

**Response to reviewer:** Mekhaldi et al.: “Radionuclide wiggle-matching reveals a non-synchronous Early Holocene climate oscillation in Greenland and Western Europe around a grand solar minimum”

**First, the authors would like to thank the reviewer for their positive and constructive comments. The manuscript was amended following their recommendations to the best of our ability. Herein is a point-by-point reply to the reviewer’s comments.**

*In their manuscript, Mekhaldi et al. present a very interesting study comparing the palaeo-environmental records of the Greenland ice-cores and the varved Meerfelder Maar (MFM) in the early Holocene. Importantly, the authors are able to align the chronologies of the respective records using Beryllium-10 (10Be) concentration data from both archives, thus demonstrating that the “11.4 ka event” (Greenland) and “Preboreal Oscillation (PBO)” (MFM) were asynchronous and therefore not, as has been previously suspected, expressions of the same underlying climatic “event”. The manuscript is well written, based on sound science, and the final discussion is balanced and well argued. I recommend that this manuscript be accepted for publication in Climate of the Past pending very minor revisions.*

Thank you.

*Scientific questions:*

*L21: I do not know the term “Superepoch” – is it widely used? (Excuse my ignorance! Google also didn’t help...!)*

Here we use the term “Superepoch” in the light of the new formalization of the Holocene subdivision (Walker et al., 2019).

*L21: Can the term “climate events” be defined? (Perhaps not within the abstract, but below – perhaps ~L44). Would the term “oscillations” be more appropriate (in the Abstract, at least), which I think is less ‘loaded’ in terms of assumed prior synchronicity/a common ultimate trigger?)*

Climate “event” has been replaced with “oscillation” in the abstract. Furthermore, we believe that the use of “events” is implicitly specified in the first line of the introduction as “past climate changes”, and in the first paragraph overall. An example (the PBO) is therein defined as representing a short-lived “a cold spell”.

*L53: I do not understand “an event that spread over time”*

To clarify the meaning of the sentence, we replaced “an event that spread over time” with “an event that gradually propagated over time”.

*L55: By “mechanisms”, do you mean ultimate causes/triggers, or propagation mechanisms (or both)?*

We mean both and clarified this by adding “triggering and propagation mechanisms” to the sentence.

*L56-62: I would like a figure referred to here that displays what is being discussed (i.e. the common signals in  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  through this period).*

We have added a panel with  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  covering this period in Fig. 1.

*L107-108: please could you expand a little further upon this methodology (“The synchronization of the different radionuclide records was computed following the methodology described by Adolphi and Muscheler (2016)”).*

We have supplemented this section of the manuscript with: “This method employs the same Bayesian approach as used for wiggle-matching tree-ring  $^{14}\text{C}$  sequences to the radiocarbon calibration curve (Bronk Ramsey et al. 2001, Radiocarbon). It exploits the fact that the spacing between samples is precisely known from varve- and layer-counts, and that hence, the probability density functions from individual samples can be combined using Bayes' theorem. In analogy to radiocarbon wiggle-matching of tree-rings, we use one record (for example  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate) as our "calibration curve" while the other record serves as our "tree-rings" (e.g., MFM and GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$ ). By shifting one relative to the other we can thus, estimate a probability density function of the timescale-difference between the two records. Further details can be found in Adolphi and Muscheler (2016) and Bronk Ramsey et al. (2001).”

*L128: could these  $^{14}\text{C}$  atmospheric production rate data (from Muscheler et al. 2014) not also be included on Fig. 1? I think that this would be useful (since these data are being discussed).*

See the addition of  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  in Fig. 1, as suggested by the reviewer in a comment above. In addition, the  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate data is shown in Fig. 2 for which we have added a reference to in the text mentioned here.

*L131-133: But there is also a ~40 year trough in the MFM 10Be data that is not seen in the GRIP data, rendering the ~100 year chronological offset questionable. (I.e., the signal structure is different, making it difficult to suggest that the difference is JUST one of offset chronology.)*

It is true that some short-lived features in the radionuclide data (MFM and GRIP 10Be and 14C production rate) disagree with one another. However, we mostly make use of the overall longer-term and prominent increase in radionuclide production rate (caused by the grand solar minimum) for synchronizing these records. System effects inherent to such data will typically lead to such short-term discrepancies and this is also taken into account within the 20% uncertainty.

We have added to section 3.1 the following: “[...] although some short-term features are not visible in all records such as a 40-year long trough in the MFM 10Be data (ca. 11,290-11,250 years BP).”

*L162-164: although “difficult to quantify objectively”, is there any covariance between any of the MFM palaeoenvironmental data and the 10Be signal (or its artefact, if primary agreement with Greenland 10Be deposition is assumed)? E.g., is there any environmental explanation for the previously noted decrease in 10Be at MFM ca. 11,290-11,250 cal BP that is not seen in the Greenland 10Be data? (N.B. the correlation matrix presented in Fig.5 is of relevance here.)*

The review could be correct that the trough at MFM ca. 11,290-250 cal BP may be explained by catchment/environmental effects (see Sup. Fig. 1). However, the overall structure caused by the grand solar minimum is consistent with GRIP 10Be and 14C production rate. In addition, we cannot correct for these small effects as the catchment proxies from MFM appears to be well-correlated with solar activity at the time (see correlation matrix in Fig. 5). Therefore, removing covariance between MFM 10Be and MFM catchment proxies would effectively remove the solar signal from the former.

*L167-168: If JUST wanting to compare between MFM and Greenland (i.e. the representation of their respective “PBO” and “11.4ka event”), is it not preferable to JUST compare the fluctuations of 10Be at the two sites directly (i.e. placing the MFM chronology on to GICC05 or vice versa)? For the purpose of assessing the synchrony/asynchrony of these climatic signals, the absolute ages are not important – you are JUST interested in the relative chronology of the two sites (MFM vs Greenland and, therefore, PBO vs 10.4ka event). Surely placing both (MFM and Greenland) separately on to IntCal creates additional unnecessary uncertainty for this purpose? (Though obviously placing on to IntCal allows for the comparison of other data too – e.g. tree-ring 14C.)*

*You discuss around this point above (L154-157), but opt for the modeling of both on to IntCal, rather than the direct comparison of MFM and Greenland. But wouldn't the subsequent discussion here be (even) more robust if you just used the MFM data on GICC05 (or Greenland on MFM chronology)?*

We agree with the reviewer's comment that placing both MFM and GICC05 chronologies separately on IntCal creates additional uncertainty, though small. However, we feel it is more important to provide the best possible absolute age for the events discussed. In addition and as also pointed out by the reviewer, providing an absolute age offers the non-negligible opportunity for future studies and data to be compared more directly and robustly. We thus believe synchronizing MFM and GICC05 to IntCal is more beneficial than only considering the relative chronology of the two sites.

*L205-208: it is probably fair to say that "When looking at the temperature proxy and varve thickness from MFM (Fig. 3d-e), we do not find any event that is coeval with the 11.4 ka event in Greenland". However, as you go on to note subsequently, "Ticlr data (Fig. 3e) gradually decreased from ca. 11,490 years BP only to be interrupted by a small increase around 11,300 years BP. The low Ticlr data suggest less runoff probably related to drier conditions". The structure of this Ticlr data looks visually similar to that of the Greenland accumulation anomalies (which are limited to a subset of the time range covered by the other proxies). Could it not be that this is showing some commonality in (climatic) driver, even though the isotopic signals (representing an alternative climatic variable, or subtly different combination of climatic/environmental variables) are not showing commonality through this period?*

We thank the reviewer for rightfully pointing out that the structure of the Ti(c<sub>lr</sub>) data looks similar to the Greenland accumulation anomalies – a point that was perhaps not stated clearly enough. Although we want to remain cautious about over-interpreting the proxy data, we have added to the manuscript: "The low Ti<sub>c<sub>lr</sub></sub> data suggest less runoff probably related to drier conditions [*which shows some commonality with the conditions in Greenland at that time (11.4 oscillation) evidenced by the lower accumulation rate.*]"

*L214: it might be useful to define "grand solar minimum" for a more generalist audience (here, or at some other suitable place in the text)*

In the second paragraph of the introduction (L56), we now specify: "grand solar minimum (persistently low solar activity resulting in significantly higher radionuclide production rate)".

*L333: state when/how long the Maunder Minimum was (again for the more generalist audience)?*

We complemented the mention of the Maunder minimum with its date “(1645-1715 Common Era)”.

*Fig.1: why are your new data presented with error bars, but not the previously published (Czymzik et al. MFM and Adolphi et al. Greenland) data?*

We plotted error bars for all data.

*Figure 5: would it be clearer to only give half the correlation matrix (since the upper left portion is the same as the lower right portion)?*

We appreciate the review’s concern for clarity of Fig. 5 but we do believe the figure is clearer as a square. For instance, if the reader wants to know the correlation between GRIP 10Be and all other data, they can simply follow its entire row or column. This would not be possible if the upper left or lower right portion is removed.

Language suggestions:

**The authors take the opportunity here to thank the reviewer for contributing to enhance the quality of the language in the manuscript.**

*LL52, 130, 249: change “chronology” to “chronological”*

Changed.

*L116 & 118: delete “with”*

Deleted.

*L135: change to “timescale” (singular)*

Changed.

*L169: change to “climatic proxy data”*

Changed.

*L183: delete “of”*

Deleted.

*L202: delete “this means that”*

Deleted.

*L205: insert “...varve thickness [data]...”*

Inserted.

*L261: delete “to”*

Already deleted.

*L265: change “sun” to “solar”*

Here, we would like to hold on to the use of “Sun-climate link” as it is a commonly used phrase when discussing solar forcing on climate.

*L285: by “boundaries” do you mean “boundary conditions”?*

We do, and added “climate boundary conditions”.

*L307: change “is” to “are”*

Changed.

*L342: change “of which” to “to which” (and delete subsequent “to”)*

Changed/deleted.

*L352: change to “routinely released”*

Changed.

*L354: change “detangle” to “disentangle”*

Already changed.

Additional changes:

- Reference to Bronk Ramsey et al., Radiocarbon 2001 was added.
- Error bars of MFM  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data (red curve in Fig. 1) were fixed.
- The  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data from GRIP was erroneously referred to as “ $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration” on a few occasions when in fact we used “ $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux”. This has been corrected (see eg. L 100 in Marked Up manuscript).

# Radionuclide wiggle-matching reveals a non-synchronous Early Holocene climate oscillation in Greenland and Western Europe around a grand solar minimum

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**Abstract.** Several climate oscillations have been reported from the Early Holocene superepoch, the best known of these being the Preboreal oscillation (PBO). It is still unclear how the PBO and the number of climate oscillations observed in Greenland ice cores and European terrestrial records are related to one another. This is mainly due to uncertainties in the chronologies of the records. Here, we present new high resolution <sup>10</sup>Be concentration data from the varved Meerfelder Maar sediment record in Germany, spanning the period 11,310-11,000 years BP. These new data allow us to synchronize this well-studied record as well as Greenland ice-core records to the IntCal13 time-scale via radionuclide wiggle-matching. In doing so, we show that the climate oscillations identified in Greenland and Europe between 11,450 and 11,000 years BP were not synchronous but terminated and began, respectively, with the onset of a grand solar minimum. A similar spatial anomaly pattern is found in a number of modeling studies on solar forcing of climate in the North Atlantic region. We further postulate that freshwater delivery to the North Atlantic would have had the potential to amplify solar forcing through a slowdown of the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) reinforcing surface air temperature anomalies in the region.



## 41 1 Introduction

42 One of the great challenges in paleoclimatology today is to better assess the spatial and temporal dynamics of  
43 past climate changes. This can only be achieved through robust and consistent chronologies for different records  
44 and different regions. Unfortunately, this is a challenging task and we often assume synchrony of such events by  
45 climate-tuning different records. One such example is the Preboreal oscillation (PBO) (Björck et al., 1996) and  
46 represents a cold spell which occurred shortly after the Younger-Dryas/Holocene transition. Indications of a cold  
47 phase have also been reported in a number of European terrestrial records, most of which use biological proxy  
48 and isotope data (Björck et al., 1996; Björck et al., 1997; Bos et al., 2007; Magny et al., 2007, van der Plicht et  
49 al., 2004; von Grafenstein et al., 1999). A cold and dry climate oscillation, thought to be related to the European  
50 PBO, has also been observed in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and accumulation signals of a number of Greenland ice cores between  
51 11,520-11,400 years before AD 2000 (b2k) and referred to as the 11.4 ka event (Rasmussen et al., 2007; 2014).  
52 Due to **chronological** uncertainties, it is however unclear whether the 11.4 ka event in Greenland and the  
53 European PBO represent one single and synchronous widespread event, an event that **gradually propagated** over  
54 time, or whether the European PBO is unrelated to the 11.4 ka event in Greenland. These open questions limit  
55 our understanding of the underlying **triggering and propagation** mechanisms of these climate changes.

56 Around this period, one of the largest and longest-lasting **grand solar minimum (persistently low solar**  
57 **activity resulting in significantly higher radionuclide production rate)** of the Holocene occurred between 11,280-  
58 10,960 years before AD 1950 (BP). This was evidenced by beryllium-10 ( $^{10}\text{Be}$ ) data in the GISP2 and GRIP ice  
59 cores in central Greenland (Finkel and Nishiizumi, 1997; Muscheler et al., 2004; Adolphi et al., 2014) and by  
60  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  ( $^{14}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$  corrected for fractionation and decay, relative to a standard, and noted as  $\Delta$  in Stuiver and Polach  
61 (1977)) derived from tree rings (Reimer et al., 2013). This substantial change in solar activity (from high to  
62 persistently low) offers an advantage to us for synchronizing time-scales as it has left a clear imprint on the  
63 atmospheric production rate of the cosmogenic radionuclides  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  (Fig. 1). That is, these radionuclides  
64 are produced by a nuclear cascade that is triggered when cosmic rays enter the atmosphere. The Earth is  
65 shielded, to some extent, from these cosmic rays by the fluctuating strength of the helio- and geomagnetic fields.  
66 Therefore, radionuclides carry in part the signal of solar activity, which is then stored in natural archives such as  
67 in polar ice caps or lake sediments ( $^{10}\text{Be}$ ) as well as in tree rings ( $^{14}\text{C}$ ). In consequence, we can use these global  
68 fluctuations in atmospheric production rate of radionuclides to synchronize records from different environmental  
69 archives and investigate the timing of climate events during the earliest part of the Holocene (Southon, 2002;  
70 Muscheler et al., 2014; Adolphi and Muscheler, 2016).

71 Here we present new high-resolution  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration measurements from the well-studied varved  
72 Meerfelder Maar sediment record (MFM) in western Germany, spanning across these large fluctuations in solar  
73 activity from 11,310 to 11,000 years BP. Because of its limited catchment area and the existence of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data  
74 covering the Late Glacial-Holocene transition (Czymzik et al., 2016), MFM represents an ideal location for the  
75 aim of this study. As such, the new  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data allow us to synchronize MFM and Greenland ice core records with  
76 the IntCal13 time-scale through wiggle-matching of these different radionuclide records. We can then investigate  
77 the timing of the fluctuations observed in the corresponding paleoclimate records at a high chronological  
78 precision and assess their relationship in regard to changes in solar activity.

## 79 2 Methods

### 80 2.1 Preparation of sediment <sup>10</sup>Be samples

81 The new <sup>10</sup>Be samples come from the composite sediment profile MFM09 (Martin-Puertas et al., 2012a) which  
82 was retrieved at MFM, a deep crater lake situated in the Eiffel region in western Germany that is annually  
83 laminated (varved) throughout most of the Holocene (Brauer et al., 2000). About 0.25 g of dried and crushed  
84 material was taken for each sample with a temporal resolution of 3 and 10 years (see dataset) and 0.5 mg of <sup>9</sup>Be  
85 carrier was added. <sup>10</sup>Be was extracted from the sediment samples at the <sup>10</sup>Be laboratory of the Earth Sciences  
86 Department of Uppsala University, Sweden, following the methodology described by Berggren et al. (2010). All  
87 samples were measured using the Accelerator Mass Spectrometer (AMS) of the Tandem laboratory in Uppsala.  
88 The <sup>10</sup>Be concentration (in atoms/g) of each sample is calculated based on the <sup>10</sup>Be counts  $R$  to <sup>9</sup>Be counts  $R_{st}$   
89 ratio and taking in consideration the NIST SRM 4325 reference standard (<sup>10</sup>Be/<sup>9</sup>Be =  $2.68 \cdot 10^{-11}$ ), the weights of  
90 the carrier  $W_C$  and of the sample  $W_S$  as well as the Avogadro constant  $N_A$  and atomic weight  $A_r$  of beryllium:

$$91 \quad {}^{10}\text{Be conc.} = \frac{R}{R_{st}} * 2.68 \cdot 10^{-11} * \frac{W_C}{W_S} * \frac{N_A}{A_r}$$

92

### 93 2.2 Chronologies and synchronization

94 The paleoclimate data investigated henceforth come from different studies, with different records and thus  
95 different chronologies. The new sediment <sup>10</sup>Be concentration data come from MFM, the chronology of which  
96 (MFM2012) was established using mainly microscopic varve counting fixed on an absolute time-scale via  
97 tephrochronology as well as radiocarbon dating with a maximum varve counting error of up to 110 years (Brauer  
98 et al., 2000; Martin-Puertas et al., 2012a). A more recent chronology (MFM2015) exists which includes the  
99 identification and age of the Vedde Ash although it remains unchanged for the Holocene part (Lane et al., 2015),  
100 which is the period of focus in this study. We also use published <sup>10</sup>Be flux data (Adolphi et al., 2014) from the  
101 GRIP ice core in central Greenland and within the Greenland Ice Core Chronology (GICC05) framework  
102 (Rasmussen et al., 2006; Vinther et al., 2006; Svensson et al., 2008; Seierstad et al., 2014). Finally, we use <sup>14</sup>C  
103 production rate data (Muscheler et al., 2014) inferred from the IntCal13 <sup>14</sup>C calibration curve (Reimer et al.,  
104 2013) as the anchoring record for our synchronization. That is, we synchronize the MFM2012 time-scale (using  
105 our <sup>10</sup>Be concentration data) as well as the GICC05 time-scale (using the GRIP <sup>10</sup>Be flux data) to IntCal13 (using  
106 the <sup>14</sup>C production rate data).

107 The synchronization of the different radionuclide records was computed following the methodology  
108 described in Adolphi and Muscheler (2016). This method employs the same Bayesian approach as used for  
109 wiggle-matching tree-ring <sup>14</sup>C sequences to the radiocarbon calibration curve (Bronk Ramsey et al., 2001). It  
110 exploits the fact that the spacing between samples is precisely known from varve- and layer-counts, and that  
111 hence, the probability density functions from individual samples can be combined using Bayes' theorem. In  
112 analogy to radiocarbon wiggle-matching of tree-rings, we use one record (for example <sup>14</sup>C production rate) as  
113 our "calibration curve" while the other record serves as our "tree-rings" (e.g., MFM and GRIP <sup>10</sup>Be). By shifting  
114 one relative to the other we can thus, estimate a probability density function of the timescale-difference between  
115 the two records. Further details can be found in Adolphi and Muscheler (2016) and Bronk Ramsey et al. (2001).

116 For these calculations we linearly detrend all radionuclide records between 11,000 and 11,800 years BP and  
117 assumed a production rate uncertainty of 20% for all records, which corresponds to the root mean square error  
118 between the records after synchronization.

119

## 120 **3 Results**

### 121 **3.1 Meerfelder Maar $^{10}\text{Be}$ concentrations**

122 The new  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration measurements from MFM are displayed in Fig. 1, alongside  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux data from the  
123 GRIP ice core in central Greenland (Finkel and Nishiizumi, 1997; Muscheler et al., 2004; Adolphi et al., 2014),  
124 and older  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration data from MFM for the Late Glacial-Holocene transition (Czymzik et al., 2016).  
125 Each dataset is plotted on its original time-scale – that is, the MFM2012 chronology (Brauer et al., 2000; Martin-  
126 Puertas et al., 2012a) and the GICC05 chronology (Rasmussen et al., 2006; Vinther et al., 2006; Svensson et al.,  
127 2008; Seierstad et al., 2014). The most striking feature of these datasets is the approximately 250-year long  
128 period of increased  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration around 11,150 years BP. The most likely explanation for this increase is a  
129 decrease in the intensity of the heliomagnetic field (solar activity) leading to an increased impingement of Earth  
130 by galactic cosmic rays and thus, an increased atmospheric production rate of  $^{10}\text{Be}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  nuclides. It was also  
131 shown that meteorological and catchment influences on  $^{10}\text{Be}$  deposition are likely small at MFM (Czymzik et al.,  
132 2016). The high resolution of our  $^{10}\text{Be}$  measurements allows us to observe finer structures within this period of  
133 increased  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration. One example is the double peak structure at 11,040 and 11,200 years BP, which is  
134 also present in  $^{14}\text{C}$  atmospheric production rate data (Muscheler et al., 2014; Fig. 2), but not well-expressed in  
135 the GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data. Finally, it is of importance to note that although the increased production around 11,150  
136 years BP is observed in all these radionuclide records, there is an apparent **chronological** offset at its onset  
137 around 11,300 years BP (Fig. 1). More specifically, the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux data from GRIP begin to increase around  
138 11,320 years BP whereas a similar increase is seen in the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration from MFM about a hundred years  
139 later **although some short-term features are not visible in all records such as a 40-year long trough in the MFM**  
140  **$^{10}\text{Be}$  data (ca. 11,290-11,250 years BP).**

141

### 142 **3.2 Time-scale synchronization**

143 The Greenland ice core time-scale is characterized by an accumulating layer counting uncertainty back in time  
144 (Rasmussen et al., 2006) as are chronologies based on sediment varve counting such as MFM. In comparison  
145 tree ring chronologies, underlying the  $^{14}\text{C}$  calibration record, are considered accurate with virtually no dating  
146 uncertainty for the Holocene period (Reimer et al., 2013). Considering the different time-scale uncertainties, it is  
147 challenging to compare the timing of short-lived climate oscillations such as the PBO/11.4 ka event. Here we use  
148 the global signature common to all cosmogenic radionuclide records as a synchronization tool (Muscheler et al.,  
149 2008; 2014). More specifically, we use the large fluctuations in both the MFM and GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data to  
150 synchronize these records onto the chronologically more accurate and precise IntCal13 time-scale (Czymzik et  
151 al., 2018). It was previously shown that GICC05 increasingly overestimates age during the Holocene, compared  
152 to IntCal13 (Muscheler et al., 2014) and this time-scale difference is estimated to increase to 67 ( $\pm$  6) years at  
153 11,000 years BP (Adolphi and Muscheler, 2016). We use the same Bayesian wiggle-matching approach as in

154 Adolphi and Muscheler (2016), but here for the period 11,000-11,800 years BP to synchronize both the MFM  
155 sediment and Greenland ice core records onto IntCal13.

156 Figure 2 shows both the ice-core and sediment-core  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data once synchronized onto the IntCal13  
157 time-scale using the  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate from Muscheler et al. (2014), with the corresponding probability density  
158 functions displayed on the right-hand panel. We find that the MFM  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data fit best with  $^{14}\text{C}$  by adding 20 years  
159 to MFM2012 (+6/-19 years uncertainty with a 95.4% confidence interval), whereas the GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data fit best  
160 with  $^{14}\text{C}$  by shifting GICC05 78 years towards present (+32/-8 years uncertainty with a 95.4% likelihood  
161 interval). When comparing GICC05 directly to MFM2012, we find that the best fit occurs by shifting GICC05  
162 72 years towards MFM2012 (+4/-8 years with a 95.4% likelihood interval). There is thus a difference of 26  
163 years (72 +4/-8 years vs. 98 +33/-21 years) when comparing GICC05 and MFM2012 directly, rather than  
164 synchronizing them to IntCal13 first which illustrates the uncertainties inherent to this exercise. In the following,  
165 we will compare GICC05 and MFM2012 when synchronized to IntCal13 as it is the more robust time-scale and  
166 thus consider the combined chronology offset of 98 (+33/-21) years. Another uncertainty from these estimates  
167 arises from the influence of climate on the cosmogenic signal of all radionuclides (Adolphi et al., 2014;  
168 Muscheler et al., 2008; Pedro et al., 2012). For instance,  $^{14}\text{C}$  oxidizes to form  $^{14}\text{CO}_2$  and enters the carbon cycle  
169 while  $^{10}\text{Be}$  readily attaches to aerosols and is thus influenced by precipitation. Even though  $^{10}\text{Be}$  deposition is not  
170 expected to have strong environmental influences at MFM (Czymzik et al., 2016), this was taken into account  
171 within the 20% uncertainty since these effects are difficult to quantify objectively.

172

### 173 3.3 Anomalies in paleoclimate proxies between 11,450-11,000 years BP

174 If we correct the GICC05 and MFM2012 timescales for their respective offsets to IntCal13, we can compare  
175 Early Holocene climate in Greenland to data from MFM with a high chronological precision. Figure 3 displays a  
176 selection of climatic proxy data from both Greenland ice cores and the varved MFM record on the IntCal13  
177 time-scale, as per Fig. 2. In addition, both  $^{14}\text{C}$  atmospheric production rate and GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux data are shown as  
178 a general indicator of changes in solar activity (Fig. 3a). The stack of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  anomalies from four Greenland ice  
179 cores (DYE-3, GRIP, NGRIP, and Renland - Fig. 3b) can be related to surface air temperature around Greenland  
180 (Rasmussen et al., 2007; Vinther et al., 2009) and shows one negative fluctuation between 11,400-11,250 years  
181 BP. Following this oscillation, the Greenland  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  anomaly record remains largely constant and positive. In  
182 addition, we also use the accumulation rate anomaly stack (Fig. 3c) from the DYE-3, GRIP, and NGRIP ice  
183 cores (Rasmussen et al., 2007) to illustrate changes in snow accumulation rates over Greenland. Here again, a  
184 negative fluctuation is observed between 11,400-11,250 years BP. Then, we make use of the MFM  $\delta\text{D}$  records  
185 of n-alkanes (Fig. 3d) that has been interpreted as a proxy for precipitation  $\delta\text{D}$  (Rach et al., 2014) which,  
186 similarly to  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in Greenland, can thus be regarded as indicative of distance from, and temperature/humidity at  
187 the moisture source (Dansgaard, 1964) as well as fractionation related to air temperature. As opposed to the  
188 Greenland stack, the  $\delta\text{D}$  data show no fluctuations between 11,400-11,250 years BP with  $\delta\text{D}_{\text{aq}}$  remaining  
189 constant and  $\delta\text{D}_{\text{terr}}$  showing an increasing trend. Then at 11,250 years BP, both  $\delta\text{D}$  series depict a 20% drop that  
190 persists until 11,100 years BP. To test the spatial scale to which the  $\delta\text{D}$  record from MFM can be representative,  
191 we have investigated the spatial relationship between surface air temperature (SAT) in the NOAA-CIRES 20<sup>th</sup>  
192 climate reanalysis V2c (20CR; Compo et al., 2011) and  $\delta\text{D}$  in precipitation from the Trier meteorological station

193 (about 50 km SW of MFM). It can be seen from Fig. 4 that there is a significant relationship ( $p < 0.1$ ) between  
194 annual precipitation  $\delta D$  from the Trier station (IAEA/WMO, 2006) and annual SAT over most of western  
195 Europe. In addition, Fig. 4 also points to a relationship between annual SATs over Greenland-Iceland and annual  
196  $\delta^{18}O$  at Summit (Steig et al., 1994; White et al., 2009). Finally, we also show varve thickness changes at MFM  
197 that were primarily controlled by runoff from the catchment. After a period of low varve thickness, a sharp  
198 increase occurred 11,250 years BP followed by a gradual decrease and a second but very small increase around  
199 11,080 years BP. Titanium centered-log ratio data ( $Ti_{clr}$ ), determined by micro X-ray fluorescence ( $\mu$ -XRF) from  
200 the same MFM sediment composite profile (Martin-Puertas et al., 2017), confirm the interpretation that the  
201 variance in varve thickness at the time was mostly controlled by detrital supply to the lake (Fig. 3e). It is  
202 important to mention that on a longer time perspective, the changes described above in the sediments of MFM  
203 (Martin-Puertas et al., 2017; Rach et al., 2012) do not exceed other fluctuations in varve thickness and  $Ti_{clr}$ .  
204

## 205 4 Discussion

### 206 4.1 Timing and interpretation of anomalies between 11,450-11,000 years BP

207 In Greenland, a cold and dry climate episode occurred around 11,400-11,250 years BP known as the 11.4 ka  
208 event (Rasmussen et al., 2007). This is evidenced by a significant drop in the signal of the Greenland ice core  
209  $\delta^{18}O$  stack as well as in the accumulation stack (Fig. 3b-c). By shifting GICC05 78 years towards present, the  
210 central part of the 11.4 ka event (lowest value in  $\delta^{18}O$ ) is dated to about 11,372-11,272 (+32/-8) years BP which  
211 is consistent with GICC05 within the combined uncertainty of our synchronization and the maximum counting  
212 error in GICC05. When looking at the temperature proxy and varve thickness data from MFM (Fig. 3d-e), we do  
213 not find any event that is coeval with the 11.4 ka event in Greenland. Interestingly though,  $Ti_{clr}$  data (Fig. 3e)  
214 gradually decreased from ca. 11,490 years BP only to be interrupted by a small increase around 11,300 years BP.  
215 The low  $Ti_{clr}$  data suggest less runoff probably related to drier conditions which shows some commonality with  
216 the conditions in Greenland at that time (11.4 oscillation) evidenced by the lower accumulation rate. Therefore, a  
217 possible link to the dry “Rammelbeek Phase” described from the Borchert peat sequence in the Netherlands (van  
218 der Plicht et al., 2004; Bos et al., 2007) may be tentatively put forward although chronological uncertainties  
219 hinder proving this. We can now also confidently deduce that the termination of the  $\delta^{18}O$  and accumulation  
220 anomalies in Greenland (the 11.4 ka event) is synchronous with a large decrease in solar activity (Fig. 3a-c).  
221 More specifically, high levels of solar activity prevailed throughout the occurrence of the 11.4 ka event in  
222 Greenland. Then as solar activity started to decrease (circa 11,250 years BP) into a grand solar minimum that  
223 lasted for about 250 years, climate in Greenland switched back to warmer and wetter conditions with higher  $\delta^{18}O$   
224 values and accumulation rate. This is in accordance with the suggestion of an abrupt warming ( $4^\circ \pm 1.5^\circ$ ) in  
225 Greenland following the event, based on  $\delta^{15}N$  in the GIPS2 ice core (Kobashi et al., 2008). The rapid transition  
226 towards positive accumulation anomalies occurred over a few decades only.

227 While climate over Greenland following the 11.4 ka event returned rapidly to warmer and wetter  
228 conditions, all proxies from MFM sediments (Fig. 3d-e) show fluctuations around 11,250 years BP (henceforth  
229 MFM oscillation). In particular, aquatic  $\delta D$  data from small-chain alkanes (Rach et al., 2014) show a clear  
230 oscillation with a 20% drop around 11,250 years BP (Fig. 3d) while terrestrial  $\delta D$  data show a decrease reaching

231 levels seen about 11,500 years BP. This deuterium depletion in the alkanes most likely mirrors a depletion of  
232 deuterium in precipitation which can be explained, in part, by lower air temperatures over western Europe in  
233 view of Fig. 4. Simultaneously, varve thickness and  $Ti_{clr}$  show a rapid increase at 11,250 years BP (Fig. 3e)  
234 denoting a likely increasing detrital contribution to this varve thickening. When considered into a longer time  
235 perspective (Martin-Puertas et al., 2017), this varve increase reaches the level of other fluctuations that are  
236 unrelated to known Early Holocene oscillations in North-Atlantic climate. Nevertheless, this shift at 11,250 year  
237 BP does correspond to a change in the composition of the sediments as Martin-Puertas et al. (2017) defined a  
238 compositional boundary of MFM varves at 11,230 years BP (11,250 years BP on the IntCal13 time-scale), based  
239 on  $\mu$ -XRF scanning analyzed with Ward's clustering methods. By synchronizing MFM2012 onto IntCal13 (Fig.  
240 2), we find that this compositional boundary is also coeval with the onset of the grand solar minimum (Fig. 3)  
241 although the cause of this change is difficult to assess. In fact,  $Ti_{clr}$  as well as  $\ln(Si/Ti)$  and  $\ln(Ca/Ti)$ , generally  
242 regarded by Martin-Puertas et al. (2017) as indicating relative changes of biogenic silica concentrations and  
243 authigenic calcite precipitation, are significantly correlated to the new  $^{10}Be$  concentration measurements, but  
244 also to the GRIP  $^{10}Be$  data and to  $^{14}C$  atmospheric production rate (Fig. 5 and Sup. Fig. 1). Because GRIP  $^{10}Be$   
245 data and  $^{14}C$  atmospheric production rate are unaffected by environmental changes at MFM, we suggest that the  
246 catchment area of MFM was likely influenced by the substantial changes in solar activity that characterized this  
247 period rather than  $^{10}Be$  concentration at MFM being affected by this sediment compositional change. In support  
248 to this assumption, Czymzik et al. (2016) also reported negligible climate influences on  $^{10}Be$  deposition at MFM,  
249 even across distinct climatological boundaries. It can also be seen that the second and smaller increase in varve  
250 thickness and  $Ti_{clr}$  is coeval with a second dip in solar activity shortly after 11,100 years BP (Fig. 3a and 3e).  
251 Finally, it is worthwhile to note that the percentage values of *Pinus* pollen, biogenic silica, as well as pollen  
252 concentrations in MFM all decreased at 11,230-11,250 years BP while percentage values of *Betula* increased  
253 (Brauer et al., 1999). Although not interpreted by the authors, these changes echo the findings of Björck et al.  
254 (1997) who defined the PBO in terrestrial records of Sweden with a similar decrease of pollen concentrations  
255 and more notably of *Pinus* pollen percentages, interpreted as a set-back of tree vegetation in Southern Sweden. It  
256 should be stressed here that we cannot directly compare the palynology of MFM to these Swedish lakes because  
257 of the challenging interpretation of the former record as well as the chronological uncertainties and vicinity to  
258 the retreating Fennoscandian Ice Sheet of the latter records.

259 In summary, the radionuclide-based synchronization of the GICC05 and MFM2012 time-scales indicate  
260 a combined timing offset of up to 98 (+33/-21) years during the earliest part of the Holocene. Correcting for this  
261 offset, we observe that cold oscillations at both locations and inferred from water isotopes did not occur  
262 simultaneously between 11,450 and 11,000 years BP. We further note that this pattern appears to be coupled  
263 with large changes in solar activity, which leads us to suggest a causal link. More specifically, the cold and dry  
264 climate oscillation in Greenland (the 11.4 ka event) occurred under a period of high solar activity between c.  
265 11,370-11,270 years BP, but did not leave a discernable imprint in either varve thickness or biomarker  $\delta D$  from  
266 MFM. Subsequently, solar activity dropped to a grand minimum that lasted for as long as 250 years. This change  
267 was coeval with the termination of the 11.4 ka event (Greenland) and the onset of the MFM oscillation with  
268 colder conditions inferred from  $\delta D$  data (Figs. 3d and 4). The ostensible link with solar activity which we infer  
269 in view of Fig. 3 resembles what has been described substantially in the recent literature and is discussed in the  
270 following section.

271

## 272 4.2 Solar forcing during 11,450-11,000 years BP

273 Our suggestion of a causal Sun-climate link during the earliest part of the Holocene can be further supported by  
274 the spatial patterns of the 11.4 ka event in Greenland followed by a cold period at MFM starting at 11,250 years  
275 BP (MFM oscillation). Based on our synchronization of the different paleoclimate records, we find an  
276 asynchronous relationship between Greenlandic and European climate, characterized by cold and dry conditions  
277 over Greenland, but with no evidence of it at MFM, under high solar activity and a warm and wetter Greenlandic  
278 climate as well as a colder conditions at MFM for low solar activity (Fig. 3).

279 This pattern is consistent with a number of, but not all, climate modeling studies that find a top-down  
280 influence of solar activity on North Atlantic/European atmospheric circulation patterns. This forcing mechanism  
281 involves the increase in UV radiation during solar maxima years (Haigh et al., 2010; Lockwood et al., 2010)  
282 which enhances the production of stratospheric ozone and leads to stratospheric heating through increased  
283 absorption of long wave radiation (Haigh et al., 2010) especially at the equator. This increases the stratospheric  
284 temperature gradient between the equator and poles (Simpson et al., 2009) leading to an acceleration of the polar  
285 night jet (Kodera et al., 2002), which eventually propagates down to the troposphere via wave refraction  
286 (Matthes et al., 2006; Ineson et al., 2011). In turn, this leads to patterns in surface pressure and temperature  
287 which mimic those of the positive phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation in winter (Woollings et al., 2010;  
288 Ineson et al., 2011). The opposite mode applies during periods of solar minima. It should however be stressed  
289 that there is no consistent correlation between the NAO and solar forcing for the past centuries (Gray et al.,  
290 2013; Ortega et al., 2015) although a solar influence on the region is not necessarily related to the NAO (Moffa-  
291 Sánchez et al., 2014; Sjolte et al., 2018). Even though the spatial pattern we observe agrees well with a top-down  
292 solar forcing, other mechanisms cannot be excluded to lie behind the different North-Atlantic response patterns.  
293 Overall, it has to be kept in mind that different time periods with different climate **boundary conditions** could  
294 lead to shifting atmospheric patterns.

295 In the following we explore the solar hypothesis further by investigating a modern analogue with  
296 climate reanalysis data. Figure 6a shows the surface air temperature (SAT) anomalies in the North Atlantic  
297 region for periods of solar maxima compared to periods of solar minima in 20CR (mean  $\pm 1\sigma$  of the sunspot  
298 group numbers from Svalgaard and Schatten (2016) between 1946-2011, see Sup. Fig. 2). It can be seen from  
299 the SAT anomalies that a distinct antiphase pattern between Greenland and Europe is coincident with highs and  
300 lows in solar activity. That is, Greenland experiences lower SATs during winters of solar maxima compared to  
301 winters of solar minima whereas lower SATs are observed across Europe for winters of solar minima compared  
302 to winters of solar maxima. This highlights the correspondence between the solar influence on North-Atlantic  
303 climate which has been proposed to act during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the synchronized climate proxy records  
304 during the Early Holocene, in terms of spatial distribution of SAT anomalies. Furthermore, this correspondence  
305 can also be qualitatively described by comparing the mean annual temperature anomalies at both Summit  
306 (central Greenland) and MFM (Fig. 6c-d) throughout an average of all 11-year solar cycles of the 20<sup>th</sup> century  
307 (Fig. 6b). Decadal temperature changes in 20CR at both Summit (blue curve in Fig. 6c) and MFM (red curve in  
308 Fig. 6d) agree qualitatively well with centennial  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$  changes observed in Greenland ice cores and in  
309 MFM sediments and during the period ranging from 11,450 to 11,000 years BP (black curves in Fig.6c-d, note

310 the different time-axes). Of specific interest here is the average transition from high to low solar activity that is  
311 coincident with an annual temperature rise/drop of ca. 1K at Summit/MFM. Assuming changes in water isotopes  
312 to be, in part, indicative of regional temperature changes (Dansgaard, 1964; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2005; Rach  
313 et al., 2014; Fig. 4), this decadal pattern between Summit and MFM in climate reanalysis data mimics the  
314 centennial-scale climate changes that prevailed in Greenland and Europe throughout 11,450-11,000 years BP.  
315 Water isotopes are often dominated by a particular seasonal signal. It is therefore of interest to note that the  
316 spatial patterns observed in climate reanalysis **are** also present during the summer, although to a lesser degree  
317 (Sup. Fig. 3).

318 It should be noted that the efficiency of the top-down mechanism remains largely unexplored for  
319 centennial time-scales. For instance, previous studies have proposed a top-down solar influence on atmospheric  
320 circulation on similar time-scales for both Greenland (Adolphi et al., 2014) and MFM (Martin-Puertas et al.,  
321 2012b) leading to a similar spatial pattern in reanalysis data. The modeling results in these studies do however  
322 only investigate the effect of decadal (11-years) changes in solar activity. In contrast, it was also shown more  
323 recently that the centennial response of North-Atlantic atmospheric circulation to solar forcing is correlated to  
324 the second mode of atmospheric circulation, the Eastern Atlantic Pattern, rather than to the first mode, the NAO  
325 (Sjolte et al., 2018). The latter study consequently does not find a similar pattern in SAT anomalies between  
326 Greenland and western Europe.

327 For the same reasons, another uncertainty arises from the relevance of using 20<sup>th</sup> century climate  
328 reanalysis as an analogy of Early Holocene conditions. In particular, the Laurentide ice sheet (LIS) is known to  
329 have played an important role in the position of the North Atlantic eddy-driven jet by accelerating and displacing  
330 it southward (Merz et al., 2015). However, it is also known that the LIS waned to the point of separation with the  
331 Cordilleran at about 14,000 years BP (Dyke, 2004). According to a study based on a transient climate simulation  
332 from the LGM (Löfverström and Lora, 2017), this separation led to a shift in the dominant topographic  
333 stationary wave source in North America. This, in turn, induced a transition from a strong and subtropical jet  
334 stream to a weaker and more meridionally tilted jet stream and storm track, as observed for present conditions.  
335 This suggests that similar atmospheric processes could have been at play during the earliest part of the Holocene,  
336 relative to today, in spite of different boundary conditions. Furthermore, the results from Fig. 6 arise from an 11-  
337 year solar cycle forcing which is considerably weaker and less persistent than the potential solar forcing that the  
338 11,400 years BP solar maximum to 11,200 years BP grand solar minimum could have provoked, leading to  
339 possibly different reactions due to feedback processes. In fact, both the <sup>14</sup>C data and GRIP <sup>10</sup>Be data shown in  
340 Fig. 2 depict one of the most prominent increases of the Holocene record (Vonmoos et al., 2006), in terms of  
341 both amplitude and duration of the grand solar minimum. In comparison, its duration represents twice the length  
342 of the longest grand minimum known from sunspot observations (Svalgaard and Schatten, 2016) and called the  
343 Maunder minimum (1645-1715 Common Era).

344

#### 345 **4.3 Solar-ocean coupling**

346 The PBO has also been associated with an increase in freshwater supply hampering the Atlantic meridional  
347 overturning circulation (AMOC), possibly from the Baltic Ice Lake drainage and the rapidly waning  
348 Fennoscandian ice sheet (Björck et al., 1996; Hald and Hagen, 1998). It was next proposed by Fisher et al.



349 (2002) that an outburst of Lake Agassiz could represent the trigger of the PBO through an increased thickness  
350 and extent of Arctic Ocean sea-ice pack. This would have resulted in an increased albedo as well as a slowdown  
351 of North Atlantic Deep Waters (NADW) formation due to increased freshwater delivery to the North Atlantic.  
352 However, the timing of the outburst event **to which** they attribute the PBO (11,335 cal yr BP) has rather large  
353 uncertainties ( $\pm 130$  to 230 years) due to the  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  age plateau at this period. More recently, it was suggested that  
354 even small changes in the prevalence of the AMOC can influence atmospheric circulation with couplings to the  
355 NAO with an intensification of the former resulting in a negative index of the latter (Frankignoul et al., 2013).

356 To further investigate the potential spatial distribution of SAT anomalies due to a slowdown of the  
357 AMOC, we again investigate 20CR for winters with a negative reconstructed AMOC index (Duchez et al., 2014)  
358 compared to winters with a positive reconstructed AMOC index for the period 1961-2005 (Fig. 7a).  
359 Interestingly, similar SAT anomalies subside as those for solar forcing. That is, an amplified meridional  
360 temperature gradient with a colder Greenland and warmer western Europe are favoured in winters where the  
361 AMOC is weaker, relative to winters where it is stronger. Although it is difficult to obtain direct evidence of an  
362 AMOC slowdown during the Early Holocene, it is conceivable that the waning Fennoscandian ice sheet would  
363 have **routinely released** enough freshwater to weaken and condition the AMOC for the onset of the 11.4 ka event  
364 in Greenland. This result could also be explained by the influence of the NAO on the AMOC index, as it is  
365 difficult to disentangle these tightly coupled processes (McCarthy et al., 2015). In this case, the persistent high  
366 levels of solar activity, which also can favor such temperature and pressure patterns, could represent a potential  
367 trigger for these climate oscillations. Figure 7b depicts the large temperature differences for winters where both  
368 high solar activity and a weak AMOC prevailed during the period 1961-2005, with up to a -4K anomaly in  
369 western Greenland. This however needs to be treated with caution due to the relatively short period of  
370 observation that results in very few years where such solar activity and AMOC conditions existed in parallel  
371 (Sup. Fig. 4).

372 In addition, a coupling between solar and freshwater forcing could also explain the lack of significant  
373 climate responses to subsequent grand solar minima which were also large in amplitude but did not yield an  
374 unequivocal impact on North Atlantic climate. It is indeed notable that the following changes in solar activity  
375 occurred while the influence of freshwater release by the FIS was diminishing, and therefore the North Atlantic  
376 was not conditioned as it was during the PBO. For instance, a similar but weaker event was found in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
377 signal of the GRIP ice core around 10,300 cal. years BP, coinciding with a low in  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  (high solar activity) and  
378 a cooling in the Faroe Islands (Björck et al., 2001). Whereas, the subsequent grand solar minimum which  
379 occurred around 9,500 years BP (Vonmoos et al., 2006), at a time during which the FIS had completely vanished  
380 (Stroeven et al., 2016), did not coincide with any evident climate oscillation in Greenland.

381

## 382 **5 Conclusions**

383 A comparison of new  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration measurements from the varved Meerfelder Maar sediments covering  
384 the period 11,310-11,000 years BP to the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data from the GRIP ice core in central Greenland showed a  
385 combined offset of up to 98 (+33/-21) years between the MFM2012 and GICC05 chronologies. Correcting for  
386 this offset allowed us to determine that the 11.4 ka event in Greenland has no coeval counterparts in Meerfelder

387 Maar and that it coincides with high solar activity. The time-scales synchronization also showed that an  
388 environmental shift at MFM starting at 11,250 years BP is coincident with a transition from high solar activity to  
389 a particularly long-lasting grand solar minimum as well as with the termination of the 11.4 ka event in  
390 Greenland. The termination and onset of these cold oscillations in Greenland and then Meerfelder Maar are thus  
391 synchronous with large changes in solar activity which is a pattern reproduced by a number of modeling studies.  
392 Finally, we also postulate that a slowdown of the AMOC due to freshwater delivery from, for instance, the  
393 Fennoscandian Ice Sheet could have served as a potential amplifier to this signal. The extent of the role that solar  
394 activity changes may have played on the climate of Greenland and Europe during the earliest part of the  
395 Holocene is unclear. This is due to the different boundary conditions which prevailed at the time compared to  
396 today but also to the proxy-evidence from MFM which is difficult to interpret. The main results from this study  
397 do however exemplify the usefulness of cosmogenic radionuclides to synchronize different paleo-records in an  
398 effort to investigate the timing and spatial distribution of past climate fluctuations with a high chronological  
399 precision.

400

401 **Author contribution:** FM performed the analysis in correspondence with RM, carried out the sampling with  
402 MC and CMP, and did the chemical preparation of the Meerfelder Maar <sup>10</sup>Be samples with help of AA while GP  
403 performed the measurements. FM wrote the manuscript. RM, MC, and FM initiated the project. FA provided the  
404 Bayesian synchronization and participated in the interpretation of climate reanalysis with JS. SB, AB, MC, and  
405 CMP assisted with the interpretation of the proxy data. All authors were involved in editing the manuscript.

406 **Competing interests:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

407

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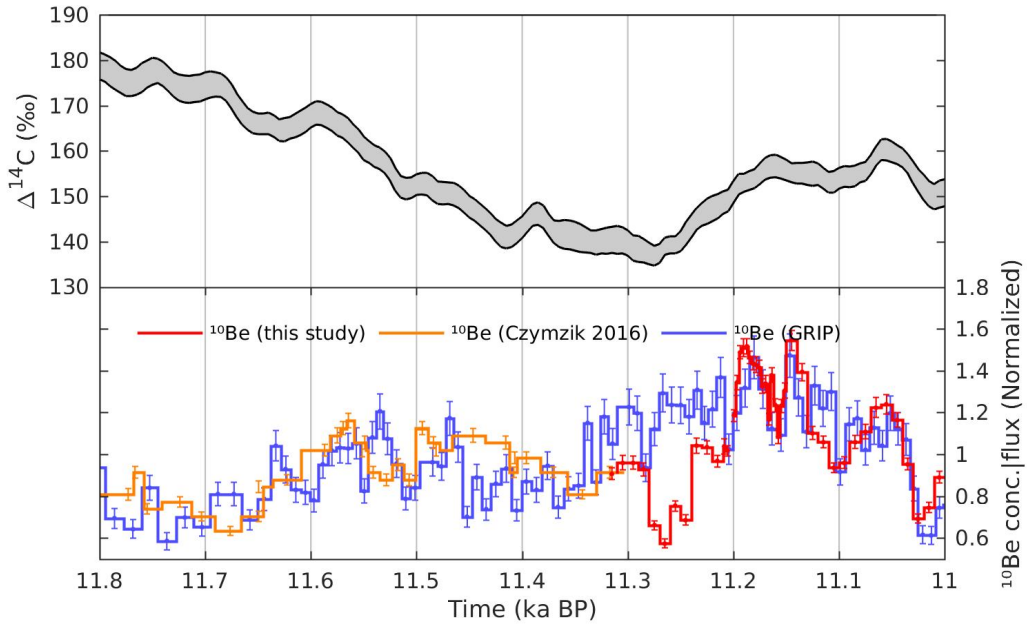
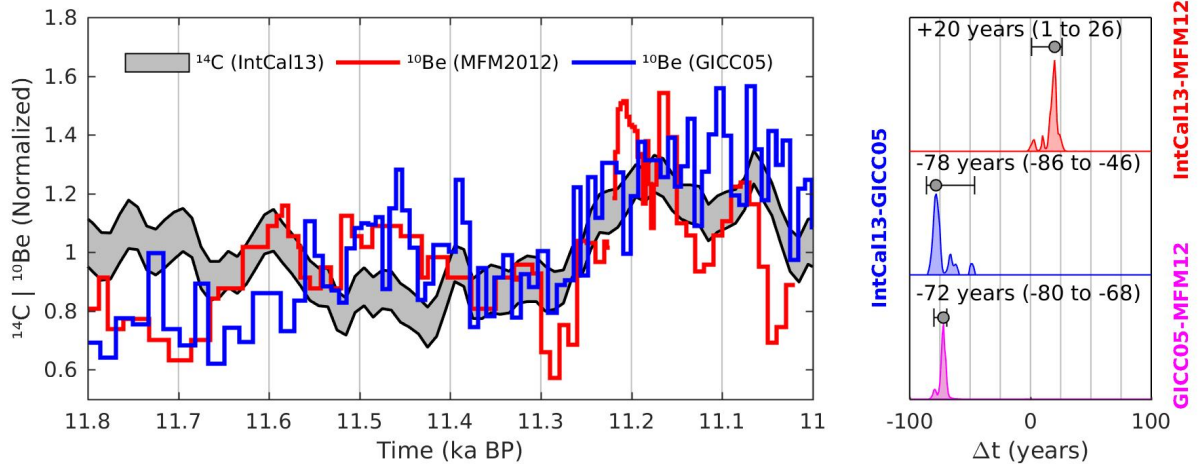


Figure 1: **Upper panel:** The IntCal13 calibration curve (Reimer et al., 2013) expressed as  $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$  (see text). **Bottom panel:** The  $^{10}\text{Be}$  concentration data from Meerfelder maar (MFM), spanning the period 11,310-11,000 years BP are plotted in red with corresponding measurement error bars. The record is completed in orange with the  $^{10}\text{Be}$  measurements from the same sediment profile for the Late Glacial-Holocene transition (Czymzik et al., 2016). The MFM  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data are plotted on the original MFM2012 chronology. The  $^{10}\text{Be}$  flux data from the GRIP ice core in central Greenland (Adolphi et al., 2014) is plotted in blue and on the GICC05 time-scale (Rasmussen et al., 2006; Vinther et al., 2006; Svensson et al., 2008; Seierstad et al., 2014). All records have been normalized to their mean.





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Figure 2: Results from the Bayesian wiggle-matching of the different radionuclide records. The left panel shows both the MFM  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data (in red) and the GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data (blue) once synchronized to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate data inferred from the IntCal13 calibration curve ( $1\sigma$  grey envelope). The right-hand panel displays the probability density functions for the best fit between IntCal13-MFM2012 (in red), IntCal13-GICC05 (in blue) and GICC05-MFM2012 (in magenta), which resulted in the synchronization in the left-hand panel and with a 95.4% confidence interval illustrated by the horizontal error bars.

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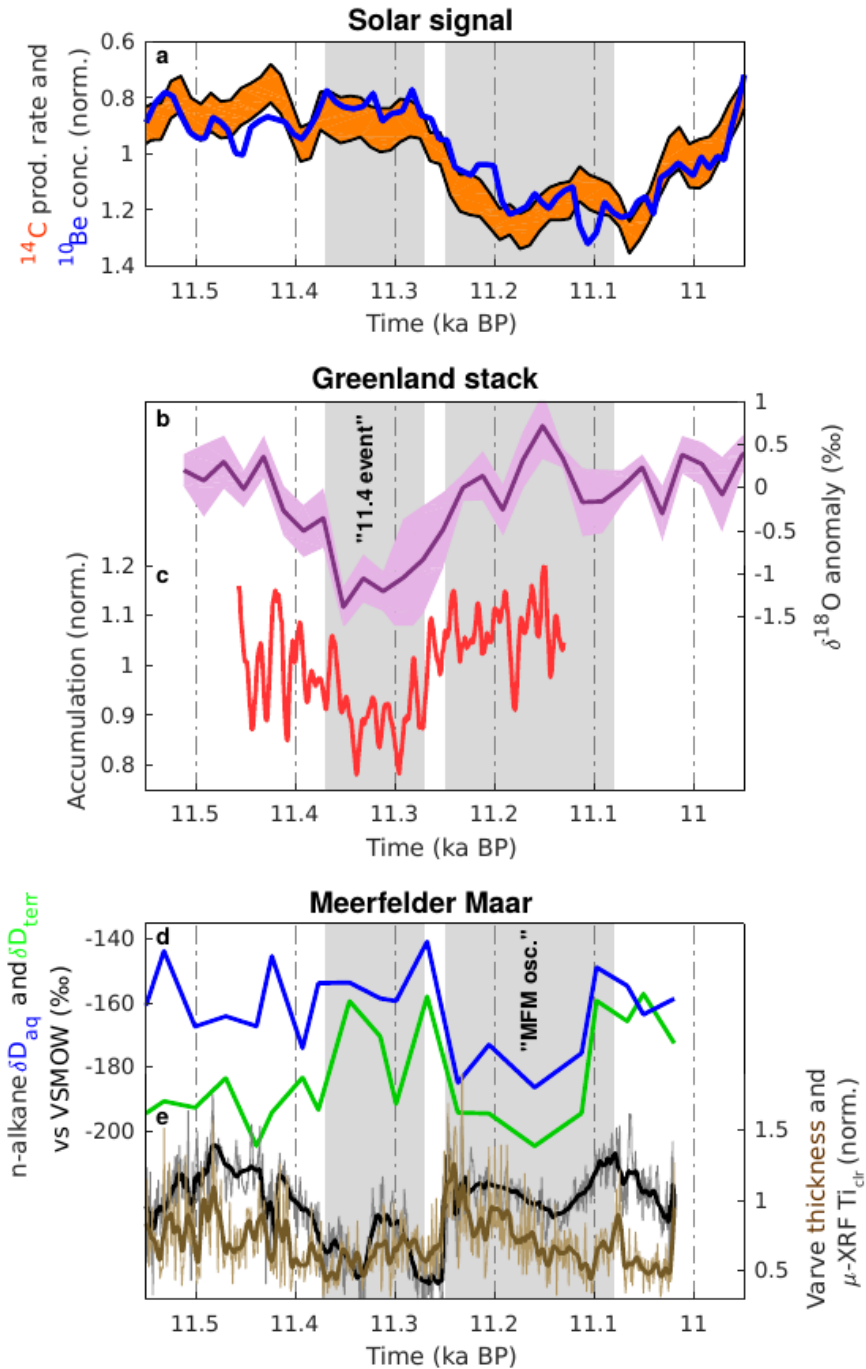
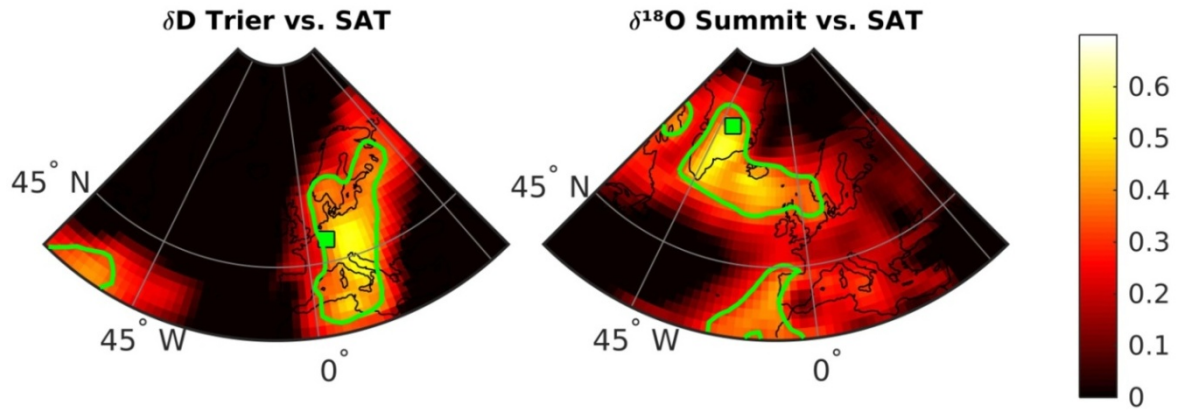


Figure 3: (a)  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate (orange envelope) and GRIP  $^{10}\text{Be}$  data (blue) on a reversed y-axis to indicate variations in solar activity. (b) The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  stack from the DYE-3, GRIP, NGRIP and Renland ice cores (Rasmussen et al., 2007; Vinther et al., 2009) is shown in magenta and (c) the modeled accumulation anomalies from Rasmussen et al. (2007) for DYE-3, GRIP, and NGRIP are shown in red. (d) The  $\delta\text{D}$  data record from lipid biomarkers of MFM sediments (Rach et al., 2014) is plotted in blue and green (aquatic and terrestrial) while (e) varve thickness (Martin-Puertas et al., 2012a) and varve  $\mu\text{-XRF Ti}_{\text{cir}}$  (Martin-Puertas et al., 2017) are plotted in brown and black, respectively. The grey bands depict the time of occurrence of the 11.4 ka event in Greenland and of the cold oscillation inferred from the MFM sediments (MFM oscillation). All data are plotted on the IntCal13 time-scale, as per Fig. 2.



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Figure 4: Left - Correlation map between annual  $\delta D$  in precipitation from the Trier station (green square – IAEA/WMO, 2016) and annual surface air temperatures in the NOAA-CIRES 20<sup>th</sup> climate reanalysis V2c (Compo et al., 2011) for the period AD 1978-2011. Right – Same as the left panel but for  $\delta^{18}O$  from the GISP2 ice core (green square – Steig et al., 1994; White et al., 2009) and for the period AD 1950-1986. Green contour lines represent significance levels for  $p < 0.1$  (t-test). The difference in years selected arises from the different time-span of the  $\delta D$  and  $\delta^{18}O$  records used here.

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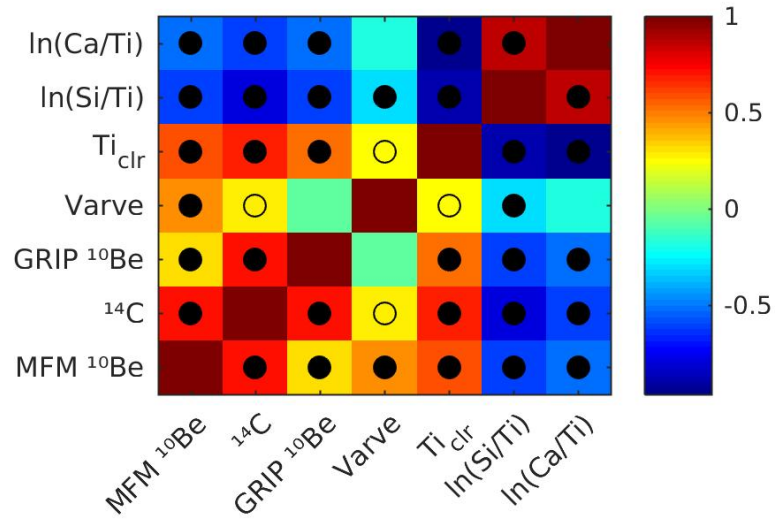
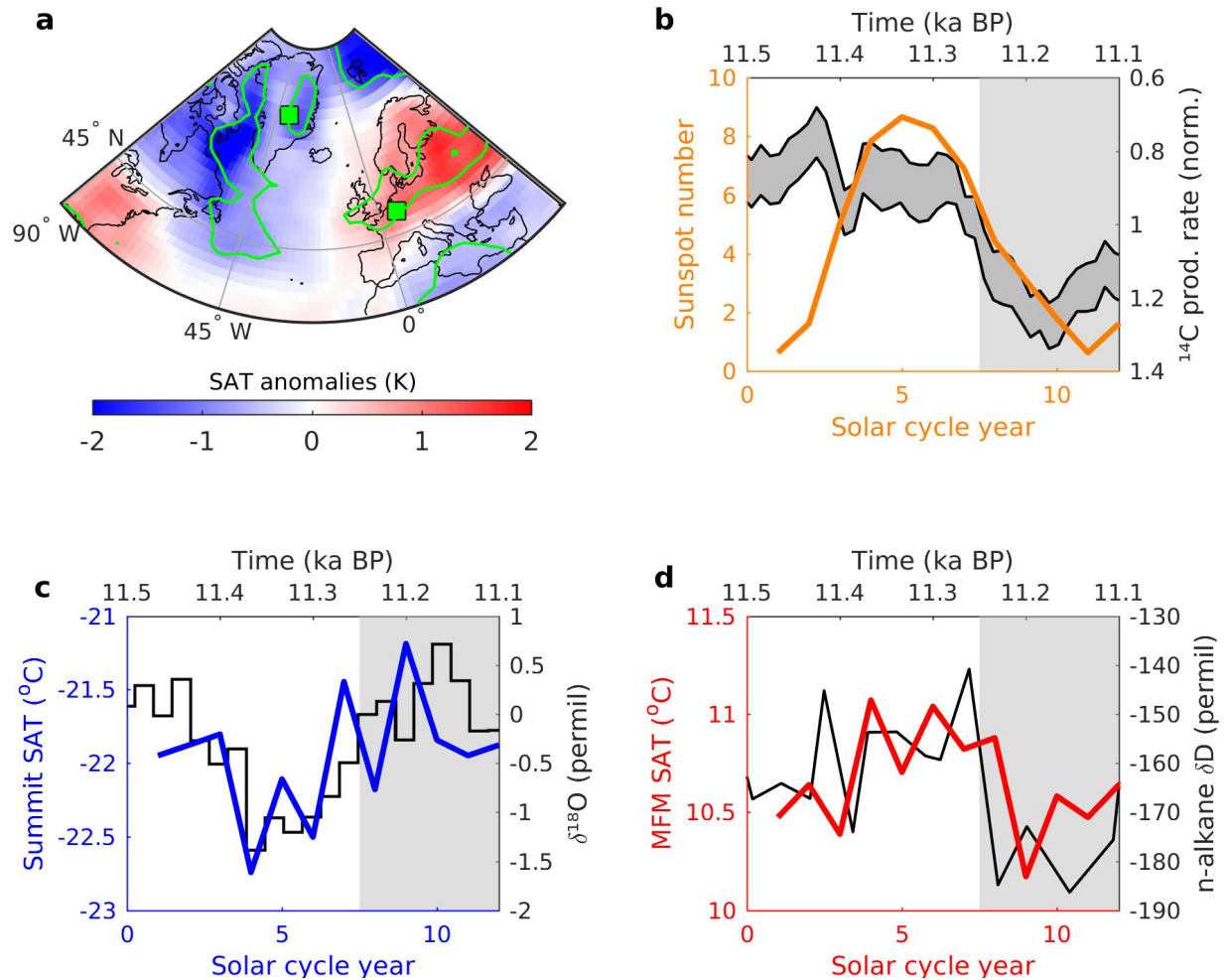


Figure 5: Color-coded correlation matrix between MFM <sup>10</sup>Be concentration, GRIP <sup>10</sup>Be flux, <sup>14</sup>C production rate data, varve thickness, and μ-XRF data from MFM09 (Martin-Puertas et al., 2017). Open and filled circles denote significant correlations to the p < 0.1 and the p < 0.05 levels, respectively. All data were binned after the resolution of the MFM <sup>10</sup>Be concentration data for the period 11,310-11,000 years BP and a student t-test was performed to test the significance levels.

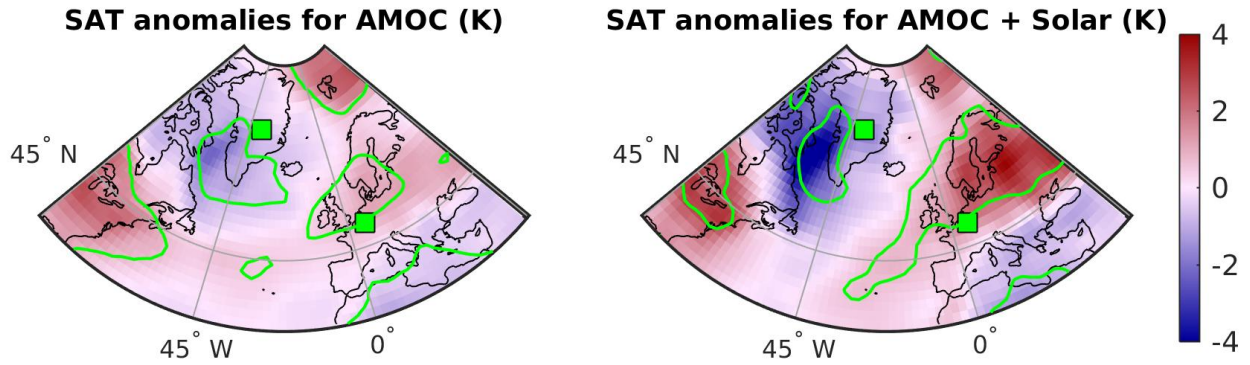
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Figure 6: The 11.4 ka event and MFM oscillation compared to solar forcing of 20<sup>th</sup> century SAT in the North Atlantic region, as seen in 20CR. (a) Surface air temperature (SAT) anomalies for solar maxima winters (DJF) compared to solar minima winters (see Sup. Fig. 2) for the period 1946-2011 in 20<sup>th</sup> century climate reanalysis (Compo et al., 2011). The green squares point to the location of Summit and of MFM while the green contour lines represent significance levels for  $p < 0.1$  (t-test). Years influenced by large tropical volcanic eruptions have been removed, as per Ineson et al. (2011). (b) The transition between high to low solar activity in the  $^{14}\text{C}$  production rate data (grey envelope - top and right axes) compared to the mean sunspot group number of all 11-year solar cycles during 1900-2011 (orange curve - bottom and left axes). (c) The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  stack (black curve - top and right axes) shown in Fig. 3b compared to the mean SAT at Summit (blue curve; bottom and left axes) throughout all 11-year solar cycles between 1900-2011 as in (b). (d) Same as (c) but with  $\delta\text{D}$  (black curve - top and right axes) and MFM SAT (red curve - bottom and left axes). Note the different time scale on the top (paleo records) and bottom axes (reanalysis data). The grey bands show the periods of low solar activity occurring on the two time periods that are compared.

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741 **Figure 7: Left - Winter (DJF) surface air temperature anomalies for negative AMOC years compared to positive AMOC**

742 **years for the period 1961-2005 in 20<sup>th</sup> century climate reanalysis (see Sup. Fig. 4). The green markers point to the**

743 **location of Summit and of MFM while the green contour lines represent significance levels for  $p < 0.1$  (t-test). Right -**

744 **Same as left panel but for years of both negative AMOC and high solar activity.**

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