ALFRED-WEGENER-INSTITUT
HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM FÜR POLAR-
UND MEERESFORSCHUNG

Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Telegrafenberg A43, 14473 Potsdam, Germany

The Cryosphere

Dr. Michael Fritz
Phone: +49/331-288-2203
Fax: +49/331-288-2188
E-Mail: Michael.Fritz@awi.de

15 March 2015

Revised manuscript: tc-2014-177

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my co-authors, I submit the revised version of the manuscript with the title "*Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in Arctic ground ice*".

Attached you will find:

- response to reviewer #1
- response to reviewer #2
- marked-up manuscript version
- supplement to the manuscript

Thank you very much for your time and efforts in this process and we look forward to seeing this manuscript accepted soon. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you need further formation.

Best regards,

M. Fritz

Michael Fritz

Alfred Wegener Institute
Helmholtz Centre for
Polar and Marine Research

POTSDAM

Telegrafenberg A43
14473 Potsdam
Germany
Phone +49 331 288-2100
Fax +49 331 288-2137
www.awi.de

Public law institution

Head Office:
Am Handelshafen 12
27570 Bremerhaven
Germany
Phone +49 471 4831-0
Fax +49 471 4831-1149
www.awi.de

Board of Govenors:
MinDir Dr. Karl Eugen Huthmacher
Board of Directors:
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Karin Lochte
(Director)
Dr. Karsten Wurr
(Administrative Managing Director)
Prof. Dr. Ralf Tiedemann
(Vice-Director)
Prof. Dr. Karen H. Wiltshire
(Vice-Director)

Bank account:
Commerzbank AG,
Bremerhaven
BIC/Swift COBADEFF292
IBAN DE12292400240349192500
Tax-Id-No. DE 114707273

HELMHOLTZ
ASSOCIATION

The Cryosphere Discuss., 9, C202–C207, 2015
www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/9/C202/2015/

The Cryosphere
Discussions
Open Access

Interactive comment on "Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in Arctic ground ice" *by* M. Fritz et al.

M. Fritz et al.

michael.fritz@awi.de

Received and published: 12 March 2015

Reply to Anonymous Referee No.1

We are grateful for the review and acknowledge your comments and suggestions. You will find all replies or changes that have been made below. Reviewer comments are cited in italic font.

Best regards,
Michael Fritz

(on behalf of the co-authors)

Title: *I recommend a little more info. How about: "The chemical composition and fate of organic carbon (DOC) in Arctic ground ice"*

We would like to keep the original title as it is concise and meaningful to us. We do not present the chemical composition of DOC.

Abstract:
Line 4: *The "their" is confusing. I think you mean "Permafrost" but the previous sentence ends with info on nutrients so it seems like that is what "their" refers to.*

Replaced by "permafrost".

Line 9: *"using biogeochemical data"*

Changed accordingly.

Line 17: *just a curiosity: why refer to snow melt as "pristine" and not just as "snowmelt"?*

In the course of the discussion we come back to this point, because ion-poor (i.e. pristine) snowmelt is able to leach inorganic and organic matter.

Line 20: *Perhaps start the "In the yedoma" with "We found that in the Yedoma..."*

Changed accordingly.

Lines 22-25: *This is the first time particulate OC is mentioned and it is a main focus of this last sentence. I recommend introducing some of the POC results, data, etc, to set this up. Maybe one sentence to do that?*

The abstract might not be the right chapter to extend the explanation on POC stock/relevance, because our manuscript does not rely on POC data. More information on the size and relevance of permafrost OC pools, also in comparison with DOC data in this study, is given in the following parts of the manuscript: p.79 L. 23ff, p.80 L. 7ff., p.89 L. 5ff., p91 L. 23ff.

Page 80: Line 7: *"several studies have shed light"*

Changed accordingly.

Page 82: Line 10: *"It is" is vague. The previous sentence covers a lot of topics so you have to be more specific.*

changed into: "DOC in intrasedimental ice is, however,. . ."

Page 83: *The Section title has "component" but line 25 has "components". Be consistent.*

Component!! Changed accordingly.

Page 85:
Line 10: *do the "mean concentrations" refer to DIC? If so then state that for clarity.*

DIC added.

Line 12-13: *the sentence that starts with "It is obvious" is unnecessary. Move the "Basal glacier ice" sentence to the end of the previous paragraph.*

Changed accordingly.

Page 86: Line 20: *"those with more of a continental"*

Changed accordingly.

Page 89: Line 26: *"sources that have been"*

Changed accordingly.

Page 90:
Line 4: *"into frost cracks"?*

There is no need to change anything because the text already reads this way.

Line 7: *Unless any of the "leachable components" are close to saturation in other* *precipitation/ water courses (which is highly unlikely) the "initial purity" of the snow is irrelevant. I recommend removing this sentence.*

Dou et al. (2008) have shown that the ionic and chemical composition of the solvent plays a role in the ability and strength to leach DOC from permafrost. Therefore, we would like to keep the sentence.

Line 8-10: *The "Snow melt feeding" sentence: See previous comment and:*
1) There are a ton of papers on the age and lability of the DOC in rivers at melt and some suggest this surface flow (ie at snow melt) has bioavailable C. So it is not necessary that the bioavailable C has from lower down in the soil column.
2) As the spring snow melt waters trickle downward toward the ice wedges they interact with basal soil material (frozen or not) and this could leaches out carbon.
3) Also- since wedges take thousands of years to form and the location of their upper surface likely changes with time there are plenty of spatial and temporal ways that deeper soil pore waters can get integrated into the wedge ice.
I recommend some of these ideas be introduced or discussed. The fact that the snow has little ionic strength is not a potential reason for this. And I agree the waters at snow melt start at the surface but they do trickle downward and are not likely frozen until the following winter so there is ample time for subsequent waters, interacting with a deeper active layer, could incorporate deeper carbon.

Above the discussed paragraph we added the following information: "As the spring snow melt waters trickle downward toward the ice wedges they interact with the basal soil material leaching out carbon. Also, since wedges may take thousands of years to form and the location of their upper surface changes with time, there are plenty of spatial and temporal ways that deeper soil pore waters can get integrated into the wedge ice."

Pages 89-90: *Somewhere in here or elsewhere (?) it is worth noting the potential mineral weathering signature to which their samples provide context. For example- could* *the major cations and bicarbonate could be used to decipher silicate versus carbonate weathering. Since carbonate weathering occurs more rapidly with silicate weathering (particularly where "fresh" mineral surfaces are available) their study might be able to use this to identify where in the active layer some compounds are sourced? They could explore a few quick ternary diagrams of Ca, Mg, and Na+K and of SO4, HCO3, and Cl. I suspect there will be some unique trends and if/where the signatures are more carbonate based they could be able to decipher the location in the soil column? IE the "fresh" mineral surfaces are likely toward the base of the active layer (exposed to weathering the least amount of time on an annual basis). Caveat: the marine localities may have a swamped HCO3 and Cl signal so it is possible that this will not work. But I recommend they make the plots to explore it. This is in no way a requirement by me for acceptance, etc. Just that they have a unique data set and I am trying to see if there is more info that can be teased from it.*

These are very good points. Unfortunately, we are not aware of any indices, based on the major ion composition in ground ice, to discuss the strength of silicate versus carbonate weathering in permafrost. A detailed study of the solid and liquid mineral composition along depth profiles would be necessary. With such an approach one could determine which layers are prone to leaching and at what depth/age of the deposits does the leaching/weathering happen. For now, we have only dealt with ground ice but not with the whole permafrost systems in a holistic approach.

Page 92: Line 20: *"while deposition occurred"*

Changed into "during deposition" as reviewer 2 recommended.

Page 93: Line 20: *I do not like use of the word "overproportionally" I am sorry I cannot provide a better word to use but it has a lot of chemical and physical connotations and I am not sure it is clear enough. Perhaps keep it but then provide what is being "overproportionally" loaded?*

We deleted the word.

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

Table 2 and discussion in the text: *Are there any data from non-thermokarst ponds? Or perhaps find it in the literature? It would be good for a comparison in this Table and for the study because thermokarst ponds likely have an outsized amount of mineral weathering (ie ions), and carbon (ie leaching from exposed blocks of soil and degraded permafrost). As such, comparing to non-thermokarst ponds could help identify whether there are significant differences?*

The purpose of showing the data on modern surface water was to get an idea about the magnitudes of DOC concentrations we are dealing with. Now, the reader knows that they are comparable. Further reading is recommended to Walter Anthony et al. (2014) where they show more data on DOC in Yedoma and non-Yedoma bottom lake water in eastern Siberia near Cherskii. We do not want to speculate here about the processes why lakes in different geological and catchment settings have different hydrochemical characteristics. On page 91 we also discuss that runoff into lakes and rivers might be already degraded by microbial communities and photochemical reactions in contrast to ground ice. As the focus of this paper is on ground ice we try to keep the presented information as close as possible to our manuscript goals.

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 9, 77, 2015.

The Cryosphere Discuss., 9, C208–C219, 2015
www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/9/C208/2015/

The Cryosphere
Discussions
Open Access

Interactive comment on "Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in Arctic ground ice" *by* M. Fritz et al.

M. Fritz et al.

michael.fritz@awi.de

Received and published: 12 March 2015

Reply to Anonymous Referee No.2

We are grateful for the review and acknowledge your comments and suggestions. You will find all replies or changes that have been made below. Reviewer comments are cited in italic font.

Best regards,
Michael Fritz

(on behalf of the co-authors)

Full Screen / Esc
Printer-friendly Version
Interactive Discussion
Discussion Paper

Main comments:* *1. *The first of my main comment regards a combination of terminology and the overlooking of another pool of carbon in ground ice: particulate OC. As the authors describe, the Pleistocene ice wedges are yellowish-brown to grey in colour, clearly visible on the photos in Figure 2. My guess is that the ice also contains particulate matter and carbon, which is currently not assessed and neither mentioned, as the authors have not provided any information on the organic carbon that remained on the filters. I would find it very valuable if this information is included, and if not, at least that this pool is described as a component currently not addressed. Linked to this, the authors use POC to describe the OC pool in permafrost soils. In de "aquatic community", POC is often used to describe the particulate OC fraction in water. The current use of POC in the manuscript is confusing and in most permafrost literature not used like this. I suggest to use soil OC, or just OC, or soil OC (SOC) or something like this.*

We used 0.7 μm GFF filters attached to a syringe. These filters are sealed and cannot be analyzed afterwards. We acknowledge that the particulate fraction is important but it is not the objective of the paper.
The differentiation between dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and particulate organic carbon (POC) is simply a matter of particle size. DOC is defined as the organic matter that is able to pass through a filter of 0.7-0.22 μm pore size. Conversely, particulate organic carbon (POC) is that carbon that is too large and is filtered out of a sample. Unfortunately, there is no global agreement on DOC and POC size differentiation which would guarantee direct comparisons of data from different studies. Mostly, the two pore sizes are used (0.7 and 0.45 μm). Once more, permafrost seems to a special and understudied case. The terms organic carbon (OC), total organic carbon (TOC) or soil organic carbon (SOC) always pool the dissolved and undissolved carbon fractions. However, studies inside and outside permafrost research have shown that DOC plays a special role in the carbon cycle.

2. *My second point concerns the availability of data. Can the data for DOC, water* *isotopes, ICP-OES etc. be presented in a supplementary table? Currently no individual sample info is available, and, for example, d18O and dD values are not included either.*

Changed accordingly. We added the table and referenced the supplementary table in the text and figure captions. See **Supplement Table S1**.

Further comments:

p.78, L4: *It's not clear what "Their" refers to.*

Replaced by "permafrost"

p. 78, L19: *Can something be "rapidly stored"? I suggest to rephrase into "rapidly frozen and stored".*

Changed accordingly.

p. 78, L22: *"4172 km3" is a number with too many significant numbers given the estimates this has been calculated from. I suggest to replace with "4170" or even better "4200" (please also replace this at a few other occasions in the text).*

Changed accordingly.

p. 78, L22: *See first, main comment: replace particulate OC with something else.*

See comment above.

p. 79, L4: *"degradation forms as thermokarst", you (also) mean alas deposits?*

Yes, but we do not want a large annotation of landforms and sediment types. The idea is to mention that not only Yedoma is ice-rich but also degraded Yedoma deposits.

p. 79, L10: *100 % volume? Isn't ice just ice? This is a bit confusing. Also, this paragraph lists many % numbers, some in weight, some in volume, can these be presented slightly more consistent?*

This relates to your first comment. The ice content of ice wedges is a little less than

100 %. From an unpublished master's thesis we know that volumetric ice content of ice wedges from Herschel Island in the western Canadian Arctic is >98 %; mostly above 99 %.
Unfortunately, we cannot present the data on ice contents more consistently. In the past many studies have measured ice contents only gravimetrically. For example, leaving out the Schirrmeister et al. (2011c) review paper with the gravimetric ice content presented here, we would leave out the best data set for east Siberia.

p. 79, L13: *I suggest to change "other sediments in Yedoma" with "other ice in Yedoma sediments", because this sentence is about the total ice content, right?*

changed into: "other ice types in Yedoma deposits. . ."

p. 79, L17-18: *I think you can remove the definition of massive ice, it just adds to the confusion. p. 80, L24: "particulate OC", see the main comment above.*

We would like to keep the definition, because not everybody is familiar with massive and non-massive ice classification. For now, we mostly deal with massive ice and have not touched non-massive intrasedimental ice.

p. 80, L2: *"DOC from permafrost is chemically labile", I think it would be more correct to write "DOC from yedoma sediment and yedoma ice wedges is chemically labile".*

We added the reference of Dou et al. (2008) who showed large quantities of low-molecular-weight DOC in surficial permafrost horizons in northern Alaska, which corresponds to labile DOC. With that we would keep the original statement because labile DOC is not restricted to Yedoma.

p. 80, L7: *"that" should be removed.*

Changed accordingly.

p. 80, L25-26-27: *Yes, this study measures DOC at the source, but only in ice wedges, not in the (total) permafrost. Maybe specify?*

Changed into “(i.e. ground ice in permafrost). . .”

p. 81, L25: *Only here you briefly define Yedoma. I think this should come a bit earlier in the manuscript.*

We added information on Yedoma origin in the introduction.

p. 81, L16: *and in many other places in the manuscript: please have a thorough look at your use of hyphens. In this sentence you correctly write "ground-ice conditions" with a hyphen between "ground" and "ice" because they together are an adjective to "conditions". At some other place (e.g. p.79, L5, 8, 14, 15, 25 and 28) you do not do this.*

Changed accordingly.

p. 82, L2: *You use both "late glacial" but also "late Pleistocene" throughout the text. If they mean the same thing, I suggest to just stick to one of these.*

The “late Pleistocene” (MIS 2-5) spans a longer time than the “late glacial” (Bölling to Younger Dryas). In some occasions we have the possibility to narrow the age of the studied ice bodies.

p. 82, L14-15: *You only included three surface water samples from thermokarst lakes. Compared to the rest of the pretty extensive dataset, I find this number a bit poor. There must be more data available in the literature.*

The purpose of showing the data on modern surface water was to get an idea about the magnitudes of DOC concentrations we are dealing with. Now, we can see that they are comparable. Further reading is recommended to Walter Anthony et al. (2014) where they show more data on DOC concentrations in bottom water from thermokarst lakes in Yedoma and non-Yedoma landscapes in eastern Siberia near Cherskii. Unfortunately, the hydrochemical data sets were not comparable so that external data could not be included into the statistical analyses.

p. 82, L18: *I suggest to move "(purified water)" to directly behind "pre-cleaned".*

Changed accordingly.

p. 83, L10: *What other standards besides VSMOW did you use for your d18O and dD analysis? A standard that is sufficiently depleted such as SLAP should be included to be able to calibrate the ice wedge stable isotope composition that could reach values of e.g. -260 for dD.*

For all stable isotope measurements, a three-point calibration is used with an internal standard set selected from the list below related to the expected values of the samples. All standards have been calibrated against V-SMOW and SLAP. Since the isotope laboratory in Potsdam works since more than 15 years with depleted ground ice samples (also Antarctic ice) it is especially well-equipped for analyses with depleted isotope signature. Standards are generally selected from the pool of standards below covering the complete range of natural water isotope composition. This pool is routinely renewed and several new standards were calibrated to replace the older ones.

Standard	Target value sample vs. SMOW [‰]	Tolerance [±]
NGT	-34.40	0.1
NWH	-48.25	0.1
HDW2	-12.70	0.1
dc1	-54.05	0.1
KARA	-0.10	0.1
Sez	-27.00	0.1

p. 85, L13-14-15: *This sentence is superfluous I think because it overlaps mostly with L3-4. Maybe expand L3-4 instead?*

Also according to the comment of reviewer 1 we removed one of the two sentences and moved the last sentence to end of the previous paragraph.

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

p. 86, L22: *Maybe write "climate conditions of formation"?*

Changed accordingly.

p. 86, L22-25: *This is interesting I think. Can you elaborate a bit on the reasons why you see this pattern?*

More interpretation and discussion of these points can be found in section 5.2 (page 90). In this chapter we added the following sentences that discuss the reviewer point towards stable water isotope characteristic: “A similar differentiation of ice wedges (and all ground ice types) is done along the second PCA axis (Fig. 5). Differences in stable water isotopes indicate the predominant climate variations between the late Pleistocene and the Holocene which are also reflected in the landscape (i.e. distance to sea; maritime vs. continental).”

p. 87, L4-5: *Is there a simple way to explain what these percentages mean?*

The percentage value here is based on the cation spectrum only. This means that all measured cations sum up to 100 %. This is statistically more robust than using individual sample concentrations which can differ in magnitudes. We added this information to the text.

p. 87, L16: *I think you should here instead of the McGuire paper refer to Holmes et al. 2012, which gives an updated estimate of pan-arctic DOC of 34 Tg/year (Holmes, R. M. et al. Seasonal and Annual Fluxes of Nutrients and Organic Matter from Large Rivers to the Arctic Ocean and Surrounding Seas. Estuaries and Coasts 35, 369-382, doi:10.1007/s12237-011-9386-6 (2012))*

We added the number of Holmes et al. (2012) and the reference.

p. 88, L13: *You’ve used WIV before, so I suggest to replace "wedge ice volumes" here with "WIV" to avoid confusion with volume of ice in square kilometers.*

Changed accordingly.

p. 88, L27-28: *I suppose it makes sense that non-massive ice in soils is more DOCrich, but it would not harm giving a brief explanation here why you think this is the case.*

We added: “Higher DOC concentrations in intrasedimental ice than in massive ice are certainly due to the long-term contact of soil moisture with soil organic matter prior to freezing.”

p. 89, L5-9: *What is this calculation based upon? I suggest to clarify this or leave it out. Also, I do not understand the last sentence here.*

This is a back-of-the-envelope calculation which is based on an overall average for sedimentary TOC values from the literature and our overall DOC average on massive ground ice. We slightly changed the used values and added some references of TOC values in permafrost deposits.
We added some information towards a better understanding of the last sentence. “. . .because TOC comprises both POC and DOC.” The message is that we need to differentiate permafrost TOC into POC and DOC because they react differently in time and space (e.g. transport, deposition, residence time, degradability, bioavailability).

p.89, L12: *replace "on" with "in"*

Changed accordingly.

p. 89, L15: *the term "mineralization" is a bit confusing as this word is also used as "degradation" sometimes. Maybe use "ion content" or "conductivity" or so instead?*

Changed accordingly.

p. 89, L26: *Only here you explain how ice wedges are formed. Would it be more appropriate to explain this earlier in the text? You only mention they are formed syngenetically but don’t say anything more.*

We added the following information to the introduction:
Ice wedges are one of the most common types of ground ice in permafrost. They form

when thermal contraction cracks open in winter, which are periodically filled with snow melt water in spring that quickly (re)freezes at negative ground temperatures to form ice veins and finally vertically foliated ice wedges.

p. 90, L21-23: *Is the sentence "Marine ion .... into coastal ones" really needed? I feel it mostly holds information that has already been stated elsewhere in this paragraph.*

This is the only occasion in the manuscript where we present arguments why present-day coastal sites can host ice wedges with a completely different hydrochemical signature. A difference in age is accompanied by a difference in distance from the coast, which seems to be relevant for ion transport mechanisms.

p. 91, L19-20 and before: *I agree with the last sentence of this paragraph but I do not follow how this statement follows from the above sentences. I find it a bit confusing, and the point you are trying to make unclear. First of all, you say both ice wedge DOC and DOC in runoff of later and rivers are both biolabile (right?) but in between these two things you use "In contrast" (L17). Also, the sentence "One destination of the fresh, young and therefore most bioavailable ...". You mean the destination of vegetation debris before ending up in the ice wedge OC? And (L13): I think concentrations of DOC are also lower because all the vegetation debris and surface soils have already been actively flushed out by the spring flood when discharge and therefore, then, also DOC is high. All in all, I propose to reconsider the arguments that you use to arrive at the final sentence of this paragraph "The highlights ... of bioavailable DOC".*

The reviewer has a point here and we agree that DOC concentrations are also lower because all the vegetation debris and surface soils have already been actively flushed out by the spring flood. This is exactly what we write. To improve the structure, we changed the order of arguments so that the “in contrast”-sentence is not a contrast anymore but an addition “In addition, dissolved organic matter compounds in runoff into lakes and rivers can become rapidly degraded by microbial communities and photochemical reactions (Striegl et al., 2005; Olefeldt and Roulet, 2012; Cory et al., 2014).“

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

Now the structure of arguments is the following:
1. Guo et al. (2007) have shown in experiments and from natural river samples that intensive leaching of DOC from young and fresh plant litter and upper soil horizons occurs during the snowmelt period (i.e. spring).
2. Later in the season (i.e. summer/autumn), they found that DOC yields decreased in rivers draining permafrost areas. This indicates that deepening of the active layer and leaching of deeper seasonally frozen soil horizons released lower DOC concentrations due to the refractory and insoluble character of the remaining organic matter compounds. In addition, dissolved organic matter compounds in runoff into lakes and rivers can become rapidly degraded by microbial communities and photochemical reactions.
3. Our conclusion based on sentences 1 and 2 is that the fresh, young and therefore most bioavailable DOC components will become incorporated in ice wedges which are basically fed by spring meltwater with a short transport pathway and small residence time.
We end this paragraph with the sentence: “This highlights the importance of ground ice and especially ice wedges as a vital source of bioavailable DOC.”

p. 91, L22: *replace "particulate fraction" by something else.*

This sentence is based on the dichotomy between dissolved and particulate. We replaced “particulate fraction” by “POC”.

p. 92, L21: *"while" sounds strange, maybe use "with" or "during"?*

Changed accordingly.

p. 92, L22: *"On the other hand" sounds incorrect here as this sentence adds up to the argument made by the previous sentence. Suggest to replace with "Also".*

Changed accordingly.

p. 92, L24: *What are "forbs"?*

forbs = non-graminoid herbaceous vascular plants (see Willerslev et al., 2014 Nature)

p. 94, L1: *Please replace "mineralization" with something else.*

We replaced “sparsely mineralized ice wedge meltwater” by “ice wedge meltwater with a low ion content”.

p. 94, bulletpoints: *Just an idea, is it possible to arrange these conclusions parallel to the bulletpoints you list in the introduction? A parallel construction of objectives conclusions would benefit the reader.*

Changed accordingly.

p.94, L16: *round up "4172 km3" to "4170" or "4200".*

Changed accordingly. 4200 throughout.

p. 95, L1-2: *Maybe rephrase into " we propose that future studies shall strive to".*

Changed accordingly.

p. 95, bulletpoints: *I think some of these points do not follow from the analyses/ conclusions in this paper, and/or I find the points that are made a bit unclear. For example, why should DOC from coastal erosion be better quantified?*

We re-arranged some of the conclusions and clarified some points in the outlook section to better match the open questions.

p. 95, L8: *"what remains POC and what is going to become DOC", maybe just write"what fraction of soil OC will be leached as DOC".*

Changed accordingly.

Figure 3: *capitalize holocene.*

Changed accordingly.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:
http://www.the-cryosphere-discuss.net/9/C208/2015/tcd-9-C208-2015-supplement.pdf

---

Interactive comment on The Cryosphere Discuss., 9, 77, 2015.

Full Screen / Esc

Printer-friendly Version

Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper

Dissolved organic carbon (DOC) in Arctic ground ice

M. Fritz[1], T. Opel[1], G. Tanski[1], U. Herzschuh[1,2], H. Meyer[1], A. Eulenburg[1] and H. Lantuit[1,2]

[1] {Alfred Wegener Institute~~,~~ Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Department of Periglacial Research, ~~Telegrafenberg A43, 14473~~ Potsdam, Germany}

[2] {~~Potsdam~~ University of Potsdam, Institute of Earth and Environmental Sciences, ~~Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 24-25, 14476~~ Potsdam ~~-Golm~~, Germany}

Correspondence to: M. Fritz (Michael.Fritz@awi.de)

Abstract

Thermal permafrost degradation and coastal erosion in the Arctic remobilize substantial amounts of organic carbon (OC) and nutrients which have been accumulated in late Pleistocene and Holocene unconsolidated deposits. Permafrost~~Their~~ vulnerability to thaw subsidence, collapsing coastlines and irreversible landscape change is largely due to the presence of large amounts of massive ground ice such as ice wedges. However, ground ice has not, until now, been considered to be a source of dissolved organic carbon (DOC), dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and other elements, which are important for ecosystems and carbon cycling. Here we show, using biogeochemical data from a large number of different ice bodies throughout the Arctic, that ice wedges have the greatest potential for DOC storage with a maximum of 28.6 mg L^{-1} (mean: 9.6 mg L^{-1}). Variation in DOC concentration is positively correlated with and explained by the concentrations and relative amounts of typically terrestrial cations such as Mg^{2+} and K^{+}. DOC sequestration into ground ice was more effective during the late Pleistocene than during the Holocene, which can be explained by rapid sediment and OC accumulation, the prevalence of more easily degradable vegetation and immediate incorporation into permafrost. We assume that pristine snowmelt is able to leach considerable amounts of well-preserved and highly bioavailable DOC as well as other elements from surface sediments, which are rapidly frozen and stored in ground ice, especially in ice wedges, even before further degradation. We found that ice wedges i~~I~~n the Yedoma region ~~ice wedges~~ represent a significant DOC (45.2 Tg) and DIC (33.6 Tg) pool in permafrost areas and a fresh-water reservoir of 4,200~~172~~ km³. This study underlines the need to discriminate between particulate OC and DOC to assess the availability and vulnerability of the permafrost carbon pool for ecosystems and climate feedback upon mobilization.

1 Introduction

Vast parts of the coastal lowlands of Siberia, Alaska and Canada consist of unconsolidated organic-rich fine-grained deposits. These sediments, that occur as glacigenic and Yedoma-type sediments (including their degradation forms as thermokarst), are characterized by high ground-~~–~~ice contents, both on a volumetric (vol%) and gravimetric (weight %) basis (Brown et al., 1997; Zhang et al., 1999; Grosse et al., 2013; Schirrmeister et al., 2013). Yedoma deposits, which formed during the late Pleistocene cold stages in unglaciated Beringia (Schirrmeister et al., 2013), for instance, are characterized by absolute ground-~~–~~ice contents, excluding ice wedges, of 40-60 weight % (Schirrmeister et al., 2011c). Ice wedges are one of the most common types of ground ice in permafrost. They form when thermal contraction cracks open in winter, which are periodically filled with snow meltwater in spring that quickly (re)freezes at negative ground temperatures to form ice veins and finally vertically foliated ice wedges. The ice wedges are themselves characterized by volumetric ice contents closing 100 vol% and make much of the subsurface in these Yedoma deposits. Recent calculations of ice-wedge volumes in East Siberian Pleistocene Yedoma and Holocene thermokarst deposits show contents of 48 vol% and 7 vol%, respectively (Strauss et al., 2013). Combining ice wedges and other ice types ~~sediments~~ in Yedoma deposits gives a mean volumetric ground-~~–~~ice content for those regions between 60 and 82 vol% (Zimov et al. 2006a, b; Schirrmeister et al., 2011b, c; Strauss et al., 2013). High ground-~~–~~ice contents are also typical for coastal Alaska (43-89 vol%; Kanevskiy et al., 2011, 2013) and the western Canadian Arctic (50-60 vol%; French, 1998). The presence of massive ice (i.e. gravimetric ice content >250% on dry soil weight basis; cf. van Everdingen, 1998) and excess ice, which is visible ice that exceeds the pore space, is the key factor for the vulnerability of permafrost to warmer temperatures and mechanical disturbance, as ice melt will initiate surface subsidence and thermal collapse, also known as thermokarst (Czudek and Demek, 1970).

Permafrost soils hold approximately 50% of the global soil carbon pool (Tarnocai et al., 2009; Hugelius et al., 2014), mostly as particulate organic carbon (POC). These calculations of permafrost OC stocks, however, subtract the ground-~~–~~ice content (Zimov et al. 2006a, b; Tarnocai et al. 2009; Strauss et al., 2013; Hugelius et al., 2013, 2014) and therefore disregard the OC, especially the amount of dissolved organic carbon (DOC), contained in large ground-ice bodies such as ice wedges and other types of massive ice. Although these numbers might be small compared to the POC stocks in peat and mineral soils, DOC from permafrost is chemically labile (Dou et al., 2008; Vonk et al., 2013a, b) and may directly enter local food webs. Due to its lability, DOC can become quickly mineralized by microbial communities and photochemical reactions (Battin et al., 2008; Vonk et al., 2013a, b; Cory et al., 2014) and returned to the atmosphere when released due to permafrost degradation (Schuur et al., 2009; Schuur and Abbot, 2011).

As mentioned above, several studies ~~that~~ have shed light on the POC stocks contained in permafrost (e.g. Zimov et al., 2006a; Tarnocai et al., 2009; Schirrmeister et al., 2011b; Strauss et al., 2013; Hugelius et al., 2013, 2014; Walter Anthony et al., 2014) and how much of these stocks is potentially mobilized due to thermal permafrost degradation and coastal erosion (Rachold et al., 2004; Jorgenson and Brown, 2005; Lantuit et al., 2009; McGuire et al., 2009; Ping et al., 2011; Schneider von Deimling et al., 2012; Vonk et al., 2012; Günther et al., 2013; 2015; Wegner et al., under review). DOC fluxes have also been quantified in western Siberian catchments (Frey and Smith, 2005) and monitoring efforts of the large rivers draining permafrost areas and entering into the Arctic Ocean have provided robust estimations of the riverine DOC export (Raymond et al., 2007; McGuire et al., 2009). However, DOC stocks in permafrost ground ice and the resulting potential DOC fluxes in response to coastal erosion and thermal degradation are still unknown (Guo et al., 2007; Duo et al., 2008). At this moment, any inference about DOC stocks in permafrost and fluxes from permafrost is derived from measurements in secondary systems such as lake (e.g. Kling et al., 1991; Walter Anthony et al., 2014), river (e.g. Benner et al., 2004; Finlay et al., 2006; Guo et al., 2007; Raymond et al., 2007; Holmes et al., 2012) and ocean waters (e.g. Opsahl and Benner, 1997; Dittmar and Kattner; 2003; Cooper et al., 2005) or from laboratory experiments (Dou et al., 2008). In contrast, the purpose of this study was to sample and measure DOC at the source (i.e. ~~permafrost~~ground ice in permafrost) directly, before it gets altered by natural processes such as exposition to the atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere.

Here, we present an Arctic-wide study on DOC stocks in ground ice, aiming at incorporating massive ground ice into the Arctic permafrost carbon budget. The specific objectives of our study are:

- to quantify DOC contents in different massive ground ice types,
- to calculate DOC stocks in massive ground ice at the Arctic level,
- to put ground-ice-related DOC stocks into the context of the terrestrial Arctic OC pools and fluxes,

- and to introduce relationships between organic and inorganic geochemical parameters, stable water isotopes, stratigraphy, and genetic and spatial characteristics to shed light on the origin of DOC and the processes of carbon sequestration in ground ice.~~,~~

~~to calculate DOC stocks in massive ground ice at the Arctic level,~~

- ~~and to put ground-ice-related DOC stocks into the context of the terrestrial Arctic OC pools and fluxes.~~

2 Study area and study sites

This study was carried out along the coastal lowlands of east Siberia, Alaska and northwest Canada (Fig. 1). All study sites, except for the Fairbanks area, are located within the zone of continuous permafrost. The sites cover a wide and representative range of geomorphological settings, terrain units and ground-ice conditions (Table 1). All studied ground-~~–~~ice bodies were found in ice-rich unconsolidated Holocene and late Pleistocene deposits. Outcrops in permafrost were either accessible due to strong rates of coastal erosion along the ice-rich coasts forming steep exposures (Forbes, 2011) or were technically constructed for research purposes such as the CRREL Permafrost Tunnel in Barrow or for mining such as the Vault Creek Tunnel near Fairbanks, Alaska.

Coastal outcrops in Siberia were dominated by large late Pleistocene ice wedges reaching up to 20 m in depth and up to 6 m in width (Schirrmeister et al., 2011c). They formed syngenetically during periods of rapid sedimentation of Ice Complex deposits, also known as Yedoma (Schirrmeister et al., 2013). Holocene epigenetic and syngenetic ice wedges of 1 – 6 m in depth and <1.0 – 3.5 m in width were encountered in exposed thermokarst depressions of late glacial to Holocene origin and within the Holocene peaty cover deposits. Besides ice wedges, other types of massive ground ice were sampled, such as buried glacier ice, buried lake ice and a fossil snow patch (Fig. 2). In some cases, massive ground ice occupied as much as 90 vol% of 40 m coastal exposures eroding up to 10 m a^{-1} (Lantuit et al., 2012). The focus of this paper is on massive ground ice; non-massive ice (in particular pore ice and intrasedimental ice such as ice lenses) was excluded from this first attempt to calculate DOC stocks in ground ice, because of the complex genetic processes associated with the interaction with enclosing sediment and the relatively small amount of ice relative to massive ice bodies. DOC in intrasedimental ice~~It~~ is, however, not considered to be insignificant.

3 Material and methods

3.1 Laboratory analyses

A total number of 101 ice samples from 29 ice bodies and 3 surface water samples from 3 thermokarst lakes were studied. Ice blocks were cut with a chain saw in the field and kept frozen until further processing with a band saw in a cold lab at –15°C for removal of partially melted margins and cleaning of the edges. Samples ≥ 50 ml were thawed at 4°C in pre-cleaned (purified water) glass beakers ~~(purified water)~~ covered with pre-combusted aluminium foil (550°C). Meltwater was filtered with gum-free syringes equipped with glass fibre filters (Whatman™ GF/F; pore size: 0.7 µm) and acidified with 20 µl $HCl_{suprapur}$ (30%) to pH<2 in order to prevent microbial conversion. DOC concentrations (mg L^{-1}) were measured with a high-temperature (680°C) combustion total organic carbon analyzer (Shimadzu TOC-V_{CPH}). Internal acidification is used to convert inorganic carbon into CO_2, which is stripped out of solution. Non-purgeable organic carbon compounds are combusted and converted to CO_2 and measured by a non-dispersive infrared detector (NDIR). The device-specific detection limit is 0.4 µg L^{-1}. For each sample, one measurement with three to five repetitions was performed and results were averaged.

Further analyses for hydrochemical characterization included pH, electrical conductivity, major anions and cations, and stable water isotopes ($\delta^{18}O$, δD). Stratigraphic investigations and stable water isotopes ~~and~~ were used to differentiate between genetic ice types and to assess their approximate age (i.e. Holocene and late Pleistocene). Analyses of $\delta^{18}O$ and δD ~~analyses~~ were carried out with a mass spectrometer (Finnigan MAT Delta-S) using the water-gas equilibration technique (for further information see Horita et al., 1989; Meyer et al., 2000). The isotopic composition is expressed in delta per mil notation (δ, ‰) relative to the Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW) standard. The reproducibility derived from long-term standard measurements is established with 1σ better than ±0.1 ‰ for $\delta^{18}O$ and ±0.8 ‰ for δD (Meyer et al., 2000). Samples for ion analysis were passed through cellulose-acetate filters (Whatman™ CA; pore size 0.45 µm). Afterwards, samples for the cation analyses were acidified with $HNO_{3\ suprapur}$ (65%) to prevent microbial conversion processes and adsorptive accretion, whereas samples for anion analyse~~i~~s were kept cool. The cation content was analysed by Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES, Perkin-Elmer Optima 3000 XL), while the anion content was determined by Ion Chromatography (IC, Dionex DX-320). Hydrogen carbonate concentrations were measured by titration with 0.01 M HCl using an automatic titrator (Metrohm 794 Basic Titrino). Based on HCO_3^- concentrations we approximated the dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) concentrations using the molecular weights.

3.2 Statistical methods

3.2.1 Principal Component Analysis (PCA)

Principal component~~s~~ analysis (PCA) was used to summarize the variation in a biplot by reducing dimensionality of the data while retaining most of the variation in the data set (Jolliffe, 2002). Ordinally scaled variables (i.e. chemical data set) were log-transformed, centered and standardized except for pH, $\delta^{18}O$, δD, latitude, and longitude not being log-transformed due the inter-sample invariance. Ice types (ice wedge, buried lake ice, basal glacier ice, snow pack ice, surface water), relative age (Pleistocene, Holocene, recent) were coded with dummy variables and were superimposed as inactive supplementary variables on the ordination plot to enable rough assumptions about the relationship between chemical composition, ground-~~–~~ice formation and age. The whole data set was reduced to 92 samples and 23 variables by removing those containing missing values. PCA was performed with focusing on inter-species correlation and was implemented using CANOCO 4.5 software for Windows (ter Braak and Šmilauer, 2002).

3.2.2 Univariate Tree Models (UTM)

A powerful tool to explore the relationship between a single continuous response variable (DOC concentration) and multiple explanatory variables is a regression tree (Zuur et al., 2007). Tree models perform well with non-linearity and interaction between explanatory variables. UTM is used to find interactions missed by other methods and also indicate the relative importance of different explanatory variables. UTM was performed using the computing environment R and Brodgar 2.6.5 software for Windows (ter Braak and Šmilauer, 2002).

4 Results

4.1 DOC and DIC concentrations

Table 2 provides an overview of mean DOC and DIC concentrations and range for each ground-~~-~~ice type~~s~~. We found strong variations of DOC concentrations within and across individual ground-~~-~~ice types. The highest DOC concentrations were found in ice wedges with a mean of 9.6 mg L^{-1} and a maximum of 28.6 mg L^{-1}. Late Pleistocene ice wedges were characterized by higher mean DOC concentrations than Holocene ones with 11.1 and 7.3 mg L^{-1}, respectively. Other ice types had average DOC concentrations between 1.8 and 3.0 mg L^{-1} and their range was narrower than in ice wedges (Table 2, Fig. 3). Modern surface water gave DOC values between 5.5 and 5.8~~76~~ mg L^{-1}.

The highest DIC concentrations were found in modern surface water with on average 22.6 mg L^{-1} and a maximum of 40.2 mg L^{-1} (Table 2, Fig. 3). DIC concentrations were lower in ground ice but varied strongly across ice types. With 8.5 mg L^{-1} late Pleistocene ice wedges were characterized by almost four times higher mean DIC concentrations than Holocene ones (2.2 mg L^{-1}; Fig. 3). Buried glacier and lake ice had similar mean DIC concentrations (around 9 mg L^{-1}) but showed large ranges; from values around zero up to 25 mg L^{-1}. Basal glacier ice, buried lake ice, and snow pack ice show mean DOC concentrations between 1.8 and 3.0 mg L^{-1}. For individual sample values see Supplement Table S1.

~~It is obvious that ice wedges were characterized by highest mean DOC concentrations but rather low DIC concentrations compared to other ice types. Basal glacier ice, buried lake ice, and snow pack ice show mean DOC concentrations between 1.8 and 3.0 mg L^{-1}.~~

4.2 Correlation matrix

With the help of a correlation matrix environmental processes and chemical relationships can be visualized that may help to explain the sequestration of DOC into ground ice. Pearson's correlation coefficients were calculated and plotted in a correlation matrix in order to assess the degree of association between DOC, chemical properties, stable water isotopes and spatial variables (Fig. 4). A strong positive correlation suggests a mutual driving mechanism whereas negative values imply an inverse association. Most importantly, DOC is positively related to the relative proportion of Mg^{2+} in the cation spectrum (R=0.65). Further positive relations between DOC and other parameters, although less pronounced, involve K^+ (R=0.36), HCO_3^- (R=0.36) and latitude (R=0.38). The only significantly negative relationship with regard to DOC exists together with Na^+ (R=-0.44) (Fig. 4). Climate-driven parameters such as $\delta^{18}O$, δD, and D-excess do not explain DOC concentrations.

4.3 Principal components

The first two axes of the PCA explain 43.9% of the variation in the data (Fig. 5). Cl^- and Na^+ ions are positively correlated with the first axis in descending order of correlation, whereas Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and HCO_3^- ions and pH are negatively correlated. Parameters positively correlated with PCA axis 2 include information on the ice origin as Pleistocene and basal glacier ice. In contrast, δD, $\delta^{18}O$, DOC concentration, and information on the ice origin as ice wedge and Holocene ground ice are negatively correlated with PCA axis 2. Variations in SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^- concentration as well as information on latitude and longitude are not correlated with the first two PCA axes. The separation of ice samples in the PCA ordination plot leads to three distinct groups: (1) Holocene ice wedges and recent surface water samples are entirely negatively related to the second axis, whereas (2) Pleistocene ice wedges are entirely negatively related to the first axis. (3) Pleistocene basal glacier ice and buried lake ice is positively related to the second axis. This separation might be related to the different processes of ice formation and climate variation.

Na^+ and Cl^- -dominated samples represent Holocene ice wedges from coastal cliffs in east Siberia (Muostakh Island and Oyogos Yar). The majority of ice wedges with a terrestrial ion composition (Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, HCO_3^-) are of late Pleistocene age in areas such as Mamontov Klyk, Bol’shoy Lyakhovsky Island, Yukon Coast and the Fairbanks area. The first axis probably separates samples with a strong marine impact at its upper end from those with more of a ~~rather~~ continental background. The second axis might represent climate conditions of formation. The majority of Pleistocene ice samples with a depleted stable water isotope composition show positive sample scores whereas Holocene ground ice being enriched in heavy stable water isotopes mostly shows negative sample scores and therefore plots in the lower part of the PCA (Fig. 5).

4.4 Univariate Tree Model (UTM)

UTM (Fig. 6a) shows that differences in DOC concentrations can be explained according to inorganic geochemical properties. The first two nodes split on Mg^{2+} with a threshold value of 16% of the cation spectrum. The next nodes split according to thresholds in K^+ of 2.30 and 2.65%, respectively (Fig. 6a). Threshold percentages presented here are based on the cation spectrum only. This means that all measured cations sum up to 100 %. This is statistically more robust than using individual sample concentrations which can have different magnitudes. We end up with four statistically significant groups (i.e. nodes) with different mean DOC concentrations (mg L^{-1}) of each group, also showing the number of observations in each group (n). With the UTM information – that inorganic geochemistry explains the variability in DOC concentration – we can make assumptions about relations between carbon sequestration in different water types. DOC concentration is not independent from inorganic geochemical composition. Cross validation (Fig. 6b) confirms statistical significance of the model result.

5 Discussion

5.1 DOC stocks in ground ice and relevance to carbon cycling

While the riverine DOC export to the Arctic Ocean has been estimated to ~~as much as~~ 33-34 Tg a^{-1} (McGuire et al. 2009; Holmes et al., 2012), comparable numbers for the DOC input by coastal erosion and thermal permafrost degradation (also known as thermokarst) are not available yet. This knowledge gap includes the DOC contribution derived from melting ground ice from ice-rich permafrost. Table 2 provides an overview of DOC contents in different massive ground~~-~~ ice types from the North American and Siberian Arctic. Because of their wide spatial distribution in Arctic lowlands and the measured DOC concentrations, we conclude that from massive ground~~-~~ ice types ice wedges hold the greatest potential for DOC storage with a maximum of 28.6 mg L^{-1}. This is in good agreement with DOC measurements in a so far limited number of ice wedges by Douglas et al. (2011) in Alaska and Vonk et al. (2013b) in east Siberia who showed DOC concentrations of 18.4 – 68.5 mg L^{-1} (n=5) and 8.8 – 15 mg L^{-1} (n=3), respectively.

Ulrich et al., (2014) have calculated maximum wedge ice volumes (WIV), which range from 31.4 to 63.2 vol% for late Pleistocene Yedoma deposits and from 6.6 to 13.2 vol% for Holocene thermokarst deposits in east Siberia and Alaska. Strauss et al. (2013) have shown similar averages for WIV of 48 vol% in late Pleistocene Yedoma and 7.0 vol% for Holocene thermokarst deposits. Together with average DOC concentrations of 11.1 mg L^{-1} (max. 28.6) this would lead to 5.3 g DOC per m³ (max. 18.1) for late Pleistocene ice wedges in the upper late Pleistocene permafrost column (Table 3) and a DOC pool of 43.0 Tg DOC based on 416,000 km² of undisturbed Yedoma in Beringia and a mean thickness of 19.4 m (Strauss et al., 2013). DOC stocks in ice wedges in Holocene thermokarst deposits are much lower with on average 0.51 g m^{-3} and a maximum of 2.6 g m^{-3} due to much lower ~~wedge ice volumes~~WIV (cf. Ulrich et al., 2014) and slightly lower DOC concentrations (Table 3). With on average 2.2 Tg the Holocene ice wedge DOC pool is much lower than the late Pleistocene pool, mainly because of lower WIV, an average thickness of 5.5 m for thermokarst deposits and despite their greater extent (775,000 km²) than undegraded Yedoma deposits (Strauss et al., 2013). Even stronger differences are characteristic for DIC pools in late Pleistocene ice wedges (32.9 Tg) compared to Holocene ice wedges (0.66 Tg) in the same areas. Based on the above-mentioned spatial coverage of Yedoma and thermokarst deposits including sediment thickness and WIV, we conclude that in the study area ice wedges represent a significant DOC (45.2 Tg) and DIC (33.6 Tg) pool in permafrost areas and a fresh-water reservoir of 4,~~172~~ 200 km³ (see Table 3).

However, all types of non-massive intrasedimental ice, raising the total ground~~-~~ice volume to ~80% (Schirrmeister et al., 2011b; Strauss et al., 2013), are still excluded. Unpublished DOC concentrations in non-massive intrasedimental ice from Muostakh Island (Siberia) and the Yukon Coast (Canada) show overall averages of 327 and 100 mg L^{-1}, respectively (Fritz, unpublished data). Higher DOC concentrations in intrasedimental ice than in massive ice are certainly due to the long-term contact of soil moisture with soil organic matter prior to freezing. We therefore suggest that incorporating DOC from non-massive ground~~-~~ice types would lead to a significant rise in DOC stocks in permafrost of at least one order of magnitude. However, a differentiation between particulate and dissolved OC in permafrost is not done yet, although the technical means via rhizon soil moisture sampling is already available on a cost- and time-efficient basis. Nevertheless, we are aware of the fact that DOC makes up a limited proportion of the whole permafrost carbon stocks. A cautious estimation of the ratio of DOC and POC is in the order of ~1/2~~1~~000 if we consider about 2~~1~~ wt% total organic carbon (TOC) in sediments (e.g. Schirrmeister et a., 2011b,c; Strauss et al., 2013) and about 10 mg L^{-1} DOC in massive ground ice. This ratio will become much smaller if POC and DOC in the whole permafrost column would be differentiated, because TOC ~~,~~comprises both POC and DOC.

5.2 Carbon sequestration and origin in relation to inorganic geochemistry

The origin and sequestration process into ground ice seems to play an important role i~~o~~n the magnitude and bioavailability of DOC. Sequestration of OC into ground ice is a complex process that is dependent on water source, freezing process, organic matter origin and inorganic geochemical signature of the ambient water to form ground ice.

Figures 4 and 6a show that the ~~total mineralization~~electrical conductivity (i.e. total ion content) of ground ice is unrelated to DOC but that the ion composition and therefore the ion source seems to be relevant. Mg^{2+} and K^{+} are the most significant parameters for explaining variations in DOC concentrations (Fig. 6a). Higher Mg^{2+} and K^{+} fractions of the cations spectrum are positively related to higher DOC concentrations (Fig. 4). We recognize that in the node (group) with the highest average DOC concentrations (∅ = 11.9 mg L^{-1}, n~~N~~=40) we find most of the Pleistocene ice wedges and to a lesser extent Holocene ice wedges (Fig. 6a).

All study areas are represented here. Both, Mg^{2+} and K^+ have typically high shares in terrestrial water types because Mg and K are major elements in clay minerals and feldspars. In combination with terrestrial HCO_3^- and Ca^{2+} the mobility of Mg^{2+} is high in $Mg/Ca(HCO_3)_2$ solutions (Gransee and Führs, 2013).

Ice wedges are fed by meltwater from atmospheric sources that have~~s~~ been in contact with vegetation and sediments of the tundra surface before meltwater infiltrated the frost cracks in spring. By contrast, glacier ice, buried snow bank ice, and lake ice is primarily fed by atmospheric waters having less interaction with carbon and ion sources. Yet, the yellowish brown to gray late Pleistocene and the milky-white Holocene ice wedges have incorporated sediments and organic matter that originates from surface soils and vegetation debris that was carried along with the meltwater into the frost crack (e.g. Opel et al., 2011). Spring snow melt water interacts with the soil material leaching out carbon as it trickles downward toward the ice wedges. Also, since wedges may take thousands of years to form and the location of their upper surface changes with time, there are numerous spatial and temporal ways that deeper soil pore waters can get incorporated into the wedge ice. Leaching of DOC from relatively young surface organic matter takes place (Guo et al., 2007; Lachniet et al., 2012) as well as dissolution of ions from sediment particles. Snow melt feeding ice wedges strongly attracts leachable components because of its initial purity. This might be the reason why especially ice wedges contain relatively high amounts of bioavailable DOC with low-molecular weight compounds that can be old but remained fresh over millennia (Vonk et al., 2013b).

Principal component analysis clusters ice wedges into two main groups along the first axis based on Na^+ and Cl^- dominating Holocene ice wedges in modern coastal settings and Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+} and HCO_3^- for Pleistocene ice wedges and Holocene ones being far from coasts (Fig. 5). This pattern depicts the competing influence of maritime and terrestrial/continental conditions. A similar differentiation of ice wedges (and all ground ice types) is done along the second PCA axis (Fig. 5). Differences in stable water isotopes indicate the predominant climate variations between the late Pleistocene and the Holocene which are also reflected in the landscape (i.e. distance to sea; maritime vs. continental). Distance from the coastline is crucial for the incorporation of marine-derived ions through aerosols such as NaCl via sea spray. While the Fairbanks area is the only site far inland, all other study sites except for Samoylov Island in the central Lena River Delta are coastal areas today. However, during the late Pleistocene global sea level was lower and large parts of the shallow circum-arctic shelves were subaerially exposed. Present-day coastal sites were located up to hundreds of kilometers inland. Marine ion transport via sea spray is not expected to have played a role on inland sites but indeed since the rapid marine transgression during the Holocene that changed far inland sites into coastal ones. Input of sea spray is only relevant during the open-water season so that a prolonged ice cover during the late Pleistocene (Nørgaard-Pedersen et al., 2003; Bradley and England, 2008) should have further reduced the influx of sea salt. Additionally, sustained dry conditions (Carter, 1981; Alfimov and Berman, 2001; Murton, 2009) probably increased eolian input of terrestrial material into ice wedges which is then directly mirrored in the hydrochemical signature.

So far we have shown that coastal/maritime and terrestrial environmental conditions can be differentiated based on inorganic hydrochemistry and that terrestrial surface OC sources feed the DOC signal in ice wedges. DOC sequestration into ground ice is also dependent on active layer properties, vegetation cover, vegetation communities, and deposition rates. Long-term stable surfaces and relatively constant active layer depths will lead to substantially leached soil layers in terms of DOC (Guo and Macdonld, 2006) and inorganic solutes (Kokelj et al., 2002). Based on $\Delta^{14}C$ values and $\delta^{13}C$ ratios on DOC from soil leaching experiments and natural river water samples, Guo et al. (2007) have shown that intensive leaching of DOC from young and fresh plant litter and upper soil horizons occurs during the snowmelt period. Later in the season, DOC yields decreased in rivers draining permafrost areas, indicating that deepening of the active layer and leaching of deeper seasonally frozen soil horizons were accompanied by much lower concentrations of DOC due to the refractory and insoluble character of the remaining organic matter compounds. In addition~~In contrast~~, dissolved organic matter compounds in runoff into lakes and rivers ~~are~~can become rapidly degraded by microbial communities and photochemical reactions (Striegl et al., 2005; Olefeldt and Roulet, 2012; Cory et al., 2014). One destination of the fresh, young and therefore most bioavailable DOC components will be ice wedges (Vonk et al., 2013b), where the chemical character is preserved because of immediate freezing. ~~In contrast, dissolved organic matter compounds in runoff into lakes and rivers are rapidly degraded by microbial communities and photochemical reactions (Striegl et al., 2005; Olefeldt and Roulet, 2012; Cory et al., 2014).~~ This highlights the importance of ground ice and especially ice wedges as a vital source of bioavailable DOC.

5.3 DOC mobility and quality upon permafrost degradation

The absolute numbers of DOC in permafrost might be still small compared to the ~~particulate fraction~~POC. However, POC from both peat and mineral soil has a relatively slow decomposition rate after thaw compared to DOC (Schuur et al., 2008). Organic matter from melting ground ice was shown to be highly bioavailable and can even enhance organic matter degradation of the host material by increased enzyme activity in ice wedge meltwater (Vonk et al., 2013b). Bioavailability experiments with Yedoma DOC from thaw streams fed by ice wedge meltwater in NE Siberia illustrated the rapid decomposability of Yedoma OC, with OC losses of up to 33% in 14 days (Vonk et al 2013a). Incubations with increasing amounts of ice wedge water in the Yedoma-water suspension enhanced DOC loss over time. Vonk et al. (2013b) concluded that ice wedges contain a DOM pool of reduced aromaticity and can be therefore regarded as an old but readily available carbon source with a high content of low-molecular weight compounds. Additionally, a co-metabolizing effect through high potential enzyme activity in ice wedges upon thaw leads to enhanced degradation rates of organic matter of the host material. When studying organic matter cycling in permafrost areas we have to abandon the paradigm, which holds true for temperate regions and Arctic oceanography, that old OC is refractory and that only young OC is fresh, bioavailable, and therefore relevant for foods webs and greenhouse gas considerations.

We suggest that reduced organic matter degradation during cold periods is the main reason why late Pleistocene syngenetic ice wedges have incorporated more DOC on average than Holocene ice wedges. Incorporation of soluble organic matter into ground ice might have been more effective than today due to various reasons. Ice Complex deposits in the coastal lowlands formed during the late Pleistocene cold period, when high accumulation rates of fine-grained sediments and organic matter were accompanied by rapidly aggrading permafrost (Hubberten et al., 2004). This means that ~~on the one hand,~~ organic matter is less decomposed because it was rapidly incorporated into perennially frozen ground and into the surrounding syngenetic ice wedges as the permafrost table rose together with the rising surface during ~~while~~ deposition (Schirrmeister et al., 2011b). ~~One the other hand~~Also, colder annual air temperatures led to reduced decomposition rates of organic matter which originated from vegetation communities dominated by easily decomposable forbs (Willerslev et al., 2014) in contrast to resistant sedge-moss-shrub tundra vegetation since postglacial times (Andreev et al., 2011). Additionally, low precipitation and reduced runoff presumably retained more DOC in the landscape, ready to be transported into frost cracks.

Guo et al. (2007) concluded that most of the DOC in Arctic rivers is derived from young and fresh plant litter and upper soil horizons. Leaching of deeper seasonally frozen soil horizons were accompanied by much lower DOC concentrations due to the refractory and insoluble character of the remaining organic matter compounds (Guo et al., 2007). DOC impoverishment in the active layer is logical as it is leached each season over a long time under modern climate conditions, where permafrost aggradation is much slower than during cold stages; if it happens at all. The quantity and quality of DOC pools in deeper permafrost is probably much higher because of – so far – suppressed remobilization. Dou et al. (2008) studied the production of DOC as water-extractable organic carbon (WEOC) yields from organic-rich soil horizons in the active layer and permafrost from a coastal bluff near Barrow (Alaska) facing the Beaufort Sea. Besides high DOC yields in the uppermost horizon (0-5 cm below surface) the second highest DOC yields derived from permafrost although the sampled horizon showed lower soil OC contents than others (Dou et al., 2008). Interestingly, higher fractions of low-molecular-weight DOC, which is regarded to be more bioavailable, were generally found at greater depths. This supports the view that permafrost deposits hold a great potential for mobilizing large quantities of highly bioavailable organic matter upon degradation. Coastal erosion and thermokarst often expose old and deep permafrost strata. Contained organic matter is directly exposed to the atmosphere and transferred into coastal and fresh-water ecosystems without degradation because of short travel and residence times. Therefore, Arctic coastal zones are supposed to receive ~~overproportionally~~ high loads of bioavailable dissolved and particulate organic matter. Dou et al. (2008) used pure water (presumably MilliQ) and natural sea water as solvent for studying the production of DOC. It turned out that seawater extraction significantly reduced DOC yields which were attributed mainly to reduced solubility of humic substances due to the presence of polyvalent cations such as Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} in seawater (Aiken and Malcolm, 1987). On the one hand Dou et al. (2008) invoked that a laboratory setup using pure water and dried/rewetted soil samples would lead to an overestimation of DOC input to the Arctic Ocean during coastal erosion. On the other hand and based on the large ground~~-~~ice volumes in coastal cliffs (Lantuit et al., 2012), we suggest that ~~sparsely mineralized~~ ice wedge meltwater with a low ion content is probably able to leach greater amounts of DOC from permafrost upon thaw than other natural surface water.

An open question remains how much DOC can be found in intrasedimental ice and how much DOC is produced upon degradation of old permafrost (e.g. late Pleistocene Yedoma type) for example as a result of coastal erosion. The answer to this question is crucial to follow the fate of permafrost organic matter upon re-mobilization. Additionally, robust estimations of carbon release are crucial for predicting the strength and timing of carbon-cycle feedback effects, and thus how important permafrost thaw will be for climate change this century and beyond.

6 Conclusions and outlook

Ground ice in ice-rich permafrost deposits contains DOC, DIC and other nutrients, which are relevant to the global carbon cycle, a~~A~~rctic fresh-water habitats and marine food webs upon release.

The following conclusions can be drawn from this study:

- Ice wedges represent a significant DOC (45.2 Tg) and DIC (33.6 Tg) pool in the studied permafrost areas and a considerable fresh-water reservoir of 4,~~172~~ 200 km^3.
- Syngenetic late Pleistocene ice wedges have the greatest potential to host a large pool of presumably bioavailable DOC because of i) highest measured average DOC concentrations in combination with ii) their wide spatial (lateral, vertical) distribution in ice-rich permafrost areas and iii) the sequestration of fresh and easily leachable OC compounds.
- Increased incorporation of DOC into ground ice is linked to relatively high proportions of terrestrial cations, especially Mg^{2+} and K^+. This indicates that leaching of terrestrial organic matter is the most relevant process of DOC sequestration into ground ice.

Based on our results about the stocks and chemical behavior of DOC in massive ground~~-~~ ice bodies we propose that further studies shall strive to:

- quantify DOC fluxes in the Arctic from thawing permafrost, melting ground ice and ~~ice wedges due to~~ coastal erosion,
- differentiate between DOC and POC in permafrost including non-massive intrasedimental ice,
- quantify DOC production from permafrost in different stratigraphic settings and with different natural solvents to answer the question, what fraction of soil OC will be leached as ~~remains POC and what is going to become~~ DOC~~ due to leaching~~,
- assess the age and lability of DOC versus POC in permafrost and the potential impact on coastal food webs and fresh-water ecosystems.

Acknowledgements

We thank the Yukon Territorial Government, the Yukon Parks (Herschel Island Qiqiktaruk Territorial Park), Parks Canada office (Ivvavik National Park) and the Aurora Research Institute — Aurora College (ARI) in Inuvik, NWT, for administrative and logistical support. This study was partly funded by the International Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (grant no. CAN 09/001, 01DM12002 to H.L.), the Helmholtz Association (grant no. VH-NG-801 to H.L.), the German Research ~~Science~~ Foundation (grant no. OP217/2-1 to T.O.), and a fellowship to M.F. by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU). Analytical work at AWI received great help from Ute Kuschel. Sebastian Wetterich, Dave Fox, and Stefanie Weege assisted in the field. We acknowledge two anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments and suggestions.

References

Aiken, G. R., and Malcolm, R. L.: Molecular weight of aquatic fulvic acids by vapor pressure osmometry, Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta, 51, 2177-2184, doi:10.1016/0016-7037(87)90267-5, 1987.

Alfimov, A. V., and Berman, D. I.: Beringian climate during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene, Quaternary Science Reviews, 20, 127-134, doi:10.1016/S0277-3791(00)00128-1, 2001.

Andreev, A. A., Tarasov, P., Schwamborn, G., Ilyashuk, B., Ilyashuk, E., Bobrov, A., Klimanov, V., Rachold, V., and Hubberten, H.-W.: Holocene paleoenvironmental records from Nikolay Lake, Lena River Delta, Arctic Russia, Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 209, 197-217, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2004.02.010, 2004.

Andreev, A. A., Grosse, G., Schirrmeister, L., Kuznetsova, T. V., Kuzmina, S. A., Bobrov, A. A., Tarasov, P. E., Novenko, E. Y., Meyer, H., Derevyagin, A. Y., Kienast, F., Bryantseva, A., and Kunitsky, V. V.: Weichselian and Holocene palaeoenvironmental history of the Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island, New Siberian Archipelago, Arctic Siberia, Boreas, 38, 72-110, doi:10.1111/j.1502-3885.2008.00039.x, 2009.

Andreev, A. A., Schirrmeister, L., Tarasov, P. E., Ganopolski, A., Brovkin, V., Siegert, C., Wetterich, S., and Hubberten, H.-W.: Vegetation and climate history in the Laptev Sea region (Arctic Siberia) during Late Quaternary inferred from pollen records, Quaternary Science Reviews, 30, 2182-2199, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2010.12.026, 2011.

Battin, T. J., Kaplan, L. A., Findlay, S., Hopkinson, C. S., Marti, E., Packman, A. I., Newbold, J. D., and Sabater, F.: Biophysical controls on organic carbon fluxes in fluvial networks, Nature Geosci, 1, 95-100, doi:10.1038/ngeo101, 2008.

Benner, R., Benitez-Nelson, B., Kaiser, K., and Amon, R. M. W.: Export of young terrigenous dissolved organic carbon from rivers to the Arctic Ocean, Geophys. Res. Lett., 31, L05305, doi:10.1029/2003gl019251, 2004.

Boereboom, T., Samyn, D., Meyer, H., and Tison, J. L.: Stable isotope and gas properties of two climatically contrasting (Pleistocene and Holocene) ice wedges from Cape Mamontov Klyk, Laptev Sea, northern Siberia, The Cryosphere, 7, 31-46, doi:10.5194/tc-7-31-2013, 2013.

Bradley, R. S., and England, J. H.: The Younger Dryas and the Sea of Ancient Ice, Quaternary Research, 70, 1-10, doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2008.03.002, 2008.

Brown, J., O.J. Ferrians, Jr., J.A. Heginbottom, and E.S. Melnikov, eds. 1997. Circum-Arctic map of permafrost and ground-ice conditions. Washington, DC: U.S. Geological Survey in Cooperation with the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources. Circum-Pacific Map Series CP-45, scale 1:10,000,000, 1 sheet.

Carter, L. D.: A Pleistocene sand sea on the Alaskan Arctic Coastal Plain, Science, 211, 381-383, doi:10.1126/science.211.4480.381, 1981.

Cooper, L. W., Benner, R., McClelland, J. W., Peterson, B. J., Holmes, R. M., Raymond, P. A., Hansell, D. A., Grebmeier, J. M., and Codispoti, L. A.: Linkages among runoff, dissolved organic carbon, and the stable oxygen isotope composition of seawater and other water mass indicators in the Arctic Ocean, J. Geophys. Res., 110, G02013, doi:10.1029/2005jg000031, 2005.

Cory, R. M., Ward, C. P., Crump, B. C., and Kling, G. W.: Sunlight controls water column processing of carbon in arctic fresh waters, Science, 345, 925-928, doi:10.1126/science.1253119, 2014.

Czudek, T. and Demek, J.: Thermokarst in Siberia and its influence on the development of lowland relief, Quaternary Research, 1, 103-120, doi:10.1016/0033-5894(70)90013-X, 1970.

Dittmar, T., and Kattner, G.: The biogeochemistry of the river and shelf ecosystem of the Arctic Ocean: a review, Marine Chemistry, 83, 103-120, doi:10.1016/S0304-4203(03)00105-1, 2003.

Dou, F., Ping, C.-L., Guo, L., and Jorgenson, T.: Estimating the impact of seawater on the production of soil water-extractable organic carbon during coastal erosion, Journal of Environmental Quality, 37, 2368-2374, doi:10.2134/jeq2007.0403, 2008.

Douglas, T. A., Fortier, D., Shur, Y. L., Kanevskiy, M. Z., Guo, L., Cai, Y., and Bray, M. T.: Biogeochemical and geocryological characteristics of wedge and thermokarst-cave ice in the CRREL permafrost tunnel, Alaska, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 22, 120-128, doi:10.1002/ppp.709, 2011.

Finlay, J., Neff, J., Zimov, S., Davydova, A., and Davydov, S.: Snowmelt dominance of dissolved organic carbon in high-latitude watersheds: Implications for characterization and flux of river DOC, Geophysical Research Letters, 33, L10401, doi:10.1029/2006GL025754, 2006.

Forbes, D. L.: State of the Arctic Coast 2010 – Scientific Review and Outlook, edited by: International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICS), Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), International Permafrost Association (IPA)., Helmholtz-Zentrum, Geesthacht, Geesthacht, 178, 2011.

French, H. M.: An appraisal of cryostratigraphy in north-west Arctic Canada, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 9, 297-312, doi:10.1002/(SICI)1099-1530(199810/12)9:4<297::AID-PPP296>3.0.CO;2-B, 1998.

Frey, K. E., and Smith, L. C.: Amplified carbon release from vast West Siberian peatlands by 2100, Geophys. Res. Lett., 32, L09401, doi:10.1029/2004gl022025, 2005.

Fritz, M., Wetterich, S., Meyer, H., Schirrmeister, L., Lantuit, H., and Pollard, W. H.: Origin and characteristics of massive ground ice on Herschel Island (western Canadian Arctic) as revealed by stable water isotope and Hydrochemical signatures, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 22, 26-38, doi:10.1002/ppp.714, 2011.

Fritz, M., Wetterich, S., Schirrmeister, L., Meyer, H., Lantuit, H., Preusser, F., and Pollard, W. H.: Eastern Beringia and beyond: Late Wisconsinan and Holocene landscape dynamics along the Yukon Coastal Plain, Canada, Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 319–320, 28-45, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2011.12.015, 2012.

Gransee, A., and Führs, H.: Magnesium mobility in soils as a challenge for soil and plant analysis, magnesium fertilization and root uptake under adverse growth conditions, Plant Soil, 368, 5-21, doi:10.1007/s11104-012-1567-y, 2013.

Grosse, G., Robinson, J. E., Bryant, R., Taylor, M. D., Harper, W., DeMasi, A., Kyker-Snowman, E., Veremeeva, A., Schirrmeister, L., and Harden, J.: Distribution of late Pleistocene ice-rich syngenetic permafrost of the Yedoma Suite in east and central Siberia, Russia, U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia, USA, 37, 2013.

Günther, F., Overduin, P. P., Sandakov, A. V., Grosse, G., and Grigoriev, M. N.: Short- and long-term thermo-erosion of ice-rich permafrost coasts in the Laptev Sea region, Biogeosciences, 10, 4297-4318, doi:10.5194/bg-10-4297-2013, 2013.

Günther, F., Overduin, P. P., Yakshina, I. A., Opel, T., Baranskaya, A. V., and Grigoriev, M~~m~~. N.: Observing Muostakh disappear: permafrost thaw subsidence and erosion of a ground-ice-rich island in response to arctic summer warming and sea ice reduction, The Cryosphere, 9, 151-178, doi:10.5194/tc-9-151-2015, 2015.

Guo, L., and Macdonald, R. W.: Source and transport of terrigenous organic matter in the upper Yukon River: Evidence from isotope (δ13C, Δ14C, and δ15N) composition of dissolved, colloidal, and particulate phases, Global Biogeochemical Cycles, 20, GB2011, doi:10.1029/2005GB002593, 2006.

Guo, L., Ping, C.-L., and Macdonald, R. W.: Mobilization pathways of organic carbon from permafrost to arctic rivers in a changing climate, Geophysical Research Letters, 34, L13603, doi:10.1029/2007GL030689, 2007.

Harry, D. G., French, H. M., and Pollard, W. H.: Ice wedges and permafrost conditions near King Point, Beaufort Sea coast,~~.~~ Yukon Territory~~.~~, Paper 85-1A, Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, 111-116, 1985.

Holmes, R., McClelland, J., Peterson, B., Tank, S., Bulygina, E., Eglinton, T., Gordeev, V., Gurtovaya, T., Raymond, P., Repeta, D., Staples, R., Striegl, R., Zhulidov, A., and Zimov, S.: Seasonal and annual fluxes of nutrients and organic matter from large rivers to the Arctic Ocean and surrounding seas, Estuaries and Coasts, 35, 369-382, doi:10.1007/s12237-011-9386-6, 2012.

Horita, J., Ueda, A., Mizukami, K., and Takatori, I.: Automatic [delta]D and [delta]18O analyses of multi-water samples using H2- and CO2-water equilibration methods with a common equilibration set-up, International Journal of Radiation Applications and Instrumentation. Part A. Applied Radiation and Isotopes, 40, 801-805, doi:10.1016/0883-2889(89)90100-7, 1989.

Hubberten, H.-W., Andreev, A., Astakhov, V. I., Demidov, I., Dowdeswell, J. A., Henriksen, M., Hjort, C., Houmark-Nielsen, M., Jakobsson, M., Kuzmina, S., Larsen, E., Lunkka, J. P., Lyså, A., Mangerud, J., Möller, P., Saarnisto, M., Schirrmeister, L., Sher, A. V., Siegert, C., Siegert, M. J., and Svendsen, J. I.: The periglacial climate and environment in northern Eurasia during the Last Glaciation, Quaternary Science Reviews, 23, 1333-1357, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2003.12.012, 2004.

Hugelius, G., Tarnocai, C., Broll, G., Canadell, J. G., Kuhry, P., and Swanson, D. K.: The Northern Circumpolar Soil Carbon Database: spatially distributed datasets of soil coverage and soil carbon storage in the northern permafrost regions, Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 5, 3-13, doi:10.5194/essd-5-3-2013, 2013.

Hugelius, G., Strauss, J., Zubrzycki, S., Harden, J. W., Schuur, E. A. G., Ping, C. L., Schirrmeister, L., Grosse, G., Michaelson, G. J., Koven, C. D., O'Donnell, J. A., Elberling, B., Mishra, U., Camill, P., Yu, Z., Palmtag, J., and Kuhry, P.: Improved estimates show large circumpolar stocks of permafrost carbon while quantifying substantial uncertainty ranges and identifying remaining data gaps, Biogeosciences Discuss., 11, 4771-4822, doi:10.5194/bgd-11-4771-2014, 2014.

Jolliffe, I. T.: Principal Component Analysis, 2nd Edn~~ed~~., Springer Series in Statistics, Springer, New York, 488 pp., 2002.

Jorgenson, M. T., and Brown, J.: Classification of the Alaskan Beaufort Sea Coast and estimation of carbon and sediment inputs from coastal erosion, Geo-Marine Letters, 25, 69-80, doi:10.1007/s00367-004-0188-8, 2005.

Kanevskiy, M., Shur, Y., Fortier, D., Jorgenson, M. T., and Stephani, E.: Cryostratigraphy of late Pleistocene syngenetic permafrost (yedoma) in northern Alaska, Itkillik River exposure, Quaternary Research, 75, 584-596, doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2010.12.003, 2011.

Kanevskiy, M., Shur, Y., Jorgenson, M. T., Ping, C. L., Michaelson, G. J., Fortier, D., Stephani, E., Dillon, M., and Tumskoy, V.: Ground ice in the upper permafrost of the Beaufort Sea coast of Alaska, Cold Regions Science and Technology, 85, 56-70, doi:10.1016/j.coldregions.2012.08.002, 2013.

Kling, G. W., Kipphut, G. W., and Miller, M. C.: Arctic lakes and streams as gas conduits to the atmosphere: implications for tundra carbon budgets, Science, 251, 298-301, doi:10.1126/science.251.4991.298, 1991.

Kokelj, S. V., Smith, C. A. S., and Burn, C. R.: Physical and chemical characteristics of the active layer and permafrost, Herschel Island, western Arctic Coast, Canada, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 13, 171-185, doi:10.1002/ppp.417, 2002.

Lachniet, M. S., Lawson, D. E., and Sloat, A. R.: Revised 14C dating of ice wedge growth in interior Alaska (USA) to MIS 2 reveals cold paleoclimate and carbon recycling in ancient permafrost terrain, Quaternary Research, 78, 217-225, doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2012.05.007, 2012.

Lantuit, H., Rachold, V., Pollard, W. H., Steenhuisen, F., Ødegård, R., and Hubberten, H.-W.: Towards a calculation of organic carbon release from erosion of Arctic coasts using non-fractal coastline datasets, Marine Geology, 257, 1-10, doi:10.1016/j.margeo.2008.10.004, 2009.

Lantuit, H., Overduin, P., Couture, N., Wetterich, S., Aré, F., Atkinson, D., Brown, J., Cherkashov, G., Drozdov, D., Forbes, D., Graves-Gaylord, A., Grigoriev, M., Hubberten, H.-W., Jordan, J., Jorgenson, T., Ødegård, R., Ogorodov, S., Pollard, W., Rachold, V., Sedenko, S., Solomon, S., Steenhuisen, F., Streletskaya, I., and Vasiliev, A.: The Arctic Coastal Dynamics Database: A New Classification Scheme and Statistics on Arctic Permafrost Coastlines, Estuaries and Coasts, 35, 383-400, doi:10.1007/s12237-010-9362-6, 2012.

Lepš, J., and Šmilauer, P.: Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data using CANOCO, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Mackay, J. R.: Glacier ice-thrust features of the Yukon Coast, Geographical Bulletin, 13, 5-21, 1959.

McGuire, A. D., Anderson, L. G., Christensen, T. R., Dallimore, S., Guo, L., Hayes, D. J., Heimann, M., Lorenson, T. D., Macdonald, R. W., and Roulet, N.: Sensitivity of the carbon cycle in the Arctic to climate change, Ecological Monographs, 79, 523-555, doi:10.1890/08-2025.1, 2009.

Meyer, H., Schönicke, L., Wand, U., Hubberten, H. W., and Friedrichsen, H.: Isotope studies of hydrogen and oxygen in ground ice – Experiences with the equilibration technique, Isotopes in Environmental and Health Studies, 36, 133 - 149, 2000.

Meyer, H., Dereviagin, A., Siegert, C., Schirrmeister, L., and Hubberten, H.-W.: Paleoclimate reconstruction on Big Lyakhovsky Island, north Siberia – hydrogen and oxygen isotopes in ice wedges, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 13, 91-105, doi:10.1002/ppp.416, 2002.

Meyer, H., Yoshikawa, K., Schirrmeister, L., and Andreev, A.: The Vault Creek Tunnel (Fairbanks region, Alaska) – A late Quaternary palaeoenvironmental permafrost record, Ninth International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP), Fairbanks, Alaska, June 29 - July 3, 2008.

Meyer, H., Schirrmeister, L., Andreev, A., Wagner, D., Hubberten, H.-W., Yoshikawa, K., Bobrov, A., Wetterich, S., Opel, T., Kandiano, E., and Brown, J.: Lateglacial and Holocene isotopic and environmental history of northern coastal Alaska – Results from a buried ice-wedge system at Barrow, Quaternary Science Reviews, 29, 3720-3735, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2010.08.005, 2010a.

Meyer, H., Schirrmeister, L., Yoshikawa, K., Opel, T., Wetterich, S., Hubberten, H.-W., and Brown, J.: Permafrost evidence for severe winter cooling during the Younger Dryas in northern Alaska, Geophys. Res. Lett., 37, L03501, doi:10.1029/2009GL041013, 2010b.

Meyer, H., Opel, T., Laepple, T., Dereviagin, A. Y., Hoffmann, K., and Werner, M.: Long-term winter warming trend in the Siberian Arctic during the mid- to late Holocene, Nature Geosci, 8, 122-125, 10.1038/ngeo2349, 2015.

Murton, J. B.: Stratigraphy and palaeoenvironments of Richards Island and the eastern Beaufort Continental Shelf during the last glacial-interglacial cycle, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 20, 107-125, doi:10.1002/ppp.647, 2009.

Nørgaard-Pedersen, N., Spielhagen, R. F., Erlenkeuser, H., Grootes, P. M., Heinemeier, J., and Knies, J.: Arctic Ocean during the Last Glacial Maximum: Atlantic and polar domains of surface water mass distribution and ice cover, Paleoceanography, 18, 1063, doi:10.1029/2002PA000781, 2003.

Olefeldt, D., and Roulet, N. T.: Effects of permafrost and hydrology on the composition and transport of dissolved organic carbon in a subarctic peatland complex, J. Geophys. Res., 117, G01005, doi:10.1029/2011jg001819, 2012.

Opel, T., Dereviagin, A. Y., Meyer, H., Schirrmeister, L., and Wetterich, S.: Palaeoclimatic information from stable water isotopes of Holocene ice wedges on the Dmitrii Laptev Strait, northeast Siberia, Russia, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 22, 84-100, doi:10.1002/ppp.667, 2011.

Opsahl, S., and Benner, R.: Distribution and cycling of terrigenous dissolved organic matter in the ocean, Nature, 386, 480-482, doi:10.1038/386480a0, 1997.

Ping, C.-L., Michaelson, G. J., Guo, L., Jorgenson, M. T., Kanevskiy, M., Shur, Y., Dou, F., and Liang, J.: Soil carbon and material fluxes across the eroding Alaska Beaufort Sea coastline, Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences, 116, G02004, doi:10.1029/2010JG001588, 2011.

Rachold, V., Eicken, H., Gordeev, V. V., Grigoriev, M. N., Hubberten, H. W., Lisitzin, A. P., Shevchenko, V. P., and Schirrmeister, L.: Modern Terrigenous Organic Carbon Input to the Arctic Ocean, in: The Organic Carbon Cycle in the Arctic Ocean, edited by: Stein, R., and MacDonald, R., Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 33-55, 2004.

Rampton, V. N.: Quaternary geology of the Yukon Coastal Plain, Geological Survey of Canada Bulletin 317, Geological Survey of Canada, Ottawa, 49p, 1982.

Raymond, P. A., McClelland, J. W., Holmes, R. M., Zhulidov, A. V., Mull, K., Peterson, B. J., Striegl, R. G., Aiken, G. R., and Gurtovaya, T. Y.: Flux and age of dissolved organic carbon exported to the Arctic Ocean: A carbon isotopic study of the five largest arctic rivers, Global Biogeochem. Cycles, 21, GB4011, doi:10.1029/2007gb002934, 2007.

Schirrmeister, L., Grosse, G., Kunitsky, V., Magens, D., Meyer, H., Dereviagin, A., Kuznetsova, T., Andreev, A., Babiy, O., Kienast, F., Grigoriev, M., Overduin, P. P., and Preusser, F.: Periglacial landscape evolution and environmental changes of Arctic lowland areas for the last 60 000 years (western Laptev Sea coast, Cape Mamontov Klyk), Polar Research, 27, 249-272, doi:10.1111/j.1751-8369.2008.00067.x, 2008.

Schirrmeister, L., Grosse, G., Schnelle, M., Fuchs, M., Krbetschek, M., Ulrich, M., Kunitsky, V., Grigoriev, M., Andreev, A., Kienast, F., Meyer, H., Babiy, O., Klimova, I., Bobrov, A., Wetterich, S., and Schwamborn, G.: Late Quaternary paleoenvironmental records from the western Lena Delta, Arctic Siberia, Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 299, 175-196, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2010.10.045, 2011a.

Schirrmeister, L., Grosse, G., Wetterich, S., Overduin, P. P., Strauss, J., Schuur, E. A. G., and Hubberten, H.-W.: Fossil organic matter characteristics in permafrost deposits of the northeast Siberian Arctic, J. Geophys. Res., 116, G00M02, doi:10.1029/2011jg001647, 2011b.

Schirrmeister, L., Kunitsky, V., Grosse, G., Wetterich, S., Meyer, H., Schwamborn, G., Babiy, O., Derevyagin, A., and Siegert, C.: Sedimentary characteristics and origin of the Late Pleistocene Ice Complex on north-east Siberian Arctic coastal lowlands and islands – A review, Quaternary International, 241, 3-25, doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2010.04.004, 2011c.

Schirrmeister, L., Froese, D., Tumskoy, V., and Wetterich, S.: Yedoma: Late Pleistocene Ice-Rich Syngenetic Permafrost of Beringia, in: The Encyclopedia of Quaternary Science, edited by: Elias, S. A., Elsevier, Amsterdam, 542-552, 2013.

Schneider von Deimling, T., Meinshausen, M., Levermann, A., Huber, V., Frieler, K., Lawrence, D. M., and Brovkin, V.: Estimating the near-surface permafrost-carbon feedback on global warming, Biogeosciences, 9, 649-665, doi:10.5194/bg-9-649-2012, 2012.

Schuur, E. A. G., Vogel, J. G., Crummer, K. G., Lee, H., Sickman, J. O., and Osterkamp, T. E.: The effect of permafrost thaw on old carbon release and net carbon exchange from tundra, Nature, 459, 556-559, doi:10.1038/nature08031, 2009.

Schuur, E. A. G., and Abbott, B.: Climate change: High risk of permafrost thaw, Nature, 480, 32-33, doi:10.1038/480032a, 2011.

Schwamborn, G., Rachold, V., and Grigoriev, M. N.: Late Quaternary sedimentation history of the Lena Delta, Quaternary International, 89, 119-134, doi:10.1016/s1040-6182(01)00084-2, 2002.

Sellmann, P. V., and Brown, J.: Stratigraphy and diagenesis of perennially frozen sediments in the Barrow, Alaska, region, 2nd International Conference on Permafrost, Yakutsk, Russia, 13-28 July 1973, 1973, 171-181.

Shur, Y., French, H. M., Bray, M. T., and Anderson, D. A.: Syngenetic permafrost growth: cryostratigraphic observations from the CRREL tunnel near Fairbanks, Alaska, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 15, 339-347, doi:10.1002/ppp.486, 2004.

Strauss, J., Schirrmeister, L., Grosse, G., Wetterich, S., Ulrich, M., Herzschuh, U., and Hubberten, H.-W.: The deep permafrost carbon pool of the Yedoma region in Siberia and Alaska, Geophys. Res. Lett., 40, GL058088, doi:10.1002/2013GL058088, 2013.

Striegl, R. G., Aiken, G. R., Dornblaser, M. M., Raymond, P. A., and Wickland, K. P.: A decrease in discharge-normalized DOC export by the Yukon River during summer through autumn, Geophys. Res. Lett., 32, L21413, doi:10.1029/2005gl024413, 2005.

Tarnocai, C., Canadell, J. G., Schuur, E. A. G., Kuhry, P., Mazhitova, G., and Zimov, S.: Soil organic carbon pools in the northern circumpolar permafrost region, Global Biogeochem. Cycles, 23, GB2023, doi:10.1029/2008gb003327, 2009.

ter Braak, C. J. F., and Smilauer, P.: CANOCO reference manual and CanoDraw for Windows user's guide : software for canonical community ordination (version 4.5), Biometris, Wageningen [etc.], 2002.

Ulrich, M., Grosse, G., Strauss, J., and Schirrmeister, L.: Quantifying wedge-ice volumes in Yedoma and thermokarst basin deposits, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, 25, 151-161, doi:10.1002/ppp.1810, 2014.

van Everdingen, R. O.: Multi-language glossary of permafrost and related ground-ice terms, National Snow and Ice Data Center/World Data Center for Glaciology, Boulder, 1998.

Vonk, J. E., Sanchez-Garcia, L., van Dongen, B. E., Alling, V., Kosmach, D., Charkin, A., Semiletov, I. P., Dudarev, O. V., Shakhova, N., Roos, P., Eglinton, T. I., Andersson, A., and Gustafsson, O.: Activation of old carbon by erosion of coastal and subsea permafrost in Arctic Siberia, Nature, 489, 137-140, doi:10.1038/nature11392, 2012.

Vonk, J. E., Mann, P. J., Davydov, S., Davydova, A., Spencer, R. G. M., Schade, J., Sobczak, W. V., Zimov, N., Zimov, S., Bulygina, E., Eglinton, T. I., and Holmes, R. M.: High biolability of ancient permafrost carbon upon thaw, Geophysical Research Letters, 40, 2689-2693, doi:10.1002/grl.50348, 2013a.

Vonk, J. E., Mann, P. J., Dowdy, K. L., Davydova, A., Davydov, S. P., Zimov, N., Spencer, R. G. M., Bulygina, E. B., Eglinton, T. I., and Holmes, R. M.: Dissolved organic carbon loss from Yedoma permafrost amplified by ice wedge thaw, Environmental Research Letters, 8, 035023, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/8/3/035023, 2013b.

Walter Anthony, K. M., Zimov, S. A., Grosse, G., Jones, M. C., Anthony, P. M., Iii, F. S. C., Finlay, J. C., Mack, M. C., Davydov, S., Frenzel, P., and Frolking, S.: A shift of thermokarst lakes from carbon sources to sinks during the Holocene epoch, Nature, 511, 452-456, doi:10.1038/nature13560, 2014.

Wegner, C., Bennett, K.E., de Vernal, A., Forwick, M., Fritz, M., Heikkilä, M., Łacka, M., Lantuit, H., Laska, M., Moskalik, M., O'Regan, M., Pawłowska, J., Promińska, A., Rachold V., Vonk, J.E., and Werner, K.: Variability in transport of terrigenous material on the shelves and the deep Arctic Ocean during the Holocene, Polar Res.~~earch~~, in~~under~~ review.

Wetterich, S., Schirrmeister, L., Andreev, A. A., Pudenz, M., Plessen, B., Meyer, H., and Kunitsky, V. V.: Eemian and Late Glacial/Holocene palaeoenvironmental records from permafrost sequences at the Dmitry Laptev Strait (NE Siberia, Russia), Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology, 279, 73-95, doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2009.05.002, 2009.

Wetterich, S., Rudaya, N., Tumskoy, V., Andreev, A. A., Opel, T., Schirrmeister, L., and Meyer, H.: Last Glacial Maximum records in permafrost of the East Siberian Arctic, Quaternary Science Reviews, 30, 3139-3151, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2011.07.020, 2011.

Wetterich, S., Tumskoy, V., Rudaya, N., Andreev, A. A., Opel, T., Meyer, H., Schirrmeister, L., and Hüls, M.: Ice Complex formation in arctic East Siberia during the MIS3 Interstadial, Quaternary Science Reviews, 84, 39-55, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2013.11.009, 2014.

Willerslev, E., Davison, J., Moora, M., Zobel, M., Coissac, E., Edwards, M. E., Lorenzen, E. D., Vestergard, M., Gussarova, G., Haile, J., Craine, J., Gielly, L., Boessenkool, S., Epp, L. S., Pearman, P. B., Cheddadi, R., Murray, D., Brathen, K. A., Yoccoz, N., Binney, H., Cruaud, C., Wincker, P., Goslar, T., Alsos, I. G., Bellemain, E., Brysting, A. K., Elven, R., Sonstebo, J. H., Murton, J., Sher, A., Rasmussen, M., Ronn, R., Mourier, T., Cooper, A., Austin, J., Moller, P., Froese, D., Zazula, G., Pompanon, F., Rioux, D., Niderkorn, V., Tikhonov, A., Savvinov, G., Roberts, R. G., MacPhee, R. D. E., Gilbert, M. T. P., Kjaer, K. H., Orlando, L., Brochmann, C., and Taberlet, P.: Fifty thousand years of Arctic vegetation and megafaunal diet, Nature, 506, 47-51, doi:10.1038/nature12921, 2014.

Zhang, T., Barry, R. G., Knowles, K., Heginbottom, J. A., and Brown, J.: Statistics and characteristics of permafrost and ground-ice distribution in the Northern Hemisphere, Polar Geography, 23, 132-154, doi:10.1080/10889379909377670, 1999.

Zimov, S. A., Davydov, S. P., Zimova, G. M., Davydova, A. I., Schuur, E. A. G., Dutta, K., and Chapin, F. S., III: Permafrost carbon: Stock and decomposability of a globally significant carbon pool, Geophys. Res. Lett., 33, L20502, doi:10.1029/2006gl027484, 2006a.

Zimov, S. A., Schuur, E. A. G., and Chapin, F. S.: Permafrost and the Global Carbon Budget, Science, 312, 1612-1613, doi:10.1126/science.1128908, 2006b.

Zuur, A. F., Ieno, E. N., and Smith, G. M.: Analysing Ecological Data, Springer, New York, 2007.

Tables

Table 1. Summary of study areas, study sites, stratigraphy of the host sediments, ground-ice inventory and the studied ice types.

Region	Location	Longi-tude	Lati-tude	Stratigraphy and host sediments	Ground-ice conditions (inventory, ground-ice types, sampled ice types marked in *italic*~~bold~~)	Reference
Western Laptev Sea	Cape Mamontov Klyk	117.2	73.6	• Fluvial bottom sands – Late Weichselian Ice Complex – late glacial to Holocene thermokarst deposits – Holocene valley deposits – Holocene cover deposits • Yedoma hills (20-40 m a.s.l.) of ice-rich permafrost sequences with wide and deep syngenetic ice wedges separated by thermoerosional valleys and thermokarst depressions	Ice-rich permafrost sequences with wide and deep syngenetic *late Pleistocene ice wedges*	Schirrmeister et al., 2008; Schirrmeister et al., 2011b; Boereboom et al., 2013
Lena Delta	Samoylov Island	126.4	72.4	• First terrace (0-10 m a.s.l.): early to late Holocene delta floodplain, along the main river channels in the central and eastern parts of the delta; fluvial facies from organic-rich sands to silty-sandy peats towards bottom-up • Modern to late Holocene floodplain; alluvial facies from peaty sands to silty-sandy peats bottom-up	Ice-rich permafrost with active and buried syngenetic *Holocene ice wedges* Ice-rich permafrost with epigenetic *Holocene ice wedges*	Schwamborn et al., 2002; Schirrmeister et al., 2011a; Meyer et al., 2015
Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	129.9	71.6	• Late glacial and Holocene cover deposits on top of Ice Complex • Middle to Late Weichselian Ice Complex	Very ice-rich permafrost, *late Pleistocene ice wedges, Holocene ice wedges*	Schirrmeister et al., 2011b, c (and references therein), Günther et al., 2015

Formatiert: Schriftart: Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	143.5	72.7	• Alternation of wide thermokarst depressions (alases) and hills representing remnants of Ice-Complex deposits (Yedoma) • Late glacial to Holocene thermokarst deposits and on top of Ice Complex • Taberite formed during Weichselian to Holocene transition • Late Weichselian Ice Complex • Middle Weichselian Ice Complex	Late Pleistocene and *Holocene ice wedges*, All ice wedges were sampled at a coastal bluff at an elevation of about 10 m a.s.l. in a central alas depression	Wetterich et al., 2009; Opel et al., 2011; Schirrmeister et al., 2011b
New Siberian Islands	Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island	143.9	73.2	• Late Holocene cover deposits and Holocene valley deposits • Late glacial to Holocene thermokarst deposits • Taberite formed during Weichselian to Holocene transition • Middle Weichselian Ice Complex	*Late Pleistocene ice wedges*	Meyer et al., 2002 ; Andreev et al., 2004, 2009; Schirrmeister et al., 2011b; Wetterich et al., 2011, 2014
Northern Alaska	Barrow (CRREL Permafrost Tunnel)	-156.7	71.3	Buried ice-wedge system under about three meters of late glacial to early Holocene ice-rich sediments	*Late glacial ice wedges*, Holocene ice wedges	Sellman and Brown, 1973; Meyer et al., 2010a, b
Interior Alaska	Fairbanks (Vault Creek Tunnel)	-147.7	65.0	Discontinuous permafrost. Late Pleistocene ice-rich silty, loess-like organic-rich sediments between 12-15 m thick with large intersecting ice wedges	*Late Pleistocene ice wedges*, Holocene ice wedges	Shur, et al. 2004; Meyer et al., 2008
Yukon Coast	Komakuk Beach	-140.5	69.6	• Middle and late Holocene ice-rich peat, polygonal tundra • Early Holocene thaw-lake sediments, peat, ice wedge casts • Late Wisconsin (i.e. Late Weichselian) proluvial, alluvial, eolian deposits	Holocene ice wedges, *Holocene snow pack ice (fossil snow bank)*	Rampton, 1982; Fritz et al., 2012

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Kursiv

Kommentar [MF1]: This site was added because we had missed it before.

Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	-139.1	69.6	- Retrogressive thaw slumps along the coast exposing massive ground ice and ice-rich sediments - Holocene cover deposits and slope material along steep coastal bluffs - Mixed origin of marine, near-shore and terrestrial deposits - Push end-moraine of Late Wisconsin age	*Buried glacier ice* of ≥ 20 m thickness within Late Wisconsin diamicton *Late Wisconsin ice wedges* truncated by mass movement and early Holocene thaw unconformity Epigenetic and anti-syngenetic *Holocene ice wedges* *Buried lake ice*, fossil snow bank ice	Mackay, 1959; Rampton, 1982; Fritz et al., 2011, 2012
Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	-139.0	69.4	- Retrogressive thaw slumps along the coast exposing massive ground ice and ice-rich sediments - Holocene cover deposits and slope material along steep coastal bluffs - Late Wisconsin diamicton	*Late Wisconsin* and *Holocene ice wedges*	Rampton, 1982
Yukon Coast	Kay Point	-138.2	69.2	- Retrogressive thaw slumps along the coast exposing massive ground ice and ice-rich sediments - Holocene cover deposits and slope material along steep coastal bluffs - Moraine (ridge) of Late Wisconsin age	Presumably *Late Wisconsin buried glacier ice, Holocene ice wedges*	Rampton, 1982; Harry et al., 1985

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Formatiert: Schriftart: Nicht Fett, Kursiv

Table 2. Summarized DOC and DIC concentrations of different massive ground~~–~~-ice types. For individual sample values see Supplement Table S1.

Ice type	DOC Mean [mg L^{-1}]	DOC concentration range [mg L^{-1}]	No. of ice bodies	No. of samples	DIC Mean [mg L^{-1}]	DIC concentration range [mg L^{-1}]	No. of ice bodies	No. of samples	Stratigraphic affiliation
Ice wedge ice	9.6	1.6–28.6	22	72	4.7	0.3–19.8	21	66	Holocene, Late Pleistocene
Basal glacier ice	1.8	0.7–3.8	5	22	9.3	0.1–25.4	4	19	Late Pleistocene
Buried lake ice	2.0	0.3–5.2	1	6	8.8	0.3–22.9	1	6	Late Pleistocene
Snow pack ice	3.0	n.a.	1	1	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	Holocene
Modern surface water *	*5.6*	*5.5–5.7*	*3*	*3*	*22.6*	*5.0–40.2*	*3*	*3*	*recent*

* Three modern surface water samples are from three different water bodies representing thermokarst ponds along the Yukon Coast.

Table 3. DOC stocks and pools in late Pleistocene and Holocene permafrost containing ice wedges (IW) based on calculated wedge-ice volumes (WIV) in Yedoma and thermokarst basin deposits. All other ground ~~-~~ice types, especially non-massive intrasedimental ice, are not included.

	DOC concentration in Pleistocene IW mg L^{-1}	DOC concentration in Holocene IW mg L^{-1}	WIV in Pleistocene Yedoma deposits vol%	WIV in Holocene thermokarst deposits vol%	DOC stocks in Pleistocene permafrost [c] g m^{-3}	DOC stocks in Holocene permafrost [c] g m^{-3}	DOC pools in Pleistocene permafrost [c, d] Tg	DOC pools in Holocene permafrost [c, d] Tg
Min	2.4	1.6	16.7 [a]	1.0 [a]	0.4	0.02	3.2	0.07
Mean	11.1	7.3~~3~~	48.0 [b]	7.0 [b]	5.3	0.51	43.0	2.2
Max	28.6	19.5	63.2 [a]	13.2 [a]	18.1	2.6	145.9	11.0

[a] WIV data by Ulrich et al., 2014. [b] Mean WIV data by Strauss et al., 2013. [c] This includes ice wedges only. [d] According to Strauss et al. (2013) undisturbed Pleistocene Yedoma covers 416,000 km² with a mean thickness of 19.4 m, whereas Holocene thermokarst deposits cover 775,000 km² with a mean thickness of 5.5 m.

Figures

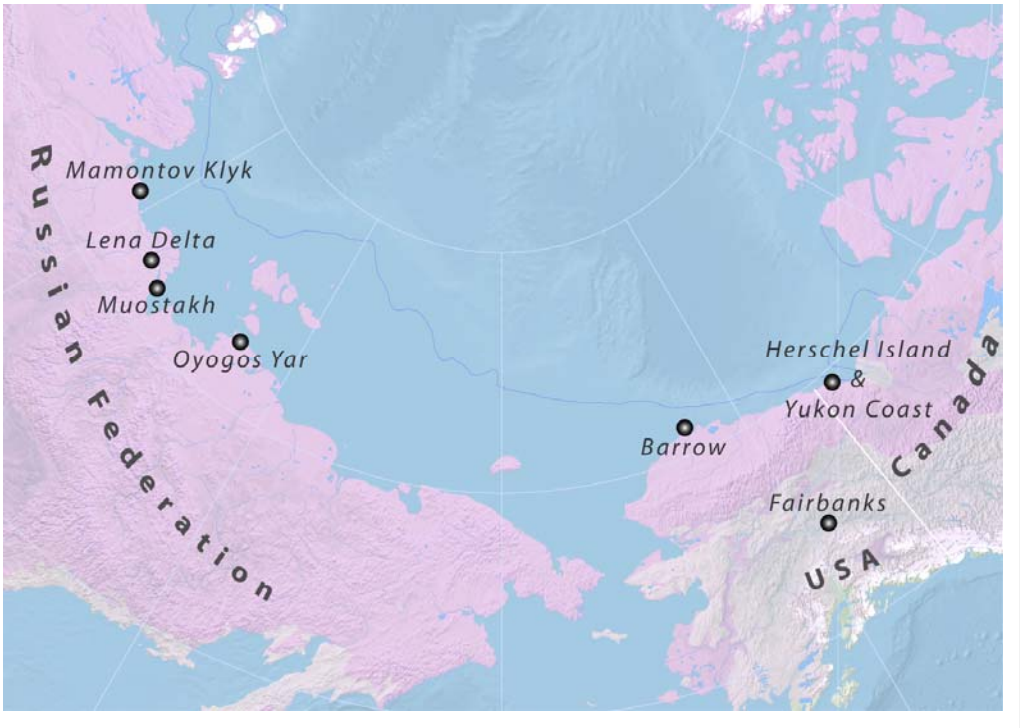


Figure 1. Study area and study sites (dots) for massive ground ice sampling in the Arctic lowlands of Siberia and North America. All study sites are located within the zone of continuous permafrost (dark purple), except for the Fairbanks area, which is the zone of discontinuous permafrost (light purple). Blue line in the Arctic Ocean marks the northerly extent of submarine permafrost according to Brown et al. (1997).

Ice-rich late Pleistocene permafrost,
Oyogos Yar, Russia

Ice-rich permafrost coast, Muostakh, Russia

Epigenetic Holocene ice wedge,
Lena Delta (Samoylov Island), Russia

Syngenetic late Pleistocene ice wegde,
Mamontov Klyk, Russia

Buried glacier ice, Herschel Island, Canada

Snow pack ice, Herschel Island, Canada

Buried lake ice, Herschel Island, Canada

Figure 2. Ground-ice conditions and examples of studied ground-ice types in the Siberian and North American Arctic. Place names are plotted on Fig. 1.

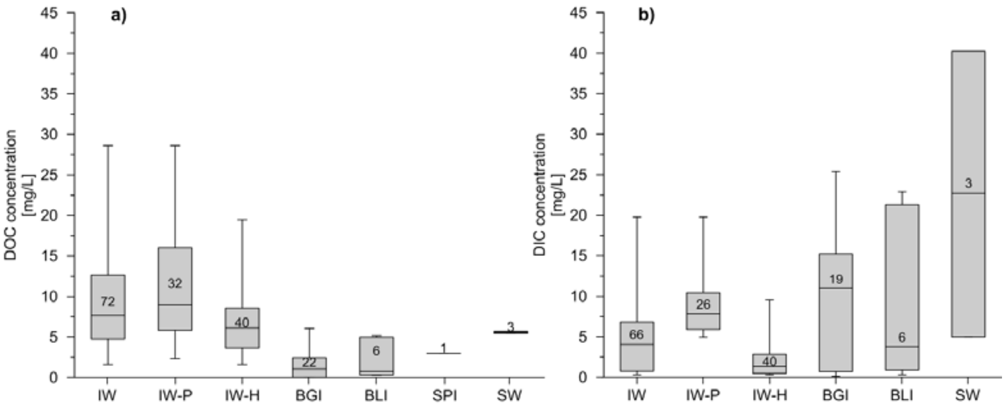
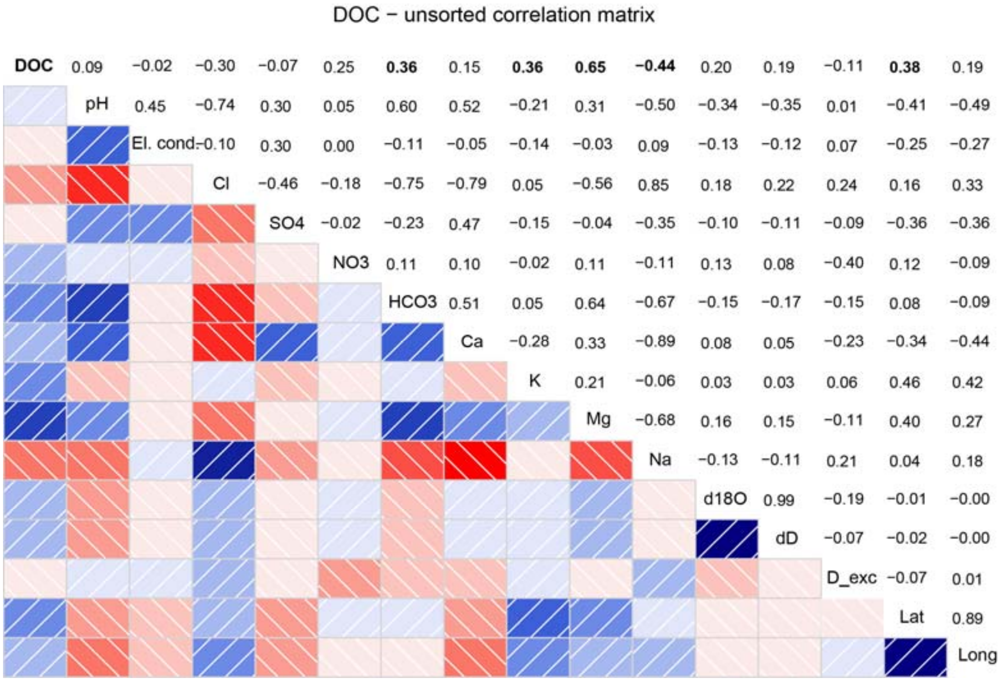


Figure 3. Boxplots of (a) DOC and (b) DIC concentrations in different massive ground-ice types. Plots show the number of samples in each category, minimum, maximum, median, 25 per cent-quartile and 75 per cent quartile as edge of boxes. IW: Ice wedges (all), IW-P: Pleistocene ice wedges, IW-H: Holocene ice wedges, BGI: Buried glacier ice, BLI: Buried lake ice, SPI: Snow pack ice, SW: Surface water. For individual sample values see Supplement Table S1.



DOC – unsorted correlation matrix

DOC	0.09	−0.02	−0.30	−0.07	0.25	**0.36**	0.15	**0.36**	**0.65**	**−0.44**	0.20	0.19	−0.11	**0.38**	0.19
	pH	0.45	−0.74	0.30	0.05	0.60	0.52	−0.21	0.31	−0.50	−0.34	−0.35	0.01	−0.41	−0.49
		El. cond.	−0.10	0.30	0.00	−0.11	−0.05	−0.14	−0.03	0.09	−0.13	−0.12	0.07	−0.25	−0.27
			Cl	−0.46	−0.18	−0.75	−0.79	0.05	−0.56	0.85	0.18	0.22	0.24	0.16	0.33
				SO4	−0.02	−0.23	0.47	−0.15	−0.04	−0.35	−0.10	−0.11	−0.09	−0.36	−0.36
					NO3	0.11	0.10	−0.02	0.11	−0.11	0.13	0.08	−0.40	0.12	−0.09
						HCO3	0.51	0.05	0.64	−0.67	−0.15	−0.17	−0.15	0.08	−0.09
							Ca	−0.28	0.33	−0.89	0.08	0.05	−0.23	−0.34	−0.44
								K	0.21	−0.06	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.46	0.42
									Mg	−0.68	0.16	0.15	−0.11	0.40	0.27
										Na	−0.13	−0.11	0.21	0.04	0.18
											d18O	0.99	−0.19	−0.01	−0.00
												dD	−0.07	−0.02	−0.00
													D_exc	−0.07	0.01
														Lat	0.89
															Long

Figure 4. Correlation matrix. Correlations mentioned in the text are printed in bold. Strong positive correlations of paired variables are indicated by dark bluish colors, while strong anti-correlations are depicted in red. Hatching from the upper right to the lower left depict positive correlations, whereas negative correlations are reversely hatched for better perceptibility in a black-and-white print. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

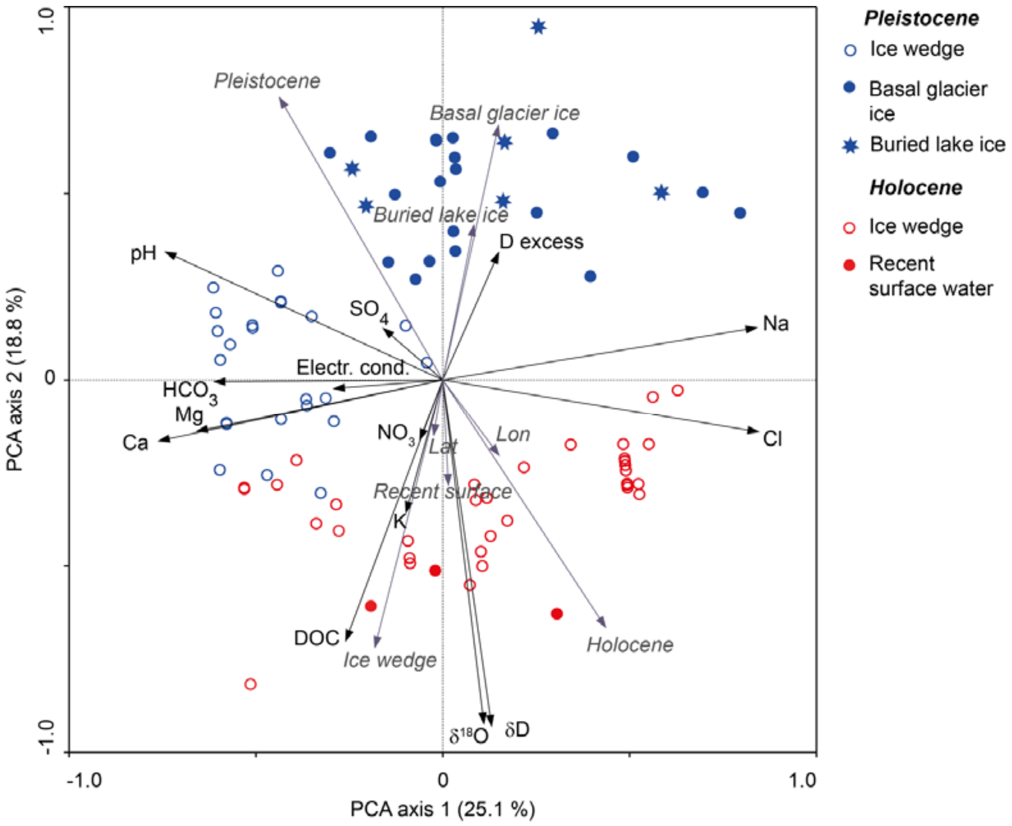


Figure 5. PCA biplot for ground-ice data. Inactive supplementary parameters (i.e. ice wedge, buried lake ice, basal glacier ice, snow pack ice, surface water, Pleistocene, Holocene, recent) are shown in grey italic. For individual sample values see Supplement Table S1.

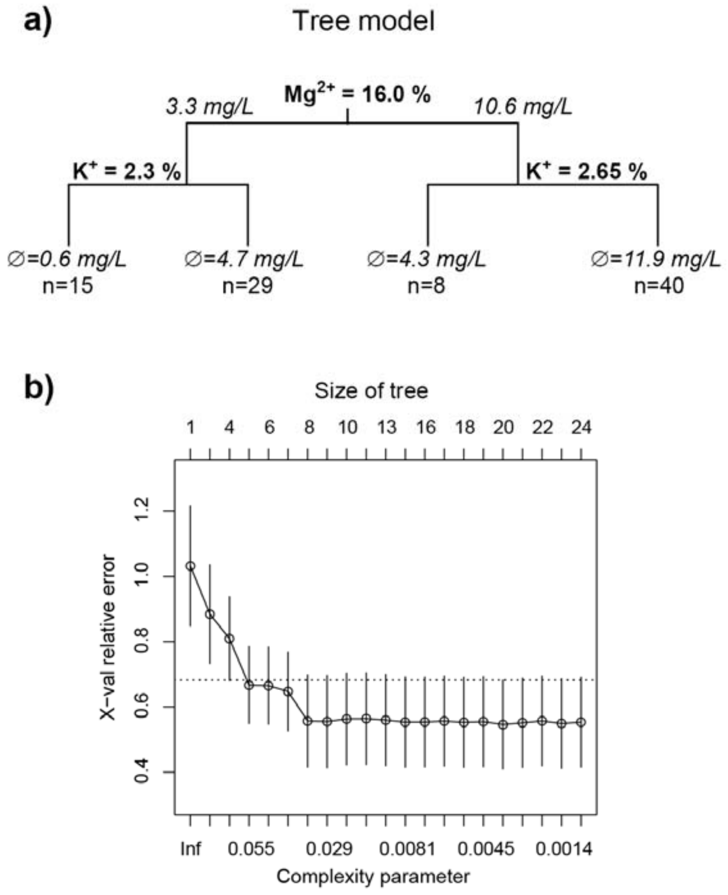


Figure 6. Univariate Tree Model (UTM) explains variability pattern in DOC concentration. a) Tree model focuses on DOC concentration as response variable. UTM uses 92 observations and a set of 22 explanatory variables. Mg^{2+} and K^{+} ions are most important to explain differences in DOC concentrations. Mean DOC concentrations of each group in mg L^{-1}. Number of observations in each group (n). b) Cross validation determines the statistically significant size of the tree model. The dotted line is obtained by the mean value of the errors (x-error) of the cross validations plus the standard deviation of the cross validations upon convergence. For individual sample values see Supplement Table S1.

Sample ID	Region	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Ice type	Stratigraphy [Holocene, Pleistocene]	DOC [mg/L]	DIC [mg/L]	d18O [‰]	dD [‰]	D excess [‰]	pH	Electrical conductivity [µS/cm]	Cl [mg/L]	SO4 [mg/L]	NO3 [mg/L]	HCO3 [mg/L]	Ca [mg/L]	K [mg/L]	Mg [mg/L]	Na [mg/L]
BAR 06 1.23A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	4.57	na	-22.30	-177.4	1.0	7.63	83.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BAR 06 IW1 29A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	3.59	na	-20.18	-161.7	-0.3	7.71	129.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BAR 06 IW1 34A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	7.65	na	-19.34	-154.1	0.6	7.40	129.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BAR 06 IW1.4A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	2.36	na	-25.63	-195.1	9.9	7.65	203.2	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BAR 06 IW3 12A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	5.51	na	-25.65	-197.7	7.5	7.72	117.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
BAR 06 IW4 2A	Northern Alaska	Barrow	71.30	-156.67	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	4.74	na	-22.96	-177.8	5.9	7.84	103.6	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
FAI IW14 - U/Th	Interior Alaska	Fairbanks	65.03	-147.71	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	24.34	19.79	-19.93	-168.3	-8.8	7.64	235.3	5.34	17.91	38.74	100.59	25.85	4.31	9.00	7.28
FAI IW3 - U/Th	Interior Alaska	Fairbanks	65.03	-147.71	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	28.61	6.16	-23.16	-185.8	-0.5	7.87	138.7	2.02	12.18	0.52	31.31	7.84	3.07	3.21	1.81
FAI IW4 - U/Th	Interior Alaska	Fairbanks	65.03	-147.71	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	14.06	11.03	-27.51	-216.4	3.7	7.48	81.9	7.80	8.02	0.64	56.06	12.06	4.68	3.83	5.84
FAI IW6 - U/Th	Interior Alaska	Fairbanks	65.03	-147.71	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	8.87	5.92	-24.79	-195.9	2.4	7.30	51.0	1.95	3.61	1.80	30.09	6.41	2.01	2.29	2.11
FAI IW7 - U/Th	Interior Alaska	Fairbanks	65.03	-147.71	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	8.08	5.35	-24.54	-194.6	1.7	6.73	45.2	1.44	4.26	0.52	27.21	5.63	1.51	2.33	2.55
GI-2-11	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	0.30	0.33	-29.64	-235.0	2.2	6.70	9.7	1.15	BDL	BDL	1.68	0.18	BDL	BDL	0.53
GI-2-16a	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	0.33	0.93	-31.48	-246.0	5.8	7.28	44.0	0.78	BDL	BDL	4.73	0.99	BDL	0.11	0.26
GI-2-20	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	0.97	5.19	-34.18	-260.8	12.6	8.18	165.6	16.63	5.09	BDL	26.39	4.88	0.86	1.03	14.70
GI-2-23	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	4.97	22.93	-36.27	-272.2	18.0	8.30	986.0	198.02	54.38	0.19	116.54	8.08	13.15	10.65	173.00
GI-2-29	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	5.16	21.29	-38.96	-286.4	25.3	8.19	845.0	151.01	55.02	0.32	108.23	9.80	10.40	8.47	140.00
GI-2-43	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.64	-139.10	Buried lake ice	Pleistocene	0.57	2.43	-31.79	-246.6	7.7	8.05	27.6	0.83	0.11	BDL	12.36	3.38	BDL	0.26	0.50
HIWCS12-MI-02	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.62	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	2.14	15.21	-31.21	-244.3	5.4	7.99	201.9	21.14	10.21	0.22	77.34	6.48	4.35	3.21	25.30
HIWCS12-MI-03	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.62	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	2.86	12.63	-30.74	-239.2	6.8	8.32	125.3	8.60	2.37	0.29	64.22	3.06	4.79	1.78	15.10
KOM12-H20-2-1m	Yukon Coast	Komakuk Beach	69.58	-140.20	Surface water	Recent	5.58	4.98	-16.39	-130.9	0.2	6.98	62.3	5.28	0.23	BDL	25.32	6.76	0.46	1.41	3.17
KOM-SPI-1	Yukon Coast	Komakuk Beach	69.60	-140.60	Snow pack ice	Holocene	2.99	na	-15.54	-123.1	1.2	6.69	11.7	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
KP12-IW1-01	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Ice wedge	Holocene	3.14	6.18	-18.73	-141.2	8.6	7.81	90.9	3.24	10.51	0.17	31.42	12.40	0.64	1.72	2.34
KP12-IW1-02	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Ice wedge	Holocene	4.81	7.71	-19.55	-145.0	11.4	8.61	105.3	4.18	10.90	BDL	39.20	13.40	0.77	2.57	3.13
KP12-MI-01	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	BDL	0.12	-29.25	-233.1	0.9	6.32	14.8	3.23	0.50	BDL	0.61	0.28	BDL	BDL	1.96
KP12-MI-02	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	BDL	0.27	-28.99	-231.3	0.5	7.09	18.0	4.29	0.35	BDL	1.37	0.18	BDL	BDL	2.62
KP12-MI-03	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	BDL	0.27	-28.24	-229.0	-3.1	6.75	5.4	0.62	BDL	0.16	1.37	0.16	BDL	BDL	0.21
KP12-MI-04	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	BDL	0.69	-29.19	-234.0	-0.4	6.91	51.8	5.96	9.41	BDL	3.51	3.84	BDL	0.24	4.29
KP12-MI-05	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	1.06	4.29	-31.35	-247.6	3.2	7.93	332.0	7.02	122.22	BDL	21.81	55.60	BDL	0.90	5.45
KP12-MI-06	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	BDL	3.03	-30.08	-240.0	0.7	7.25	107.1	6.25	24.68	BDL	15.41	13.10	BDL	0.46	4.36
KP12-MI-07	Yukon Coast	Kay Point	69.25	-139.19	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	2.46	11.01	-30.85	-242.8	4.0	7.95	378.0	24.93	85.51	BDL	55.98	17.40	6.40	5.66	45.30
L6-C11	New Siberian Islands	Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island	73.18	143.93	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	12.06	9.30	-32.18	-250.0	7.4	na	na	5.49	3.07	BDL	47.26	7.92	1.25	3.74	6.90
L6-C2	New Siberian Islands	Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island	73.18	143.93	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	10.18	9.03	-34.55	-269.4	6.9	na	na	2.51	3.54	BDL	45.90	9.05	1.25	4.03	3.26
L6-C3	New Siberian Islands	Bol'shoy Lyakhovsky Island	73.18	143.93	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	15.39	8.89	-32.90	-255.9	7.2	7.84	179.7	5.04	4.55	BDL	45.21	8.31	1.88	4.09	6.16
LD05-IW-7.1_R	Lena Delta	Samoylov Island	72.44	126.43	Ice wedge	Holocene	3.67	5.70	-24.49	-187.1	8.7	7.83	55.4	1.96	0.26	BDL	28.98	5.49	0.87	2.52	1.14
LD05-IW-7.18	Lena Delta	Samoylov Island	72.44	126.43	Ice wedge	Holocene	5.74	6.72	-24.44	-185.7	9.8	7.94	68.0	2.95	0.68	BDL	34.17	6.26	1.27	3.25	1.80
LH 2012	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.60	-139.06	Surface water	Recent	5.45	40.24	-13.17	-107.8	-2.4	8.00	1,262.0	294.36	13.27	BDL	204.55	57.30	7.10	27.70	153.00
MAK-IW-28.1_C1	Western Laptev Sea	Cape Mamontov Klyk	73.60	117.17	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	4.02	10.44	-30.09	-239.5	1.2	7.82	186.8	15.82	10.53	10.89	53.08	5.89	1.85	2.79	26.40
MAK-IW-28.4_C4	Western Laptev Sea	Cape Mamontov Klyk	73.60	117.17	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	19.02	11.43	-30.81	-239.3	7.1	7.51	118.6	4.67	1.57	0.22	58.12	11.90	2.97	4.80	3.24
MAK-IW-28.5_C5	Western Laptev Sea	Cape Mamontov Klyk	73.60	117.17	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	17.97	10.44	-31.70	-244.9	8.7	7.57	109.9	4.08	1.90	0.20	53.08	12.00	2.48	4.66	3.06
MAK-IW-28.6_C6	Western Laptev Sea	Cape Mamontov Klyk	73.60	117.17	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	17.82	13.92	-30.98	-240.0	7.8	8.46	109.1	4.02	1.32	0.24	70.78	10.10	2.40	3.86	3.14
MUO11-IW-1 - Block1	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	2.92	0.45	-24.78	-189.0	9.2	6.44	36.5	7.14	0.13	BDL	2.29	0.36	0.31	0.39	4.08
MUO11-IW-1 - Block2	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	4.91	0.60	-24.35	-185.8	9.0	5.94	76.9	17.13	1.55	BDL	3.05	0.41	1.01	0.70	9.87
MUO11-IW-1 - Block3	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	3.23	0.38	-24.49	-186.5	9.4	6.27	51.5	14.90	1.21	BDL	1.91	0.35	0.93	0.55	8.97
MUO11-IW-1 - Block4	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	2.44	0.78	-24.65	-187.8	9.4	6.37	52.3	10.11	0.49	BDL	3.97	0.33	0.55	0.45	5.89
MUO11-IW-1 - Block5	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	1.61	0.39	-24.15	-185.5	7.7	6.35	29.8	8.46	0.55	BDL	1.98	0.33	0.55	0.38	5.07
MUO11-IW-1 - Block6	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	2.14	0.60	-23.81	-182.6	7.9	6.44	38.6	8.92	1.17	BDL	3.05	0.50	0.49	0.45	5.35
MUO11-IW-1 - Block7	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	3.57	0.98	-24.53	-188.4	7.8	6.10	93.6	27.82	1.80	BDL	4.97	0.80	1.51	1.72	14.28
MUO11-IW-1 - Block8	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	4.75	0.33	-24.14	-185.3	7.8	6.09	76.3	32.10	2.49	BDL	1.68	0.87	2.25	1.86	16.40
MUO11-IW-1 - Block9	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.43	129.99	Ice wedge	Holocene	3.55	1.55	-23.78	-182.7	7.5	6.30	37.9	14.79	0.95	BDL	7.86	0.75	1.05	1.10	9.73
Muo-C1	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	20.56	5.15	-31.83	-250.6	4.0	7.42	101.0	4.48	2.25	0.07	26.16	5.50	3.04	2.64	2.50
Muo-C2	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	17.29	5.51	-32.51	-255.4	4.7	7.69	104.1	5.68	3.86	0.13	28.01	5.78	3.79	2.54	3.58
Muo-C3	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	16.03	5.45	-31.48	-247.8	4.1	7.75	86.1	5.32	2.61	0.14	27.69	6.25	3.66	2.48	2.76
Muo-C4	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	15.17	10.01	-29.40	-233.4	1.8	7.96	216.8	8.79	6.81	BDL	50.87	9.48	3.45	4.65	6.83
Muo-C5	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	10.95	11.17	-25.90	-208.1	-0.9	7.95	111.2	5.30	2.82	0.03	56.77	10.26	2.71	4.55	4.12
Muo-C6	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	7.02	9.38	-25.99	-209.1	-1.2	8.09	116.6	5.09	1.00	BDL	47.68	7.73	1.84	4.36	3.49
Muo-C7	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	7.69	6.79	-31.27	-246.7	3.5	7.66	78.3	5.42	3.59	0.03	34.53	6.22	2.60	2.94	4.41
Muo-C8	Eastern Laptev Sea	Muostakh Island	71.61	129.94	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	11.41	5.88	-32.20	-253.2	4.4	7.49	74.1	4.79	2.46	BDL	29.87	5.31	3.53	2.79	3.50

Sample ID	Region	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Ice type	Stratigraphy [Holocene, Pleistocene]	DOC [mg/L]	DIC [mg/L]	d18O [‰]	dD [‰]	D excess [‰]	pH	Electrical conductivity [µS/cm]	Cl [mg/L]	SO4 [mg/L]	NO3 [mg/L]	HCO3 [mg/L]	Ca [mg/L]	K [mg/L]	Mg [mg/L]	Na [mg/L]
Oy7-11-IW7 11-12	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.13	0.42	-23.56	-183.1	5.4	5.61	39.5	7.96	0.31	BDL	2.14	0.34	0.85	0.46	4.25
Oy7-11-IW7 1-2	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	5.40	0.59	-25.69	-199.6	5.9	6.03	35.5	5.39	0.29	BDL	2.97	0.31	0.75	0.32	2.37
Oy7-11-IW7 13-14	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.15	0.48	-24.02	-184.9	7.3	5.83	48.0	8.42	0.32	BDL	2.44	0.37	1.12	0.51	4.33
Oy7-11-IW7 15-16	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.31	0.43	-24.88	-192.1	6.9	na	na	6.36	0.45	BDL	2.19	0.31	0.67	0.30	3.27
Oy7-11-IW7 17-18	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	7.75	0.53	-25.47	-196.9	6.9	5.53	36.5	5.52	0.39	0.22	2.67	0.36	0.87	0.41	2.62
Oy7-11-IW7 19-20	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	8.22	0.55	-25.10	-194.6	6.2	5.58	37.2	5.42	0.57	BDL	2.78	0.34	0.77	0.30	2.66
Oy7-11-IW7 21-22	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	8.12	0.99	-25.90	-199.7	7.5	6.29	48.9	5.67	1.25	0.22	5.03	0.30	2.09	0.25	2.27
Oy7-11-IW7 23-24	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	9.59	1.41	-25.87	-198.9	8.1	6.66	77.7	7.82	0.77	BDL	7.17	0.31	3.33	0.25	2.00
Oy7-11-IW7 3-4	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	5.87	0.36	-24.74	-191.9	6.0	5.56	35.3	7.05	0.31	BDL	1.83	0.32	0.50	0.37	3.60
Oy7-11-IW7 5-6	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	5.59	0.44	-25.54	-197.6	6.8	5.72	26.8	5.10	0.24	BDL	2.21	0.26	0.62	0.28	2.39
Oy7-11-IW7 7-8	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.63	0.36	-24.95	-192.3	7.3	5.75	47.8	10.20	0.37	BDL	1.83	0.38	0.61	0.55	5.25
Oy7-11-IW7 9-10	Dmitry Laptev Strait	Oyogos Yar coast	72.70	143.50	Ice wedge	Holocene	16.03	0.60	-24.34	-189.3	5.5	5.73	59.1	9.14	0.31	BDL	3.05	0.43	0.34	0.54	4.59
RB12-IW1	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	2.43	8.46	-27.58	-217.1	3.5	7.62	444.0	6.08	163.14	1.39	43.02	57.30	3.59	12.40	10.80
RB12-IW2	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	12.66	2.79	-23.87	-181.9	9.0	7.12	73.4	12.64	1.43	BDL	14.19	4.06	1.18	1.32	7.28
RB12-IW3	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	10.87	2.61	-23.23	-177.7	8.2	7.18	75.5	11.77	3.39	BDL	13.27	4.65	1.23	1.57	6.94
RB12-IW4	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	6.38	6.42	-26.02	-204.0	4.1	7.53	366.0	5.98	130.29	0.23	32.64	45.90	3.45	9.16	9.33
RB12-IW5	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	15.77	3.75	-23.19	-175.3	10.2	7.21	56.1	4.84	1.87	BDL	19.07	5.52	1.60	1.54	3.03
RB12-IW6	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	16.29	1.83	-22.10	-167.0	9.8	6.94	39.1	3.56	0.95	0.24	9.30	3.27	1.22	1.02	2.26
RB12-IW7	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	15.54	1.83	-21.45	-162.0	9.6	6.95	39.3	3.80	0.63	BDL	9.30	3.35	1.26	1.01	2.19
RB12-IW8	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	8.57	3.00	-21.55	-162.7	9.6	7.37	64.4	5.80	6.58	0.34	15.25	5.76	1.30	1.60	2.96
RB12-IW9	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.43	-139.00	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.62	6.75	-23.99	-183.3	8.6	7.76	98.6	3.44	11.61	0.26	34.32	10.90	2.16	2.66	2.78
SP H2O 1-1m	Yukon Coast	Roland Bay	69.33	-139.03	Surface water	Recent	5.71	22.72	-15.67	-131.3	-5.9	7.57	384.8	56.45	9.35	BDL	115.51	33.03	2.41	8.61	30.85
TSA12-IW1-01	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.58	-138.94	Ice wedge	Holocene	8.08	1.26	-21.20	-158.3	11.3	6.88	43.4	6.29	0.87	0.52	6.41	2.11	0.92	0.83	3.41
TSA12-IW1-02	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.58	-138.94	Ice wedge	Holocene	8.28	1.98	-20.74	-154.9	11.0	7.25	62.3	10.45	1.05	0.22	10.07	3.45	1.05	1.43	5.11
TSA12-IW1-03	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.58	-138.94	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.26	4.41	-20.91	-157.5	9.8	7.45	68.3	7.37	1.53	BDL	22.42	6.05	0.75	1.78	3.85
TSC12-IW1-01	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.58	-138.95	Ice wedge	Holocene	13.24	2.85	-20.41	-152.5	10.8	7.20	92.7	16.10	3.39	0.23	14.49	5.99	0.92	1.92	8.33
TSC12-IW1-02	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.58	-138.95	Ice wedge	Holocene	19.48	9.54	-20.50	-154.7	9.3	7.65	230.2	28.71	20.27	BDL	48.51	11.80	3.88	4.38	24.60
TSD09-6-1	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.60	-139.23	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	0.74	2.61	-32.70	-253.2	8.4	8.00	68.2	6.90	3.02	0.17	13.27	4.19	0.37	1.14	4.39
TSD09-6-2	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.60	-139.23	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	3.80	14.01	na	na	na	8.00	346.0	21.58	54.49	BDL	71.24	15.05	6.66	8.79	36.35
TSD09-IW-5-1	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.60	-139.23	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	8.90	7.26	-28.36	-225.2	1.7	8.19	175.0	24.09	5.92	BDL	36.91	9.65	5.87	3.58	15.00
TSD12-IW1-71	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	5.85	6.72	-25.23	-194.6	7.2	7.85	173.1	10.09	33.97	BDL	34.17	20.10	1.60	2.87	5.89
TSD12-IW1-72	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	9.02	6.21	-25.77	-198.6	7.6	7.76	359.0	13.88	111.43	BDL	31.58	40.40	7.40	8.73	11.20
TSD12-IW1-73	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Ice wedge	Pleistocene	7.89	4.95	-25.30	-193.3	9.1	7.68	161.8	8.06	36.96	BDL	25.17	14.70	3.96	4.29	5.13
TSD12-IW2-01	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.01	Ice wedge	Holocene	2.94	1.92	-24.17	-183.0	10.3	7.30	44.3	7.14	0.26	BDL	9.76	3.00	0.32	0.51	3.85
TSD12-IW2-02	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.01	Ice wedge	Holocene	4.25	2.07	-22.41	-169.6	9.7	7.25	47.2	7.09	0.31	0.15	10.53	3.77	0.39	0.60	3.71
TSD12-IW2-03	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.01	Ice wedge	Holocene	6.03	2.04	-23.97	-182.6	9.2	6.80	50.2	8.24	0.42	BDL	10.37	3.10	0.73	0.86	3.92
TSD12-MI-01	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	1.06	3.27	-31.47	-245.1	6.6	7.70	77.7	13.85	0.91	0.17	16.63	4.87	0.27	0.69	8.14
TSD12-MI-02	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	1.03	4.17	-31.67	-246.0	7.3	7.65	87.9	13.91	1.42	0.23	21.20	6.27	0.44	1.33	7.53
TSD12-MI-03	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	6.07	22.60	-31.62	-245.8	7.1	8.09	386.0	27.74	51.88	0.40	114.86	10.60	5.90	6.45	60.20
TSD12-MI-04	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	5.72	25.39	-32.98	-258.4	5.4	8.10	504.0	68.41	32.15	BDL	129.05	9.98	6.20	5.85	79.30
TSD12-MI-05	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	0.00	1.65	-33.40	-259.8	7.4	7.24	47.7	9.50	0.53	BDL	8.39	2.35	BDL	0.30	6.10
TSD12-MI-06	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	1.80	15.78	-33.47	-260.5	7.2	8.01	236.5	22.43	10.73	BDL	80.23	9.44	3.98	5.22	20.50
TSD12-MI-07	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	2.17	13.92	-33.24	-259.0	7.0	7.92	206.5	19.09	15.23	BDL	70.78	6.58	4.80	3.67	26.40
TSD12-MI-08	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	0.00	0.72	-32.00	-248.5	7.6	7.18	26.5	5.11	0.78	BDL	3.66	1.08	BDL	0.24	3.00
TSD12-MI-09	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	1.85	13.89	-34.44	-267.5	8.0	7.79	175.6	5.41	18.73	BDL	70.62	10.50	3.96	4.10	15.90
TSD12-MI-10	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.57	-139.02	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	3.12	17.88	-34.14	-265.2	7.9	8.01	379.0	55.72	22.68	0.27	90.91	8.39	5.76	4.59	58.20
TSD-MI-6	Yukon Coast	Herschel Island	69.60	-139.23	Basal glacier ice	Pleistocene	0.77	na	-31.74	-249.7	4.2	7.10	28.0	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

na	not available (no measurement)
BDL	Below Detection Limit (For statistical analyses, this value was set to zero)