

# **Introducttion in die Mineralogi, geology and sedimentology**

## **Environmental archives and ore deposits**

Rolf Kilian

# 1.1 Overview of climate and environmental archives

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Archive	Time period	Possible age determinations	Time resolution	Important proxies	Besonderheiten
<b>Continental sediments</b>	>600 Myr until the present	Lithology, Paleontology and Tephra chronology	Million years	Fossils, sediment lithologies	Influences of plate tectonics, impacts, formation of flood basalts, evolution of the biosphere
<b>Deep sea sediments</b>	60 Myr until the present	O and C isotope, Paleontology	Decades to millenia	O isotopes, sedimentology, micropaleontology	Sea water composition, sea surface temperatures, paleocean currents
<b>Schelf sediments</b>	4 Myr until present	O and C isotope	Decades to centuries	O-Isotope, Sedimentology, micropaleontology	Ocean currents and denudation of mountain ranges
<b>Terrestrial sediments and soils</b>	2 Myr until present	Tephra chronology	Decades to centuries	Soil types and glacial deposits (Morains, Loess)	Glaciation and fluvial processes
<b>Lacustrine Lake sediments</b>	200 000 years until the present	C and U/Th isotopes	Up to yearly resolution, waxes	Palynology, Isotopes, sedimentation rates	Paleotemperature, precipitation, vegetation, population history
<b>Ice cores</b>	200 000 years until the present	Yearly variations in dust and O-Isotopes	yearly	Accumulation, chemistry and isotopes from ice and air inclusions	Paleoatmospheric composition
<b>Stalagmite &amp; Speleothems</b>	40 000 years until present	$^{14}\text{C}$ and U/Th determinations	Until yearly	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ isotope hydrochemistry (Mg/Ca), Detritus-Chemistry	Paleotemperature, Paleoprecipitation
<b>Peat</b>	14 000 years until present	$^{14}\text{C}$ determinations	Decades	Growing and humification rates, chemical characteristics	Atmospheric dust and anthropogenic pollutions
<b>Tree-ring chronologies</b>	10 000 years until present	Tree ring chronologies	Yearly and seasonal	Tree ring width	Paleotemperature maps for certain calendar years
<b>Weather stations</b>	The last 200-300 Years	Calendar years and short time periods	Minutes to years	Weather station, historical archives	Kalibrierung von Proxies

## Important age determination for climate archives:

- 1)  **$^{40}\text{K} \rightarrow ^{40}\text{Ar}$  or Ar-Ar methods** (>5 000 years) of potassium-bearing minerals of volcanic rocks or volcanic glass (tephra)
- 2) **U-Th methods**  $\rightarrow$  Dating of bones, carbonates, teeths and volcanic rocks, eg. with  $^{230}\text{Th}/^{234}\text{U}$  (10 kyr – 550 kyr)
- 3) **Radiocarbon method and other cosmogenic nuclides:**  
 $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{81}\text{Kr}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{10}\text{Be}$ ,  $^{26}\text{Al}$
- 4) **Radiation dosimetry** (100 yr bis 1 Myr): radiation damages in lattices of minerals in rocks and soils
  - $\rightarrow$  Thermoluminescens (TL)
  - $\rightarrow$  Optical stimulated Luminescens (OSL)

# 1.3 Climate forcings

## Extraterrestrial and terrestrial climate forcings

### **Factors which influence the radiation intensity (insolation)**

Sun activity

Orbital parameters

Composition of the Earth's atmosphere (green house gases)

Albedo (rejection of radiation at the Earth's surface)

### **Factors which control the temperature distribution on Earth:**

Atmospheric circulation

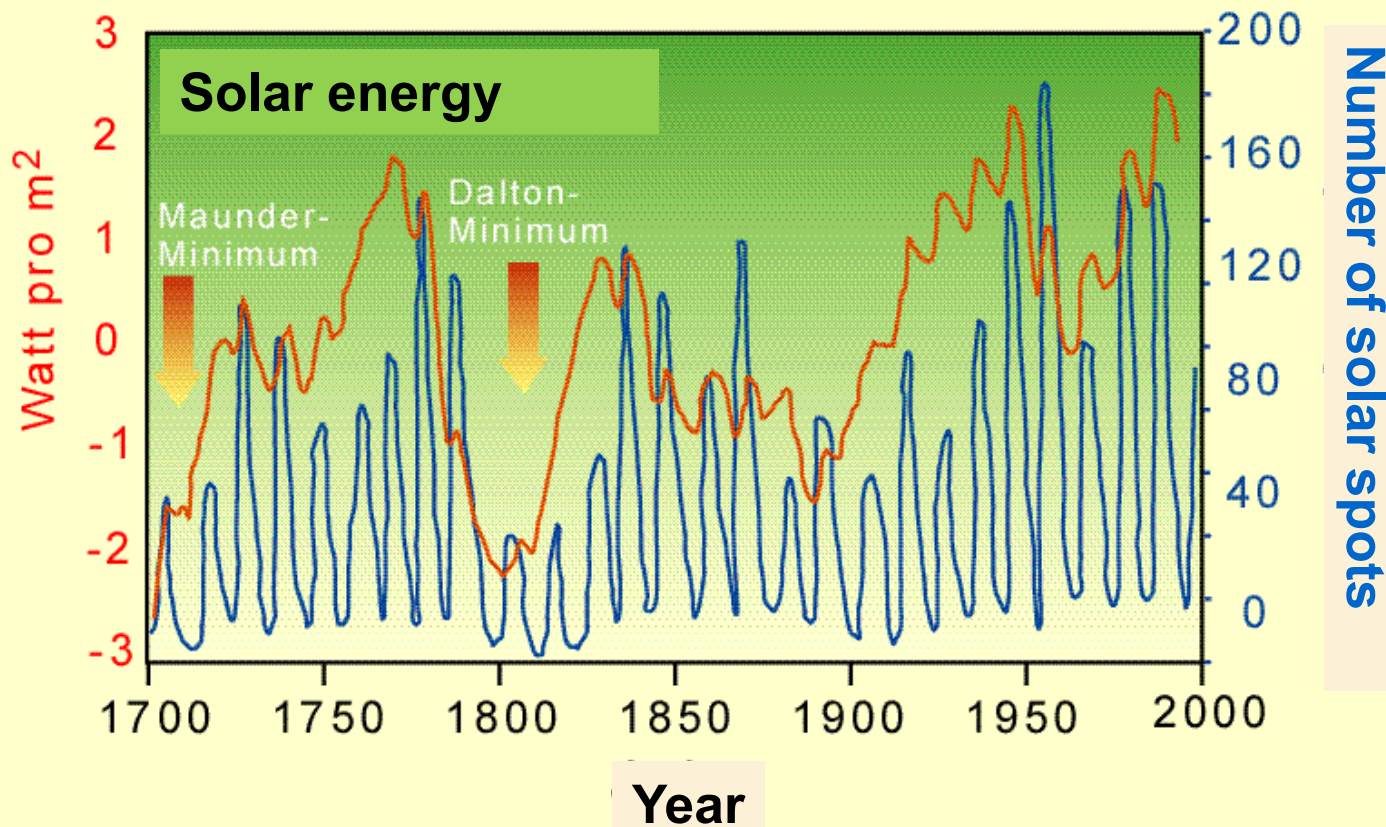
Ocean currents

Global distribution of ocean basins and mountain belts

# Klima forcing: Sun activity

Solar eruption in April 2002 =>

## Relationship between sun spots and solar activity

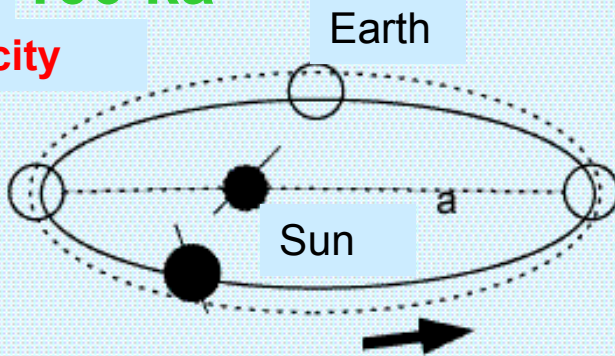


# Climate forcings:

## Changes in the orbital parameters of the Earth

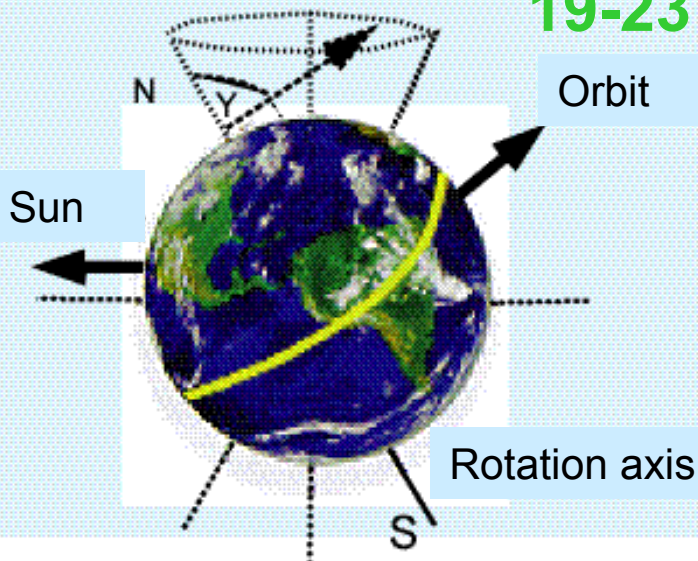
400 to 100 ka

Excentricity



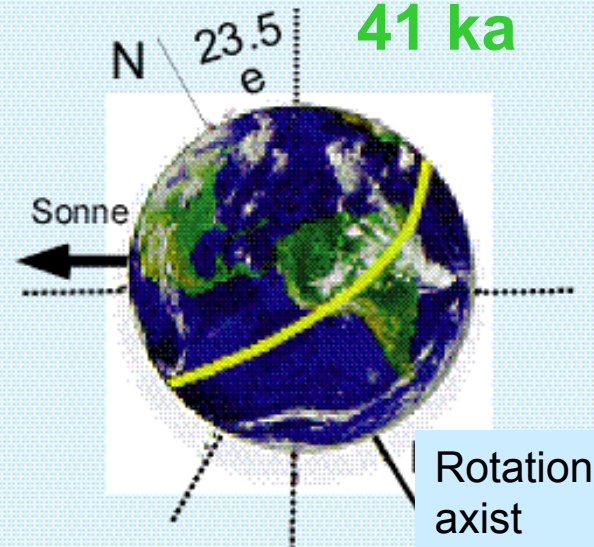
Precession of the Earth rotation axis

19-23 ka

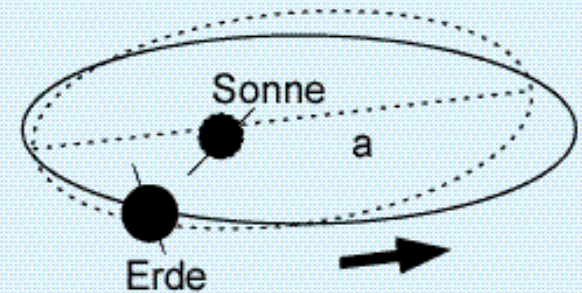


Obliquity

41 ka



Precession of the orbit around the sun

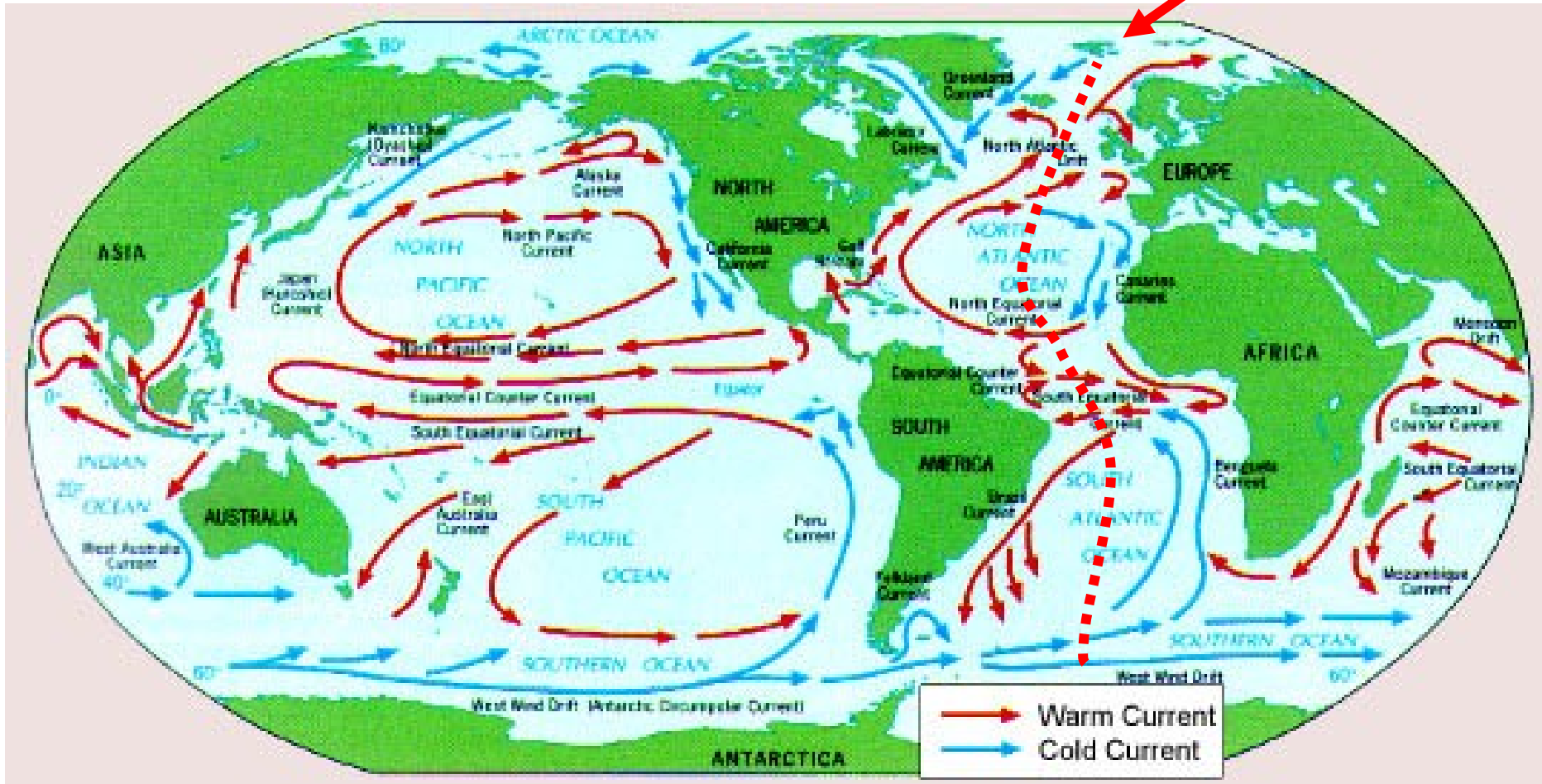




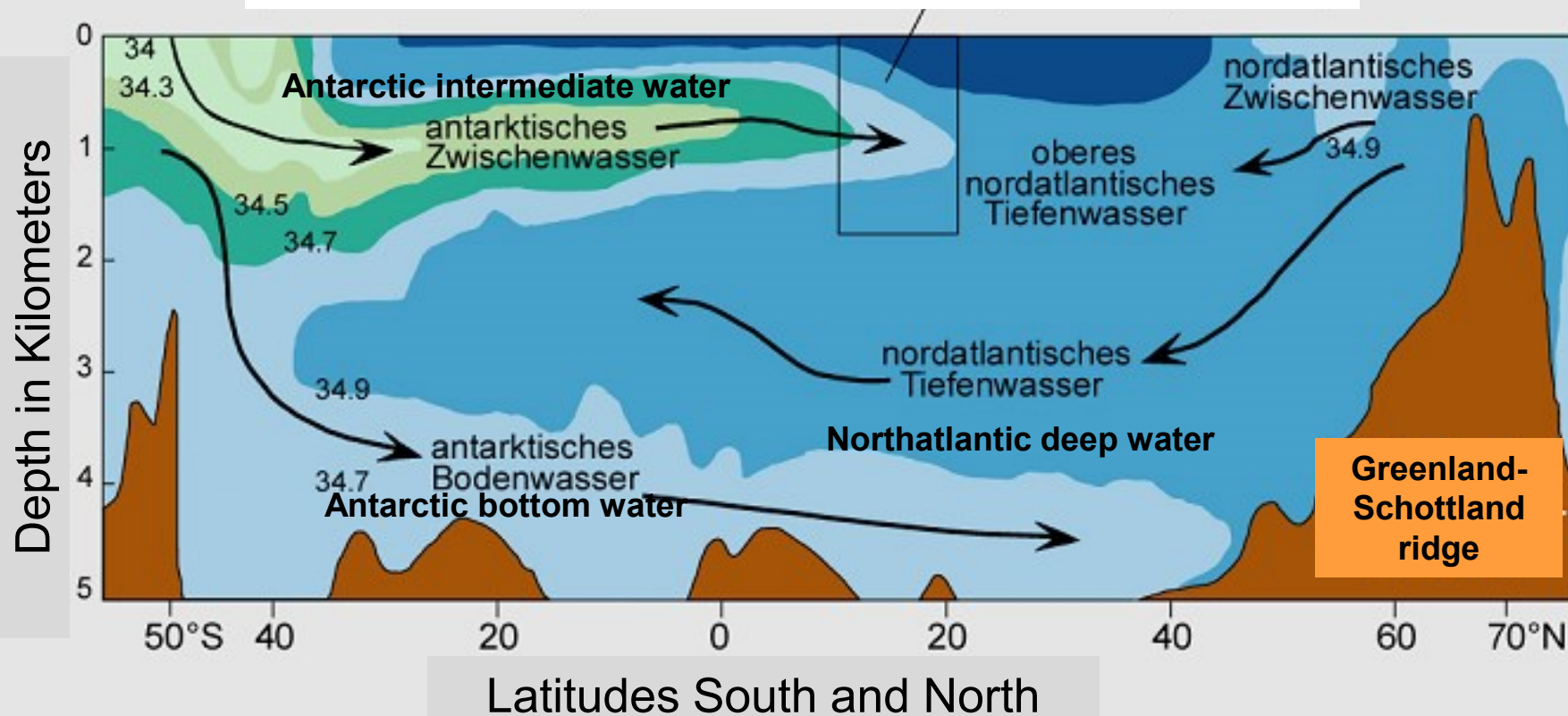
# Climate forcings

Temperature distribution on Earth  
 → ocean-continent distribution  
 and ocean currents

North-South profile  
 See next side



## Currents and salinity distribution in a South-north profile of the Atlantic ocean



Salinity between 34 and 34.3

Salinity between 34.3 and 34.5

Salinity between 34.5 and 34.7

Salinity between 34.7 and 34.9

Salinity between 34.9 and 35.1

Salinity between 35.1 and 35.3

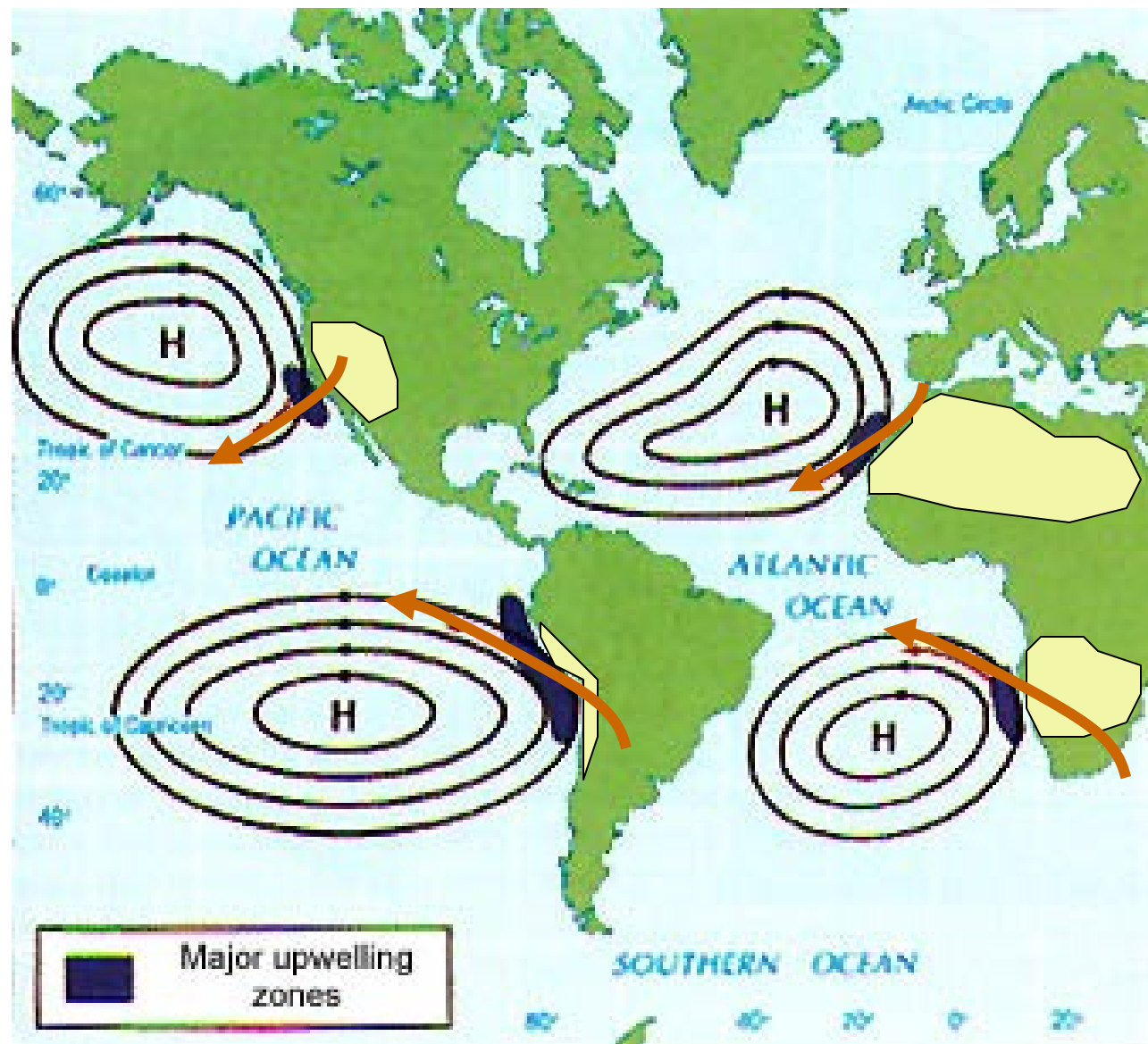
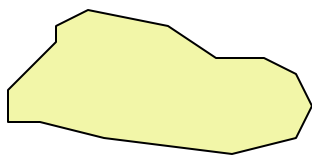


# Atmospheric and ocean circulation

Areas with  
upwelling of  
deeper ocean  
water

(De Blij, 1996)

Dessert areas



# Climate proxies (Examples)

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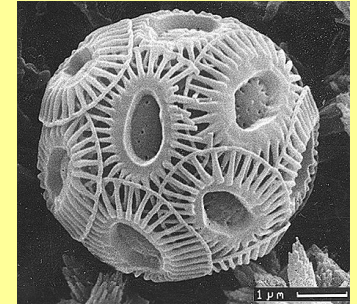
Gas bubbles in ice cores  
→ Paleoatmosphere



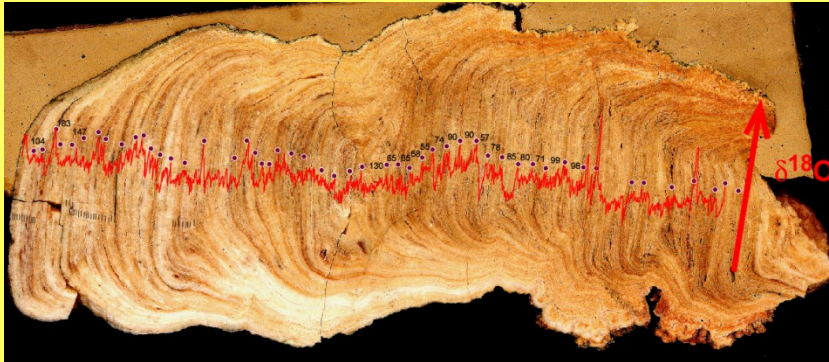
Alkenones from marine  
Sediments  
→ Paleotemperature

*Emiliana huxleyi*

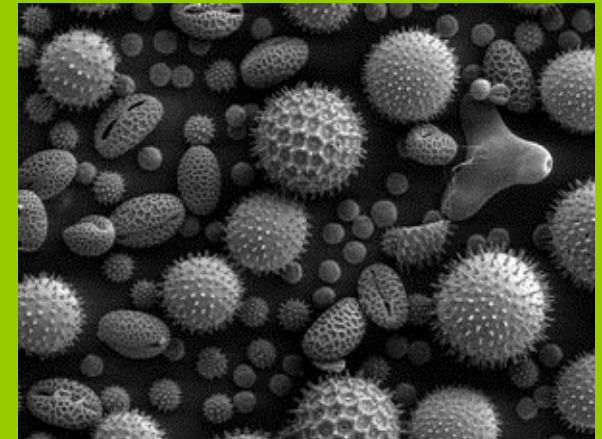
Foto: M.  
Čepek



O-isotopes of Stalagmites  
→ Paleoprecipitation



Pollen of lake sediments  
→ Paleovegetation



# Long chains of C<sub>37</sub>-alkenones

Organic components of Coccolithophoridae are preserved in sediments

*Emiliana huxleyi*

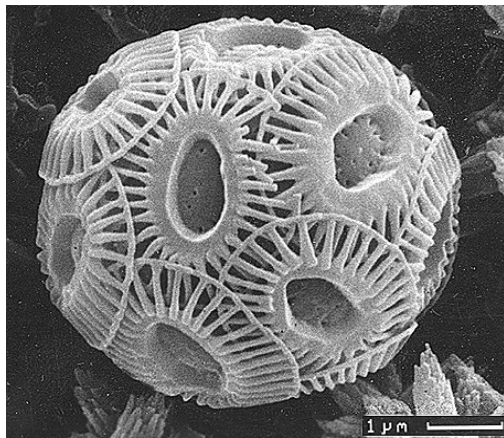
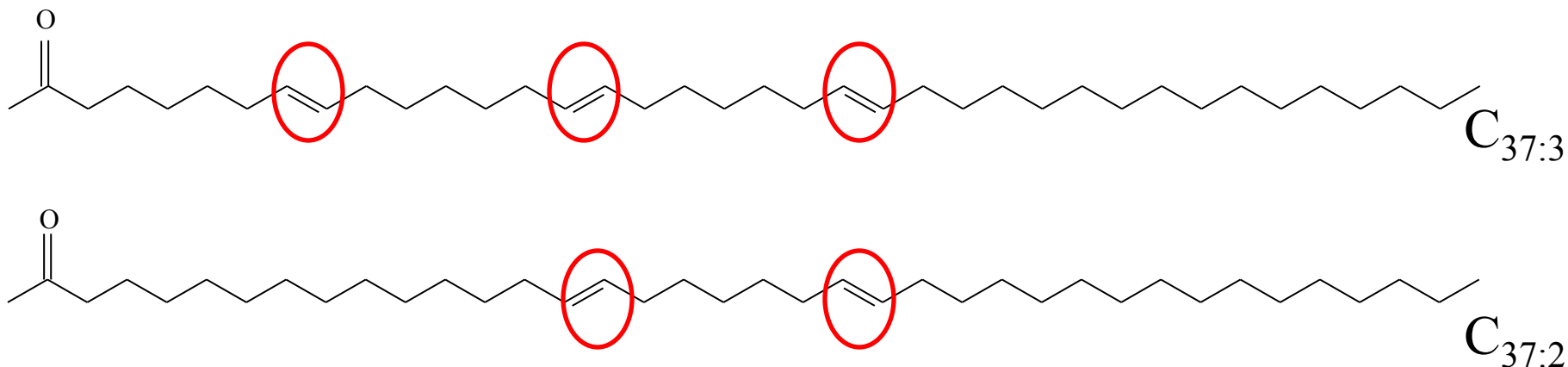


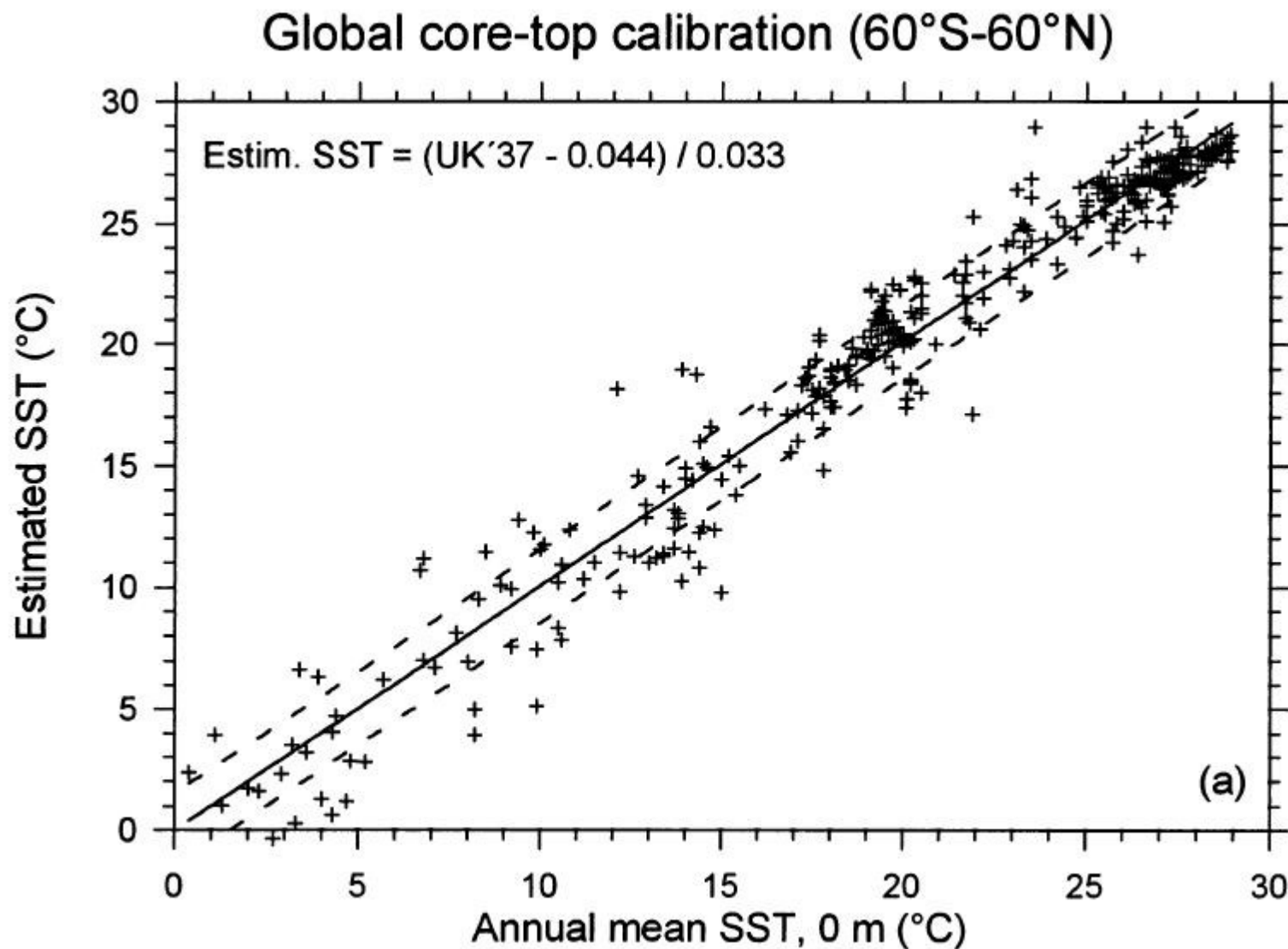
Foto: M. Čeppek

Alkenone saturation index after Brasell et al. (1984):

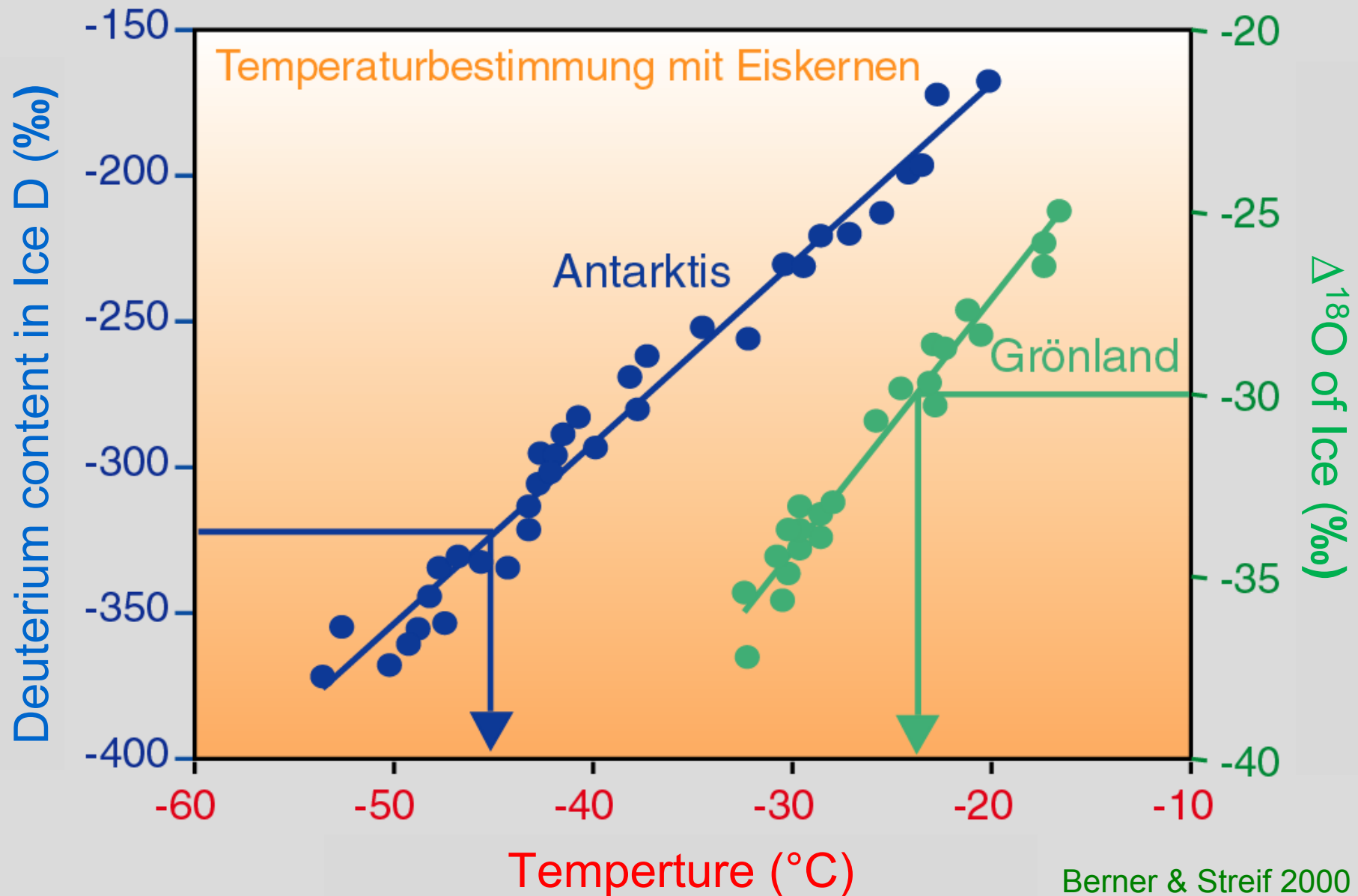
$$U_{37}^{K'} = \frac{[C_{37:2}]}{[C_{37:2} + C_{37:3}]}$$



# Calibration of the alkenones UK'37 index



# Calibration of Greenland and Antarctic Ice Cores

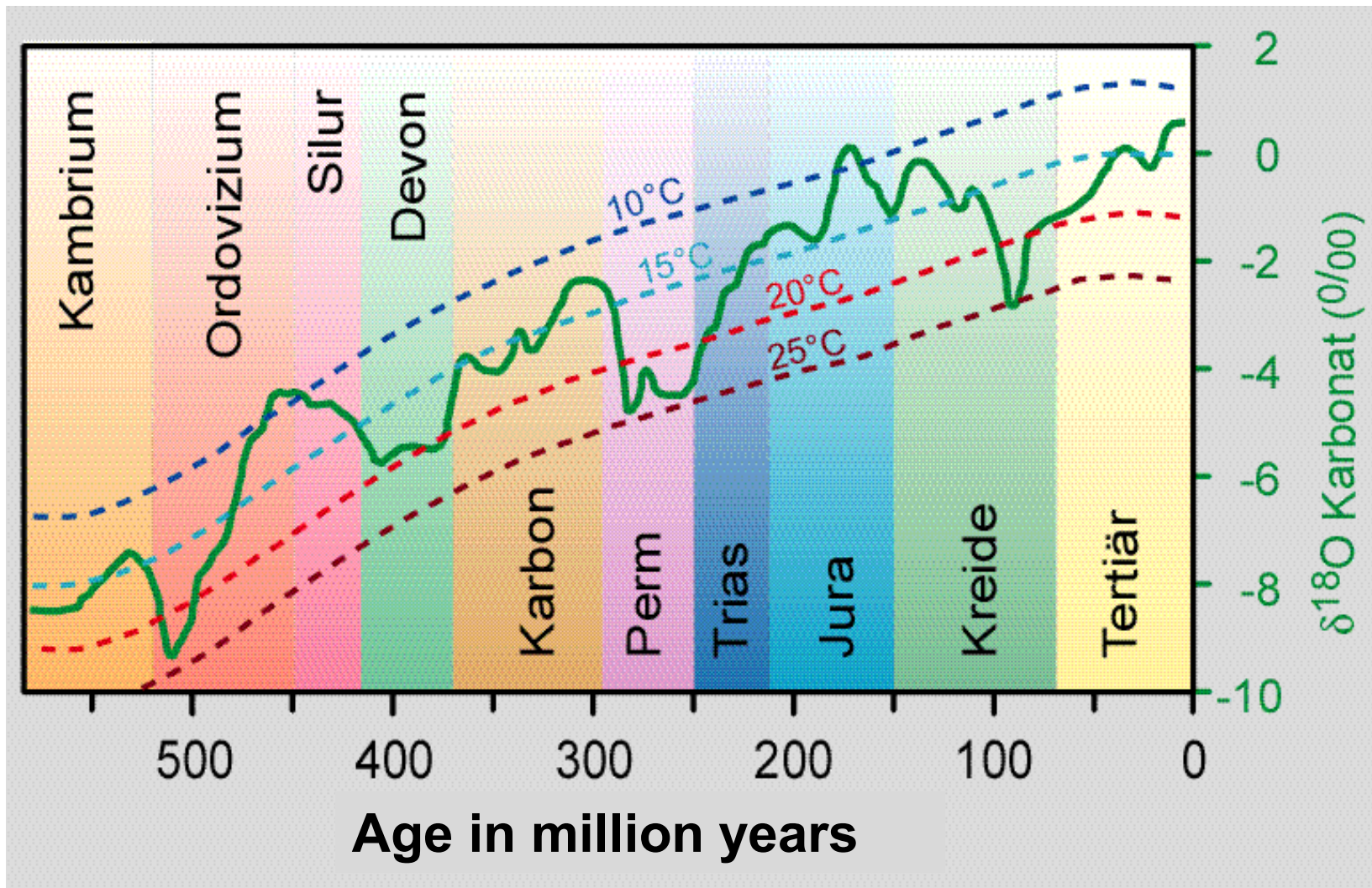




## 2. Climate Variations during the Earth's history

Global temperature development during the last 500 Myr, reconstructed based on  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  from carbonate microfossils

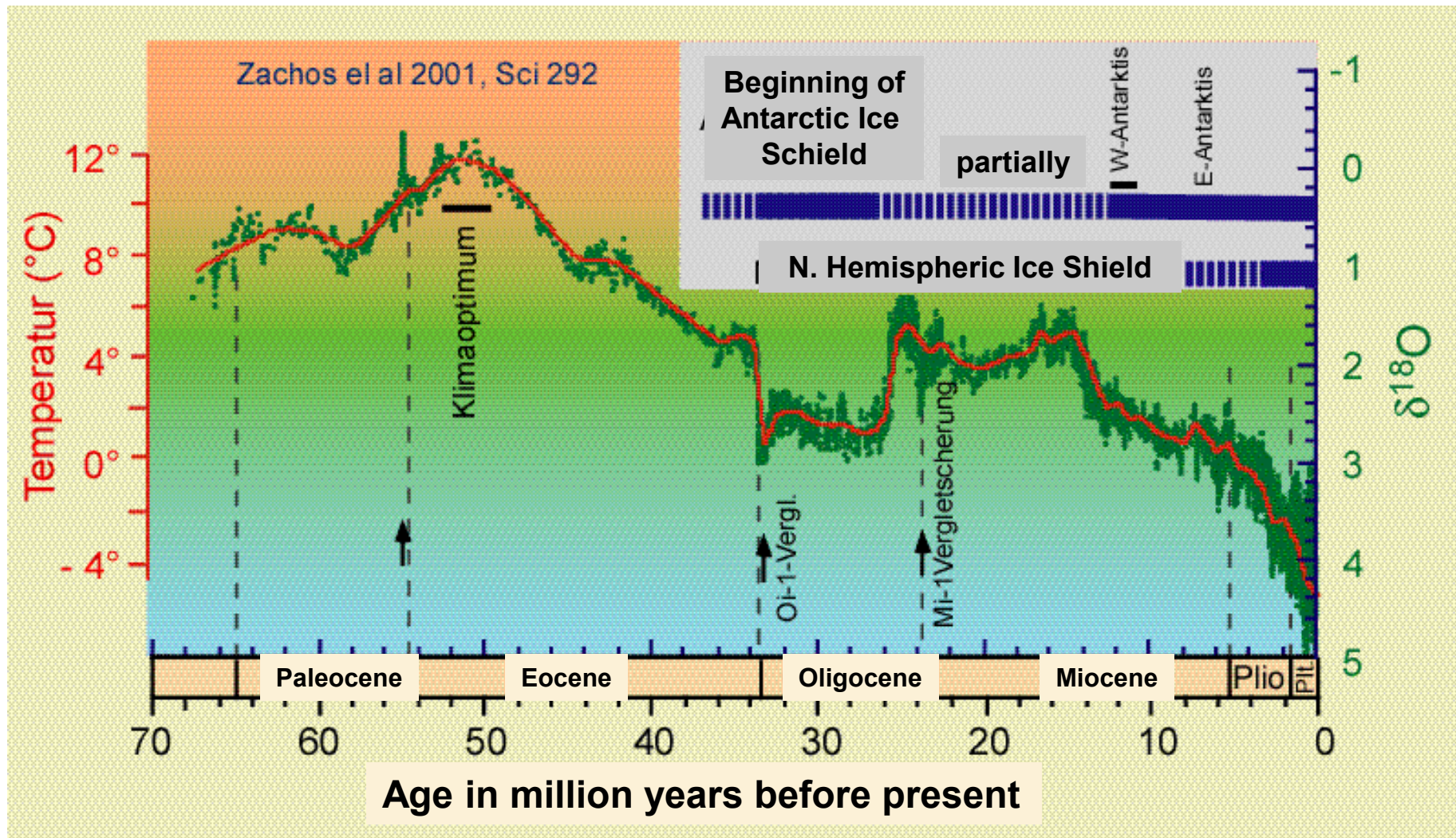
(Berner 2000 und Veizer et al. 1999).



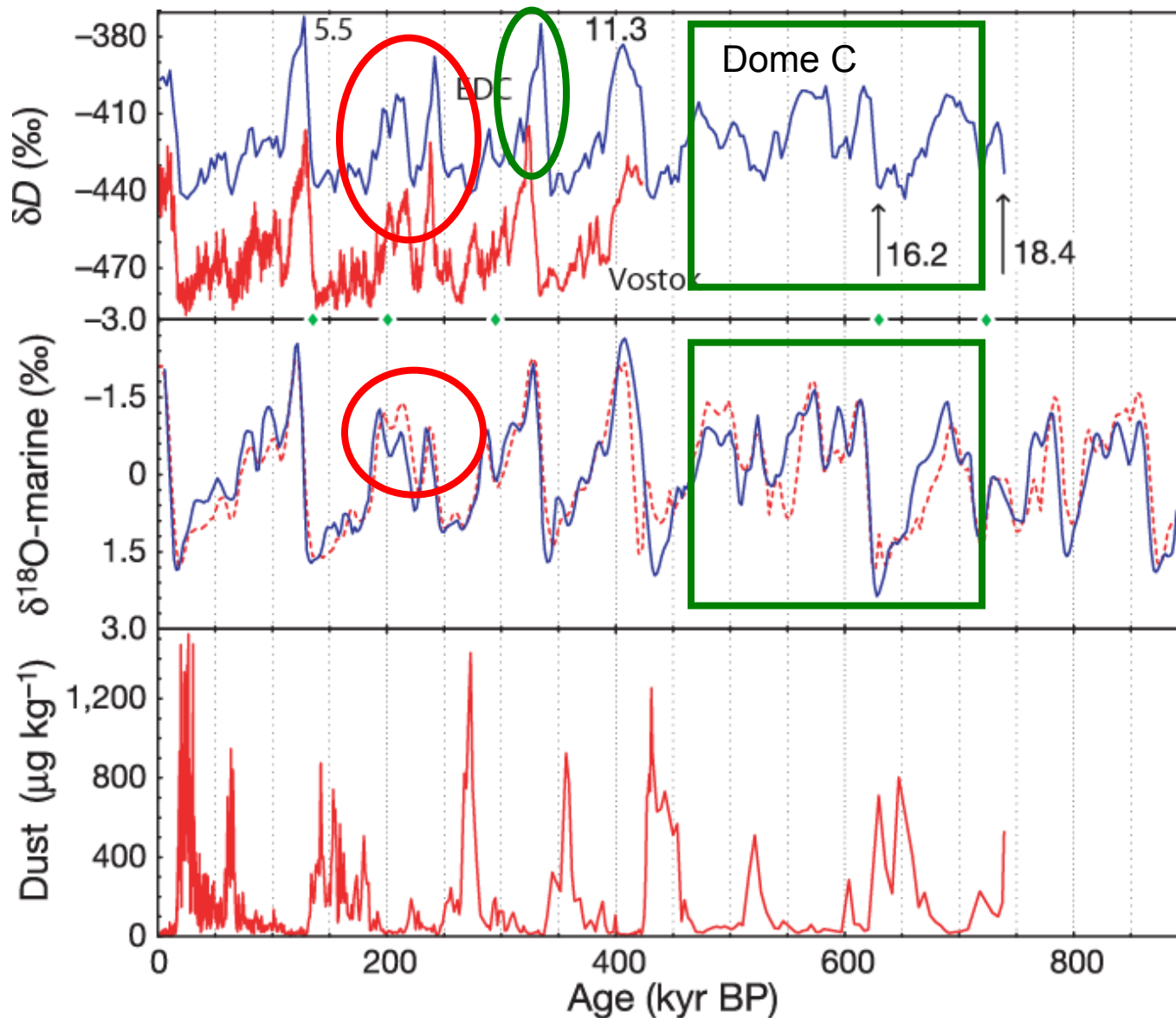


## 2. Climate Variations during the Earth's history

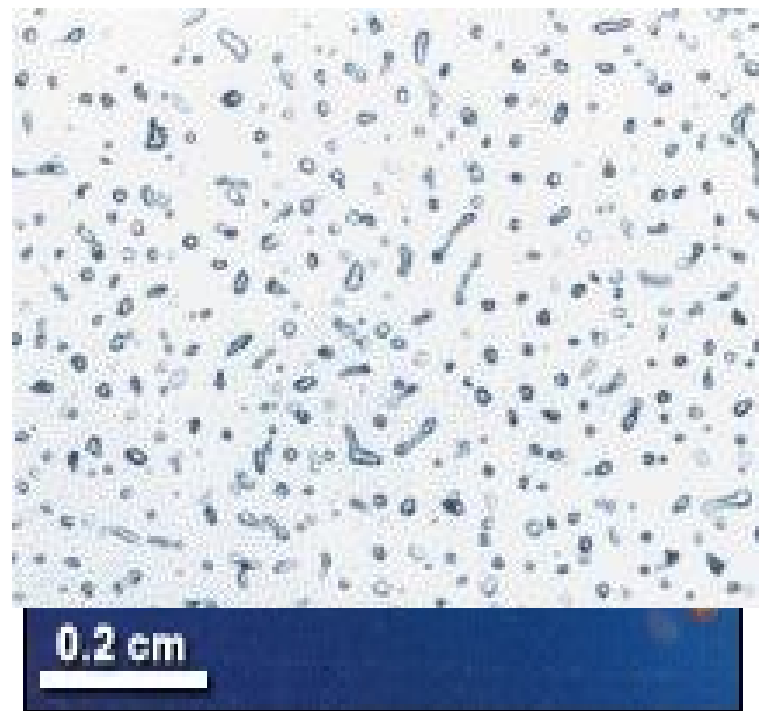
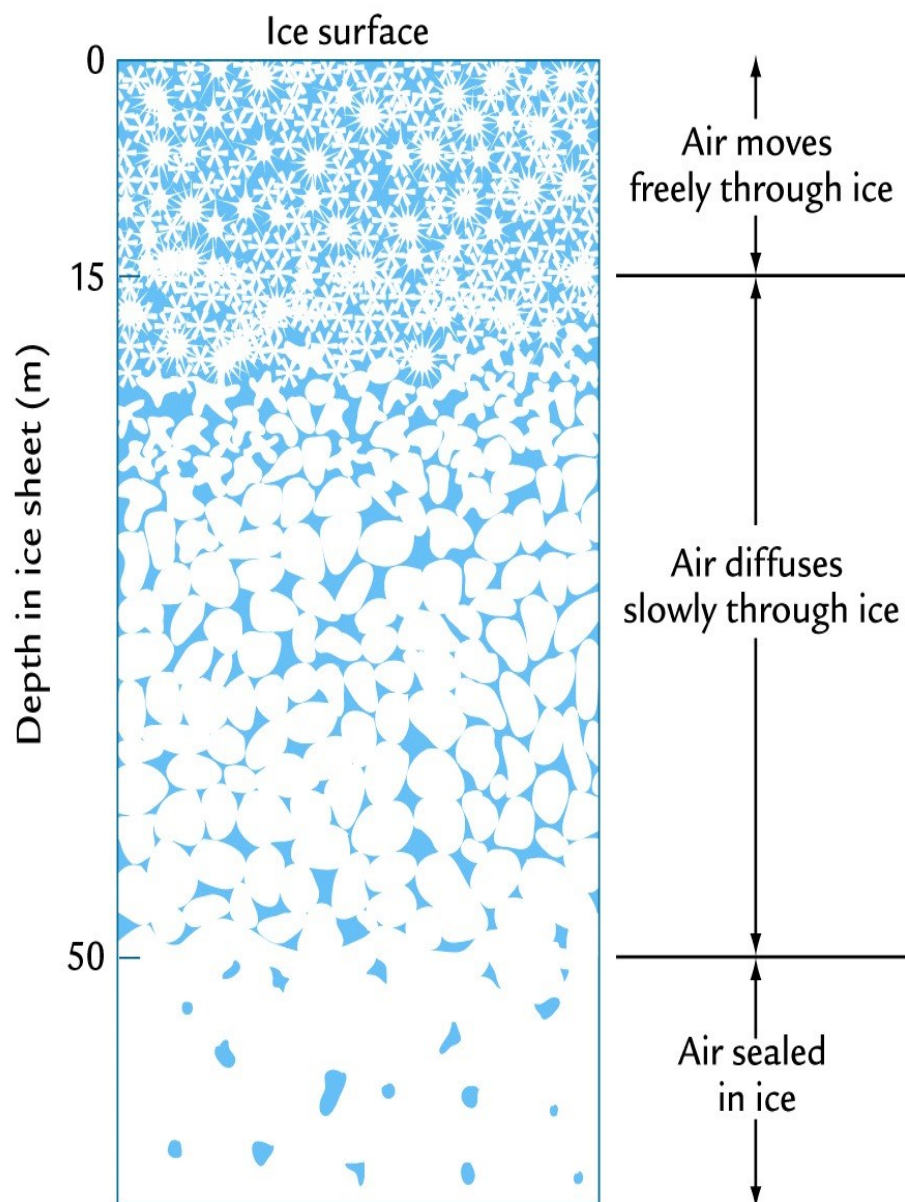
Long-term cooling during the last 50 Myr and its relationship to the formation of the Antarctic and Northern Hemispheric Ice Shields



# European Project of Ice Coring in the Antarctica (EPICA)



# Gas bubbles in ice cores (CO<sub>2</sub>, methane) and compaction



Accumulation rates:

Greenland = 0.5 m/year

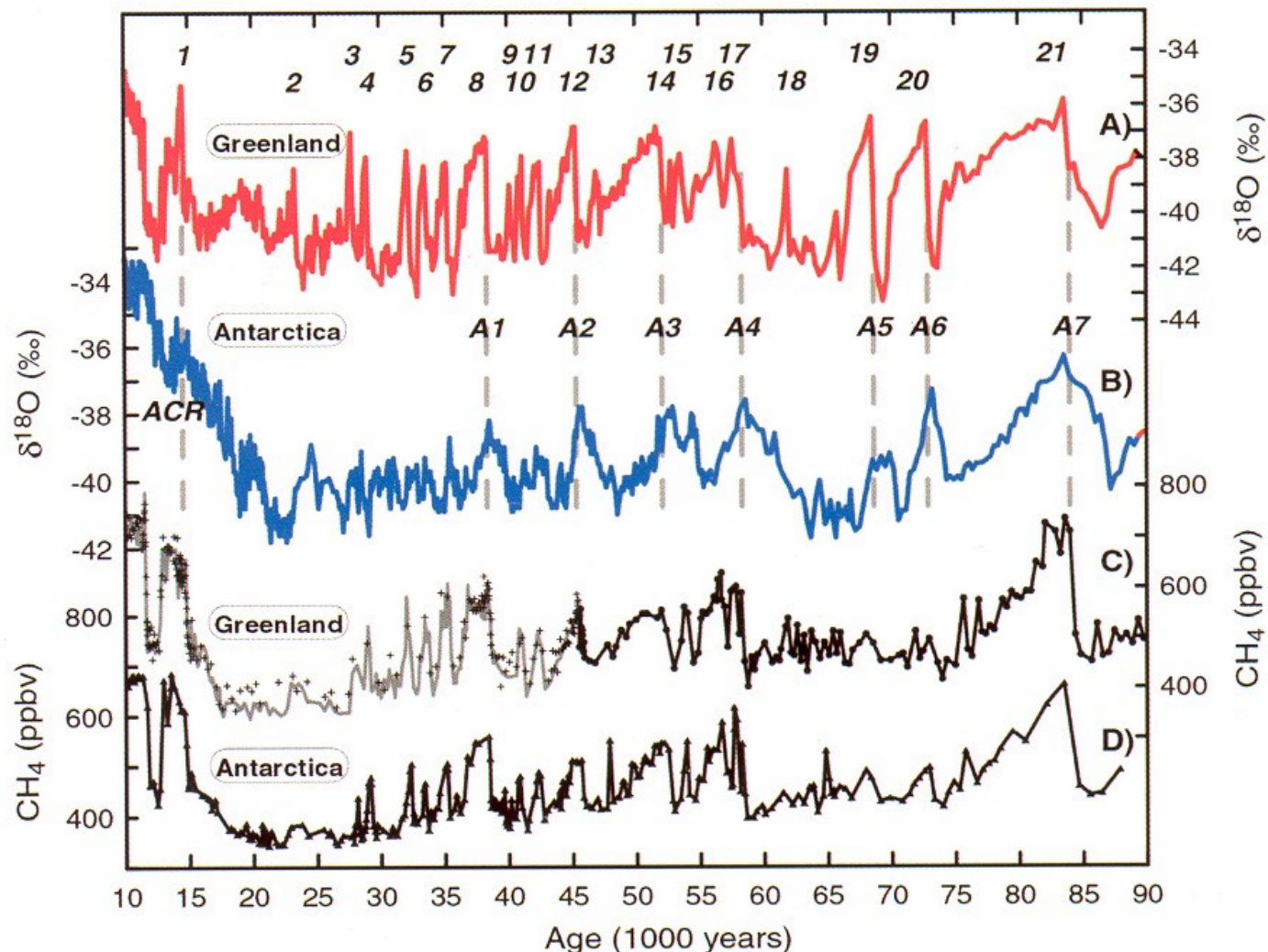
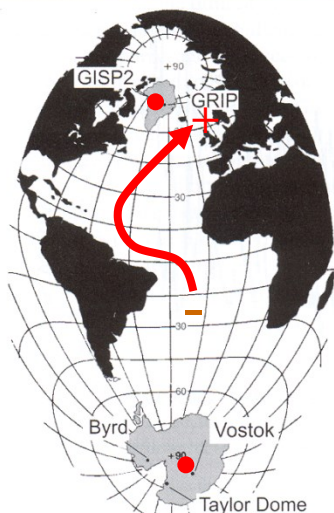
Antarctic = 0.05 m/year



# Synchronisation of ice cores from the northern (Greenland) southern hemisphere (Antarctica)

➔ Partly antiphasing of temperatures due to sea saw effect

## Localities of the Ice Cores





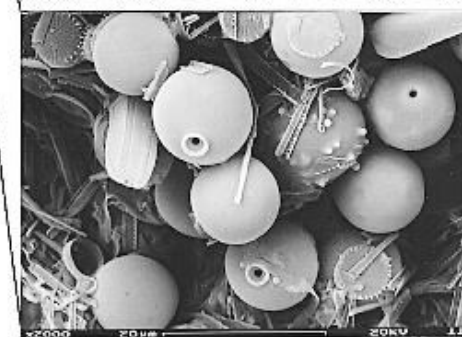
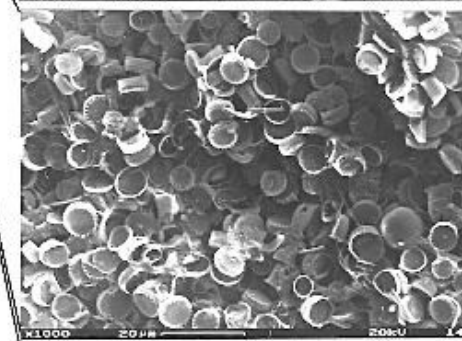
# Warves from Lake Holzmaar

1 varve = 1 year

0.3 - 1.5 mm

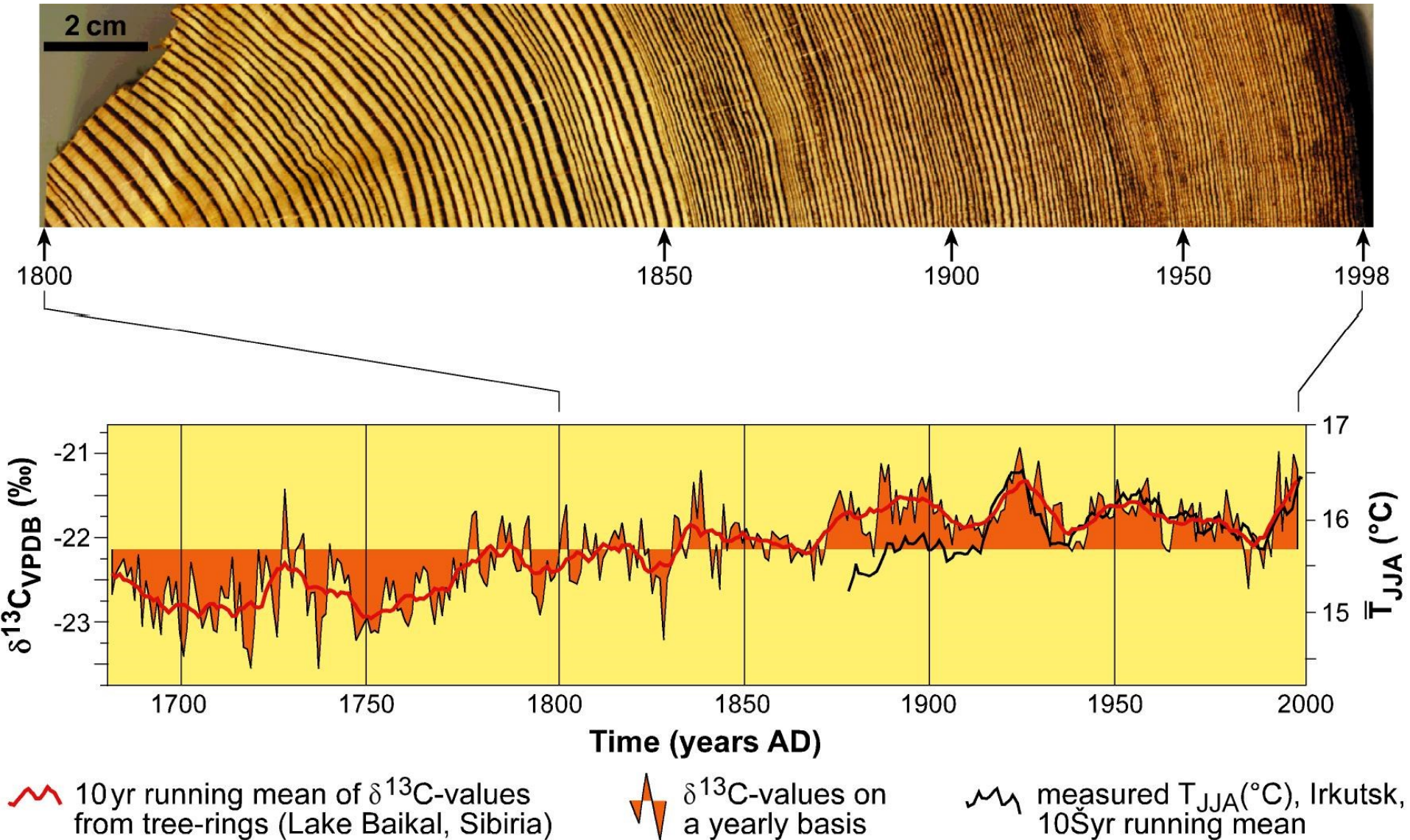
0.1 - 1.2 mm

-  clay
-  organic matter
-  planktonic diatoms
-  littoral diatoms
-  chrysophycean cysts
-  plant remains
-  calcite
-  vivianite
-  pyrite



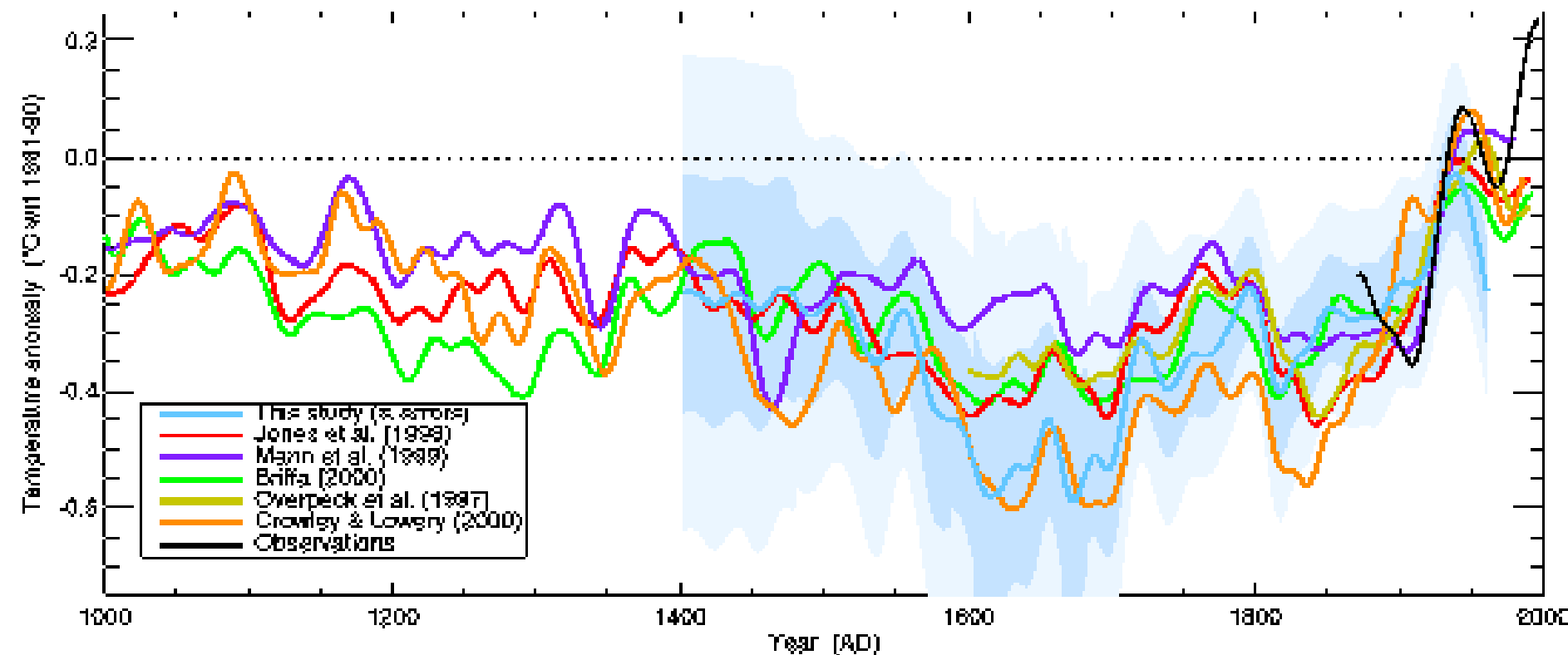


## 8. Tree rings: Annual curves with $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ temperature calibration 94

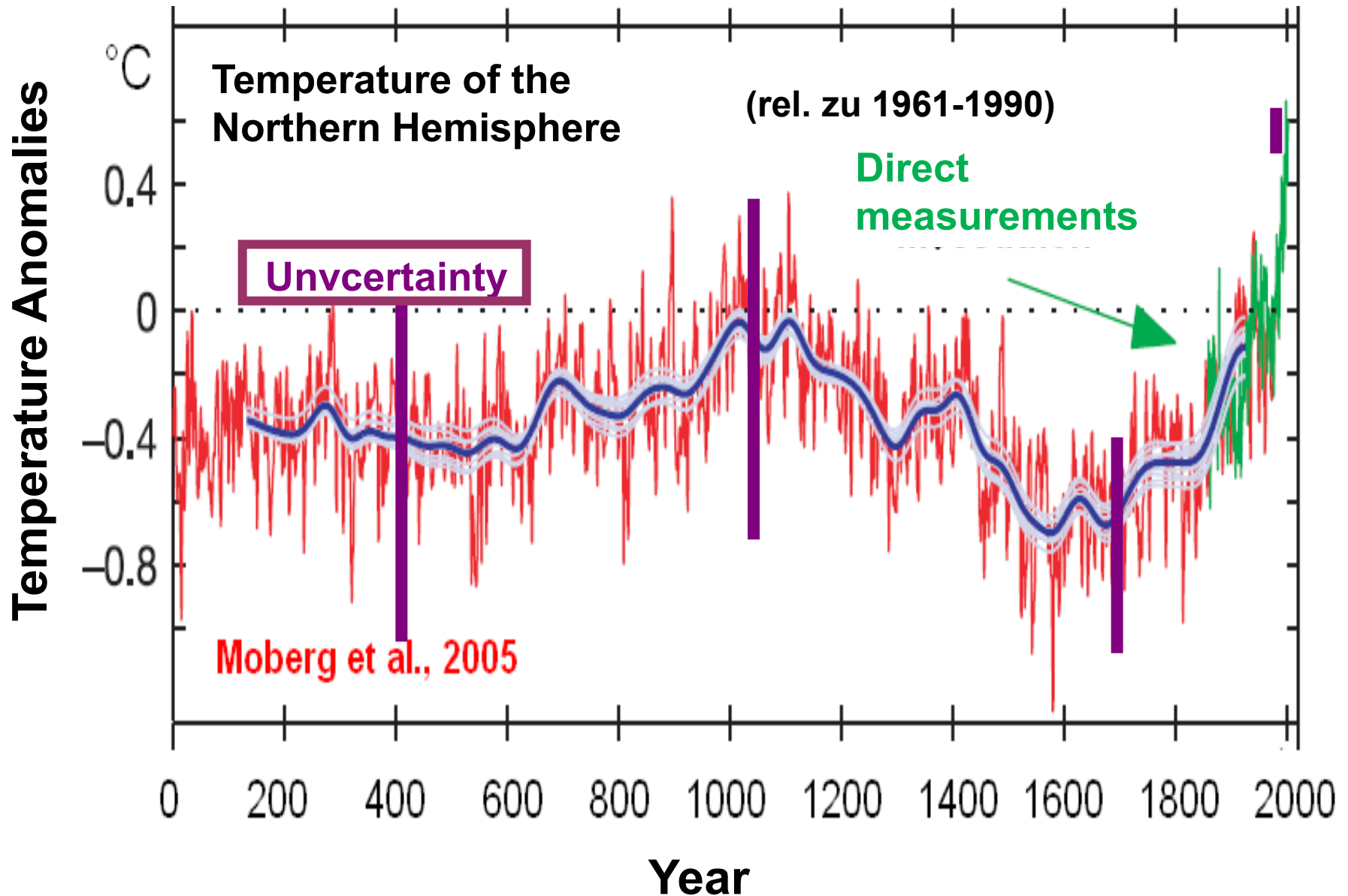




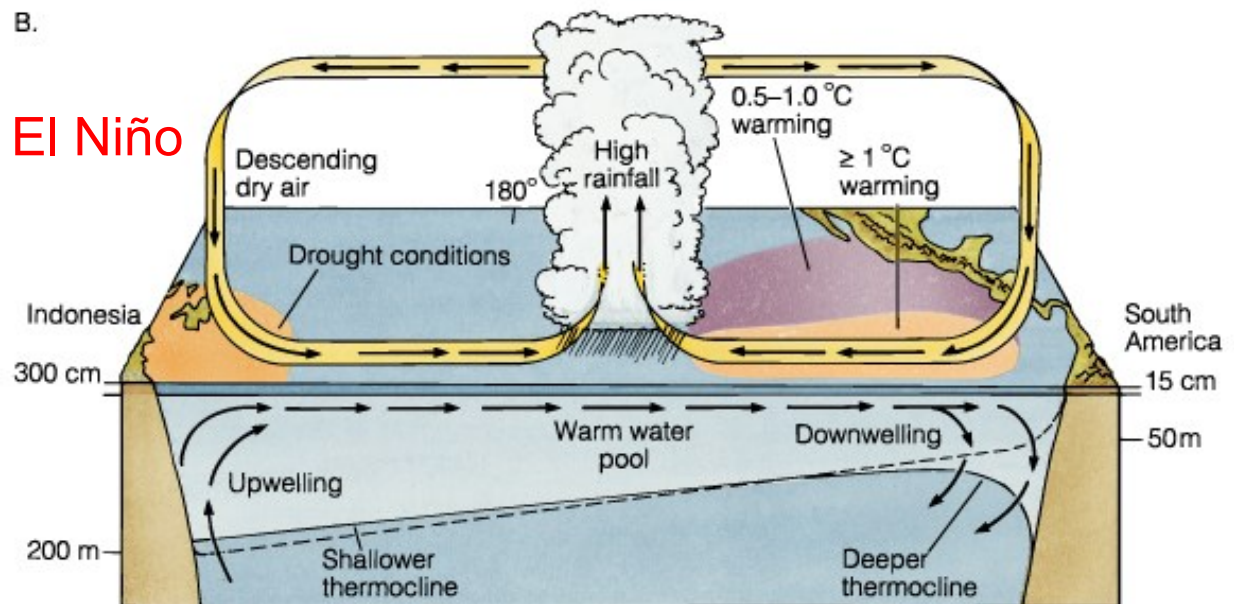
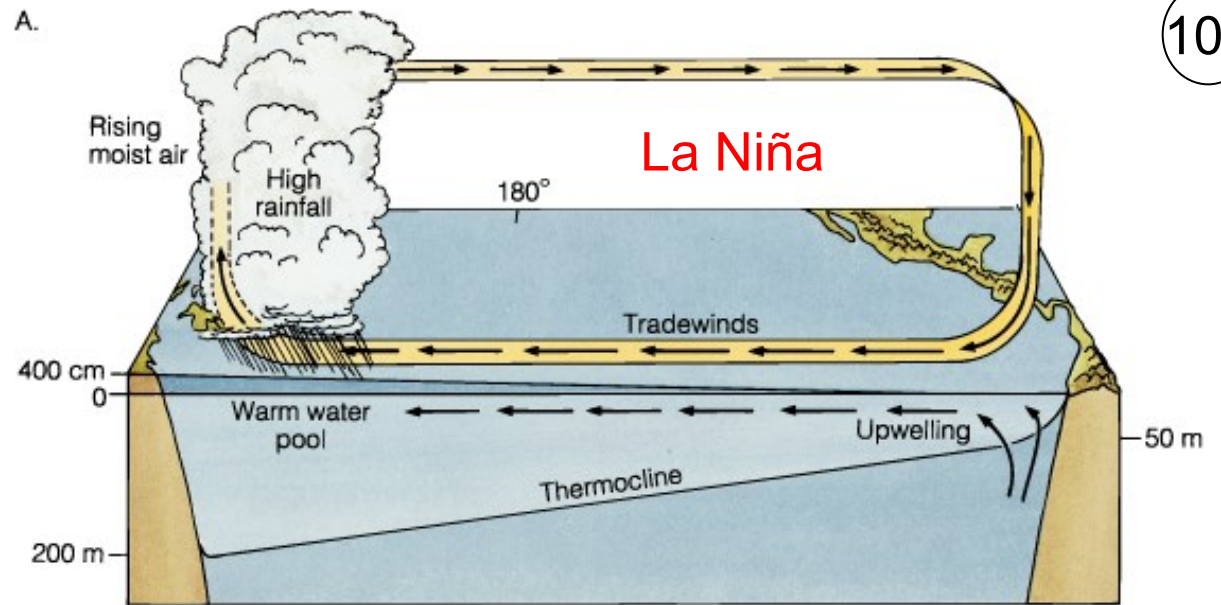
# Northern hemispheric tree-ring curves from which temperatures of the last 1000 years have been reconstructed



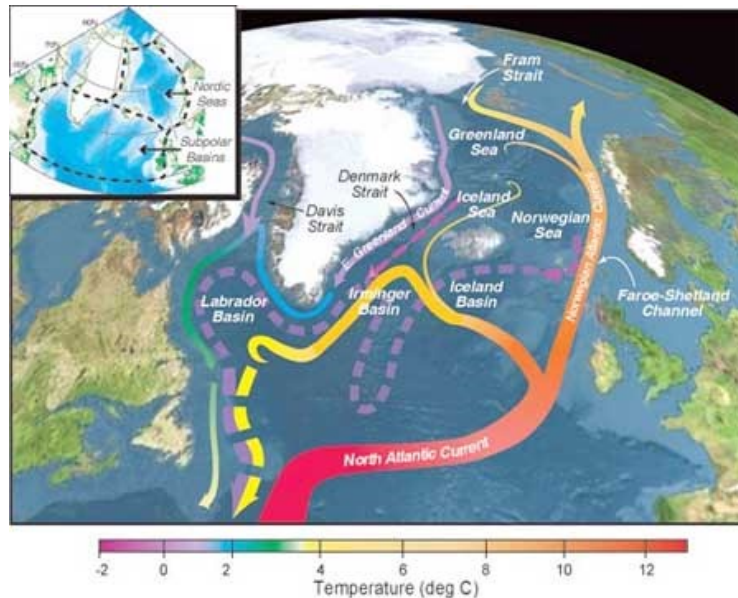
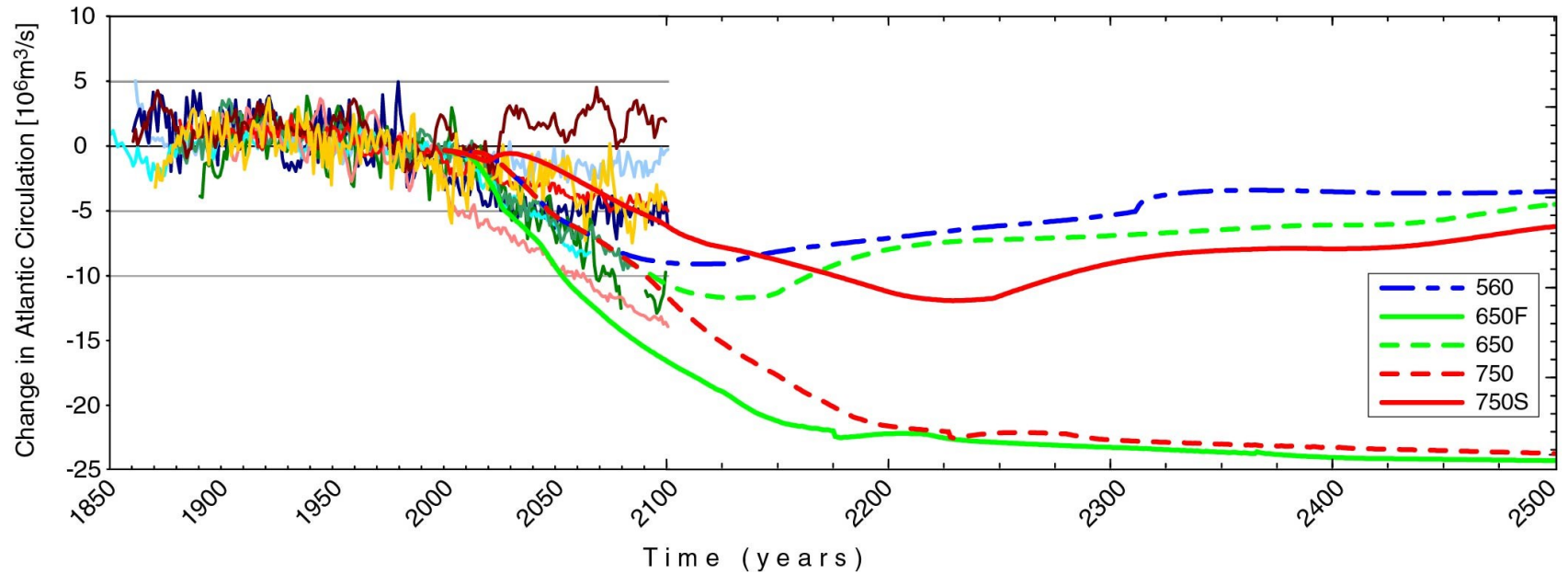
# Climate development during the last 2000 years

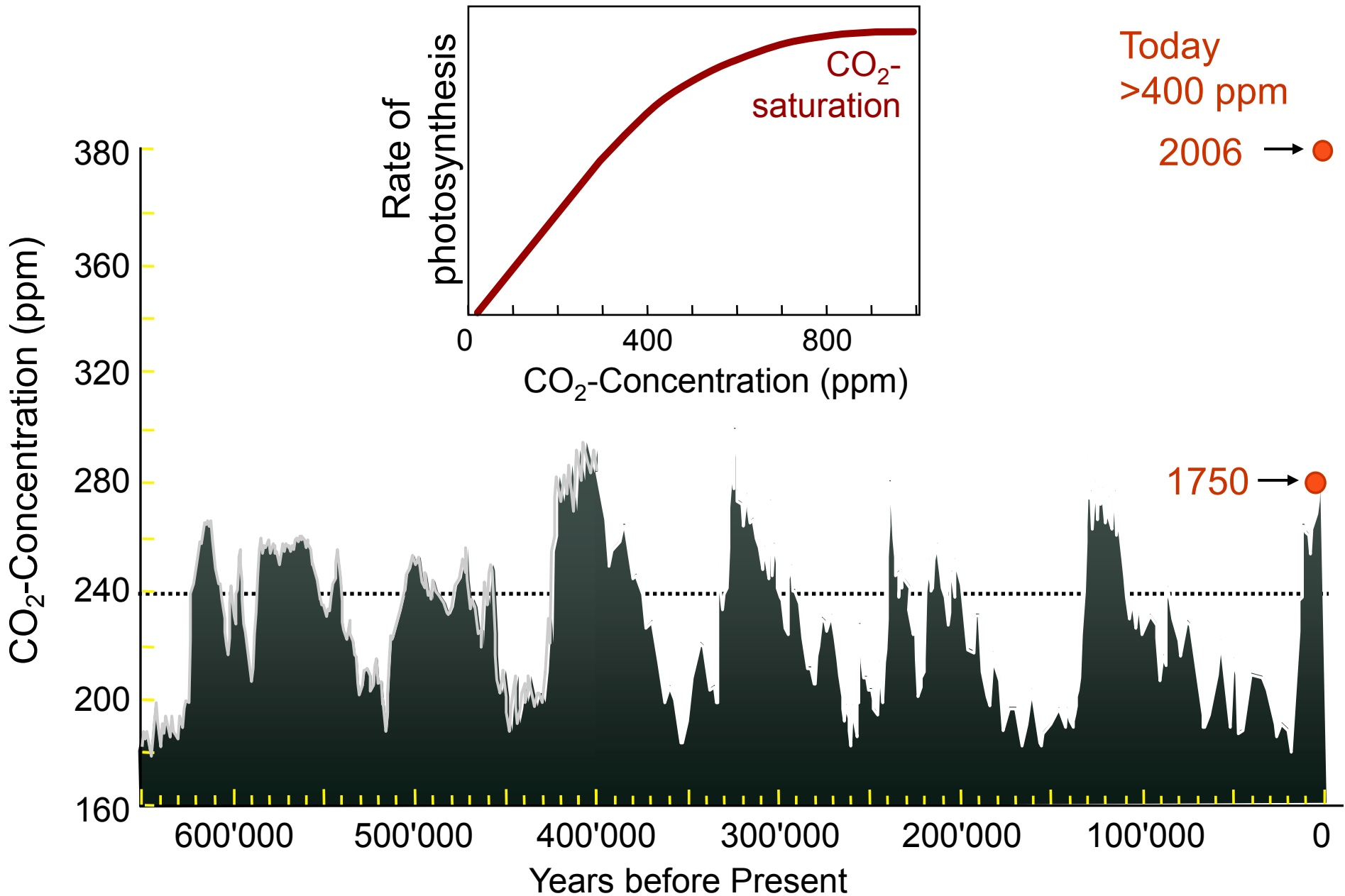


# Variations of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)



# Possible changes of future Northatlantic Circulations (Stocker T.)





## Physical weathering

→ mechanical grinding without chemical changes in the minerals and rocks

→ Volume expansion

- 
- **Decompression** (Exfoliation in particular of magmatic rocks)  
Desquamation starts near the surface rocks along tiny capillary cracks
  - **Temperature changes** (Insolation)
  - **Frostsprenzung** (9% Volume expansion during Crystallisation of Ice)
  - **Blasting of rocks due to increased cryostatic pressure**
  - **Blasting due to salt crystallisation** from salty water which has penetrated cleavages and capillary systems of rocks



# Faktors which control chemical weathering

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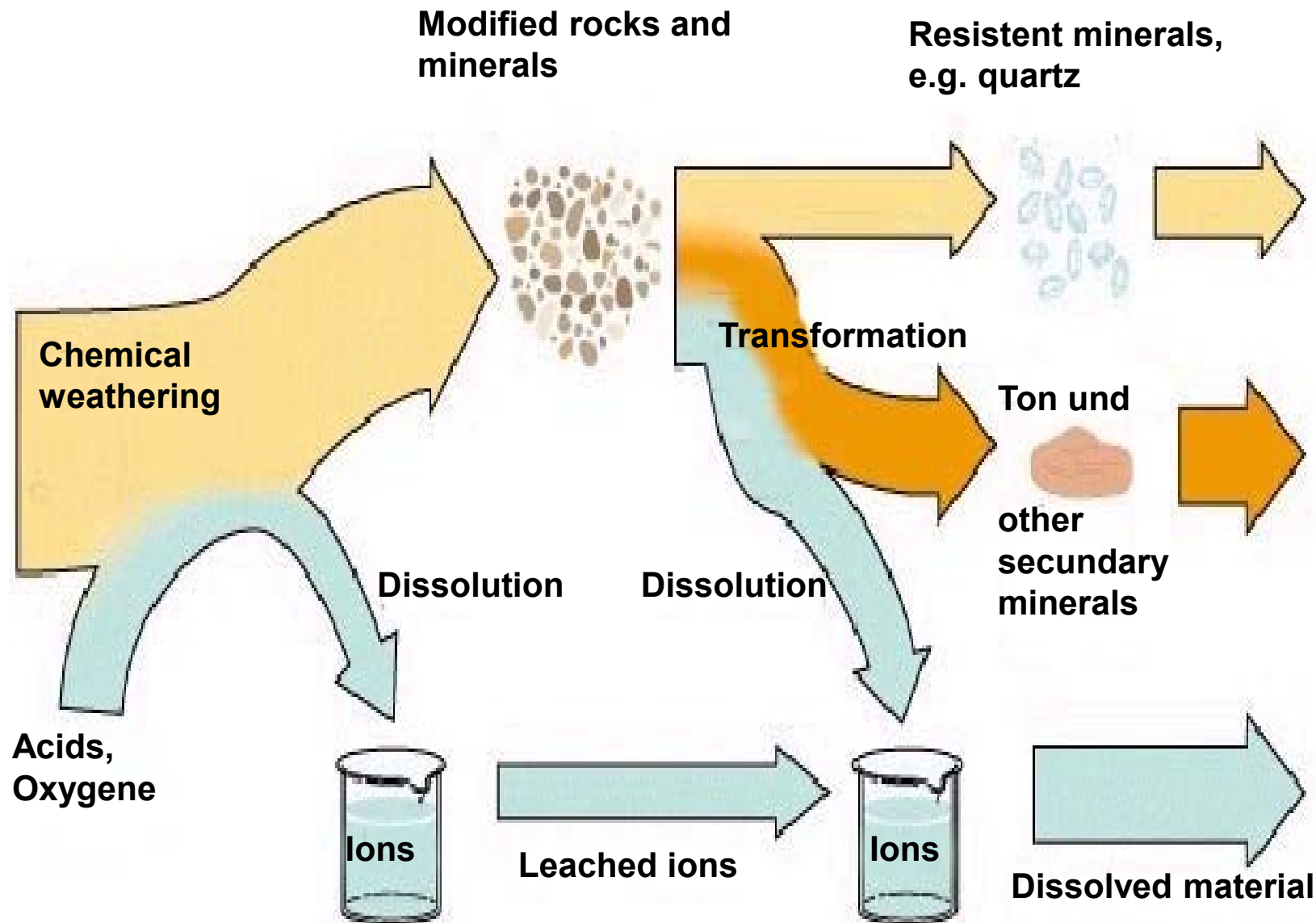
- Rock composition and structure
- Climate: Precipitation / temperature and its variations
- Biosphere (Animals/ plants)
- Morphology
- Time

Factors which influence the weathering velocity:

Chemical weathering

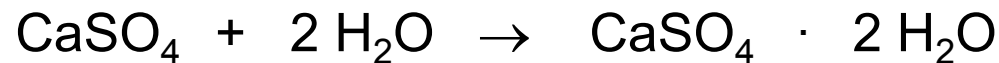
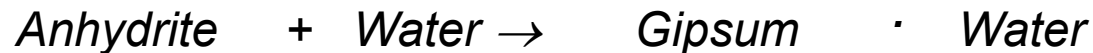
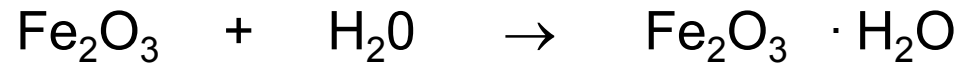
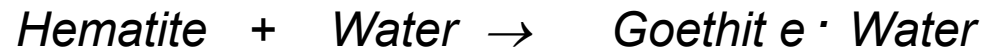
	low		high
Solubility	low (e.g. quartz)	mäßig z.B. pyroxene, feldspar	high Calcite
Precipitation	low	middle	high
Temperature	low	moderate	warm
Vegetation and soil microorganisms	little	medium	strong
Rock cover	bare rocks	low to medium soil	very thick soil

# Combined physical and chemical weathering of minerals and rocks



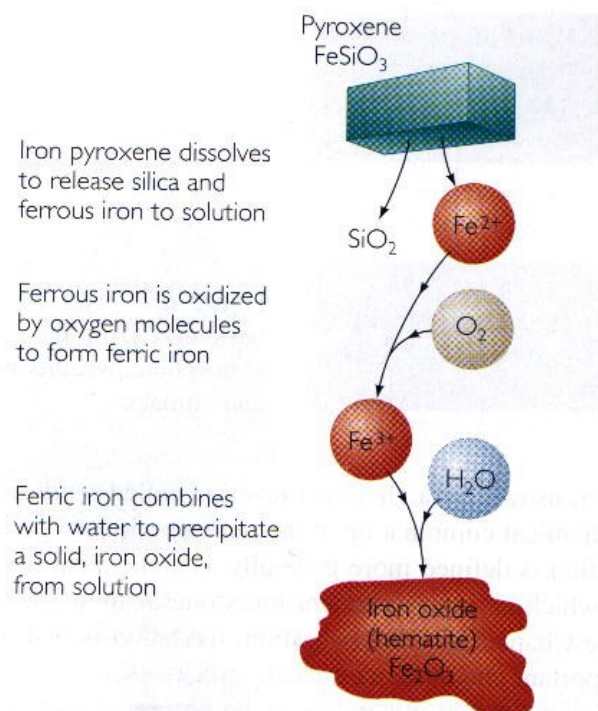
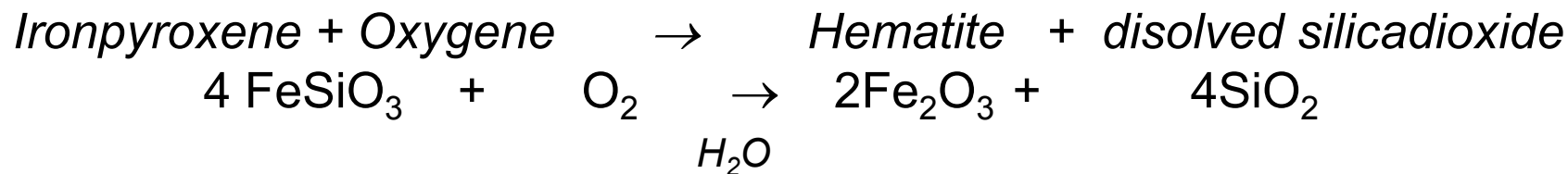
## Hydratisation (Hydration)

→ Adsorption of water molecules in the crystal lattice or crystall surfaces of minerals

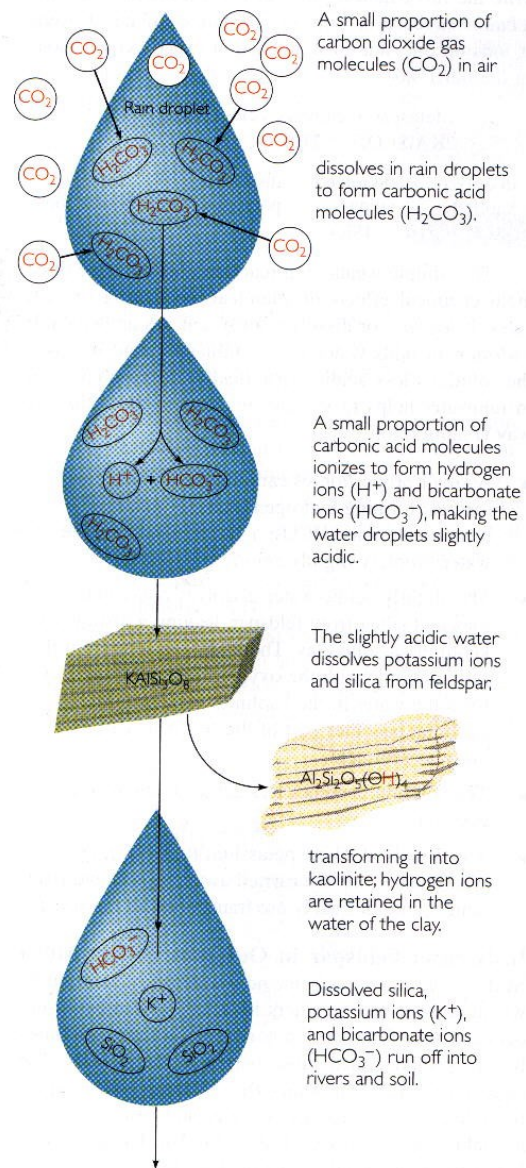


→ ca. 60 %i volume increase → blasting effect

## Oxidation

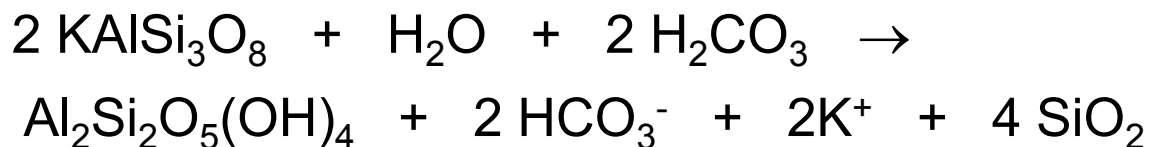


**Figure 6.8** The general course of chemical reactions by which an iron-rich mineral, such as pyroxene, weathers in the presence of oxygen and water.



## Hydrolysis

K-Feldspar + water + carbondioxide  $\rightarrow$   
**Kaolinite** + dissolved hydrogen carbonate +  
 dissolved potassium + dissolved  $\text{SiO}_2$



**Figure 6.6** Feldspar weathering when it is in contact with carbonic acid from rainwater containing carbon dioxide. Two products are formed: kaolinite clay and a solution containing dissolved silica, potassium ions, and bicarbonate ions.

# Erosion/Denudation

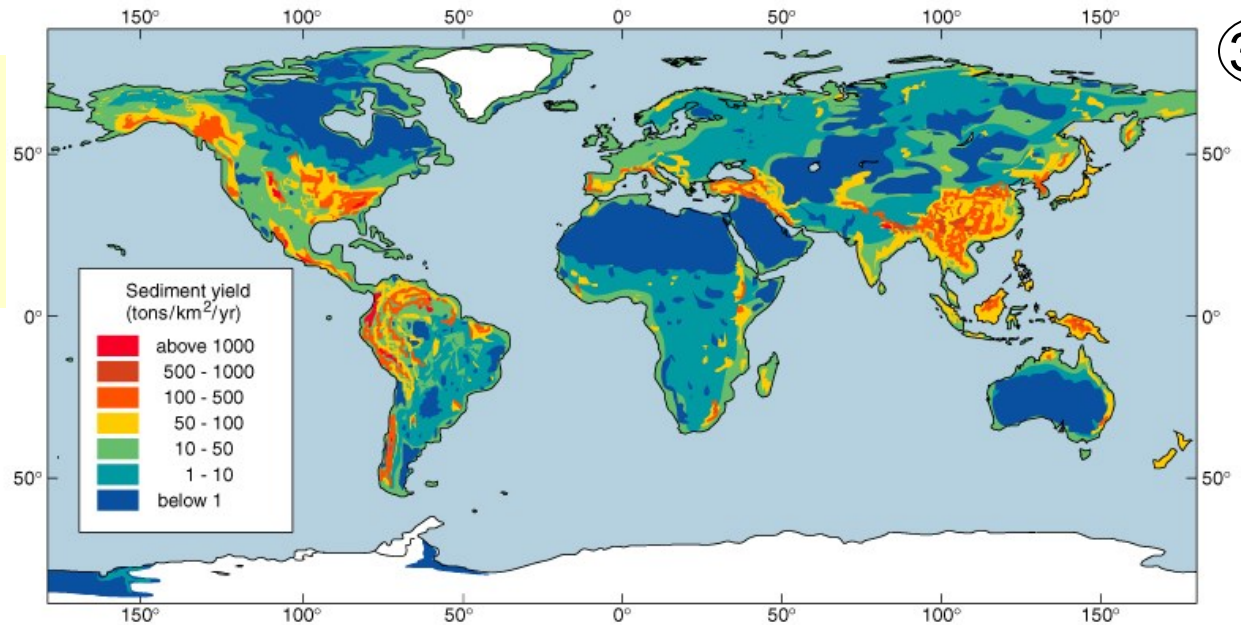
Exogene forces, which causes erosion/denudation processes:

- Water
- Ice
- Wind
- Gravitation



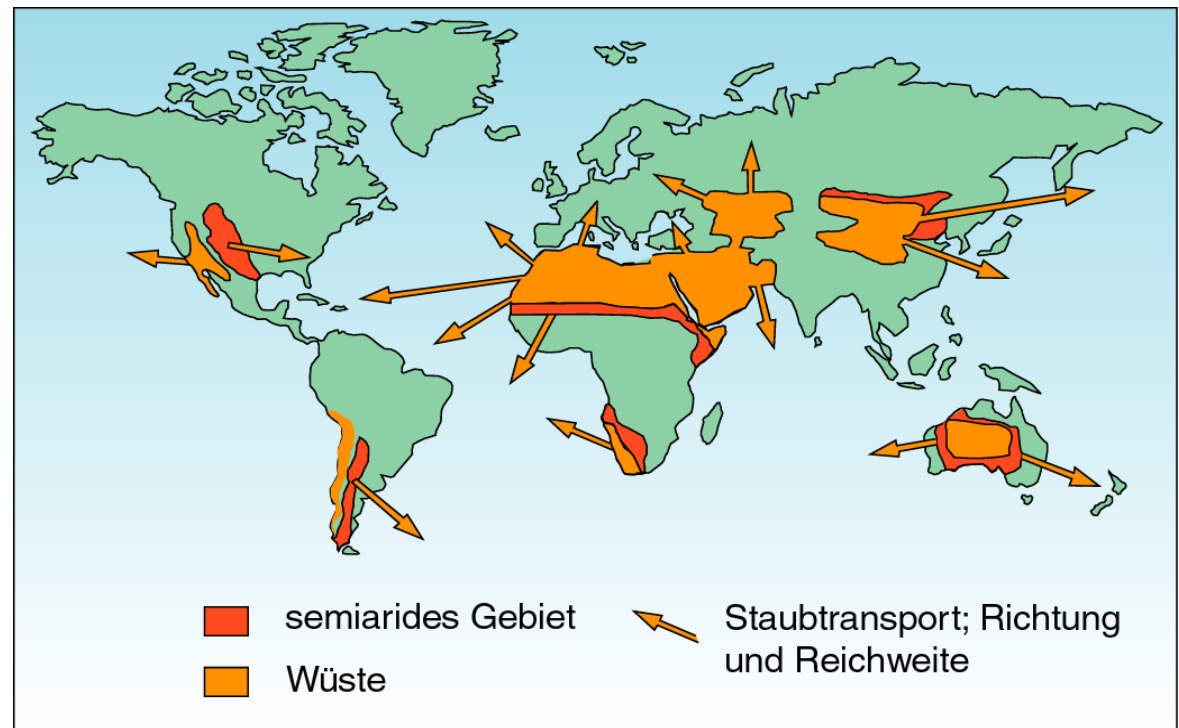
# Fluvial erosion and wind denudation

Sediment  
denudation rates  
on continents



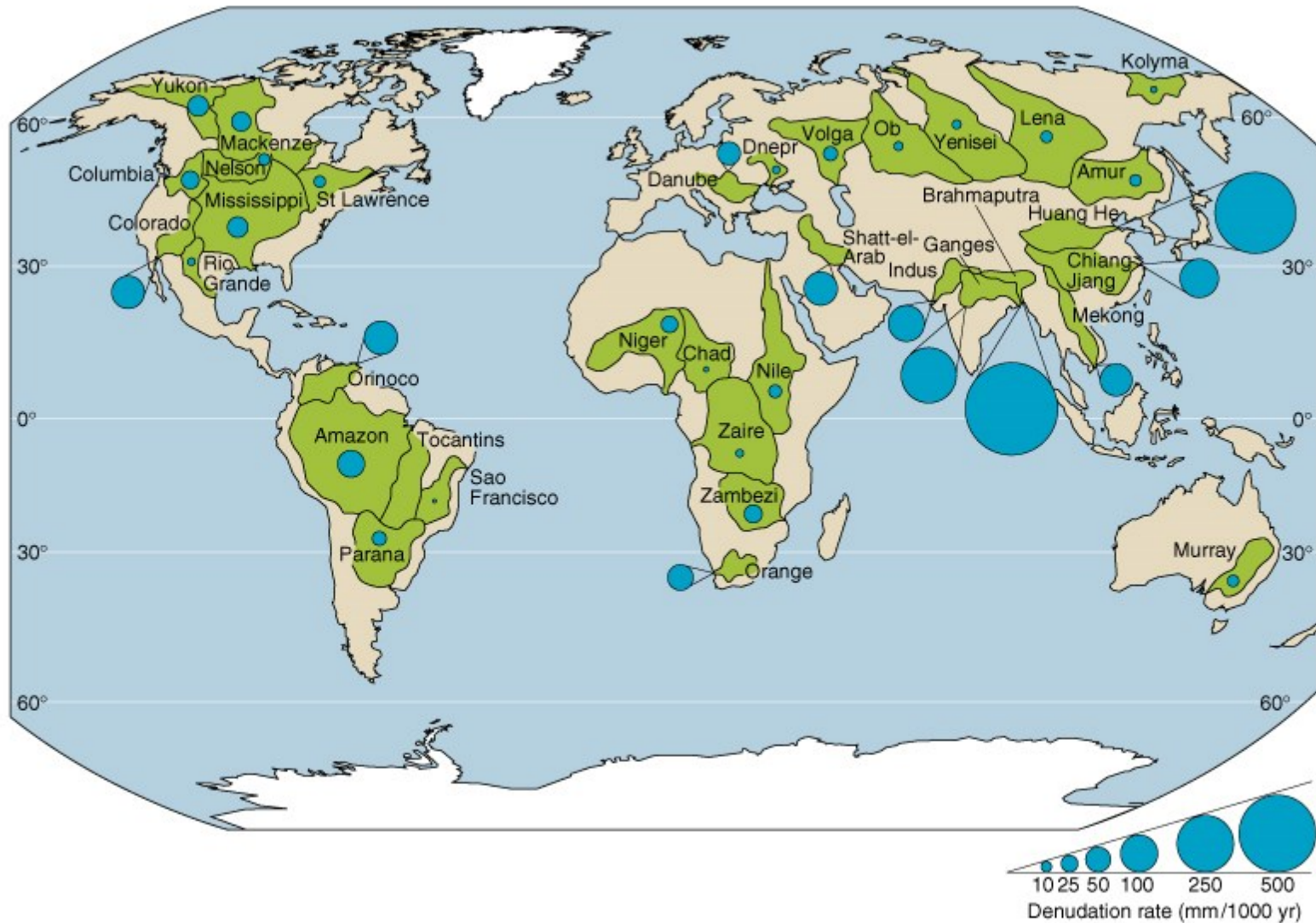
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Sources and transport  
directions of eolian  
sediments



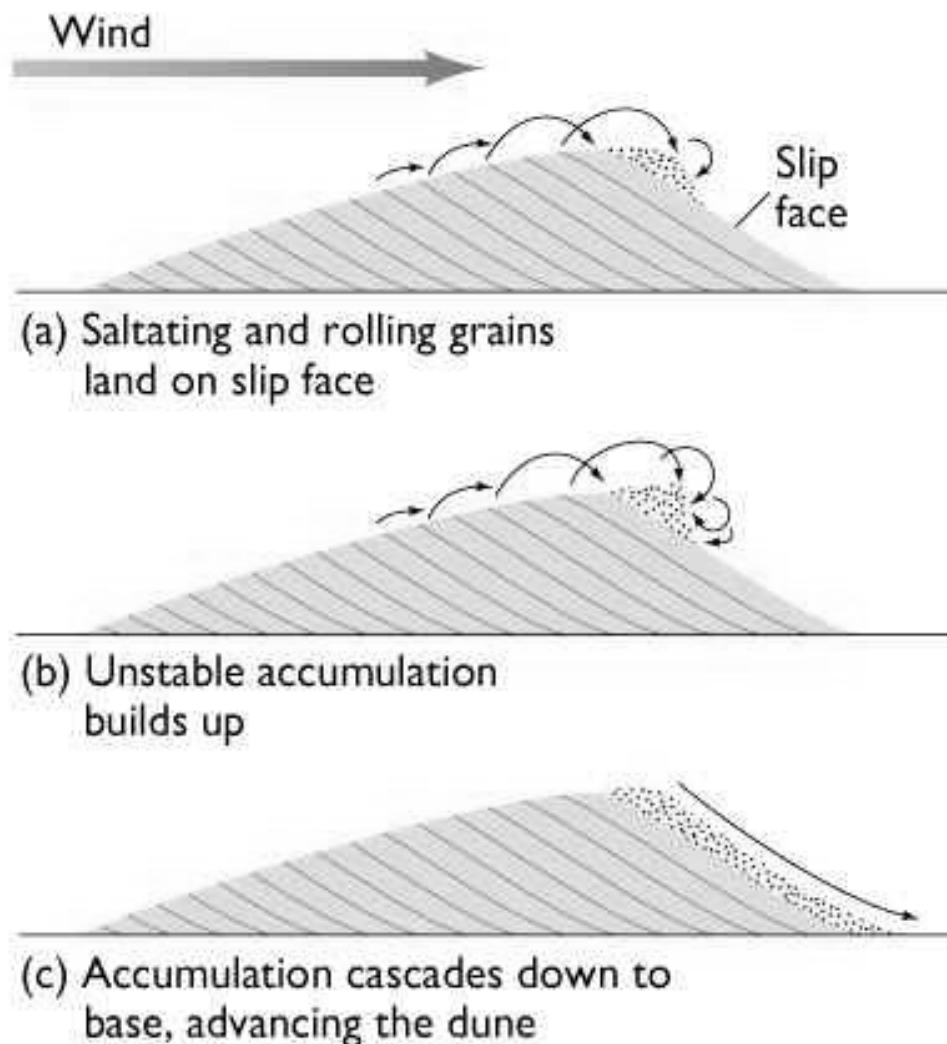
# Denudation rates:

35



Denudation rates calculated for large river catchments: In the Mississippi and Amazonas catchment ( $< 0.1$  mm/year) it amounts only 10 to 20% of that from the east-asiatic areas ( $> 0.5$  mm/year).

# Formation and development of sand dunes







**Mighty loess deposits near Hunyuan, Shanxi Province, China**  
(Foto :T. Niermann)

# Typical ore deposits

## Magmatic

- Pt, Cr, Fe, Ni, Ti, Diamand

## Pegmatites

- Li, Be, U, Rare Earth Elements, Feldspar, Mica, Jewelry

## Hydrothermal

- 600 °C: W, Sn
- 400 °C: Au, U, Ag, Co, Mo
- 200 °C: Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb
- Cold: Hg, As

## Sediments

- Fe, Cu, U, Mn, Mg

## Weathering

- Secondary enrichment:
  - Cu, Ni
- Soils
  - Al, Ni

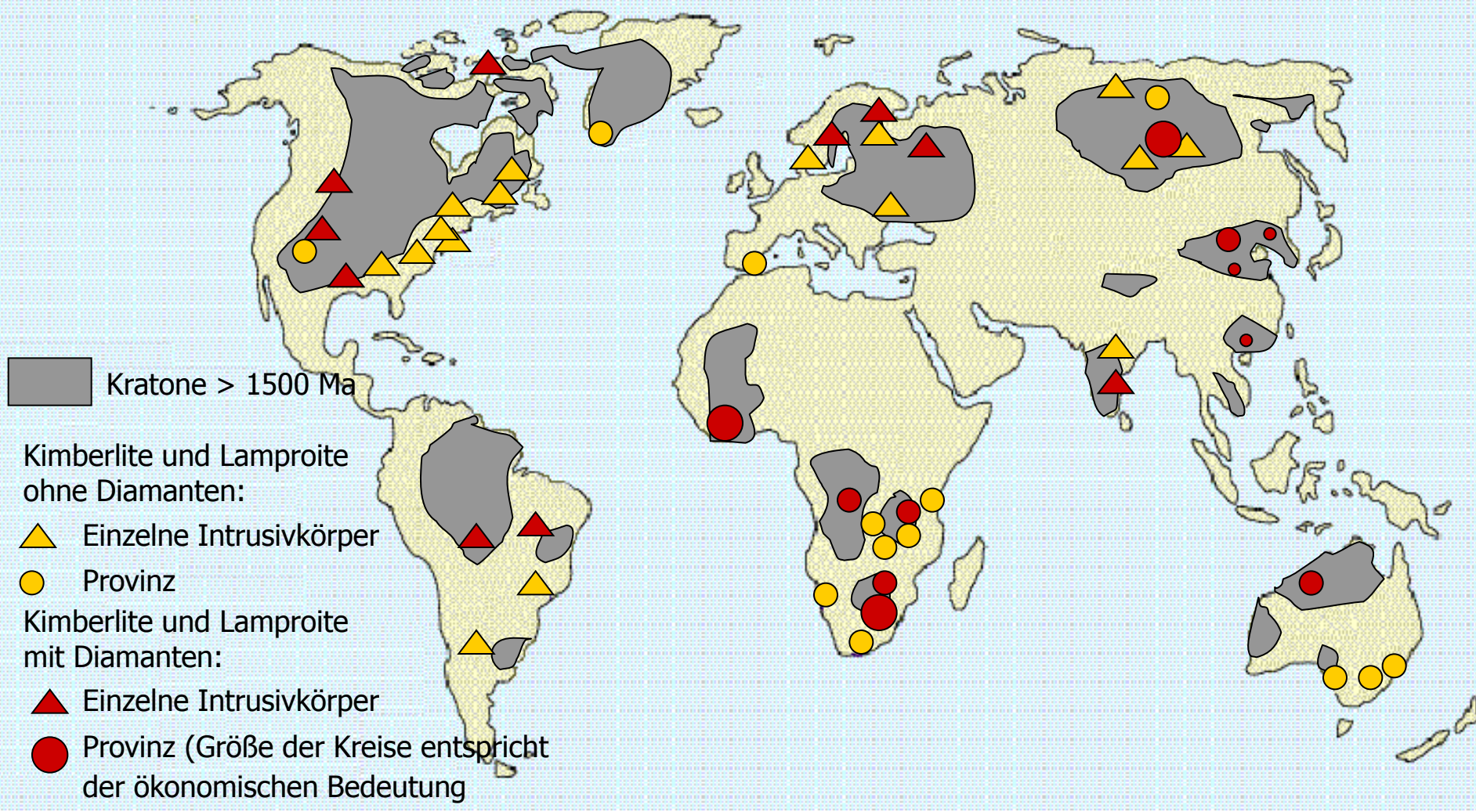
## Replacement

- Pt, Au, Sn, Ti, W, Th, Rare Earth Element, U (Fossil), Jewelry



Diamonds form in the comparatively low mantle in more than 300 km depth and are extracted within mantle xenoliths during explosive magmatic activity (Volcanic pipes) Where they were exploited or redistributed to placer deposits

Global distribution of diamond-bearing kimberites and lamproites





## 2.1.2 Early crystallization

Minerals which form early (like chromite) during crystallization can settle down in magma chambers and form cumulate ores.

Chromite deposits which formed during crystallization of the Bushveld Intrusive Magmatic complex in South Africa represent an important example.

In other cases a segregation of silicate melt and sulfid liquid can be formed during an early crystallization stage. During this process the elements copper, nickel and elements from the platinum group become enriched in the sulfide liquid. Sudbury in Canada represents such an example.

## 2 Early crystallization: Bushveld Intrusion



(Borg, 2000)



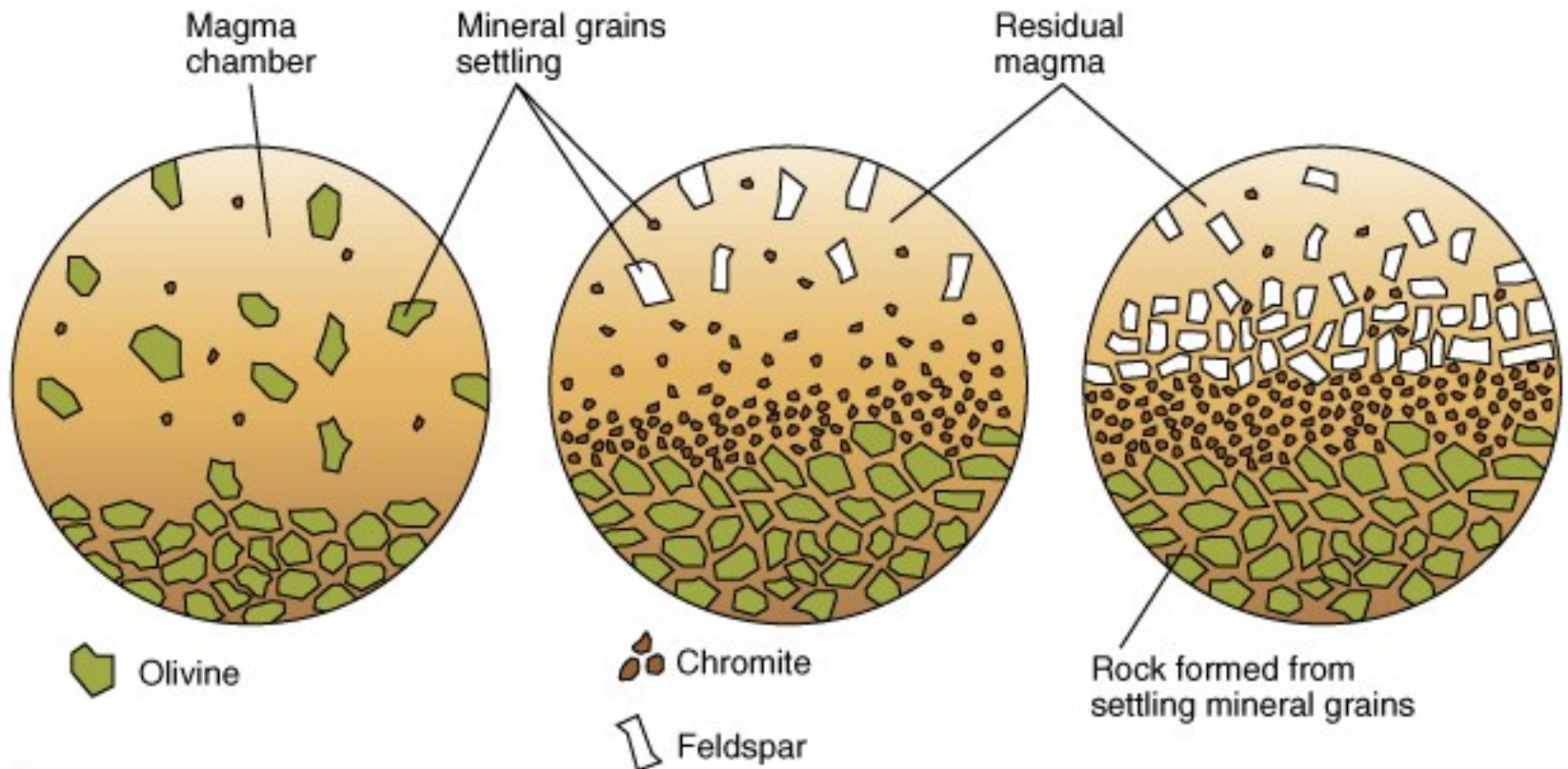
# Bushveld crystallization (cumulate) layers

Layers of light-grey plagioclase and black chromite during fractional crystallisation in the Bushveld Intrusion



# Cristallization and cumulate bformation in a magma chamber of the Bushveld intrusion

The example shows fractional crystallization in the magma forming layers of olivine, chromite and plagioklase controlle by the distinct physical properties (density contrast, diameter, viscosity) described in the Lev of Stokes



A.

# Main and Late crystallisation

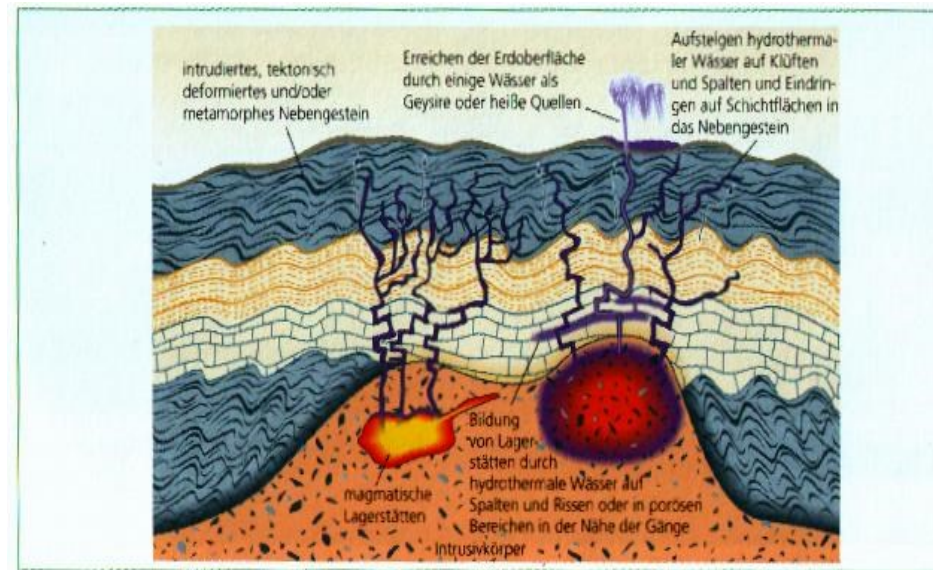
**The hydrothermal mineralization starts first when 90 Vol.% of a differentiated granitic magma was crystallised and a water-rich rest melt remains → Pegmatitic mineralization**

- Remaining granitic melt
- Enrichment of incompatible elements
- Common pegmatites contain typical minerals of granites and black tourmaline
- Lepidolite (mica) is a typical indicator for complex pegmatite formation
- Häufig Edelsteine, micas, feldspar, rare earth elements, Lithium



## 2.2 Hydrothermal ore deposits

After crystallisation of more than 95 vol. % of the magma a very water-rich fluid remains in which many elements are enriched which have not been incorporated in previously crystallized major magmatic mineral phases. This hot liquid penetrates the continental crust, in particular along fracture zones, but also in disseminated form. During further cooling of the hydrothermal fluids gold, silver, copper, tin, lead and other metals start to crystallize. During this process most metals are incorporated in sulfides.





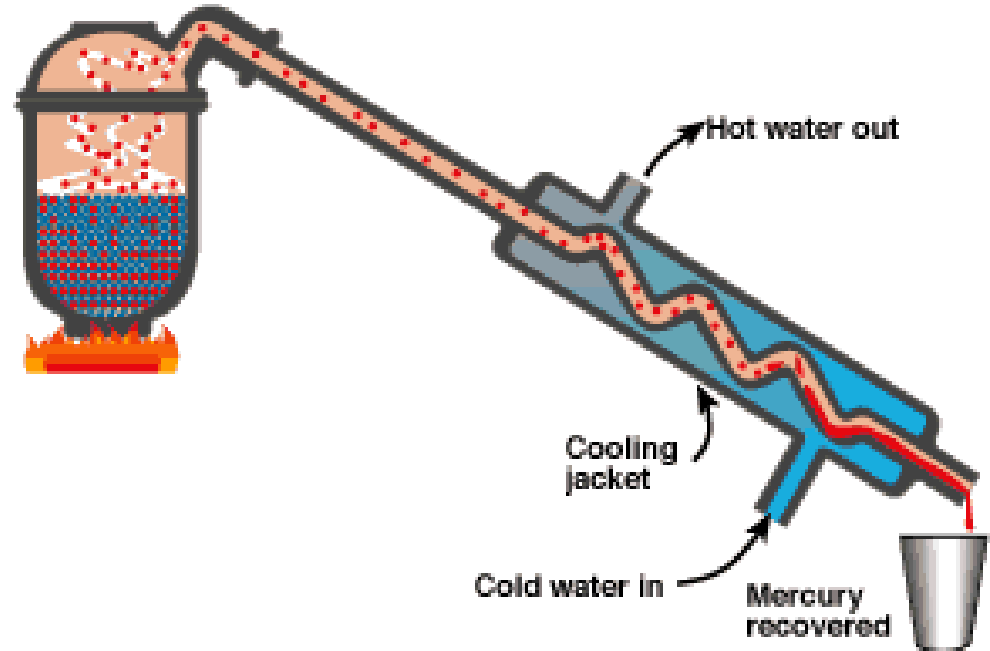
# Hydrothermal mineralization

- 600 °C: W, Sn in granites
- 400 °C: Au, U, Ag, Co, Mo, Cu
  - Gold-quartz enrichment in metavolcanic rocks
  - “Porphyry Copper”
  - Mineralization at margins of intrusiva
- 200 °C: Cu, Zn, Cd, Pb
  - Outermost contact zones of intrusiva
  - Mineralization along the Mississippi
- Cold: Hg, As
  - Warme Quellen, Störungszonen

# Mercury has an affinity to gold

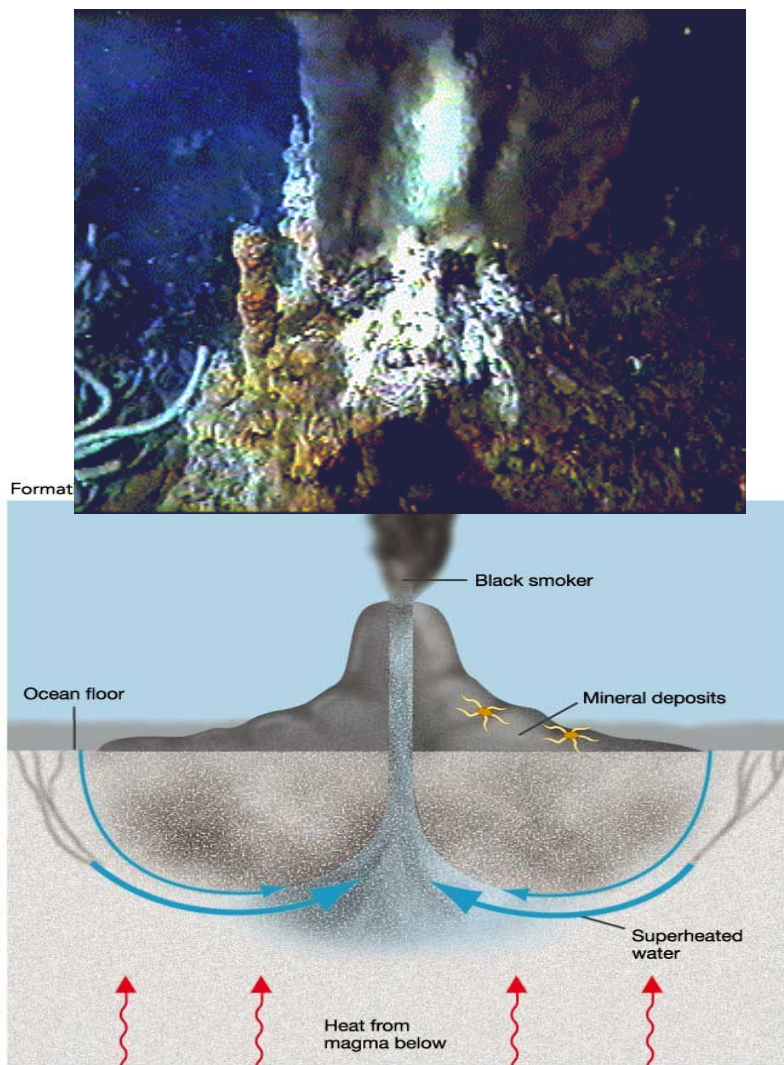


- Gold and mercury bearing rocks are crushed and heated so much that Gold and mercury became evaporated. Then the vapor is cooled down until first gold and then mercury became condensed.



## Recent hydrothermal ore formation in the deeper ocean around Black Smokers

- Hydrothermal fluids appear frequently around Mid-Ocean Ridges and have temperatures of 350-400° C. These acid hot water penetrate the oceanic crust through fracture zones where they dissolve many metals. They become precipitated as sulfides and hydroxides when the hydrothermal water reach the alkaline sea water forming black and White Smokers.



**Black smoker** are characterized by emission of tinny black particles which are in particular pyrrhotin, pyrite and sphalerite.

**White smoker** are characterized by emission of tiny particles of baryt and amorphous silicon dioxide.

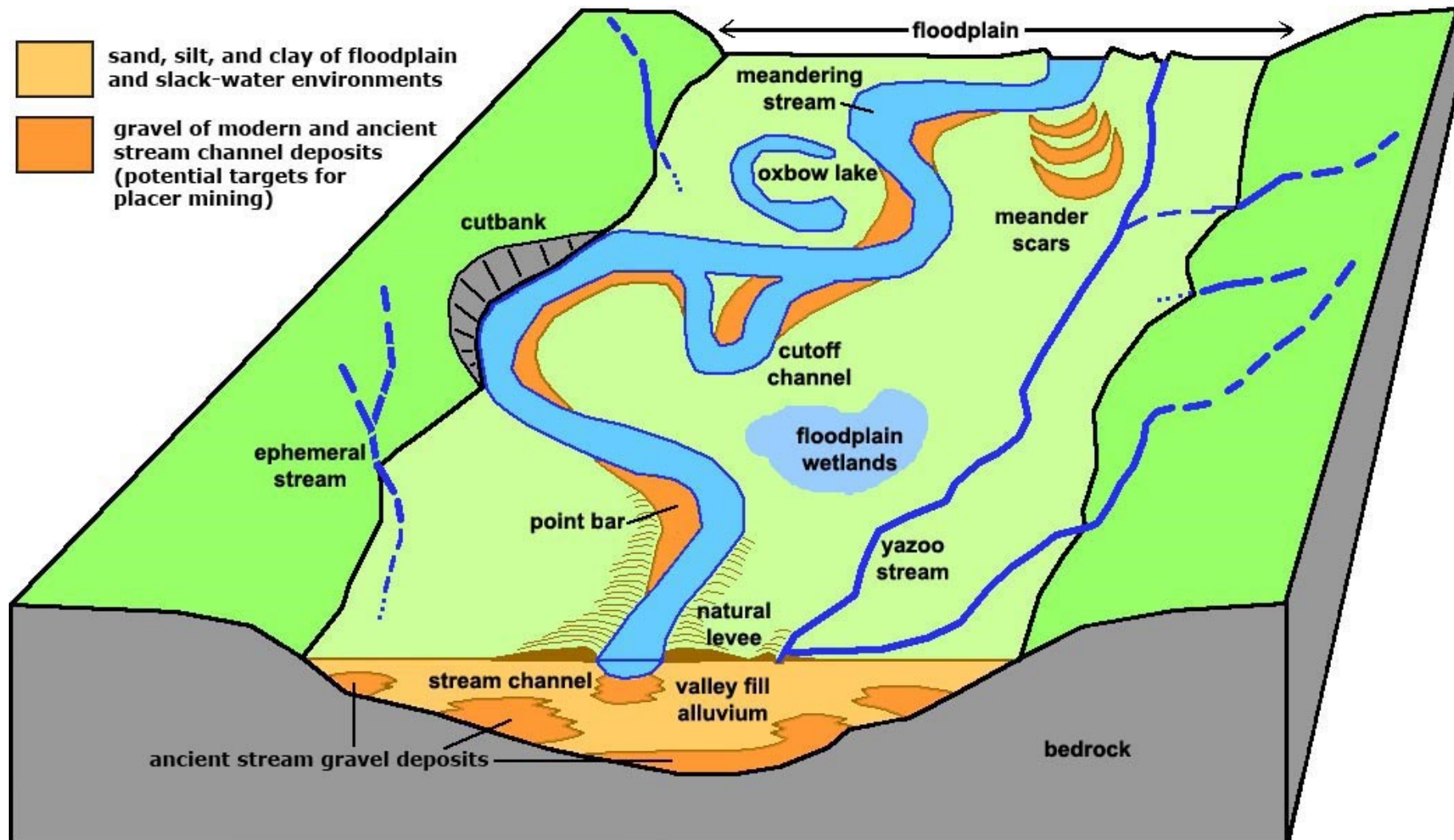
# Sedimentary ores

The most important ore deposits are:

- ➔ Ooidic often phanerozoic iron deposits (e.g. Minette Iron Ores).
- ➔ Oceanic and continental evaporites (Salts with e.g. lithium)
- ➔ Biogenic carbonates as building material and for cement industry
- ➔ Carbon-bearing organic deposits (e.g. coal, oil)

# Placer deposit

Weathering-resistant heavy minerals are enriched in Placer Deposits: e.g. Gold, Diamond, Korundium (Sapphire, Ruby)



## Heavy mineral sands

### *Which Minerals ?*

- Ilmenite  $\text{FeTiO}_3$
- Rutil  $\text{TiO}_2$
- Magnetite  $\text{Fe}(\text{FeO}_2)_2$
- Zircon  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$
- Monazite  $(\text{Ce, La, Y, Th})\text{PO}_4$
- Diamand C

- 
- Gold
  - Platin metals
  - Cassiterite  $(\text{SnO}_2)$

### *Resource*

Titanium, Titaniumdioxide

Titanium, Titaniumdioxide

Iron

Zircon

Rare Erth Elements

tin



## 2.3.1 Carbon-bearing biogenic sediments



**Black Coal**



**Black coal**



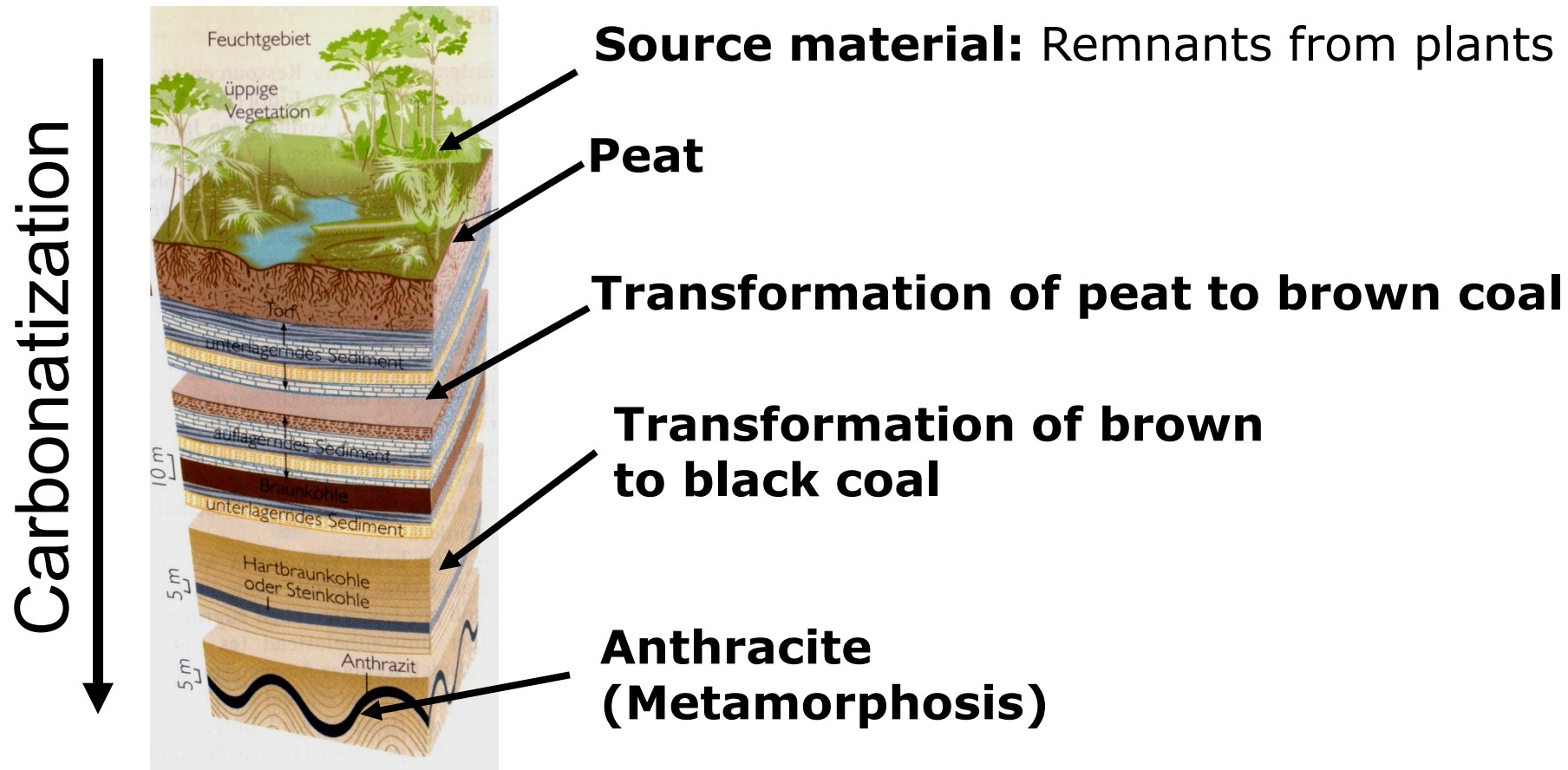
**Brown coal**



**Peat**

# Formation of Coal

**Requierement:** Anoxic conditions, Sinking,  
Temperature increase → Enrichment  
of pure carbon



# Weathering-related ore deposits

- Bauxite: an oxidative Aluminium-rich weathering product very humid-warm regions
- Nickel-laterites in tropical areas
  - Ni replaces Mg
  - Strongly enriched in ultramafic rocks
  - Enrichment within the groundwater level
- Near-surface enrichments
  - Cu leaching from rocks and near-surface Enrichment next to the ground water level