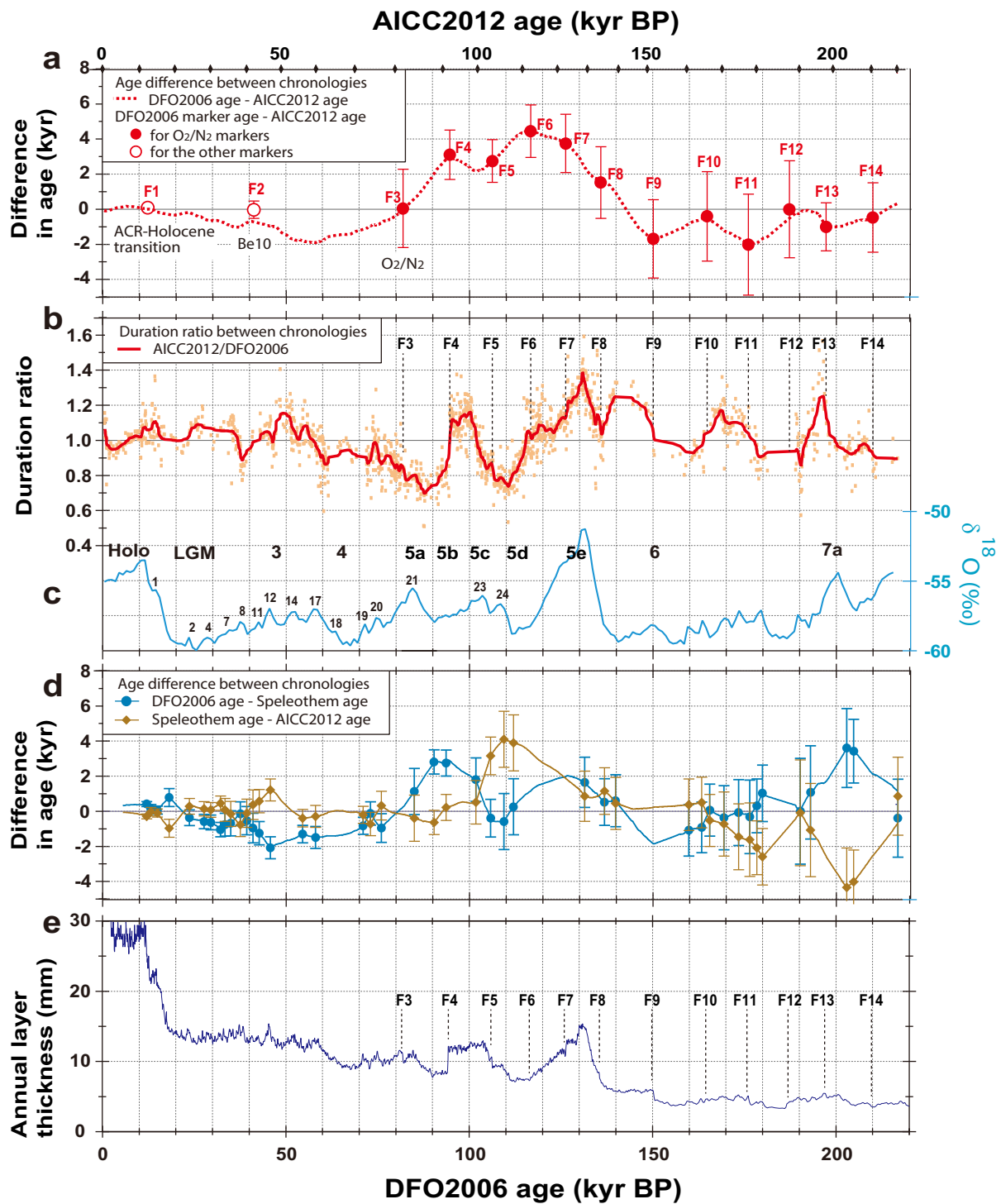


1 Figure 2: An example of a set of extracted tie points over a depth span of approximately 20 m  
2 in both the DF and EDC cores. Graphs from the top are: (a) DF1 ECM, (b) DF1 ACECM, (c)  
3 DF2 ECM, (d) DF2 ACECM, (e) suggested depths of tie points, (f) EDC DEP, (g) EDC ECM  
4 and (h) EDC sulfate (see Table 1). Scales of the y axes for the ECM, DEP and ACECM  
5 graphs are all arbitrary. Red markers with ID numbers (from 512 to 546) are spikes that were  
6 extracted using the PC interface (see Appendix A1). The same ID numbers in multiple graphs  
7 mean that the spikes were identified as events from the same timings, that is, from the same  
8 origins of volcanic eruptions. The ID numbers are used only for the working purpose of  
9 synchronization. This set of example contain a plausible Toba super eruption that occurred  
10 sometime at ~74 kyr BP, studied by Svensson et al. (2012). All 79 sets of examples covering  
11 216 kyr are provided as supplementary information.  
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Figure 3: Result of volcanic synchronization: DF depth / EDC depth on a tentative common age scale DFO2006 (bottom axis). AICC2012 scale is also given on the top axis as a reference. Blue trace with indications of the Marine Isotope Stages and Antarctic Isotope Maxima (AIM) is  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  averaged over every 1 kyr for reference (Watanabe et al., 2003). Black vertical symbol markers are locations of the tie points on the age scale. Green histogram mean number of the tie points found over every 1 kyr.

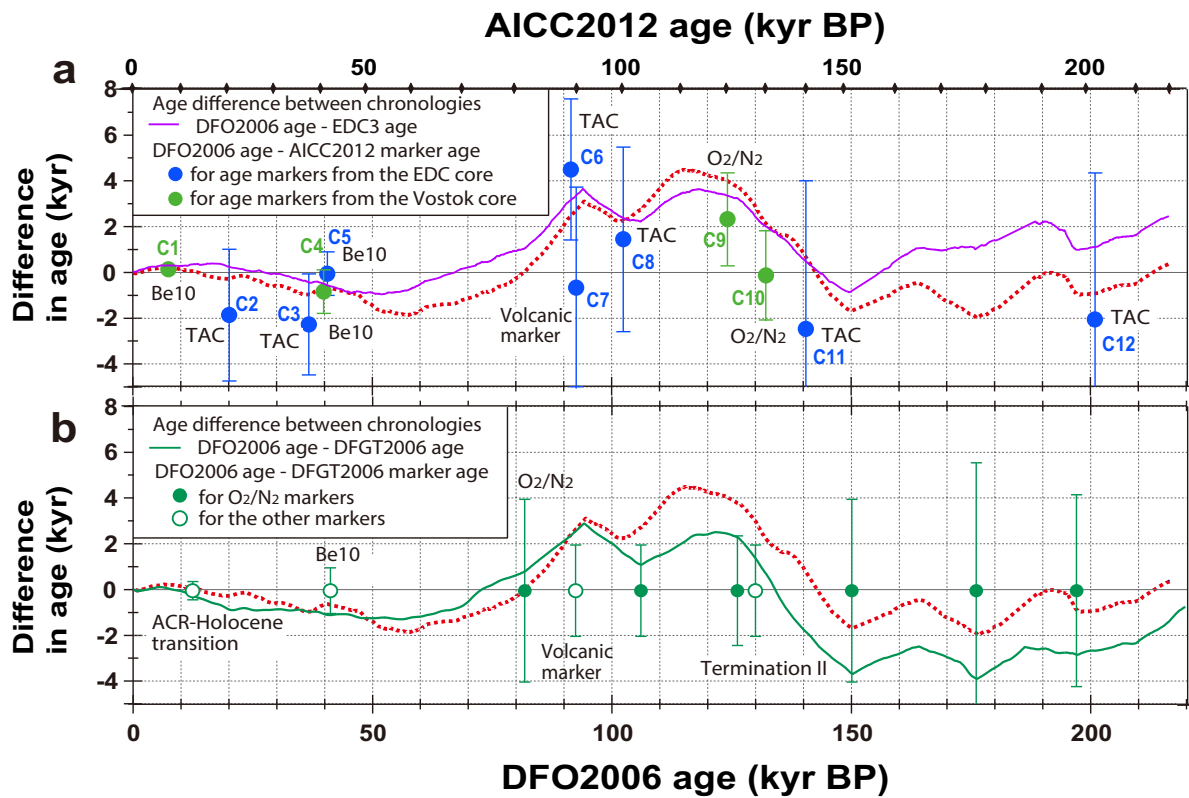


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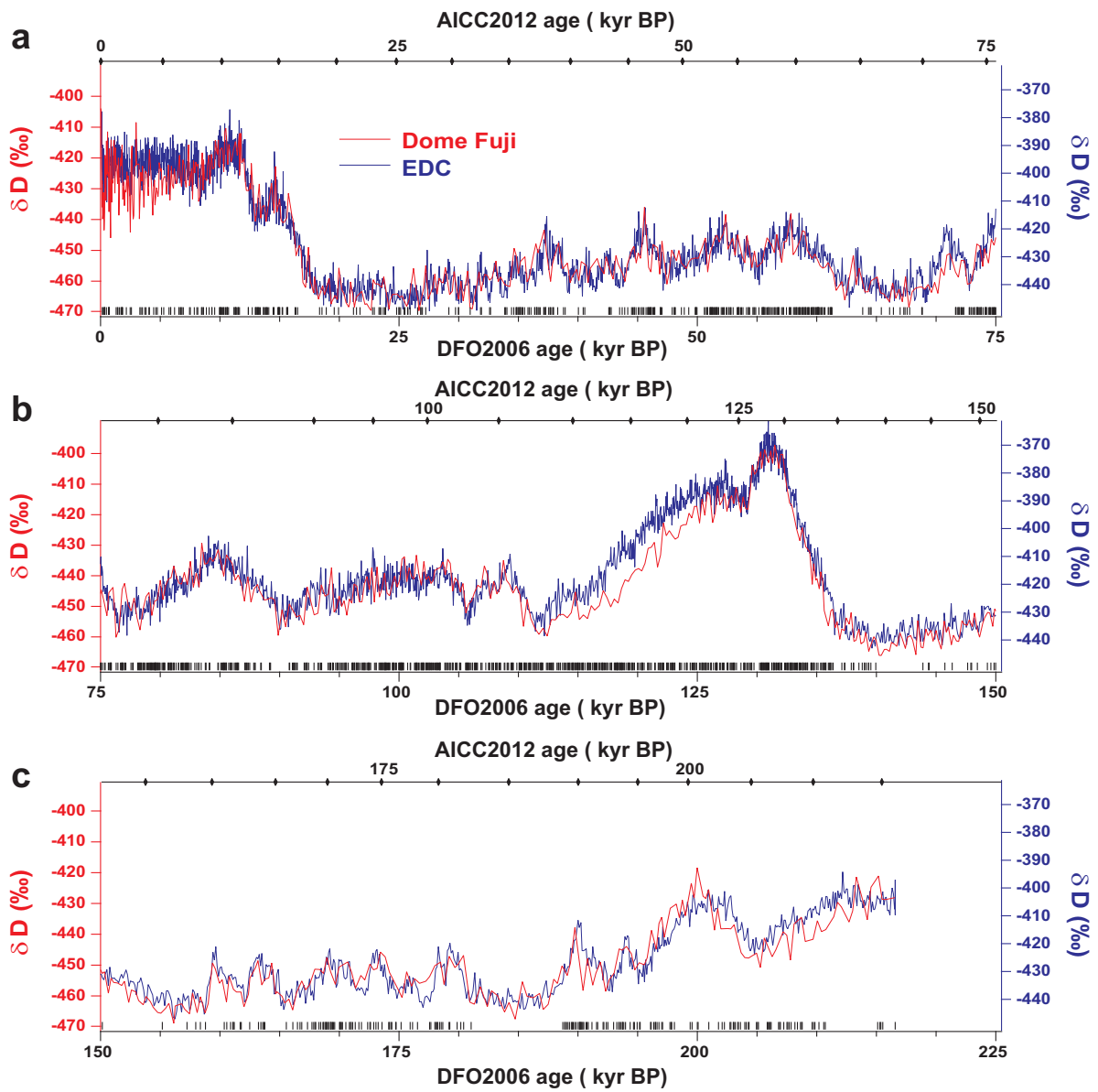
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3 Figure 4: Some results of analyses related to a comparison between DFO2006 age and  
 4 AICC2012 age plotted on a common age scale. We tentatively use the DFO2006 scale at the  
 5 bottom axis with the AICC2012 scale at the top axis. For all these figures, details are given in  
 6 the main text. Figure 4a: Age difference between the two chronologies [DFO2006 age -

1 AICC2012 age] (red dotted line). In addition, this age difference is compared with the age  
2 difference [DFO2006 marker age - AICC2012 age]. Information of the DFO2006 marker age  
3 are from Table 2. Figure 4b: Ratio of durations (duration ratio) between AICC2012 ages and  
4 DFO2006 ages are calculated as duration on AICC2012 divided by duration on DFO2006 at  
5 each interval of the 1401 tie points. A smoothed line with 50-point smoothing of the raw data  
6 (dots) shows the mean tendency. Again, ages of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers (Table 3) are shown.  
7 Figure 4c: Blue trace with indications of the Marine Isotope Stages (MIS) and Antarctic  
8 Isotope Maxima (AIM) is  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  averaged over every 1 kyr for reference (Watanabe et al.,  
9 2003). Figure 4d: DFO2006 and AICC2012 ages are compared with the ages of the Chinese  
10 speleothem age (speleo age) (Cheng et al., 2009) based on a link of the EDC core record to  
11 the Chinese speleothem records (Barker et al., 2011). The age differences [DFO2006 age -  
12 speleo age] (blue line) and the age differences [speleo age - AICC2012 age] (yellow line) are  
13 given. Solid symbol markers (both circles and diamonds) with indicated uncertainty are from  
14 tie points between the EDC core record and the speleothem records (Table S1 in Barker et al.,  
15 2011). Figure 4e: Thickness of annual layers in the Dome Fuji ice core was calculated on  
16 DFO2006 chronology. Ages of the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> age markers (listed in Table 2) are shown. We can  
17 observe a step in the annual layer thickness at the age marker at 94.2 kyr BP (ID: F4).  
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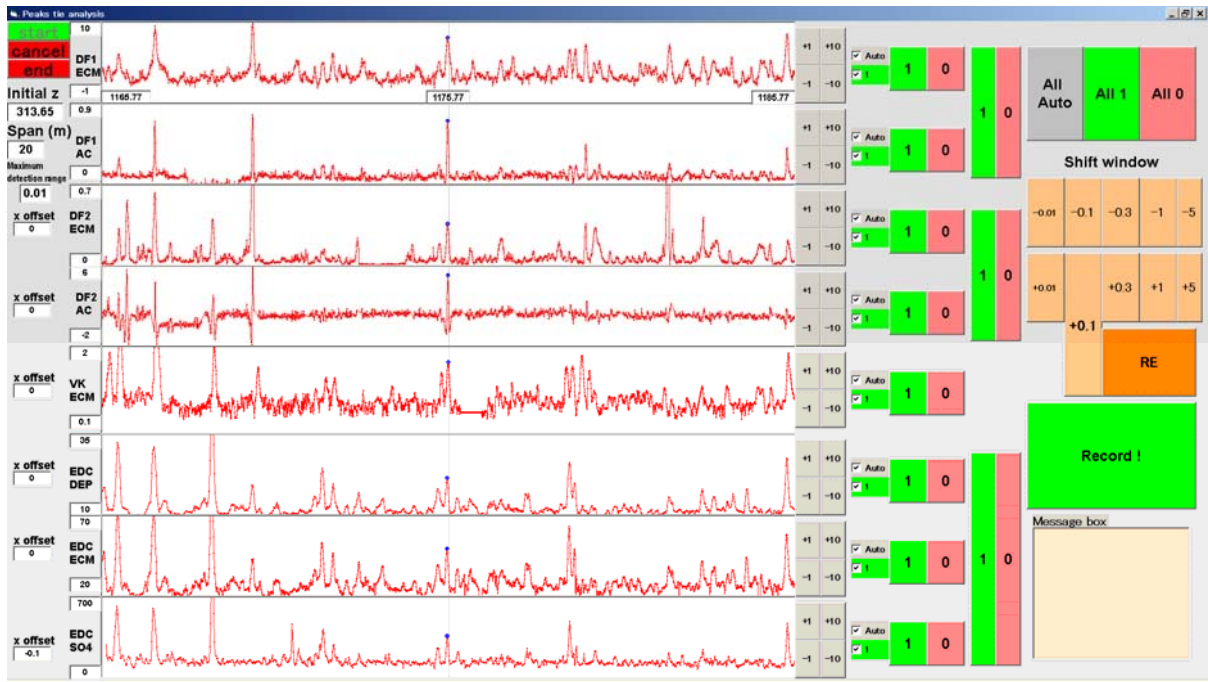
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 2 Figure 5: Some results of analyses related to a comparison between DFO2006 age and  
 3 AICC2012 age are plotted on a common age scale. Again, as in Figure 4, we tentatively use  
 4 the DFO2006 scale at the bottom axis with the AICC2012 scale at the top axis. Figure 5a: The  
 5 age difference between the two chronologies [DFO2006 age - AICC2012 age] (red dotted  
 6 line) is compared with age difference [DFO2006 age - AICC2012 marker age]. Information of  
 7 the AICC2012 age markers is from Table 4. The age difference [DFO2006 age - EDC3 age]  
 8 is shown as a purple line. Figure 5b: DFO2006 age as the O<sub>2</sub>/N<sub>2</sub> chronology of the DF core is  
 9 compared with "DFGT2006" as the glaciological chronology of the same DF core. It is shown  
 10 as [DFO2006 age - DFGT2006 age] (green line in the figure). Although the age markers of  
 11 the two chronologies have no age differences, DFGT2006 uses a smaller number of markers  
 12 and has a larger uncertainty setting to less constrain the age by the age markers. We observe  
 13 that the green line and [DFO2006 age - AICC2012 age] (red dotted line in Figure 4a) have  
 14 similar variations with peak differences at MIS 5b and 5d.  
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 2 Figure 6: In order to observe phasing between deuterium records at the DF core and the EDC  
 3 core, they are plotted versus common chronologies, again tentatively DFO2006 on the bottom  
 4 axis and AICC2012 on the top axis. Each of the three graphs shows an age span of 75 kyr. At  
 5 the bottom of each graph, the timing of the 1401 tie points is shown.

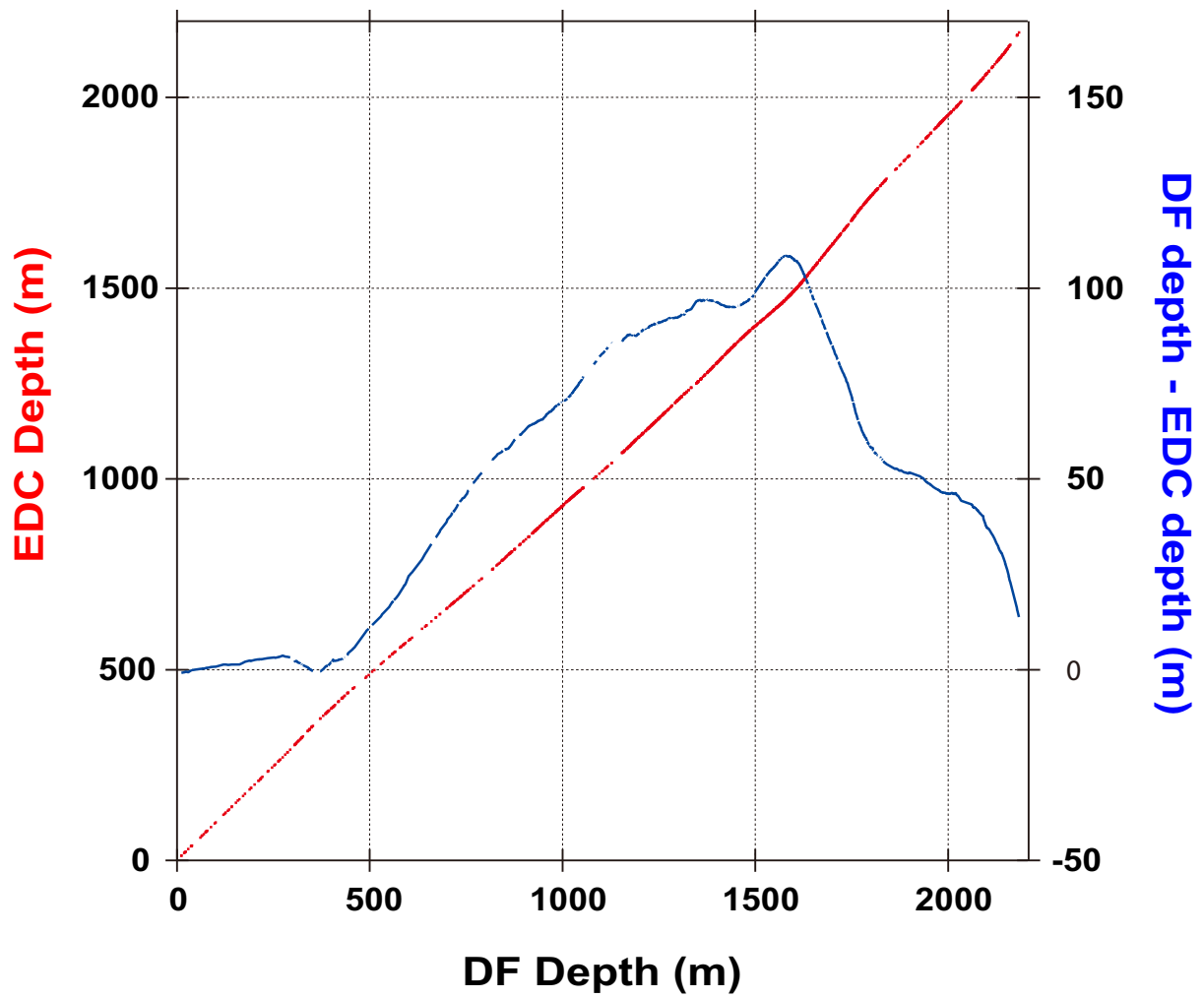
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Figure A1: A PC interface window used to search for tie points semiautomatically. Based on preliminary tie points, a detailed search can be conducted easily. In the data profiles (red traces), the candidates for tie points were found by extracting local maxima (dots in the centres of graphs). After choosing each datum or not (1/0 switches in the right side of the image), by clicking "Record" on the right, the data—depth of peak, peak height and background level—are recorded. This example is the same depth window as Figure 2. The horizontal axis is a depth of approximately 20 m for both ice cores. Graphs from the top are: DF1 ECM, DF1 ACECM, DF2 ECM, DF2 ACECM, Vostok ECM, EDC DEP, EDC ECM and EDC sulfate (see Table 1).

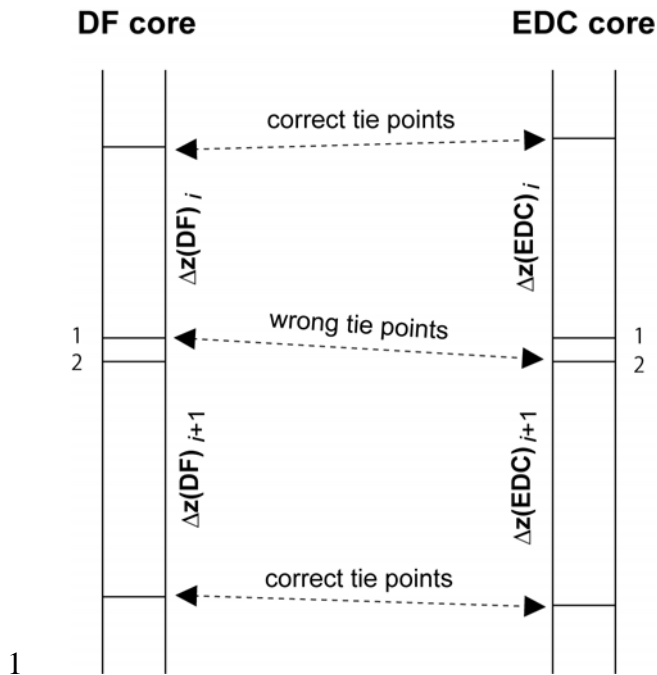


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3 Figure B1. Result of the volcanic synchronization: DF depth / EDC depth diagram (red) and  
 4 DF depth - EDC depth difference (blue).

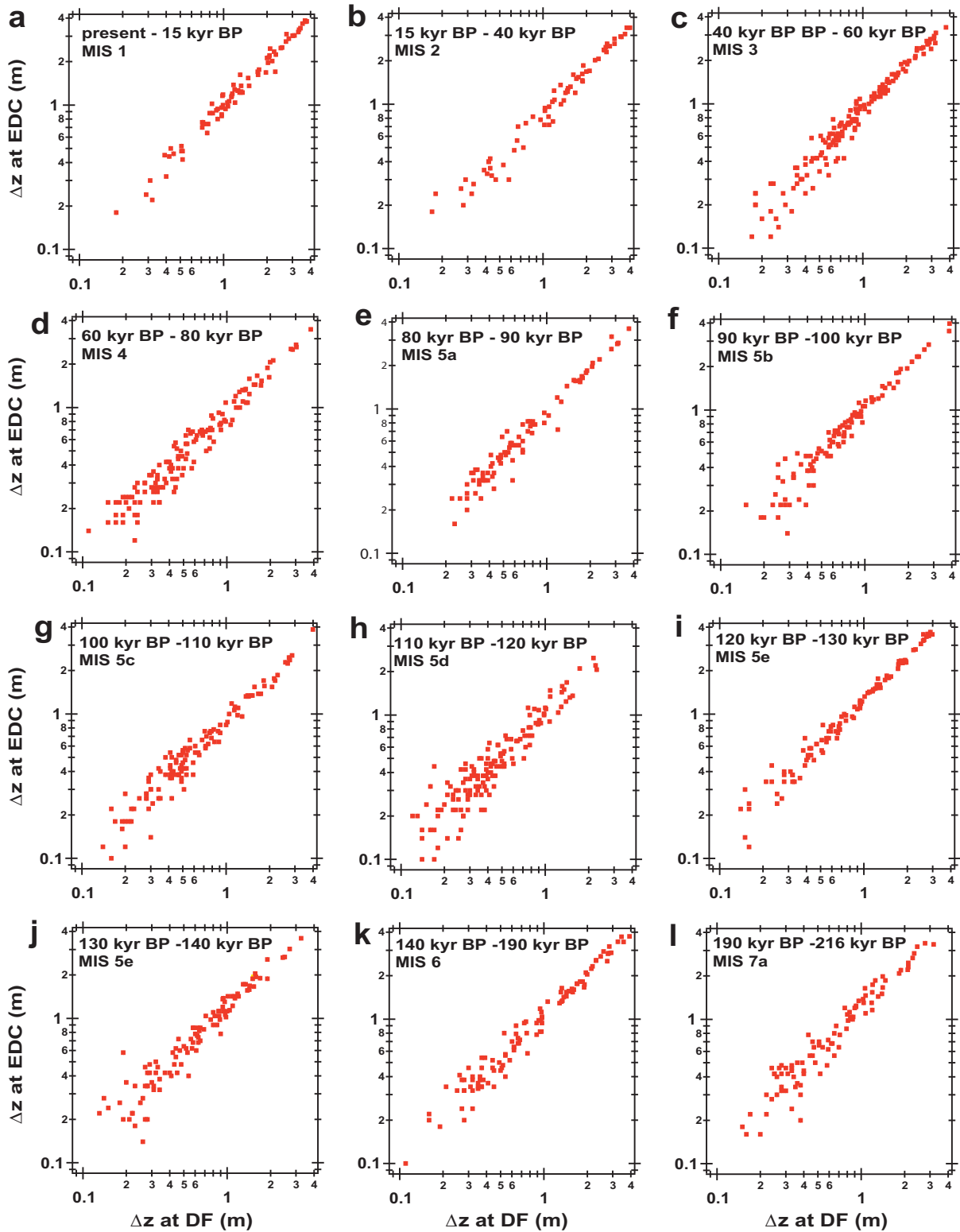
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3 Figure B2. Schematic illustration of choosing the wrong tie points by an operator of the PC  
 4 interface. The error can occur under conditions described below. (i) The volcanic signal 1 in  
 5 DF core and the volcanic signal 2 in EDC core must be significantly observable. (ii) At the  
 6 same time, the volcanic signal 1 in EDC core and the volcanic signal 2 in DF core must be  
 7 faint or absent. (iii) These two peaks should be within depths of  $\sim 0.1$  m or so of the location  
 8 expected assuming the layer thickness ratio between the adjacent volcanic match pairs  
 9 remains constant. Otherwise, the observer will not think that two peak signals are candidates  
 10 of a true link.

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3 Figure B3. Along the sequence of the 1401 DF-EDC tie points, depth span between adjacent  
 4 tie points were calculated for depths of both DF and EDC cores. Here,  $\Delta z_i = z_{i+1} - z_i$ .  $i$  is an  
 5 integer from 1 to 1400. Then, XY plots were made as  $\Delta z_i$  at DF versus  $\Delta z_i$  at EDC. Figures

1 from a to l are for age span on DFO2006 and at Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) indicated in each  
2 figure. With this figure, we can see to what extent depth span between adjacent tie points  
3 deviated between  $\Delta z_i$  at DF and  $\Delta z_i$  at EDC. We can observe that they are in most cases within  
4 ~0.1 m.