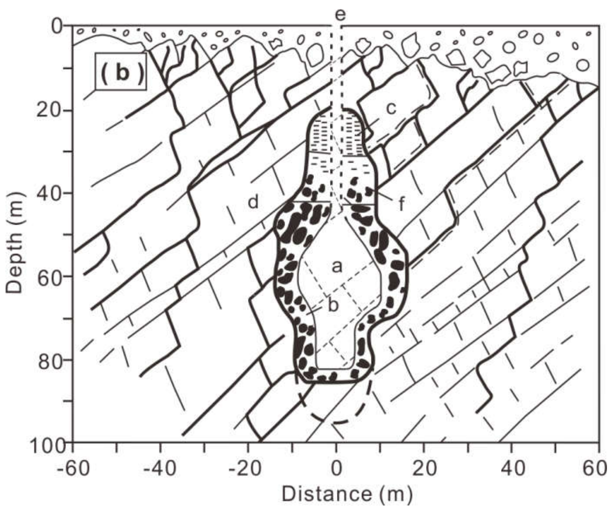
Dear Referee,
Thank you very much for reviewing our manuscript.
Please see the revised manuscript for detailed change at the end of this document.

**Response to the comments:**
Referee comments are repeated in red.

1) The geometry of the cave
"…, but there is no data provided on the relationship of the passage beneath the cave to the 85 m vertical chamber. The cross-section provided in Figure 1b of Yang and Shi (2015) suggests that there is also a vertical entrance above the chamber to the outside, but no detailed information is provided about its dimensions, nor whether it is open throughout the year. Enlarging the diagram, the upper entrance appears to be about 4-5 m wide and cylindrical, i.e., it is large enough to allow large quantities of summer monsoon rain and winter snow to enter the top of the cave."

As mentioned in line 80 of our manuscript, the ice cave has only one entrance, and has wooden spiral stairs leading to a bowling room. The following figure is the new version of Figure 1b of our manuscript. E in the figure is the entrance of Ningwu ice cave and the entrance is showed in Figure 1c of our manuscript. The entrance is open throughout the year. In Figure 1c, we can see the entrance is not very vertical. Limited quantities of summer monsoon rain and winter snow enter Ningwu ice cave through the entrance.




2) Mean annual air temperature
"The obvious solution to obtain reliable climate data for the site is to install a weather station at the Ningwa cave site in the natural vegetation cover at an undisturbed site close to the cave, on a similar slope and aspect. The ice cave represents a pocket of sporadic permafrost by definition, but the extent of the pocket needs to be determined. A deep borehole to a depth of about 100 m that is instrumented with thermistors and a data logger could determine whether the adjacent ground contains permafrost. It would also provide basic data for comparison with temperatures measured in the cave itself."

Thank you very much for giving us these specific instructions. We are glad to perform these works. If we get further support, we will carry out these observations. The current results at least provide a first order approximation for us.

3) Some basic types of ice caves
"Yet another possible source of ice could be by condensation of water from warm air in a humid, subtropical climate (c.f., de Freitas and Schmekal, 2003). This is likely to occur at Ningwu ice cave if there is significant inflow of air into the cold cave in summer."

Generally, ice caves are classified by their mass and energy exchange process. Section 3 of our manuscript detailed the energy exchange process of Ningwu ice cave. Mass (water and ice) is in dynamic equilibrium state. Water infiltrates into the cave throughout the year, and forms ice. Ice at the bottom of Ningwu ice cave is thawed under geothermal flow, and the water infiltrates into the deeper place. Ice stalactites, ice stalagmites (Fig. 1d of our paper) can be seen in all part of Ningwu ice cave. This can verify the former process. No directly observational evidences support the latter process.

4) Environmental history of the region

"This suggests that the ice in the Ningwu ice cave may only date back about 6 ka instead of 3 million years. The cave may also be a former mass of ice in the cavern that is currently suffering from thawing of the relict ice as a result of a warming climate."

In this part, referee suggested that the ice in the Ningwu ice cave may only date back about 6ka instead of 3 million years. We agree with you on this point. But, we do not consider the ice cave is currently suffering from thawing of the relict ice. If there is no air convection heat transfer in winter, the ice body in Ningwu ice cave will melt rapidly. According to section 5.2 of our manuscript, to thaw the ice body completely only takes 37 years when the latent heat is considered.

5)

"Is there really no interannual change (ablation or formation) in the cave ice volume? i.e. can you be sure that the cave ice is fossil and that no water infiltrates into the cave throughout the year? If so, where is the water from the catchment area above the cave being directed to? How do these water fluxes affect heat exchanges at the system's boundaries?"

Water and ice are in dynamic equilibrium state. Water infiltrates into the cave throughout the year, and forms ice. Ice at the bottom of Ningwu ice cave is thawed under geothermal flow, and the water infiltrates into the deeper place. Ice stalactites, ice stalagmites (Fig. 1d) can be seen in all part of Ningwu ice cave. This can verify the former process. No directly observational evidences support the latter process which is our supposition. It is difficult to consider these water fluxes in our models, because we could not fix several parameters (porosity, permeability, rainfalls, etc).

6)

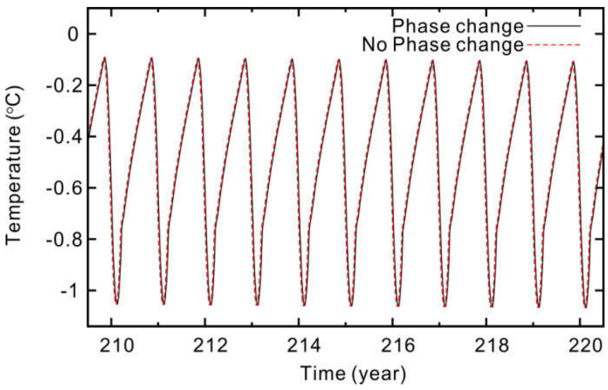
"How would a change in the infiltration regime (i.e. timing and recharge) affect the ice build-up, resp. the preservation of the cave ice?"

The ice build-up process is a self-regulating process. If too much ice was accumulated in Ningwu ice cave, the cavity will become small. Thus, Ra number and Nu number will be reduced. That means the freezing efficiency become low. Some of the cave ice will be thawed, and the cavity will become large. Ra number and Nu number will be increased. That means the freezing efficiency become high. More ice will be accumulated in Ningwu ice cave. This process is always happening.

7)

"Based on the sensitivity study, what would be the minimum climatic conditions required to form the ice cave?"

Based on the current climatic environment, Ningwu ice cave can form when the mean annual temperature increases 3.5 ◦C. We consider this is the minimum climatic condition required to form Ningwu ice cave. The figure shows the ice cave temperature annual fluctuations when the process has lasted two centuries, long enough to be evolved to a stable cyclic state. We can see the temperature ceiling is -0.1◦C.




## Textual comments

Thanks for the comments. Everything was changed accordingly in the revised version. Here are some clarifications.

2370 l.18-21 edit or delete sentence as the formation of hoar frost (i.e. snow crystals) is not a process relevant to your system

We planned to verify that little humidity enters Ningwu ice cave. So these lines should not be deleted.

2372 l.14 please rephrase: do you mean that cold air is trapped inside the cave and leads to a thermal stratification which is not affected by natural convection during summer?

Natural convection occurs due to temperature differences which affect the density. Cold air in Ningwu ice cave is heavier than the environment air during summer and thus will not produce natural thermal convection.

2372 l.27 this assumes an equilibrated energy balance without considering any new formation or ablation of cave ice. Is this true (cf. also general comment)

This question includes two parts: energy and mass (ice or water). As Figure 4 of our paper showed, it takes relative long time to reach a stable cyclic state. The energy could not balance until the cave temperature reaches the stable cyclic state. As mentioned in question 5), water and ice are in dynamic equilibrium state.

2373 l.25 what about the cave ice mass balance? is the formation/ablation strictly limited to the cave entrance zone (l. 10)? If so, does this mean the cave ice in the deeper cave is completely "fossil"? when would it have formed?

As mentioned in question 5), it is difficult to consider these water fluxes in our models. In our numerical model, when the air temperature of Ningwu ice cave is below -0.1◦C (cf2376 l.5 of our paper), the air will become ice at numerical simulation. We consider the cave ice in the deeper cave is not completely “fossil”. In further study, we will try to model the water fluxes.

2375 l.8-9 Eq. 3 and 4 are not necessary but Ts, Tl and T need to be better defined

The (Ts, Tl) is phase change range. Water (or ice) phase change occurs at 0 ◦C. But in numerical model, it is necessary to give a phase change range, for example, (-0.01, 0.01). T is temperature, unknown number.

2378 l. 7 a gradient of 2◦C/100m would be surprisingly high for a mature karst system surrounding the ice cave. A gradient of ca. 0.5◦C/100m would probably be more realistic; cf discussion in Luetscher and Jeannin (2004).

Fig. 4 in Luetscher and Jeannin (2004) showed the temperature in a borehole of the Swiss Jura Mountains. We can see the observed gradient of the main karst conduits is 0.55◦C/100m. However, in our model, the temperature boundary conditions are assigned to both sides of the model. The both sides of the model are about 150m away from the cave ice (Figure. 3 in our paper).Therefore, we use the normal temperature gradient.

2379 l.11 “increasing rate” do you mean the “positive trend”?

The heat conduction in spring, summer and fall is much less efficient than convective heat transfer in winter. Therefore, the air temperature of Ningwu ice cave decrease rapidly in winter, but the temperature increase slowly in spring, summer and fall.

Sincerely,
S. Yang and Y. Shi

References

De Freitas,C. R. and Schmekal, A., 2003. Condensation as a microclimatic process: Measurement, numerical simulation and prediction in the glowworm cave, New Zealand. International Journal of Climatology 23: 557-575.

Luetscher M., Jeannin P.-Y., 2004. Temperature distribution in karst systems:the role of air and water fluxes. Terra Nova, 16, 344-350. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-3121.2004.00572.x

Yang, S. and Shi, Y., 2015.Numerical simulation of formation and preservation of Ningwu ice cave, Shanxi, China. The Cryosphere Discuss 9: 2367-2395.

# Numerical simulation of formation and preservation of Ningwu ice cave, Shanxi, China

域代码已更改

域代码已更改

域代码已更改

S. Yang[1,2], Y. Shi[1,2]

[1] State Key Laboratory of Continental Tectonics and Dynamics, Institute of Geology, Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, Beijing 100037, China

[2] Key Laboratory of Computational Geodynamics of Chinese Academy of Sciences, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

Beijing 100049, China

[2] University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

*Correspondence to:* Y. Shi(shiyl@ucas.ac.cn)

**Abstract:** Ice caves exist in locations where annual average temperature in higher than 0℃. An example is Ningwu ice cave, Shanxi Province, the largest ice cave in China. In order to quantitatively explain the mechanism of formation and preservation of the ice cave, we use Finite Element Method to simulate the heat transfer process at this ice cave. There are two major control factors. First, there is the seasonal asymmetric heat transfer. Heat is transferred into the ice cave from outside, very inefficiently by conduction in spring, summer and fall. In winter, thermal convection occurs that transfers heat very efficiently out of the ice cave, thus cooling it down. Secondly, ice-water phase change provides a heat barrier for heat transfer into the cave in summer. The calculation also helps to evaluate effects of global warming, tourists, colored lights, climatic conditions, etc. for sustainable development of ice

cave as tourism resource. In some other ice caves in China, managers installed air-tight doors at these ice caves entrance intending to “protect” these caves, but this prevent cooling down these caves in winters and these cave ices will entirely melt within tens of years.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

An ice cave is a type of natural cave that contains significant amounts of perennial ice. ~~Therefore some parts of an ice cave must have a temperature below 0°C all year round, and some water must have traveled into the cave’s cold zone~~. An ice cave is a rare phenomenon. Among the best known are Eisriesenwelt ice cave, Austria (May et al., 2011; Obleitner and Spötl, 2011; Schöner et al., 2010), Dobšináice cave, Slovakia (Bella, 2006; Lalkovič, 1995), Scărisoara ice cave, Romania (Holmlund et al., 2005; Perşoiu et al., 2011) and Monlesiice cave, Switzerland (Luetscher et al., 2007; Luetscher et al., 2008). Eisriesenwelt ice cave is the largest in the world. Dobšiná ice cave is also huge, with an ice volume of over 110,000$m^3$ (Bella, 2006). In China, more than ten ice caves have been found, including Ningwu, Wudalianchi, Taibaishan, Cuihuashan, Baiyizhai and Shennongjia ice caves.

Studies of ice caves began as early as 1861 (Peters, 1861). In recent decades, in the context of interest in global climate change, six international conferences on ice caves have been held, with the reconstruction of regional ancient climate change as an important topic for discussion (Laursen, 2010). ~~Paleoenvironmental reconstructions~~

from cave deposits are largely based on the assumption of a stable subsurface climate system(Hendy, 1971). However, sSeveral articles reported seasonal air temperature oscillations of several degrees from ventilated cave systems (Roberts et al., 1998; Lacelle et al., 2004; Johnson et al., 2006). Therefore, to evaluate the impact of changing climatic conditions on cave environments, a better explanation of subsurface heat and mass transfers is necessary (Luetscher et al., 2008). Meanwhile, ice caves are tourism resources. A better explanation of subsurface heat and mass transfers could help people manage ice caves more scientifically.

In the past, empirical calibrations were enabledperformed to determine the spatial and temporal distribution of cave air temperature as a function of the external atmospheric conditions(de Freitas and Littlejohn, 1987; de Freitas et al., 1982). In temperate karst environments, explanation of the survival of subsurface ice accumulations represents probably the most severe test for models of the magnitude and direction of heat and mass transfers induced by cave air circulation (Luetscher et al., 2008). In mathematics and engineering, Finite Element Method (FEM) and Finite Difference Method (FDM) are popular for finding approximate solutions for partial differential equations. We have not found any study in which these numerical techniques are applied to ice caves.

In China, ice cave studies started only recently, after 1998, when Ningwu ice cave was found. Although Ningwu ice cave has been widely reported during the past decade (Gao et al., 2005; Meng et al., 2006), little was known about the processes controlling the formation and preservation of perennial subsurface ice deposits under changing climate conditions (Chen, 2003). We attempt to apply FEM to simulate the energy fluxes of Ningwu ice cave, and then quantitatively interpret the formation and preservation mechanism of ice deposit in Ningwu ice cave. Some suggestions are given to manage Ningwu ice cave.

## 2 Study Site

Ningwu ice cave (38˚57' N, 112˚10' E; 2121 m above sea level (Figure 1a)) is the largest ice cave ever found in China. Located on the northern slopes of Guancen Mountain, Ningwu County, Shanxi Province, it is known to local people as "the ten thousand years ice cave". The stratum of the cave consists of Ordovician Majiagou limestone, dolomitic limestone, argillaceous dolomite and thin brecciated limestone which is locally densely fractured (Shao et al., 2007). A geophysical exploration (using magnetotelluric measurement) has been carried out for investigating the spatial form of the ice cave (Shao et al., 2007). They obtained the vertical cross section of the ice cave ~~(Figure 1b)~~. The cave space is about 85 m depth. The widest part is in the middle, with a width of 20 m.

The ice cave is a major tourist attraction. From May to October, about 1000 visitors enter the cave per day. The ice cave has only one entrance (Figure 1c), and has wooden spiral stairs leading to a ~~bowling ball like~~ bowling shape room. Ice almost covers the host rock every inch. Ice stalactites, ice stalagmites (Figure 1d) can be seen in all part of the cave.~~ According to the classification of ice caves (Luetscher and Jeannin, 2004), we consider that Ningwu ice cave is a static cave with congelation ice. Snow crystals are single crystals of ice that grow from water vapor. If humidity enters a cave and then form ice deposit, snow crystals could be discovered more or less(Kenneth, 2005). Actually, it is hard to find snow crystals in Ningwu ice cave. Any clear traces of water or snow entering the cave through its entrance could not be found. Meanwhile, karstified carbonate rock is heterogeneous, highly fractured, and with a permeability developed such that water movement occurs below the surface (Fairchild and Baker, 2012). In summary, we infer that most of the ice in the cave is formed by freezing of infiltration water~~.

The outside of the ice cave has a temperate climate. The external mean air temperature from June to September is about 14.6 °C, and the mean annual air temperature is 2.3 °C (Meng et al., 2006). The daily temperature from 1957 to 2008 is obtained from Wuzhai meteorological station (about 320m lower than Ningwu ice cave), which is the nearest station to the ice cave. We averaged the same date observational air temperature at Wuzhai station to obtain the annual temperature, and then derive the mean annual temperature at Wuzhai station. ~~We use the 51 years of daily temperature to obtain the average daily temperature and the annual temperature~~

~~at Wuzhai meteorological station, and~~ We calculate the difference between the average annual air temperature at Ningwu ice cave and that at Wuzhai ~~meteorological~~ station. After reducing the ~~average daily~~annual temperature at Wuzhai ~~meteorological~~ station by the difference, we then obtain the annual temperature variation outside the ice cave (Figure 2).

## 3 Qualitative Analysis

There are different hypotheses about the preservation mechanism of ice deposit in ~~the~~Ningwu ice cave. Chen(2003) proposed that the existence of a “cold source” led to the negative geothermal anomaly which preserves the ice deposit. Meng et al. (2006) ascribed the ice deposit to multiple factors including geographical location, “icehouse effect”, “chimney effect” and “thermal effect” produced by the ice deposit and the “millennial volcano”. But they did not give us more details about these factors. Gao et al. (2005) analyzed two aspects: terrain and climate. Because this region has a long cold winter and a short cool summer, they considered that far more cold air than warm air entered the region and then the ice cave stayed cold over year.

The temperature usually increases with depth at a geothermal gradient of about 1-3 ℃ (100m)$^{-1}$ (Hu et al., 2001), and there have been persistent heat flows from the deep crust to the surface. The notion that there is a permanent “cold source” underground is unfounded. Even if a cold region had somehow formed, it would be heated up by the geothermal flux from underneath in geological time. Reversal of geotherms can occur

~~when~~ in the presence of the advective heat transfer exists due to crustal movement or groundwater flow (Shi and Wang, 1987). ~~For example, in subduction zones, when a cold slab dives to the hot mantle, the geotherms can be overturned. The temperature can also be overturned when continental collision with large overthrust faulting at a speed of several centimeters per year sustains for millions of years. However, as long as the motion stops, it will return to normal geothermal gradient under the heating of mantle heat flow. The movement of groundwater can sometimes produces an abnormal geothermal gradient, as long as the movement continues.~~ A reversal of geotherms can also occur from transient changes in surface temperature and be induced by steep topography (Gruber et al., 2004). But the outside of Ningwu ice cave has a temperate climate. It is hard to preserve an ice cave in a temperate climate without a sustainable cooling mechanism. ~~Since the existence~~In presence of a geothermal gradient, the host rock continuously transfers heat to the ice cave, so there must be a sustainable mechanism to remove the heat from underneath and ensure the maintenance of the ice cave.

The temperature outside the ice cave undergoes annual cyclic variations: in spring, summer and fall, it is higher than the internal temperature, but in winter it is lower. As Ningwu ice cave is bowling ~~ball-shaped~~shape with only an opening in the upper part, cold air in spring, summer and fall is heavy and sinks into the cave and thus will not produce natural thermal convection. Conduction is the main form of heat transfer from the outside down to the ice cave, and at the same time heat transfers into the cave from underground and the host rock due to the terrestrial heat flows. Thermal conductivities of neither rock nor air are high and the conductive heat transfer efficiency is very low, so the temperature rise in heat transferred to the ice cave in the three seasons is quite limited. In winter, the temperature is low inside the ice cave and even lower outside. The air in the ice cave is lighter and air outside the cave entrance is heavier. It could thus become gravitational unstable, and thermal convection could occur. The external cold air flows into the cave to cool it down, and removes the heat transferred into the cave from underground and the host rock, as well as thatthe heat transferred into the cave through the entrance in spring, summer and fall. Since convective heat transfer is much more efficient than conduction heat transfer, the heat transferred out of the cave in the winter months is enough to balance the heat that transferred into the cave year-round.

Ice melting into water absorbs a lot of latent heat. The melting heat of ice is 334 kJ kg$^{-1}$ and the specific heat of limestone is 0.84 kJ kg$^{-1}$ K$^{-1}$. That is, when the summer heat conduction makes the temperature inside the cave rise, if there is no ice, the 334 kJ heat could cause the temperature of 1 kg limestone to rise by 397.6°C, or make 397.6 kg of limestone rise by 1°C, but the heat can only make 1 kg of 0°C ice melt to 0°C water. When the ambient temperature rises, During summer, much of the heat transferred to cave is consumed to melt the ice to 0 °C water. Therefore, ice-water phase change ~~action~~ can reduce the rate of temperature rise. Similarly, when the ambient temperature decreases, ice-water phase change ~~action~~ can reduce the rate of temperature decrease. Therefore, ice-water phase change ~~action~~ in the ice cave can “buffer” the temperature change and make the temperature change in a small range. A small amount of ice melting near the cave entrance effectively prevents the heat from being transferred into the deep cave. When the surface water flows into the ice cave from the entrance, the ice cave temperature will not significantly increase.

The calculated energy balance of some cave ice (e.g. Eisriesenwelt ice cave) is largely determined by the input of long-wave radiation originating at the host rock surface (Obleitner and Spötl, 2011). Ice almost covers the host rock in Ningwu cave completely. Therefore, we suggest that long-wave radiation originating at the host rock surface is not predominant factor in the processes of the formation and preservation of ice deposit in Ningwu ice cave.

In summary, the air and the host rock transfers heat to the ice cave, making the cave temperature rise in spring, summer and fall. In winter, the heat convection of air makes the heat flow out of the cave, lowering the cave temperature. Meanwhile, four seasons are accompanied by ice-water phase transition effect. The annual heat budget of income and output is balanced, the cave will be in a cyclic state with very small temperature fluctuations and the average temperature is always lower than 0 °C, so ice bodies in the ice cave can persist.

~~According to the classification of ice caves (Luetscher and Jeannin, 2004), we consider that Ningwu ice cave is a static cave with congelation ice.~~ Snow crystals are single crystals of ice that grow from water vapor. If humidity enters a cave and then form ice deposit, snow crystals could be discovered more or less (Kenneth, 2005). Actually, it is hard to find snow crystals in Ningwu ice cave. Any clear traces of water or snow entering the cave through its entrance could not be found. Meanwhile, karstified carbonate rock is heterogeneous, highly fractured, and with a permeability developed such that water movement occurs below the surface (Fairchild and Baker, 2012). In summary, we infer that most of the ice in the cave is formed by freezing of infiltration water.

Water and ice are in dynamic equilibrium state. Water infiltrates into Ningwu ice cave throughout the year, and forms ice. Ice at the bottom of Ningwu ice cave is thawed under geothermal flow, and the water infiltrates into the deeper place. Ice stalactites, ice stalagmites (Fig. 1d) can be seen in all part of Ningwu ice cave. This can verify the former process. No directly observational evidences support the latter process.

The ice build-up process is a self-regulating process. If too much ice was accumulated in Ningwu ice cave, the cavity will become small. Thus, Ra number and Nu number will be reduced. That means the freezing efficiency become low. Some of the cave ice will be thawed, and the cavity will become large. Ra number and Nu number will be increased. That means the freezing efficiency become high. More ice will be accumulated in Ningwu ice cave. This process is always happening.

# 4 Principle of Simulation

## 4.1 Basic ideas of Simulation

Two heat transmission mechanisms must be taken into account to explain the preservation of ice mass in ice cave, namely, thermal conduction and convection. The phase change must also be considered. The heat conduction equation can be used to describe the heat-conducting process, while for the convection process, due to the complicated geometrical shape structure inside the ice cave and complex varying boundary conditions, the convection pattern of air and its thermal consequences are hard to determine exactly. In view of this, a widely used simplified method is applied in this study: evaluate the Nusselt number($Nu$) and solve the conductive equation by introducing an equivalent thermal conductivity of the convecting air. In the case of an upright circular tube, the relation between the temperature difference of the top and the bottom and $Nu$ number can be determined by adopting the experimental relation of natural thermal convection. ~~This relation can be applied to the ice cave simulation by introducing an equivalent thermal conductivity into the conduction equation based on the *Nu* number.~~ The enthalpy method can be adopted to calculate the phase change.

In every time step of our modeling process, it is judged if air convection occurs based on the temperature difference between the top and the bottom of the cave. If no convection, the simple conduction problem will be solved, while if the convection occurs, an effective conductivity is used in the thermal equation.

## 4.2 Equation and Physical Parameters

The heat conduction equation is

$$c\rho\frac{\partial T}{\partial t}=k\nabla^{2}T \tag{1}$$

域代码已更改

where $c$ is the specific heat, $\rho$ is density, $T$ is temperature (unknown number), $t$ is time and $k$ is thermal conductivity. For the convective heat transfer process, an equivalent thermal conductivity is used in equation(1) based on the $Nu$. Details of the $Nu$ will be discussed in the next section.

The enthalpy method is used to calculate the phase change process. A physical quantity enthalpy $H$ is introduced in equation (2), where $T_r$ is an arbitrary lower temperature limit. For phase change, enthalpy $H$ can be determined by equations (3)-(5)(Lewis, 1996), in particular, the ($T_s$, $T_l$) ~~are~~ is phase change range~~s~~. Water-ice phase change occurs at 0 ◦C. But in numerical model, it is necessary to give a phase change range.

$$H(T)=\int_{T_r}^{T}\rho c(T)dT \tag{2}$$

域代码已更改

$$H(T) = \int_{T_r}^{T} \rho c_s(T)dT \quad T \le T_s \tag{3}$$

域代码已更改

$$H(T) = \int_{T_r}^{T_s} \rho c_s(T)dT + \int_{T_s}^{T} [\rho(\frac{dL}{dT}) + \rho c_f(T)]dT \quad T_s < T < T_l \tag{4}$$

域代码已更改

$$H(T) = \int_{T_r}^{T_s} \rho c_s(T)dT + \rho L + \int_{T_s}^{T_l} \rho c_f(T)dT + \int_{T_l}^{T} \rho c_l(T)dT \quad T \ge T_l \tag{5}$$

域代码已更改

$c_s$ is the specific heat in solid phase, $c_l$ is the specific heat in liquid phase, $c_f$ is the specific heat in solid-liquid mixing state and $L$ is the latent heat. There are many ways to calculate heat capacity(Lewis and Roberts, 1987).The simple and accurate backward differentiation formula(Lewis and Roberts, 1987; Morgan et al., 1978) is adopted here, as expressed in equation (6), where ($n$) and ($n$-$1$) stand for time step. Equation (6) can be substituted into the heat equation along with the relevant material parameters for calculation.

$$(c\rho)^{(n)} = (\frac{dH}{dT})^{(n)} = \frac{H^{(n)} - H^{(n-1)}}{T^{(n)} - T^{(n-1)}} \tag{6}$$

域代码已更改

Relevant materials include limestone, ice, ice-limestone mixture, air and water. Parameters of these materials are listed in Table 1. The physical parameter of ice-limestone mixture is taken as the arithmetic mean of those of ice and limestone. We assume that the ice body exists when temperature is below -0.1 ℃, and ice-water mixture exists between -0.1 ℃ and 0.1 ℃, and this becomes water when temperature exceeds 0.1 ℃. The ratio of ice and water in the mixture is linear to the temperature within the phase change range, and so are the physical parameters. The latent heat *L* of ice-water phase change is 334 kJ $kg^{-1}$.

### 4.3 *Nu* and equivalent thermal conductivity

When the convection occurs, heat transfer is *Nu* times greater than the conductive heat transfer at the same conditions. *Nu*, the Nusselt number, is a dimensionless number, which is defined as the ratio of convection heat transfer to pure conduction heat transfer under the same conditions. In other words, an equivalent thermal conductivity can be introduced, which is *Nu* times greater than the air thermal conductivity(Schmeling and Marquart, 2014). *Nu* is related to the temperature difference of air at the top and the bottom of the cave, physical properties (e.g. viscosity and conductivity of air) and also the geometry of the cave. Ningwu ice cave can be approximated by an upright circular tube. For such a tube, *Nu* can be calculated based on fluid thermodynamics studies. When equation (7) is satisfied(Sparrow and Gregg, 1956; Yang and Tao, 2006), which is the case for Ningwu ice cave, the natural convection heat transfer experimental relation (Sparrow and Gregg, 1956; Incropera et al., 2011) is expressed as equation (8).

$$d / h \geq 35 / Gr^{1/4} \quad (7)$$

域代码已更改

$$Nu_m = C(Gr \cdot Pr)_m^n \quad (8)$$

域代码已更改

In equations (7) and (8), *d* is the diameter of circular tube and *h*~~*H*~~ is the height of

带格式的：字体：倾斜

circular tube; $Nu_m$ is the Nusselt number, subscript *m* represents for the arithmetic mean temperature of the boundary layer, *Gr* is the Grashof number, which approximates the ratio of the buoyancy to viscous force acting on a fluid, *Pr* is the Prandtl number; *C* and *n* are constants, the values of which are shown in Table2.

The Prandtl number, a dimensionless number, is defined as the ratio of momentum diffusively to thermal diffusively. *Pr* is dependent only on the fluid material. For air, *Pr* is 0.7. The *Gr* number is

$$Gr = g\beta\Delta Tl^3 / \upsilon^2 \tag{9}$$

域代码已更改

where *g* is the acceleration of gravity, $\beta$ is the coefficient of cubical expansion, $\Delta T$ is a temperature difference, *l* is a characteristics length and $\upsilon$ is the coefficient of kinematic viscosity. The values are $g$=9.8 m s$^{-2}$, $\beta$=3.67×10$^{-3}$ k$^{-1}$, $l$=80 m, $\upsilon$ =13.30×10$^{-6}$ m$^2$ s$^{-1}$ and are substituted into equation (9) to obtain

$$Gr = 1.041\times10^{14}\Delta T \tag{10}$$

域代码已更改

According to equation (10), when the temperature difference is only 10$^{-3}$ °C, the *Gr* number can reach 1.041×10$^{11}$. According to Table 2, we infer that natural convection will occur and the flow state of air is a turbulent flow when the temperature is higher inside than outside the ice cave. Equation (11), relating *Nu* to the temperature difference, can be obtained when relevant parameters are substituted into equation (8).

$$Nu = 11000(0.0740\Delta T)^{1/3} \quad (11)$$

域代码已更改

Even if equation (7) is not satisfied, corresponding experimental relations can also be found in literatures (Cebeci, 1974; Minkowycz and Sparrow, 1974; Yang and Tao, 2006).

## 4.4 Models and Boundary Conditions

The rectangular Eulerian computational domain corresponds to a physical domain of 300 × 190 m on the basis of the ice cave cross section (Figure 1b). There are 32825 nodes and 64986 elements involved in drawing the FEM grid. The grids for the ice body and the interior air are denser.

The mean value of the geothermal gradient of the Lvliang highland area where Ningwu ice cave is located, is 2.02 ℃ $(100m)^{-1}$(Li, 1996). The mean value of the geothermal gradient of the low-lying Linxian and Liulin areas in Shanxi Province is 2.20 ℃ $(100m)^{-1}$(Hu et al., 2001). We take the normal geothermal gradient value of 2.0℃ $(100m)^{-1}$ in the model. The temperature boundary conditions are assigned to both sides of the model, with the annual average temperature at the surface and increase with depth following the geothermal gradient. The heat flow boundary condition is assigned for the bottom boundary. The terrestrial heat flow value is the product of the geothermal gradient times the thermal conductivity of the limestone host rock. According to Figure 2, we prescribe the variation temperature to the top boundary.

The initial thermal structure is calculated assuming the surface temperature remained constant at the annual average (Figure 3).

During the simulation, models with phase transition included and phase transition neglected are both calculated for comparison. When phase change is considered, latent heat and the material property variation are considered.

# 5 Simulated Result and Analysis

## 5.1 Evolution of an ice deposit forming model

Because of the periodic change of the ambient air temperature, the temperature in the ice cave will show periodic variation correspondingly to conduction and convective heat transfer. Figure 4a shows the evolution of the temperature at the bottom of the ice cave. It can be interpreted as the process of formation of the cave ice. If a cave was formed but not connected with the outside, it may have a temperature distribution similar to Figure 3. If the cave became connected to the outside, i.e. collapsed at its top and produced an entrance to the cave, an ice cave would then form within a decade due to the winter convective cooling and stabilize in a century. Figure4bshows the details of first two decades and shows that the calculated results with phase change considered (black line) do not differ significantly from those without considering phase change (red line) in the cooling process. Starting from normal ground temperature, the internal temperature of the ice cave drops rapidly in the first decade, then drops more gradually and finally tends to become stable.

Figure 4b shows the details of temperature evolving in the ice cave during its initial 16 years of formation. It is seen that the cave ice can be maintained below 0°C all year round after winter cooling for about 5 years. The cave temperature increases in spring, summer and fall and decreases in winter, presenting annually periodic variation. The air temperature of Ningwu ice cave decrease rapidly in winter, but the temperature increase slowly in spring, summer and fall. ~~The increasing rate of cave temperature is smaller than its decreasing rate, b~~Because the heat conduction in spring, summer and fall is much less efficient than convective heat transfer in winter. With phase change considered (black line), the increased rate of temperature in summer is smaller than that without phase change (red line), because latent heat is required to melt ices near the cave entrance, thus delaying the conduction of heat to the bottom of the cave. In winter, the convective cooling is so effective that the difference is minimized.

Figure 4c shows the cave temperature annual fluctuations when the process has lasted two centuries, long enough to be evolved to a stable cyclic state. The amplitude of the temperature variation is about 1 °C (from -3.9 °C to -2.9 °C). Ningwu ice cave has been open to tourists, so the cave temperature has been disturbed. According to our measurement on 5 June 2012, the lowest internal temperature of the ice cave was -1.5 °C. Through the record in literature, the actually measured internal temperature of anthe ice cave ranges between -1.0 °C (Meng et al., 2006), -4 °C and -6 °C (Gao et al., 2005). The difference in measured results may be caused by different measuring methods and different measuring time and positions. Similar to Figure 4b, the cave temperature presents annual periodic variation, and the overall increasing rate of cave temperature is smaller than its decreasing rate, because the heat transfer efficiency of conduction is much lower than that of heat convection. The variation of cave temperature for model with phase change considered (black line) is basically the same with that without phase change considered (red line). The reason is that although we considered phase change during calculation, the temperature of the ice body in the cave is always kept below 0 °C when it reaches a stable cyclic state and no phase change actually occurs.

Figures 5a and 5b show the spatial temperature distribution around the ice cave in winter and summer respectively under the stable stage. Both figures show that a small portion of rock at the top of the ice cave presents a negative geothermal gradient and most of the host rock presents a normal positive geothermal gradient. Beneath the bottom of the cave, however, geothermal gradients are much higher than normal. The ice body temperature is always kept below 0 °C, although the external temperature is completely different. In Figure 5a, the temperature of the shallow ground is lower than 0 °C, corresponding to a frozen zone in winter. In Figure 5b, the temperature of shallow parts of ground is higher than 0 °C, indicating that the frozen part is melted and there is no permafrost. These features agree with actual conditions.

## 5.2 Evolution of an ice deposit melting model

The ice body in the ice cave will melt if there is no air convection heat transfer in winter. Taking the temperature shown in Figure 5a as an initial temperature, the evolution of temperature distribution will be calculated with or without phase change effect considered. The results are shown in Figure 6 by a black line and a red line respectively. They are the same when temperature does not reach the phase change temperature. The ice body takes much longer to thaw when the latent heat of melting is taken into consideration than when it is not. To thaw the ice body completely takes 23 years when the latent heat of phase change is not considered, compared with 37 years when it is considered.

## 5.3 Sensitivity to model parameters

The external air temperature, *Nu* and the number of tourists could directly affect the energy transfer in Ningwu ice cave. Therefore, it ~~is~~ needs ~~to do~~ sensitivity experiments on these factors. With respect to the external air temperature, we consider two aspects: 1) the mean annual temperature; 2) the amplitude of annual temperature. When the mean annual temperature increases (~~or~~ respectively decreases) 1.0 ℃, the computing results are show~~ed~~n as Figure 7a and 7g~~b~~ (or Figure 7b~~e~~ and 7h~~d~~). When the amplitude of external temperature increases (~~or~~ respectively decreases) 5.0 ℃, the computing results are shown~~ed~~ as Figure 7c~~e~~ and 7i~~f~~ (or Figure 7d~~g~~ and 7j~~h~~). For *Nu* increases (~~or~~ respectively decreases) 10%, the computing results are shown~~ed~~ as Figure 7e~~i~~ and 7k~~j~~ (or Figure 7f~~k~~ and 7l). About 1000 visitors enter the cave per day from May to October. A person could release ~~200 cal~~ 840 J. We assume that every person spend 1hour in Ningwu ice cave. Meanwhile, there are 200 15w-lightbulbs. When we consider the number of tourists and bulbs, the computing result is shown~~ed~~ as Figure 7m.

Similar to Figure 4b, Figure 7a-7f~~, 7c, 7e, 7g, 7i and 7k~~ show the details of first two decades and represent that ice deposit would be formed in Ningwu ice cave within first two decades in these different experiments. Figure 7g-7l ~~b, 7d, 7f, 7h, 7j and 7l~~ correspond to Figures 7a-7f respectively. As showed in Figure 4c, Figure 7g-7l depict the cave temperature annual fluctuations when the process has lasted two centuries, long enough to be evolved to a stable cyclic state. Compared with Figure 4c, Figure 7m represents that the current density of tourists and number of light bulbs in Ningwu ice cave could not melt the ice deposit in it. –Figure 7n shows the ice cave temperature annual fluctuations when the mean annual temperature increases 3.5 ◦C. We can see the temperature ceiling is -0.1◦C. We consider this is the minimum climatic condition required to form Ningwu ice cave.

## 6 Discussion

The age of the cave and that of the ice body are different. Formation of the cave cavity could be old and have taken place in a warmer climate. The formation of the ice body in the cave is a much later process that took place when the bowling-ball-like cave was formed and the climate became cold enough. In the present climate, our numerical modeling suggests that the year-round ice body can be formed within a decade.

In spring, summer and fall, air and host rock transmit heat to the ice cave by thermal conduction, increasing the temperature in the ice cave only slightly since the conduction efficiency is low. In winter, heat is transmitted out of the ice cave by natural thermal convection of air, efficiently decreasing the temperature in the ice cave. Phase change accompanies the thermal processes. Considering these mechanisms, the results show that (1) starting from a normal ground temperature, a year-round ice body will be formed in the cave in less than a decade, about 5 years in our model (Figure4b), and the ice cave temperature will decrease continuously for more than a century. (2) The ice cave will finally reach a stable cyclic state, and its temperature will fluctuate within a certain range, less than 1℃ (from -3.9 ℃ to -2.9 ℃) for Ningwu ice cave. At this stage, the annual total heat transferred to the cave by thermal conduction and the heat removed from the cave by convection are balanced.

It would be interesting to further investigate the possibility of imitating nature and constructing a new kind of air conditioning system. At locations with similar climate conditions, people may construct a basement more than 10 m deep, using natural air convection to freeze ice in the basement in winter, and circulate air to the basement for air conditioning in summer.

Setting an air-tight door at a cave entrance, as one park has done in China to "protect" the ice cave at night during the tourist season and for the entire winter when the cave is closed to tourist, actually blocks air convection in winter. As a result, cold air cannot bring out heat from the cave, and accumulation of heat flow from the surface and the deep crust will finally lead to melting of the ice body in the cave. Our computation shows that it takes less than 40 years to completely melt the whole ice body in the cave. This implies that Ningwu ice cave probably is not currently suffering from thawing of the relict ice. This also suggests that scientific management is important for sustainable usage of natural tourism resources. Otherwise, well-meaning acts such as installing a trap door to completely seal the entrance for protection will actually destroy the natural wonder in a few decades.

## 7 Conclusion

This paper has focused on quantitative analysis of the formation and preservation mechanism of an ice body in Ningwu ice cave, a static ice cave. The finite element modeling leads to the following conclusion: The controlling factor for forming and sustaining the ice body in the cave is effective cooling of the cave in winter by natural air convection. Heat conduction in spring, summer and fall is very ineffective to warm up the cave. Ice-water phase change further prevents melting of ice in summer. The formation of the cave may take a long geological time, but the formation of the perennial ice body in the cave only takes decades of years under the current temperature and geothermal gradient in the Ningwu area by winter air convection. Once formed, the cave temperature will keep a stable cyclic state. ~~Under this stable~~ At this time, the amplitude of annual temperature variation in the Ningwu ice cave is within 1°C. Environmental warming even up to 1 °C in in Ningwu area will increase the cave temperature, but not melt the perennial ice body. The present heat from electric lighting and visitors will not melt the ice body either. However, if the air convective heat transfer is stopped in the winter as happened in some other Chinese ice caves, the ice body in the cave could be completely melted within about 40 years. This analysis is important for sustainable management of the ice cave as a tourism resource. The mechanism of ice cave formation may be adopted for construction of energy-saving buildings; ice may be produced in winter in basement and used for air conditioning in summer.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Yong'en Cai and Bojing Zhu for helpful discussions. This research is supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) Project 41174067 and the CAS/CAFEA international partnership program for creative research teams (No.KZZD-EW-TZ-19).

## References


Bella, P.: Morphology of ice surface in the Dobšiná Ice Cave, 2nd International Workshop on Ice Caves, Demänovská dolina, Slovak Republic, 2006,

Cebeci, T.: Laminar-free-convective-heat transfer from the outer surface of a vertical slender circular cylinder, Proceedings of the 5th International Conference, Tokyo, Japan, 1974, 15-19,

Chen, S.: Cave Tourism Science, Fujian People's Publishing House, Fuzhou, 2003.

de Freitas, C., Littlejohn, R., Clarkson, T., and Kristament, I.: Cave climate: assessment of airflow and ventilation, Int. J. Climatol., 2, 383-397, 10.1002/joc.3370020408, 1982.

de Freitas, C., and Littlejohn, R.: Cave climate: assessment of heat and moisture exchange, Journal of Climatology, 7, 553-569, 10.1002/joc.3370070604, 1987.

Fairchild, I. J., and Baker, A.: Speleothem science: from process to past environments, John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

Gao, L., Wang, X., and Wan, X.: Analysis of Ice Cave Formation in Ningwu Shanxi, Journal of Taiyuan university of technology, 36, 455-458, 10.3969/j.issn.1007-9432.2005.04.022, 2005.

Gruber, S., King, L., Kohl, T., Herz, T., Haeberli, W., and Hoelzle, M.: Interpretation of geothermal profiles perturbed by topography: the alpine permafrost boreholes at Stockhorn Plateau, Switzerland, Permafr. Periglac. Proc., 15, 349-357, 10.1002/ppp.503, 2004.

~~Hendy, C. H.: The isotopic geochemistry of speleothems—I. The calculation of the effects of different modes of formation on the isotopic composition of speleothems and their applicability as palaeoclimatic indicators, Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta, 35, 801-824, 10.1016/0016-7037(71)90127-X, 1971.~~

Holmlund, P., Onac, B. P., Hansson, M., Holmgren, K., Mörth, M., Nyman, M., and Persoiu, A.: Assessing the palaeoclimate potential of cave glaciers: the example of the the Scărişoara Ice Cave (Romania), Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography, 87, 193-201, 10.1111/j.0435-3676.2005.00252.x, 2005.

Hu, S., He, L., and Wang, J.: Compilation of heat flow data in the China continental area (3rd edition), Chinese Journal Geophysics, 44, 611-626, 10.3321/j.issn:0001-5733.2001.05.005, 2001.

Incropera, F. P., Lavine, A. S., and DeWitt, D. P.: Fundamentals of heat and mass transfer, 11th ed., John Wiley & Sons Incorporated, Hoboken NJ, 2011.

Johnson, K. R., Hu, C., Belshaw, N. S., and Henderson, G. M.: Seasonal trace-element and stable-isotope variations in a Chinese speleothem: The potential for high-resolution paleomonsoon reconstruction, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 244, 394-407, 2006.

Kenneth, G. L.: The physics of snow crystals, Reports on Progress in Physics, 68, 855, 2005.

Lacelle, D., Lauriol, B., and Clark, I. D.: Seasonal isotopic imprint in moonmilk from Caverne de l'Ours (Quebec, Canada): implications for climatic reconstruction, Can. J. Earth Sci., 41, 1411-1423, 10.1139/e04-080, 2004.

Lalkovič, M.: On the problems of the ice filling in the Dobšina Ice Cave, Acta carsologica, 24, 313-322, 1995.

Laursen, L.: Climate scientists shine light on cave ice, Science, 329, 746, 10.1126/science.329.5993.746, 2010.

Lewis, R., and Roberts, P.: Finite element simulation of solidification problems, Applied Scientific

Research, 44, 61-92, 10.1007/BF00412007, 1987.

Lewis, R. W.: The finite element method in heat transfer analysis, John Wiley & Sons Inc, Hoboken NJ, 1996.

Li, Q.: Some characteristics of the geothermal distribution in ShanXi rift zone, Earthquake research in ShanXi, 26-30, 1996.

Luetscher, M., and Jeannin, P.: A process-based classification of alpine ice caves, Theoretical and Applied Karstology, 17, 5-10, 2004.

Luetscher, M., Bolius, D., Schwikowski, M., Schotterer, U., and Smart, P. L.: Comparison of techniques for dating of subsurface ice from Monlesi ice cave, Switzerland, J. Glaciol., 53, 374-384, 10.3189/002214307783258503, 2007.

Luetscher, M., Lismonde, B., and Jeannin, P. Y.: Heat exchanges in the heterothermic zone of a karst system: Monlesi cave, Swiss Jura Mountains, J. Geophys. Res, 113, F02025, 10.1029/2007JF000892, 2008.

May, B., Spötl, C., Wagenbach, D., Dublyansky, Y., and Liebl, J.: First investigations of an ice core from Eisriesenwelt cave (Austria), The Cryosphere, 5, 81-93, 10.5194/tc-5-81-2011, 2011.

Meng, X., Zhu, D., Shao, Z., Yu, J., Han, J., and Meng, Q.: A discussion on the formation mechanism of the "Ten-Thousand-Year-Old Ice Cave" in Shanxi Province, ACTA GEOSCIENTIA SINICA, 27, 163-168, 10.3321/j.issn:1006-3021.2006.02.011, 2006.

Minkowycz, W., and Sparrow, E.: Local nonsimilar solutions for natural convection on a vertical cylinder, Journal of Heat Transfer, 96, 178, 10.1115/1.3450161, 1974.

Morgan, K., Lewis, R., and Zienkiewicz, O.: An improved algrorithm for heat conduction problems with phase change, International Journal for Numerical Methods in Engineering, 12, 1191-1195, 10.1002/nme.1620120710 1978.

Obleitner, F., and Spötl, C.: The mass and energy balance of ice within the Eisriesenwelt cave, Austria, The Cryosphere, 5, 245-257, 10.5194/tc-5-245-2011, 2011.

Perşoiu, A., Onac, B. P., Wynn, J. G., Bojar, A. V., and Holmgren, K.: Stable isotope behavior during cave ice formation by water freezing in Scărişoara Ice Cave, Romania, J. Geophys. Res, 116, D02111, 10.1029/2010JD014477, 2011.

Peters, K. F.: Geologische und mineralogische Studien aus dem südöstlichen Ungarn, insbesondere aus der Umgegend von Rézbánya, KK Hof-und Staatsdr, Wien, 1861.

Roberts, M. S., Smart, P. L., and Baker, A.: Annual trace element variations in a Holocene speleothem, Earth Planet. Sci. Lett., 154, 237-246, 10.1016/S0012-821X(97)00116-7, 1998.

Schöner, W., Weyss, G., and Mursch-Radlgruber, E.: Linkage of cave-ice changes to weather patterns inside and outside the cave Eisriesenwelt (Tennengebirge, Austria), The Cryosphere Discuss, 4, 1709-1740, 10.5194/tc-5-603-2011, 2010.

Schmeling, H., and Marquart, G.: A scaling law for approximating porous hydrothermal convection by an equivalent thermal conductivity: theory and application to the cooling oceanic lithosphere, Geophys. J. Int., 197, 645-664, 10.1093/gji/ggu022, 2014.

Shao, Z., Meng, X., Zhu, D., Yu, J., Han, J., Meng, Q., and Lv, R.: Detecation for the spatial distribution of "Ten-Thousand Ice Cave" in Ningwu, ShanXi Province, Journal of Jilin University (Earth Science Edition), 37, 961-966, 10.3969/j.issn.1671-5888.2007.05.019, 2007.

Shi, Y., and Wang, C.-Y.: Two-dimensional modeling of the PTt paths of regional metamorphism in simple overthrust terrains, Geology, 15, 1048-1051, 1987.

Sparrow, E., and Gregg, J.: Laminar free convection heat transfer from the outer surface of a vertical circular cylinder, Trans. ASME, 78, 1823-1829, 1956.

Yang, S., and Tao, W.: Heat transfer, 4th ed., Higher education press, Beijing, 2006.

**Table 1.** Relative Material Parameters

| Material | Heat Conductivity W/(m·k) | Density $kg/m^3$ | Specific Heat kJ/(kg·K) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Limestone | 2.7 | 2500 | 0.84 |
| Ice | 2.23 | 916.5 | 2.05 |
| Mixture | 2.465 | 1708.25 | 1.445 |
| Air | 0.0243 | 1.293 | 1.005 |
| Water | 0.58 | 1000 | 4.2 |

**Table 2.** *Gr* Number and Constant for Different Flow Types (Yang and Tao, 2006)

| Flow State | Coefficient C | Index n | *Gr* Application Range |
|---|---|---|---|
| Laminar Flow | 0.59 | 1/4 | $1.43\times10^4$~$3\times10^9$ |
| Transitional Flow | 0.0292 | 0.39 | $3\times10^9$~$2\times10^{10}$ |
| Turbulent Flow | 0.11 | 1/3 | ＞$2\times10^{10}$ |

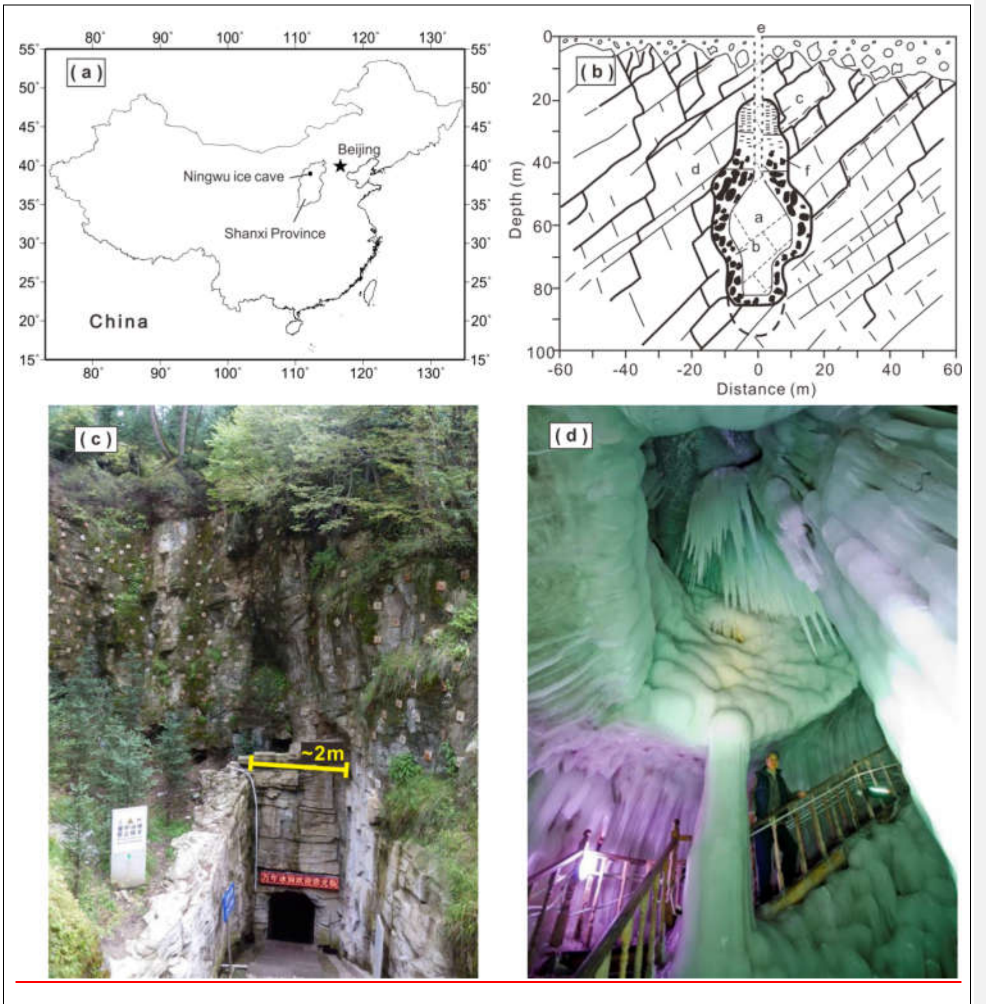



Figure 1. Location (a), cross section (b), entrance (c) and inside (d) of Ningwu ice cave. In figure 1b, (a) room; (b) block ice; (c) layered ice; (d) limestone; (e) entrance; (f) fracture

563

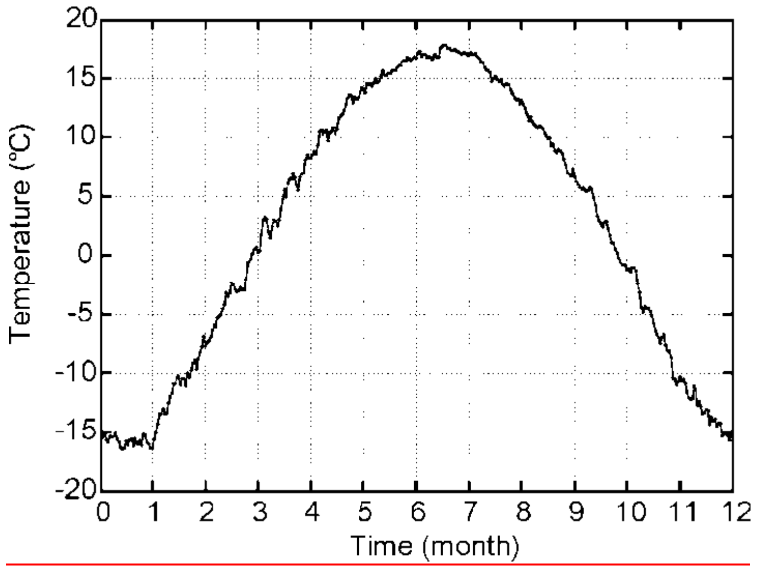



Figure 2. Yearly variation of external air temperature of Ningwu ice cave

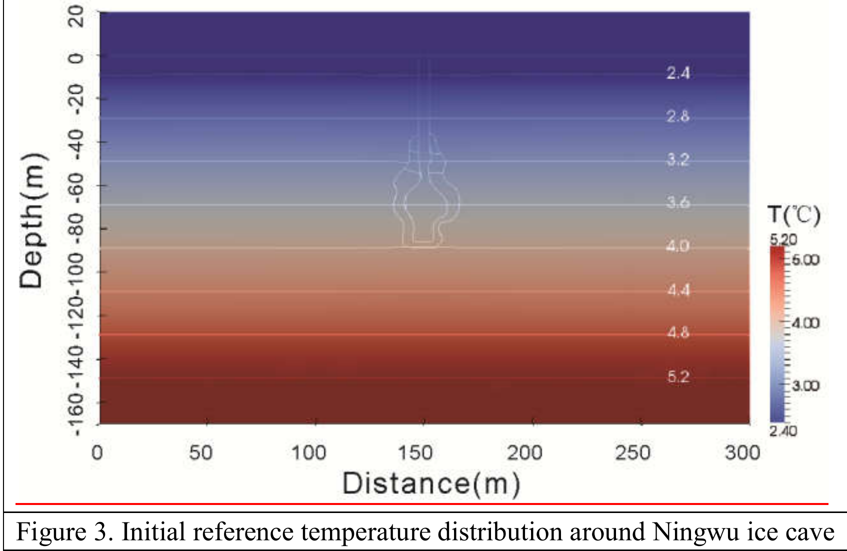



Figure 3. Initial reference temperature distribution around Ningwu ice cave

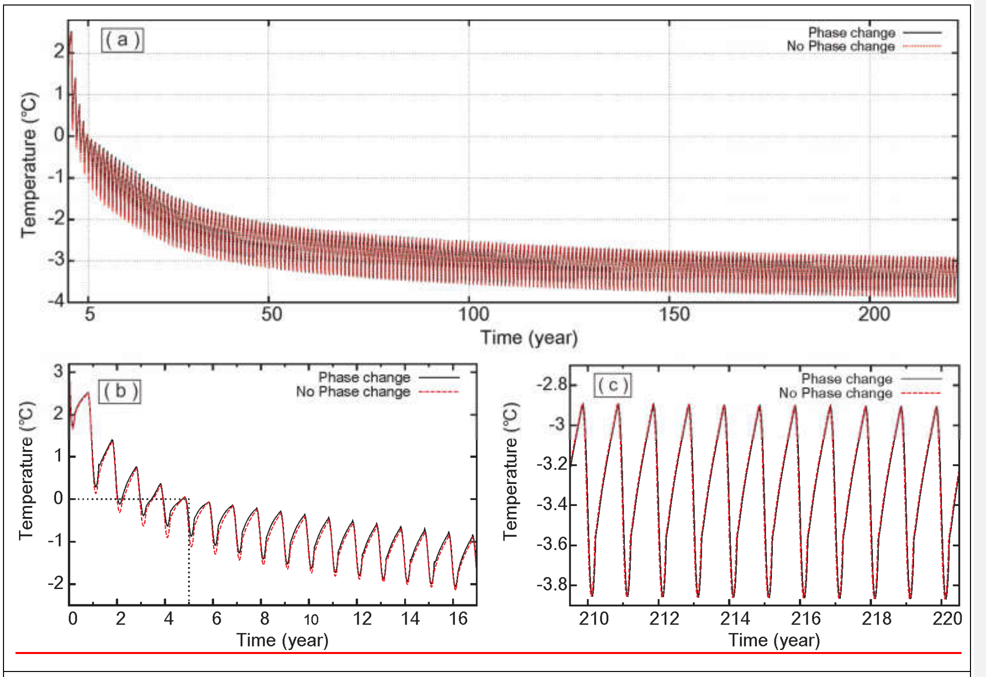



Figure 4. (a) Formation process of Ningwu ice cave; (b) Initial formation process; (c) Quasi stable state

569

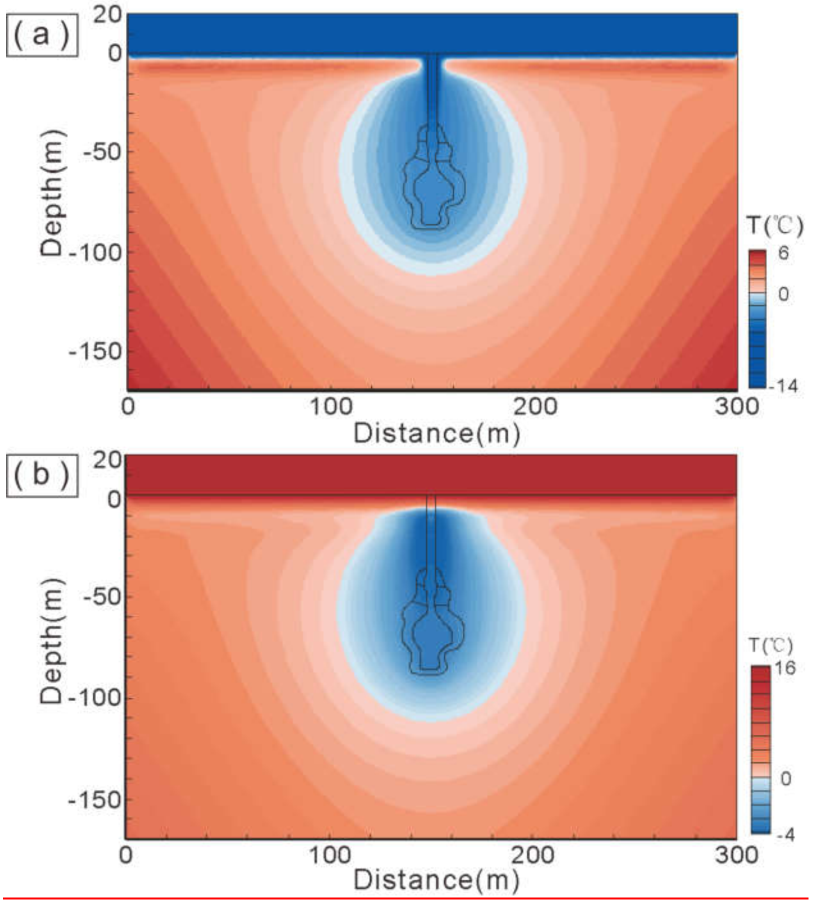



Figure 5. Temperature distribution around Ningwu ice cave in winter (a)and summer (b)

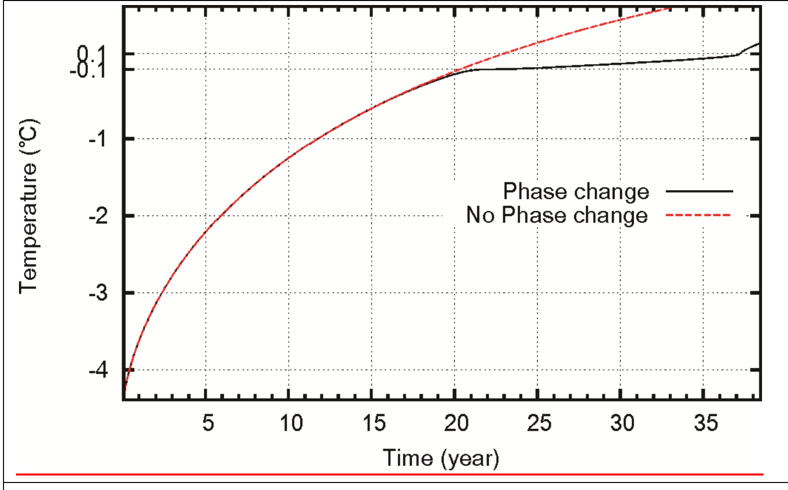


Figure 6. Internal temperature evolution diagram when ice in melting

571

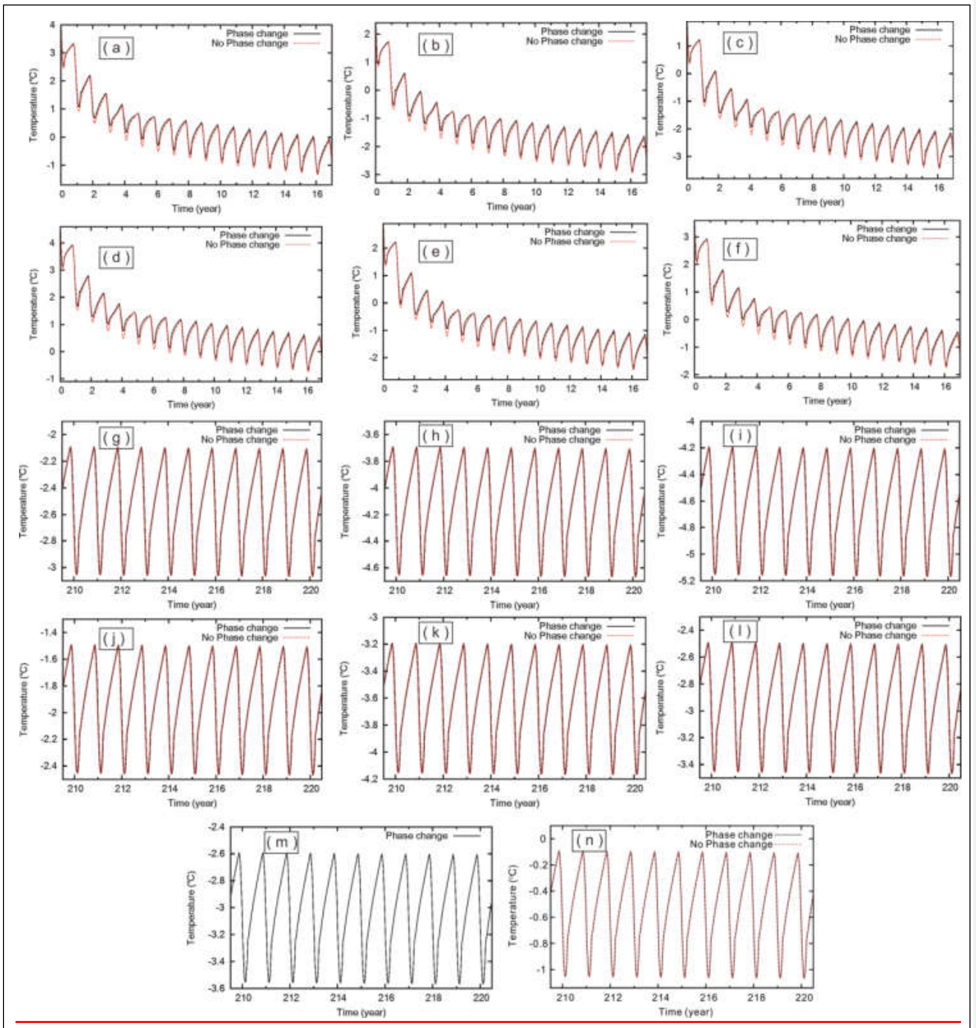



Figure 7. (a)-(c)(e)(g)(i)(fk) Initial formation process of Ningwu ice cave in different sensitivity experiments. (gb)-(d)(f)(h)(j)(l) Corresponding Quasi stable state. (m) Tourists and bulbs sensitivity experiment. (n) Quasi stable state when the mean annual temperature increases 3.5 ℃