

## ***Interactive comment on “Challenges associated with the climatic interpretation of water stable isotope records from a highly resolved firn core from Adélie Land, coastal Antarctica” by Sentia Goursaud et al.***

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Reply to the editor's comments The paper provides a detailed and thorough examination of stable water isotopes and snow accumulation and chemistry from a shallow (21.3m) ice core in coastal Adélie Land. The record covers a relatively short time (1998-2014), but demonstrates the importance of robust proxy evaluation, particularly at coastal Antarctic sites. We thank Elizabeth Thomas for reviewing our paper, and assigning importance to our work.

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I have a few minor comments and suggestions: P2 Abstract – There is quite a bit of detail about the method in the abstract, which I felt was not necessary. Removing lines 7-13 will keep the abstract concise and focus more on your findings. Done.

P2 Line 16 - End sentence after . . .timescale.” Done.

Introduction The recent PAGES 2k compilation of ice core snow accumulation data (CP, 2017) highlighted the importance of coastal records. We added this important feature, after reporting coastal investigations: “However, the recent 2k temperature and SMB reconstructions for Antarctic (Stenni et al., 2017; Thomas et al., 2017) highlighted the need for more coastal records.” P4 l4

There was no mention of the Antarctic Peninsula in your summary of drilling efforts at coastal sites? Several shallow, low elevation coastal cores have been drilled in this region. Indeed, we had forgotten to mention AP, and thus added it when reporting investigated coastal regions, citing the lastly work of F.Fernandoy: “such as the Peninsula (Fernandoy et al., 2018)” p4 l2

Climatic interpretation of water stable isotopes records – I felt some reference to previous studies on the role that sea ice plays was missing. I suggest checking the following: Noone, D., and I. Simmonds (2004), Sea ice control of water isotope transport to Antarctica and implications for ice core interpretation, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 109, D07105, doi:10.1029/2003JD004228. Bromwich, D. H. (1988), Snowfall at high southern latitudes, *Rev. Geo-phys.*, 26, 149– 168. Bromwich, D. H., and C. J. Weaver (1983), Latitudinal displacement from main moisture source controls  $\delta^{18}O$  of snow in coastal Antarctica, *Nature*, 301, 145–147. Indeed, Noone and Simmonds (2004) showed how changes in sea-ice, taken independently from other variables, can affect coastal  $\delta^{18}O$ , and in a more complex way the d-excess. However, this study does not account for the interplay between sea-ice changes and other climate variables, like e.g. katabatic winds, which also partly drive the atmospheric isotopic composition in Adélie Land, as shown by the recent vapor monitoring processed by Bréant et al. (submitted). In our

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submitted version, we used the sea-ice concentration averaged over specific longitudinal ranges. Also, we have been advised to rather consider the area where the sea ice concentration is higher than 15 %, what we took into account, as described in section 2.2, p9 l1: “D’Urville summer sea ice extent was estimated by extracting the number of grid points covering the area (50 – 90 °S, 135 – 145 °E) where the sea ice concentration is higher than 15 %, from December to January (included) for each year from 1998 to 2014.” We just considered the d’Urville summer sea ice extent, and rather used map correlations to look at the larger scale. We reported our findings in the results section (removing our prior results), first in section 3.3 (“Inter-annual variations”), p16 l25: “Significant increasing trends are detected in the annual values of d-excessTA (0.11 % y-1,  $r=0.61$  and  $p<0.05$ ) as well as of d’Urville summer sea ice extent ( $r=0.77$ ,  $p<0.05$ .)” and p17 l15: “Our record depicts a significant anti-correlation between annual values of SMBTA and d-excessTA ( $r=-0.59$  and  $p<0.05$ ), as well as a significant correlation between d-excessTA and d’Urville summer sea ice extent ( $r=0.65$  and  $p<0.05$ .)” With our new results, we also obtain particular high values in 2011 (instead of year 2013), as specified p18 l11: “Year 2011: high MSA, d’Urville summer sea ice extent, and wind speed values.” The pattern of the mean seasonal cycle remains unchanged. We thus have changed our interpretation in the discussion part in section 4.3 (“Water stable isotope, a fingerprint of changes in air mass origins”), p28 l21: “Noone and Simmonds (2004) have shown, thanks to climate modelling, that water stable isotopes were conditioned by changes in sea ice extent (as a contraction in sea ice increases the local latent heat and temperature due to open water), but confirmed that a thorough understanding of main mechanisms controlling the d-excess was still needed. Also, earlier studies have suggested the use of the d-excess recorded in ice cores to reconstruct past sea ice extent (e.g. Sinclair et al., 2014). Although we find a significant correlation between the d-excessTA and the d’Urville summer sea ice extent (section 3.3), a correlation map between the annual d-excessTA and the summer sea ice concentration (S16 in the Supplementary Material) show significant correlations with further sea ice areas (e.g. an anticorrelation in the Amundsen sea and correlations in the

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Belligshausen, Scotia and Lazarev seas).”

P19 Line 23 – remove “does” Done.

P21 Line 12 “On average,..” Done. Discussion The PAGES 2k compilation, based on ice cores and modelled SMB from RACMO2.3p2, identified a negative trend in SMB in neighbouring Victoria Land. The negative trend since the 1960s is statistically significant ( $p<0.01$ ) and outside the expected range for the previous 200 years. A negative trend was also identified in the Wilkes Land coast (of which your Adelie land site would fit) which was outside the range of expected variability but not statistically significant. We thank you for reminding the reference. In the manuscript, we thus cited Thomas et al. (2017) for the unprecedented negative trend of SMB observed in Victoria Land for the last 50 years, but not for Wilkes Land as not significant, p. 23 l.16: “Especially, Thomas et al. (2017) report an unprecedented negative trend observed in Victoria Land for the last 50 years (1961-2010).”

P23 Line 5-7 Consider rewording . . . “we observe slightly increasing but not significant trend in the TA core, era and ECHAM5-wiso records”. We reworded the sentence: “For our study period (17 years for the TA record, and the ECHAM5-wiso simulation), we observe no significant trend.”

P24 Reference to other d18O temperature records. Poor correlations with temperature observed in the Antarctic Peninsula and coastal west Antarctica. For example, the relationship between d18O and temperature from ERA-interim at a coastal site in Ellsworth Land (Ferrigno) was 0.44 ( $p=0.01$ ). At this site the relationship between d18O and temperature was similar to that of the relationship between d18O and sea ice conditions ( $r=-0.37$  between d18O and winter sea ice extent and  $r=-0.54$  between d18O and sea ice concentration). We thank you for completing our brief state-of-the-art of coastal dO18-temperature relationship. We can have added results from Thomas et al. (2013) p.24 l.27: “In coastal West Antarctica, Thomas et al. (2013) also reported a significant but weak correlation between the the  $\delta^{18}O$  recorded in an ice core drilled

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on the Bryan coast and the near-surface temperature simulated by ERA-interim, over the period 1979-2009.”

P25 Line 3 – Should this line be a section heading? P25 Line 20 – Indeed. Thanks for making us notice.

Consider rewording – “As discussed earlier, this last item should be considered with caution due to potential numerical artefacts.” Done.

Chemistry P28 Line 16 – There have been several studies suggesting that sea ice is a source of sea salt aerosols, therefore the presence of summer sea ice might not be associated with reduced Na? It might be worth checking or acknowledging these papers. See Yang, X., Pyle, J. A., and Cox, R. A.: Sea salt aerosol production and bromine release: Role of snow on sea ice, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 35, L16815, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2008GL034536>, 2008. Rhodes, R. H., Yang, X., Wolff, E. W., McConnell, J. R., and Frey, M. M.: Sea ice as a source of sea salt aerosol to Greenland ice cores: a model-based study, *Atmos. Chem. Phys.*, 17, 9417-9433, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-17-9417-2017>, 2017. (admittedly the later is for Greenland). In general, the year-round atmospheric sodium record at DDU exhibits a summer maximum. As already discussed by Wagenbach et al. (1998) such a seasonal pattern is reversed compared to those observed at other coastal Antarctic sites where the largest concentrations occur in winter. This finding pointed out the sea ice as an efficient source of sea-salt aerosol in winter. The outstanding summer maximum of sea-salt concentrations only detected at DDU is related to the particularity of this site, located on a small island with open ocean immediately around from December to February. This particularity of DDU was confirmed by an absence of summer sodium maximum observed in January (Jourdain and Legrand, 2002) and more recently during summers (2011/2012, and 2012/2013) (Legrand et al., 2016) when exceptionally severe summer sea ice conditions had prevailed at the site. It should be emphasized that this summer sea ice is soft and does not permit emissions of sea-salt aerosol, unlike the case in winter. In contrary, its presence offshore DDU leads to an accumulation

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of sea ice pack between the numerous small islands of the Archipelago. This likely limits the effect of breaking waves around the site in emitting locally large particles. References Bréant, C., Leroy Dos Santos, C., Casado, M., Fourré, E., Goursaud, S., Masson-Delmotte, V., Favier, V., Agosta, C., Cattani, O., Prié, F., Golly, B., Orsi, A., and Martinerie, P.: Coastal water vapor isotopic composition driven by katabatic wind variability in summer at Dumont d’Urville, coastal East Antarctica, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, submitted.

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Noone, D., and Simmonds, I.: Sea ice control of water isotope transport to Antarctica and implications for ice core interpretation, *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 2004, 109; D7, p. 1-13.

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Thomas, E. R., Bracegirdle, T. J., Turner, J., and Wolff, E. W.: A 308 year record of climate variability in West Antarctica, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 2013, 40; 20, p. 5492-5496.

Thomas, E. R., van Wesseem, J. M., Roberts, J., Isaksson, E., Schlosser, E., Fudge, T. J., Vallelonga, P., Medley, B., Lenaerts, J., and Bertler, N.: Regional Antarctic snow

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accumulation over the past 1000 years, *Climate of the Past*, 2017, 13; 11, p. 1491-1513.

Author's changes in the manuscript We took into consideration your suggestion as well as D. Emanuelsson's review. We also add a data availability paragraph referring to the PANGAEA data archive. Please find below the resulting revised manuscript.   
 Abstract. A new 21.3 m firn core was drilled in 2015 at a coastal Antarctic high accumulation site in Adélie Land (66.78 °S; 139.56 °E, 602 m a.s.l.), named Terre Adélie 192A (TA192A). The core was dated by annual layers counting based on non-sea-salt sulfate and methanesulfonate summer peaks, refined by a comparison between the reconstructed surface mass balance (hereafter, SMB) and the closest available stake data. The mean reconstructed surface mass balance SMB of  $75.2 \pm 15.0$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> is consistent with local stake data, and remarkably high for coastal East Antarctica. The resulting inter-annual and sub-annual variations in isotopic records ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and deuterium excess, hereafter d-excess) are explored for 1998 – 2014 and are systematically compared with a couple of climatic time series: an updated database of Antarctic surface snow isotopic composition, surface mass balance SMB stake data, meteorological observations from Dumont d'Urville station, sea ice concentration based on passive microwave satellite data, precipitation outputs of atmospheric reanalyses, climate and water stable isotope outputs from the atmospheric general circulation model ECHAM5-wiso, as well as air mass origins diagnosed using 5-days back-trajectories. The mean isotopic values ( $-19.3 \pm 3.1$  ‰ for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $5.4 \pm 2.2$  ‰ for d-excess) are consistent with other coastal Antarctic values. No significant isotope-temperature relationship can be evidenced at any timescale. This, ruling out a simple interpretation of in terms of local temperature. An observed asymmetry in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  seasonal cycle may be explained by the precipitation of air masses coming from the eastern Indian and Pacific/West Antarctic Ice Sheet western sectors in autumn and winter times, recorded in the d-excess signal showing outstanding values in austral spring versus autumn. Significant positive trends are observed in the annual d-excess record and local sea ice extent (135 °E–145 °E) over the period 1998-2014. How-

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ever, processes studies focusing on resulting isotopic compositions and particularly the deuterium- excess-  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  relationship, evidenced as a potential fingerprint of moisture origins, as well as the collection of more isotopic measurements in Adélie Land are needed for an accurate interpretation of our signals.   
 1. Introduction Motivation for new coastal Antarctic firn cores Polar ice cores are exceptional archives of past climate variations. In Antarctica, many deep ice cores have been drilled and analyzed since the 1950s. For instance, Stenni et al. (2017) compiled water stable isotope data from 112 ice cores spanning at least part of the last 2000 years. Most deep ice cores were drilled in the central Antarctic plateau where low accumulation rates and ice thinning give access to long climate records. In today's context of rapid global climate change, it is of paramount importance to also document recent past climate variability around Antarctica. Many Antarctic regions still remain undocumented due to the lack of accumulation and water stable isotope records from shallow ice cores or pits (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2008; Jones et al., 2016). An accurate knowledge of changes in coastal Antarctic surface mass balance (hereafter, SMB), an evaluation of the ability of climate models to resolve the key processes affecting its variability, and thus an improved confidence in projections of future changes in coastal Antarctic surface mass balance is important to reduce uncertainties on the ice sheet mass balance and its contribution to sea level change (Church et al., 2013). Meteorological observations have been conducted since 1957 in manned and automatic stations (Nicolas and Bromwich, 2014), and considerable efforts have been deployed to compile and update the corresponding dataset (Turner et al., 2004). This network is marked by gaps in spatio-temporal coverage (Goursaud et al., 2017) as well as systematic biases of instruments such as thermistors (Genthon et al., 2011). Satellite remote sensing data have been available since 1979 and provide large-scale information for changes in Antarctic sea- ice and temperature (Comiso et al., 2017), but do not provide sufficient accuracy and homogeneity to resolve trends at local scales (Bouchard et al., 2010). Coastal shallow (20 – 50 m long) firn cores are thus essential to provide continuous local to regional climate information spanning the last decades at sub-annual

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resolution, at local but also regional scales. They complement stake area observations of spatio-temporal variability in surface mass balance (Favier et al., 2013), which also help assessing the representativeness of a single record. Since the 1990s, efforts have been made to retrieve shallow ice cores in coastal Antarctic areas. Most of these efforts have been focused on the Atlantic sector, in Dronning Maud Land (e.g. Isaksson and Karlén, 1994; Graf et al., 2002; Altnau et al., 2015) and the Weddell Sea Sector (Mulvaney et al., 2002). Fewer annually resolved water stable isotope records have been obtained from ice cores in other regions, such as the Peninsula (Fernandoy et al., 2018), the Ross Sea sector (Bertler et al., 2011), Law Dome (Morgan et al., 1997; Delmotte et al., 2000; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2003), Adélie Land (Yao et al., 1990; Ciais et al., 1995; Goursaud et al., 2017), and Princess Elizabeth region (Ekaykin et al., 2017). However, the recent 2k temperature and SMB reconstructions for Antarctic (Stenni et al., 2017; Thomas et al., 2017) highlighted the need for more coastal records. In this line, new coastal drilling efforts have recently been triggered initiated in the context of the ASUMA project (improving the Accuracy of Surface Mass balance of Antarctica) from the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche, which aims to assess spatio-temporal variability and change in SMB over the transition zone from coastal Adélie Land to the central East Antarctic Plateau (towards Dome C).

Climatic interpretation of water stable isotope records Water stable isotope ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $\delta\text{D}$ ) records from central Antarctic ice cores have classically been used to infer past temperature changes (e.g. Jouzel et al., 1987). The isotope-temperature relationship was nevertheless shown not to be stationary and to vary in space (Jouzel et al., 1997), calling for site-specific calibrations relevant for various timescales (Stenni et al., 2017). In coastal regions, several studies showed no temporal isotope-temperature relationship at all between water stable isotope records in firn cores covering the last decades and near-surface air temperature measured at the closest station. This is for instance the case in Dronning Maud Land, near the Neumayer station (three firn cores, for which the longest covered period is 1958-2012, Vega et al., 2016), in the Ross Sea sector (one snow pit covering the period 1964-2000, Bertler et al., 2011), and in Adélie Land, close

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to DDU (one firn core covering the period 1946-2006, Goursaud et al., 2017). While several three-dimensional atmospheric modelling studies have suggested a dominant role of large-scale atmospheric circulation on the variability of coastal Antarctic snow  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (e.g. Noone and Simmonds, 2002; Noone, 2008), understanding the drivers of coastal Antarctic  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  variability remains challenging (e.g. Schlosser et al., 2004; Dittmann et al., 2016; Bertler et al., 2018; Fernandoy et al., 2018). While distillation processes are expected theoretically to relate condensation temperature with precipitation isotopic composition, a number of deposition processes can distort this relationship: changes in moisture sources (Stenni et al., 2016), intermittency or seasonality of precipitation (Sime et al., 2008), boundary layer processes affecting the links between condensation and surface air temperature (Krinner et al., 2008), as well as several post-deposition processes, such as the effects of winds (Eisen et al., 2008), snow-air exchanges (Casado et al., 2016; Ritter et al., 2016), and diffusion processes in snow and ice (e.g. Johnsen, 1977). Nevertheless, all these processes remain poorly quantified until now. As a result, comparisons between firn core records with precipitation records or simulations have to be performed carefully. Changes in the atmospheric water cycle can also be investigated using a second order parameter, deuterium excess (hereafter, d-excess). The definition given by Dansgaard (1964) as  $d\text{-excess} = \delta\text{D} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}$  aims to remove the effect of equilibrium fractionation processes to identify differences in kinetic fractionation between the isotopes of hydrogen and oxygen. In Antarctica, spatial variations of d-excess have been documented through data syntheses, showing an increase from the coast to the plateau (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2008; Touzeau et al., 2016), but temporal variations of d-excess (seasonal cycle, inter-annual variations) remain under-documented and poorly documented and understood. Theoretical isotopic modeling studies show that d-excess depends on evaporation conditions, mainly through the impacts of relative humidity (hereafter RH), and sea surface temperature (hereafter SST) on kinetic fractionation at the moisture source (Merlivat and Jouzel, 1979; Petit et al., 1991; Ciais et al., 1995), and the preservation of the initial vapor signal during transportation towards polar regions (e.g. Jouzel et al., 2013;

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Bonne et al., 2015). The effect of wind speed on kinetic fractionation is secondary and thus has been neglected in climatic interpretations of d-excess. Some studies usually privileged one variable (RH or SST). For instance, glacial – interglacial d-excess have classically been interpreted to reflect past changes in moisture source SST, neglecting RH effects or assuming co-variations of RH and SST (Vimeux et al., 1999; Stenni et al., 2001; Vimeux et al., 2001). Recent measurements of d-excess in water vapor from ships have evidenced a close relationship between d-excess and oceanic surface conditions, especially RH, at sub-monthly scales (Uemura et al., 2008; Pfahl and Sodemann, 2014; Kurita et al., 2016). Other recent studies have suggested that evaporation at sea ice margins may be associated with a high d-excess value due to low RH effects, a process which may not be well captured in atmospheric general circulation models (e.g. Kurita, GRL, 2011; Steen-Larsen et al., 2017). Several authors have thus identified the potential to identify changes in moisture sources using d-excess (Ciais et al., 1995; Delmotte et al., 2000; Sodemann and Stohl, 2009). The comparison between multi-year isotopic precipitation datasets with the identification of air mass origins using back-trajectories showed however a complex picture, with no trivial relationship between the latitudinal air mass origin and d-excess (Schlosser et al., 2008; Dittmann et al., 2016). A few studies have also explored sub-annual d-excess variations, and suggested that seasonal d-excess signals cannot be explained without accounting for seasonal changes in moisture transport (e.g. Delmotte et al., 2000). These features have been explored through the identification of back-trajectory clusters and their relationship with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ —d-excess relationships, including phase lags (Markle et al., 2012; Caiazzo et al., 2016; Schlosser et al., 2017). Most of these d-excess studies have been performed using firn records and not precipitation samples. We stress that the impact of post-deposition processes on d-excess remain poorly documented and understood. While relationships between moisture origin and d-excess should in principle be conducted on vapour measurements to circumvent the uncertainties associated with deposition and post-deposition processes, the available vapour water stable isotope records from Antarctica only cover one or two summer months (Casado et al.,

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2016; Ritter et al., 2016) and do not yet allow to explore the relationships between moisture transport and seasonal or inter-annual isotopic variations. Also, state-of-the-art atmospheric general circulation models equipped with water stable isotopes such as ECHAM5-wiso can capture d-excess spatial patterns in Antarctic snow, but they fail to correctly reproduce its seasonal variations (Goursaud et al., 2017). Finally, the understanding of the climatic signals preserved in d-excess is limited by the available observations. This motivates the search importance of retrieval of morefor highly resolved d-excess records from coastal Antarctic firn cores.

This study In this study, we focus on the first highly resolved firn core drilled in coastal Adélie Land, at the TA192A site (66.78 ° S;, 139.56 ° ES;, 602 m a.s.l., hereafter named “TA”). Only two ice cores and one snow pit were previously studied for water stable isotopes in this region, without any d-excess record: the S1C1 ice core (14 km from the TA, 279 m a.s.l., Goursaud et al., 2017), the D47 highly resolved pit (78 km from the TA, 1550 m a.s.l., Ciais et al., 1995) and the Caroline ice core (Yao et al., 1990). The climate of coastal Adélie Land is greatly influenced by katabatic winds (resulting in a very high spatial variability of accumulation), and by the presence of sea ice (Périard and Pettré, 1993; KönigãŘLanglo et al., 1998), including the episodic formation of winter polynya (Adolphs and Wendler, 1995), which lead to nearby open water during winter time. The regional climate is well documented since March 1957 at the meteorological station of Dumont d’Urville, where multi-year atmospheric aerosol monitoring has also been performed (e.g. Jourdain and Legrand, 2001). The spatio-temporal variability of regional SMB has also been monitored at annual time scale since 2004 through stake height and snow density measurement over a 156-km stake-line (91 stakes) (Agosta et al., 2012; Favier et al., 2013). The TA firn core was analysed at sub-annual scale resolution for water isotopes ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta\text{D}$ ) and chemistry (Na,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , and MSA), and dated. These records were used to establish the age scale for the firn core. Using these records, we explore: (i) the links between the TA isotopic signals, local climate and atmospheric transport, (ii) the possibility to extract a sub-annual signal from such a highly-resolved core, and (iii)

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how to interpret the d-excess signal of coastal Antarctic ice cores. In this manuscript, we first present our material and methods (Section 2), then describe our results (Section 3) and compare them with other Antarctic records and the outputs of the ECHAM5-wiso model in our discussion (Section 4), before summarizing our key findings and formulating suggestions for future studies (Section 5).

## 2. Material and method

### 2.1 Field work and laboratory analyses

We present here the results of one firn core drilled at the TA site (66.78 ° S; 139.56 ° E; 602 m a.s.l.), located at 25 km from Dumont d'Urville station (hereafter, DDU) and at 14 km from the S1C1 ice core (Goursaud et al., 2017; Fig. 1). The 21.3 m long firn core was drilled on the 29th of January in 2015, when the daily surface air temperature and wind speed were -8.5°C and 3.9 m/s respectively, at the D17 station (9 km from the drilling site). The FELICS (Fast Electrochemical lightweight Ice Coring System) drill system was used (Ginot et al., 2002; Verfaillie et al., 2012). Firn core pieces were then sealed in polyethylene bags, stapled and stored in clean isothermal boxes. At the end of the field campaign, the boxes were transported in a frozen state to the cold-room facilities of the Institute of Environmental Geoscience (IGE, Grenoble, France). Every core piece was weighted and its length measured in order to produce a density profile. The cores were sampled at 4 cm resolution, leading to a total of 533 samples for oxygen isotopic ratio and ionic concentrations following the method described in Goursaud et al. (2017). Samples devoted to ionic concentration measurements were stored in the cold room until concentrations of sodium (hereafter Na<sup>+</sup>), sulfate (hereafter SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>), and methane sulfonate (hereafter MSA) were analyzed by ion chromatography equipped with a CS12 and an AS11 separator column, for cations and anions respectively. Samples devoted to oxygen isotopic ratio were sent to LSCE (Gif-sur-Yvette, France) and analyzed following two methods. First, δ<sup>18</sup>O was measured by the CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O equilibration method on a Finnigan MAT252, using two standards calibrated to SMOW/SLAP international scales, with an accuracy of 0.05 ‰. Second, δ<sup>18</sup>O and δD were also measured using a laser cavity ring-down spectroscopy (CRDS) Picarro/iCARRO analyzer, using the same standards, leading to an accuracy of 0.2 ‰ and 0.7 ‰

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for δ<sup>18</sup>O and δD respectively. The resulting accuracy of d-excess, calculating using a quadratic approach, is 1.7 ‰.

### 2.2 Datasets

#### Instrumental data

To assess potential climate signals archived in our firn core records, we extracted meteorological data to explore regional climate signals, and outputs of atmospheric models to explore synoptic scale climate signals. The regional climate is well documented since 1957 thanks to the continuous meteorological monitoring at Dumont d'Urville/DDU station ([https://donneespubliques.meteofrance.fr/?fond=produit&id\\_produit=90&id\\_rubrique=32](https://donneespubliques.meteofrance.fr/?fond=produit&id_produit=90&id_rubrique=32)), with one gap between March 1959 and January 1960. We extracted near-surface temperature, humidity, surface pressure, wind speed and wind direction data computed monthly and annual averages over the periods 1957–2014 and 1998–2014. The monthly average sea ice concentration was extracted from the Nimbus-7 Scanning Multichannel Microwave Radiometer (SMMR) and Defense Meteorological Satellite Program Special Sensor Microwave/Imagers - Special Sensor Microwave Image/Sounder (DMSP SSM/I-SSMIS) passive microwave data (<http://nsidc.org/data/nsidc-0051>), over the 50 – 90 ° S latitudinal range at a 25 km x 25 km grid resolution (Cavalieri et al., 1996). D'Urville summer sea ice extent was estimated by extracting the number of grid points surface covering the area (50 – 90 ° S, 135 – 145 ° E) where the sea ice concentration is higher than 15 %, from December to January (included) for each year from 1998 to 2014. We then averaged sea-ice concentration data over four longitudinal sectors: (i) "local" (135°E – 145°E), (ii) "Indian" (100°E – 145°E), (iii) "Amundsen" (160°E – 205°E) and (iv) "regional" (100°E – 205°E). SMB measurements from stake point data were obtained from the Glacioclim observatory (<https://glacioclim.osug.fr/>). We extracted data from the three stakes closest to the TA drilling site, namely "18.3" (66.77 ° S, 139.57 ° E; 1.04 km from the TA drilling site), "19.2" (66.77 ° S, 139.56 ° E; 83 m from the drilling site), and "20.3" (66.78 ° S, 139.55 ° E; 1.00 km from the drilling site), all spanning the period 2004–2014.

#### Database of surface snow isotopic composition

In order to compare the d-excess record from the TA firn core with available Antarctic values, we have updated the database of Masson-Delmotte et al. (2008), by adding 26 new data points from pre-

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precipitation and firn core measurements provided with d-excess (see Table 1). This includes data from five ice cores from the database constituted by the Antarctica2k group (Stenni et al., 2017). Altogether, the updated database includes 777 locations. This includes 64 coastal sites at an elevation lower than 1000 m a.s.l., (with 19 new datasets). These data were extracted from our updated isotope database (Goursaud et al., 2018) archived on the PANGAEA data library (<https://doi.org/10.1594/PANGAEA.891279>).

Atmospheric reanalyses and back-trajectories Unfortunately, because of the katabatic winds around DDU, no instrumental method allows reliable measurements of precipitation (Grazioli et al., 2017). We use outputs from ERA-interim reanalyses (Dee et al., 2011), which were shown to be relevant for Antarctic surface mass balance (Bromwich et al., 2011), to provide information on DDU intra-annual precipitation intra-annual variability. We extracted these outputs from the grid point ( $0.75^\circ \times 0.75^\circ$ ,  $\sim 80 \text{ km} \times 80 \text{ km}$ , point centered at  $66.75^\circ \text{S}$  and  $13940.25^\circ \text{E}$ ) closest to the TA drilling site over the period 1998–2014, at a 12-hours resolution, and calculated daily, monthly and annual average values. We also extracted 2-meter temperature (2mT), 10-meter u and v wind components (u10 and v10), and the geopotential height at 500 hPa (z500) over the whole southern hemisphere ( $50^\circ \text{S} - 90^\circ \text{S}$ ), in order to investigate potential linear relationships between our records and the large-scale climate variability. In order to identify the origin of air masses, back-trajectories were computed using the HySPLIT (Hybrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) model. It is an atmospheric transport and dispersion model developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Air Research Laboratory (Draxler and Hess, 1998), based on a mixing between Lagrangian and Eulerian approaches (Stein et al., 2015). We set the arrival point at the coordinates of the TA drilling site, at an initial height of 1500 m a.s.g.l., and used the NCEP/NCAR Global Reanalysis ARL archived data for forcing the meteorological conditions, as the ERA-interim reanalyses are not available in the required extension. Earlier studies (e.g. Sinclair et al., 2010; Markle et al., 2012) highlighted good performances of NCEP outputs when compared with Antarctic station data after 1979. For instance, previous studies showed that the mean sea level

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pressure simulated at DDU and averaged on a 5 year running window, was well captured in NCEP reanalyses after 1986 (correlation coefficient  $> 0.8$ , bias  $< 4 \text{ hPa}$  and RMSE  $< 5 \text{ hPa}$ ) (Bromwich and Fogt, 2004; Bromwich et al., 2007). Also, Simmons et al. (2004) showed quasi-equal twelve months running mean of 2-meter temperatures for the Southern Hemisphere between the European Re-Analyses ERA-40, the NCEP/NCAR and the Climatic Research Unit CRUTEM2v products. We thus run daily five-days back-trajectories from January 1998 to December 2014. Each back-trajectory was analyzed for the geographical position of the last simulated point (the estimated start of the trajectory, 5 days prior arrival at DDU), and classified into one of the following four regions, represented on Figure 2 and defined by their longitude (hereafter, lon) and latitude (hereafter, lat) as follows : (i) the eastern sector "Indian": ( $0 - 66^\circ \text{S}$ ,  $0^\circ \text{E} - < \text{lon} < 1680^\circ \text{E}$ ,  $0^\circ \text{S} - \text{and lat} > -66^\circ \text{S}$ ), (ii) the "Plateau": ( $66 - 90^\circ \text{S}$ ,  $0^\circ \text{E} - < \text{lon} < 180^\circ \text{E}$ , and  $\text{lat} < -66^\circ \text{S} - 90^\circ \text{S}$ ), (iii) "the Ross- sSea sSector": ( $0 - 75^\circ \text{S}$ ,  $180^\circ \text{E} - < \text{lon} < 240^\circ \text{E}$ , and  $\text{lat} > -0^\circ \text{S} - 75^\circ$ ), and finally (iv) "the Wwestern sector AIS + Pacific": ( $0 - 75^\circ \text{S}$ ,  $180^\circ \text{E} < \text{lon} < -240^\circ \text{E}$ ,  $\text{lat} < -0^\circ \text{S} - 75^\circ \text{S}$ ), and ( $50 - 90^\circ \text{S}$ ,  $240^\circ \text{E} - < \text{lon} < 360^\circ \text{E}$ ). (no condition for the latitude).

Atmospheric general circulation and water stable isotope modeling: ECHAM5-wiso The potential relationships between large-scale climate variability and regional precipitation isotopic composition was also investigated through outputs of a nudged simulation performed with the atmospheric general circulation model ECHAM5-wiso (Roeckner et al., 2003), equipped with stable-water isotopes (Werner et al., 2011). We chose this model due to demonstrated skills to reproduce spatial and temporal patterns of water stable isotopes in Antarctica (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2008; Werner et al., 2011; Goursaud et al., 2017; SteenÅRlarsen et al., 2017), and in Greenland (Steen-Larsen et al., 2017). In this study, we use the same simulation as than Goursaud et al. (2017), in which the large-scale circulation (winds) and air temperature were nudged to outputs of the ERA interim reanalyses (Dee et al., 2011). The skills of the model were assessed over Antarctica for the period 1979–20143. The model was run in a T106 resolution (i.e.  $\sim 110 \text{ km} \times 110 \text{ km}$  horizontal grid size). In the following, we used the subscripts "ECH",

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“TA”, and “S1C1” to differ ECHAM5-wiso outputs from the TA and S1C1 firn cores records respectively (e.g.  $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{OECH}$ ). Note also that linear relationships are considered significant when the p-value < 0.05.

Modes of variability We tested either the main modes of variability were imprinted in our recorded, especially: - the Southern Annual Mode (SAM) using the index defined by Marshall (2003), and archived on the National Center for Atmospheric Research website (Marshall, Gareth & National Center for Atmospheric Research Staff (Eds). Last modified 19 Mar 2018. "The Climate Data Guide: Marshall Southern Annular Mode (SAM) Index (Station-based)." Retrieved from <https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/marshall-southern-annular-mode-sam-index-station-based>.) - the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) using el Niño 3.4 index defined by the Climate Prediction Center of NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, and archived on their website (Trenberth, Kevin & National Center for Atmospheric Research Staff (Eds). Last modified 06 Sep 2018. "The Climate Data Guide: Nino SST Indices (Nino 1+2, 3, 3.4, 4; ONI and TNI)." Retrieved from <https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/nino-sst-indices-nino-12-3-34-4-oni-and-tni>.) - the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO), using the IPO Tripole Index (TPI) defined by Henley et al. (2015) based on filtered HadISST and ERSSTv3b sea surface temperature data and archived on the internet (Accessed on 09 20 2018 at "<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/data/timeseries/IPOTPI>"). - the Amundsen Sea Low pressure center (ASL) archived on the National Center for Atmospheric Research website (Hosking, Scott & National Center for Atmospheric Research Staff (Eds). Last modified 19 Mar 2018. "The Climate Data Guide: Amundsen Sea Low indices." Retrieved from <https://climatedataguide.ucar.edu/climate-data/amundsen-sea-low-indices>.)

3. Results 3.1 Firn core chronology Ice core dating The firn core was dated using an annual layer counting method (Fig. 3). As in Goursaud et al. (2017), we used concentrations in MSA and non-sea-salt (nss) SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> (hereafter nssSO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>). We have explored the validity of an approach using a definition of nssSO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> based on a sulfate to sodium mass ratio of 0.25 inferred from summer observations only. The

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multi-ple year study of size-segregated aerosol composition conducted at the coast of TA (the DDU station) has demonstrated that sea-salt aerosol is depleted in sulfate with respect to sodium in winter, with a sulfate to sodium mass ratio of 0.13 from May to October instead of 0.25 (i.e. the sea-water composition) in summer (Jourdain and Legrand, 2002). Even at the high plateau station of Concordia, Legrand et al. (2017a) showed that sea-salt aerosol is depleted in sulfate in winter (sulfate to sodium ratio of 0.13 from May to October). We resampled the sulfate time series recorded in the TA with 12 points per year and inferred seasonal average values from averages over the corresponding subsets of points, as previously done for isotopic records (see Section 3.2). We then calculated nssSO<sub>4</sub> (hereafter noted as nssSO<sub>4</sub><sup>\*</sup>) using a sulfate to sodium ratio of 0.25 for points associated to months from November to February and 0.13 for points associated from months from March to September. Note that when ignoring the change in sulfate to sodium ratio in winter, (i.e. applying a sulfate to sodium ratio of 0.25 for all the points of the year), the mean nssSO<sub>4</sub> value is lower by 18.2 %, decreasing from  $36.5 \pm 12.3$  ppb to  $43.1 \pm 11.8$  ppb for nssSO<sub>4</sub><sup>\*</sup> (see Figure S1 in the Supplementary Material). We thus applied a calculation of nssSO<sub>4</sub> for all points of our firn core, only using the sulfate to sodium ratio obtained from summer observations, as  $[\text{nssSO}_4] = [\text{SO}_4] - 0.25 [\text{Na}]$ . For depths lower than 10 m w.e., summer (December-January) peaks were identified (i) from nssSO<sub>4</sub> values higher than 100 ppb, synchronous with MSA peaks (with no threshold), and (ii) for nssSO<sub>4</sub> values higher than 200 ppb (with or without a simultaneous MSA peak). Double nssSO<sub>4</sub> peaks were counted as one summer (e.g. 2012, 2003, and 2001). For depths higher than 10 m w.e., summer peaks were identified for nssSO<sub>4</sub> values higher than 27 ppb. The outcome of layer counting allowed us to estimate annual layer thickness, which, combined with the density profile, allowed us to estimate annual SMB in the firn core. This estimated SMB was then compared with stake area data. The three stake data closest to the TA firn core (“18.3”, “19.2” and “20.3”, not shown) depict the same inter-annual variability (pairwise coefficient correlations,  $r > 0.93$  and p-values,  $p < 0.0501$ ), giving confidence in the use of these measurements to characterize the inter-annual

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variability of local SMB. The comparison with the stake data shows that our initial layer counted chronology results in a mismatch in the measured versus estimated SMB for year 2008 (See Fig. 4a). This mismatch can be resolved by identifying one more summer peak in the chemical records (thin green line, Fig. 3). The revised firn core SMB record from this revised chronology shows correlation coefficients between the stake data and the TA firn core varying from 0.64 for the “20.3” to 0.83 for the “19.2” ( $p < 0.05$ ), with coherent inter-annual variability (See Fig. 4b). Peaks in  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  or d-excess $TA$  were not used in our layer counting, so that our age scale is independent of a climatic interpretation of water stable isotopes (e.g. assumption of synchronicity between temperature seasonal cycles and water stable isotope records). We note an uncertainty in layer counting of 3 years when comparing the outcome of layer counting using chemical records with  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  peaks, which have nonetheless been excluded from our dating, as they do not improve the correlations, neither between the reconstructed SMB and the stake data, nor between our records and the ECHAM5-wiso simulations (Tables S1 to S34 in the Supplementary Material). As a result, we consider that the “best guess” chronology results from the annual layer counting based on nssSO<sub>4</sub> and MSA refined with the comparison with stake data, giving a total of 18 summer peaks (green vertical lines, Fig. 3). In the following, we thus use the dated firn core records covering the complete period 1998–2014. We note that our chronology is more robust for the period 2004–2014, for which stake area SMB data are available.

Potential post-deposition effects In order to test whether the available d-excess $TA$  records are not affected by post-deposition effects, one may apply calculations of diffusion (e.g. Johnsen et al., 2000; van der Wel et al., 2015; Jones et al., 2017). However, many records are not available as depth profiles, and annual accumulation rate data are missing, precluding a systematic approach. We thus applied a simple approach to quantify how the seasonal  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  and d-excess $TA$  amplitudes vary through time in firn records, as an indicator of potential post-diffusion effects. For this purpose, we calculate the ratio between the mean amplitude of the most recent three complete seasonal cycles (2011–2014 for TA) and the average seasonal amplitude for the whole

C19

record (1998–2014 for TA). If seasonal cycles are stable through time, and if there is no significant smoothing due to post-deposition effects, we should obtain a ratio of 1. However, it is expected to be above 1 in the case of large post-deposition smoothing. We obtain a ratio of 0.5 for TA  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  data, possibly reflecting the inter-annual variability of the  $\delta^{18}O$  seasonal amplitude. We repeated the same exercise with all the 8 other sub-annual  $\delta^{18}O$  records from our database (see Table S452 in the Supplementary Material.). Discarding an outlier (NUS 08-7), all ratios are between 1.0 and 2.9. Ratios based on d-excess amplitudes are similar to those found for  $\delta^{18}O$  (see Table S563 in the Supplementary Material). For the TA firn core, we again obtain a ratio of 1.10.5 for d-excess $TA$  (see Section 3.3). We also note high ratios for d-excess data in the NUS 08-7. Except for the ratios calculated in the WDC06A, which notably differs for d-excess (1.1) compared to  $\delta^{18}O$  (2.9), other ratios for d-excess data vary between 1.0 and 1.4, with 20 % maximum difference compared to the corresponding ratio for  $\delta^{18}O$  data. For the TA, we also estimated the diffusion length (Küttel et al., 2012), and found mean diffusion lengths of  $1.4 \pm 0.3$  months for  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  (with a maximum of 1.9 months in 2007), and  $1.6 \pm 0.5$  months for d-excess $TA$  (with a maximum of 2.4 months in 2007). These results suggest that (i) potential post-deposition effects in the TA can be neglected. Notwithstanding, a potential loss of seasonal amplitude in the other average time series compared to the most recent seasonal cycles cannot be discarded, and has to be considered in the comparison of seasonal amplitudes, from one core to the other, in the comparison with the seasonal amplitude of precipitation  $\delta^{18}O$  time series, and with ECHAM5-wiso outputs.

### 3.2 Mean values

Mean climate from instrumental data Before reporting the mean values from TA records, we describe the available meteorological data. A time-averaged statistical description of the available meteorological data measured at DDU, the station closest to the drilling site, is given in Table 2 for the whole available measurement period prior to 2015 (1957–2014), and over the period covered by our TA records, 1998-2014. For all the considered parameters (near-surface temperature, wind direction, wind speed, humidity, and surface pressure), the time-averaged values differ by less than 8% (the maximum deviation

C20

being for the wind direction) over the period 1998–2014 compared to the whole available period. Standard deviations calculated over these two time periods also differ by less than one respective standard deviation unit, except for wind direction which shows much less variability over the recent period. We conclude that the local climate of the period 1998–2014 is representative of the multi-decadal climate state since 1957. In ERA-interim, the average precipitation is  $46.053.7 \pm 26.97.6$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> and the average SMB (calculated as precipitation minus evaporation or sublimation) is  $40.5 \pm 8.3$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> over the period 1998–2014. Finally, we compare the statistical description of the sea ice concentration for the four aforementioned regions (see Section 2.2) over the available period 1979–2014, with the period covered by the TA firn core 1998–2014 (see Table 3). We note that the mean difference between the two periods is maximum for the local sea ice concentration (135 °E – 145 °E), with 8.9 % difference, whereas it remains below 1.5 % for the other sectors. The extrema (minimum and maximum values) varies of 0.5 % on average (all regions included) from one sector to another, with a maximum difference of 2.9 %. As a result, the mean sea ice concentrations of the period 1998–2014 are also representative for the last decades over large sectors from Amundsen to Indian Ocean.

Mean values recorded in the TA firn core Time-averaged values calculated from TA records are reported in Table 4. The average SMBTA is  $75.2 \pm 15.0$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup>. Stake data points from Glacioclim show that this site of high accumulation is located in an area of large spatial variability. This features is confirmed by the values given by (i) the stake data closest to the TA site (“19.2”, 100 m from the TA site and associated to a  $76.6 \pm 25.8$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> mean accumulation rate) compared to further stake data (“18.2”, 1.04 km from the TA site and associated to a  $47.7 \pm 15.7$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> mean accumulation rate), (ii) our mean SMB reconstruction from the S1C1 ice core almost four times lower than for the TA ( $21.8 \pm 6.9$  cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup> (Goursaud et al., 2017)) (iii) and meso-scale fingerprints such as the SMB estimated for coastal Adélie Land by Pettré et al. (1986), based on measurements at stakes located from 500 m to 5 km from the coast and the estimated SMB simulated by ERA-interim 85.7 % lower than

C21

for the TA (see Table 2). The TA average  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  value is  $-19.3 \pm 3.1$  ‰ close to the average S1C1  $\delta^{18}O_{S1C1}$  of  $-18.9 \pm 1.7$  ‰ and the average TA d-excessTA is  $5.4 \pm 2.2$  ‰. Compared to the 64 points located at an elevation lower than 1000 m a.s.l. from our database, the TA  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  and d-excessTA average values are slightly higher than the average low-elevation records ( $-22.7 \pm 8.8$  ‰ and  $4.8 \pm 2.3$  ‰ for  $\delta^{18}O$  and d-excess respectively, see Fig. 5). Finally, the average TA concentrations in Na<sup>+</sup>, MSA and nssSO<sub>4</sub> are of  $126.0 \pm 276.5$  ppb,  $4.5 \pm 5.6$  ppb and  $36.5 \pm 44.2$  ppb respectively. Note that the Na<sup>+</sup> average concentration value is affected by strong peaks in 2003 and 2004 with annual values of 369.4 and 388.5 ppb. Excluding these two peaks, the average Na<sup>+</sup> concentration is reduced to 93.2 ppb (with a standard deviation of 38.6 ppb). These concentrations will be discussed later in Section 4.4.

To summarize our findings, the TA records encompass a period (1998–2014) representative of multi-decadal mean climatic conditions. The isotopic mean values appear lower than the average of other Antarctic low elevation records (as shown in Fig. 4). The local SMB is remarkably high for East Antarctica, consistent with stake measurements performed close to the TA site. 3.3 Inter-annual variations In the following, we refer to seasons as follows: summer (December to February), autumn (March to May), winter from (June to September) and spring (October and November). This cutting was defined based on the mean seasonal cycle of temperature, showing the highest values from December to February, and a plateau of low values from May to September (see Fig. 8a). In the TA records, resampled with 12 points per year, we identified seasonal average values by calculating averages over the corresponding subsets of points (e.g. for autumn, we select from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> points out of the 12 resampled points within the year). We are fully aware that this is a simplistic approach, assuming a regular distribution of precipitation year round, and that our chronology is more accurate for summer than for other seasons, due to the layer counting method. We nevertheless checked that the distribution of precipitation simulated by ERA-interim within each year is rather homogeneous (see Table S674 in the Supplementary Material).

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Trends in time-series We report here the analysis of potential trends from 1998 to 2014, and the identification of remarkable years. Figure 6 and 7 display the time series of meteorological variables, d'Urville summer sea ice concentration extent and TA records over 1998–2014. Sea ice concentrations from all selected sectors in this study (see Section 2.2) are correlated ( $r > 0.56$  and  $p > 0.05$ ), particularly the “local” and the “Indian” sea ice concentrations ( $r = 1.0$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), “local” sector being part of the “Indian” sector. As a consequence, although we explored sea ice records from all sectors described in Section 2.3, we thus only depict the local sea ice concentration (i.e. in the 135–145 °E sector) on Fig. 6. On Figures 6 and 7, we chose not to display standard deviations for readability, but they are reported in the Supplementary Material (see Fig. S285 and S3965). Significant increasing trends are detected in the annual values of TA d-excessTA ( $0.11 \text{ } \%$   $\text{y}^{-1}$ ,  $r = 0.61$  and  $p < 0.05$ ) as well as of local and Indian Ocean d'Urville summer sea ice concentration extent ( $0.10 \text{ } \%$   $\text{y}^{-1}$ ,  $r = 0.7753$  and  $r = 0.52$  respectively,  $p < 0.05$ ). The sea ice trend is the largest in summer, it trends disappear if we discard the value observed in 2013.

Pairwise linear regressions between variables We performed pairwise linear regressions for all records (meteorological and firn core records), using on one side, annual averages and on the other side, monthly or seasonal values. As previously observed by Comiso et al. (2017), we report a significant anti-correlation between annual regional sea ice concentration (i.e. 100–205 °E, but not with other sectors) and DDU near-surface air temperature ( $r = -0.56$  and  $p < 0.05$ ). This relationship is strongest in autumn ( $r = -0.75$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), where it holds for sea-ice in all sectors, and disappears in spring or summer. Confirming earlier studies (Minikin et al., 1998), we observe a close correlation between annual concentrations of MSA and nssSO<sub>4</sub> ( $r = 0.76$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Statistically significant linear relationships appear between the isotopic signals ( $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$  and d-excessTA) and nssSO<sub>4</sub> in spring ( $r = 0.65$  and  $r = 0.55$  for  $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$  and d-excessTA respectively,  $p < 0.05$ ), and only between d-excessTA and nssSO<sub>4</sub> in autumn ( $r = 0.65$  and  $p < 0.05$ ). We find no relationship between  $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$  and the DDU near-surface temperature at all. Our record depicts a significant anti-correlation between annual values

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of TA SMBTA and d-excessTA ( $r = -0.59$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), as well as a significant correlation between d-excessTA and d'Urville summer sea ice extent ( $r = 0.65$  and  $p < 0.05$ ). Finally, a systematic positive significant correlation is identified between d-excessTA and  $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$ , except in summer. It is the strongest in austral spring, with a correlation coefficient of 0.75 (with a slope of  $0.61 \text{ } \%$   $\%$ ). In order to understand the specificities of the TA record, we explored the temporal correlation between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and d-excess from all available Antarctic records (see Table 5, cells in bold for significant relationships), using all data points (in order to be able to exploit non-dated depth profiles) as well as inter-annual variations, when available. When focusing on significant results, we note that most precipitation datasets depict an anti-correlation between d-excess and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (3 out of 9 precipitation records). Although we are cautious with the short DDU precipitation time series (with only 19 points, and  $0.05 < p\text{-values} = 0.08 < 0.10$ , cell in italics in Table 5), it shows a positive relationship, similar to the one identified in the TA record. At the inter-annual scale, significant results correspond to anti-correlations between d-excess and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  for 3 out of 9 precipitation records. We conclude that the positive correlation observed in the TA records is specific to the coastal Adélie Land region, what is unusual in an Antarctic context.

Remarkable years Using only annual SMB, water stable isotope and chemistry TA records, we finally searched for remarkable years, defined here as deviating from the 1998–2014 mean value by at least 2 standard deviations. We highlight three remarkable years (red-shaded for high values and blue-shaded for low values, Fig. 6 and 7): Year 2007: very low SMBTA in TA data. Year 2009: remarkably high  $\delta^{18}\text{OTA}$  values. Year 2011: high MSA, d'Urville summer sea ice extent, and wind speed values. We had previously noted that years 2003 and 2004 are associated with very high Na<sup>+</sup> values and add that year 1999 experienced low nssSO<sub>4</sub> values. and year 2013 high local sea ice concentration. The remarkable large sea ice concentration was also observed at a larger scale by Reid et al. (2015).

To summarize In summary, we identify increasing trends in d-excessTA and sea ice

C24

concentration, no significant correlation between TA  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  and DDU near-surface temperature, and an anti-correlation between d-excessTA and SMBTA. We also note 2 remarkable years in SMBTA (“dry” 2007) and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  (“high” 2009). Finally, no systematic relationships are identified between chemistry and water stable isotope signals (e.g. parallel trends, inter-annual correlation, and remarkable years).

### 3.4 Intra-annual scale Mean cycles

The high resolution of the TA record allows us to describe the mean seasonal cycles (see Fig. 8), as well as to explore the inter-annual variability of the seasonal cycles to explore how they vary from year to year. Among the meteorological variables, only near-surface temperature, relative humidity and sea level pressure show a clear seasonal cycle. Temperature (Fig. 8a) is minimum in July and maximum in January, while relative humidity and pressure (Fig. 8b and 8c respectively) are minimum in spring (in November and October respectively), and a maximum in winter (in August and June respectively), as reported in earlier studies (Pettré and Périard, 1996). The average seasonal cycles of wind speed and wind direction are flat but marked by large inter-annual variations (Fig. 8d and 8e). Finally, the local sea ice concentration shows a rapid advance from March to June, a plateauing from June to October and a rapid retreat from October to November, with a minimum in February (see Fig. 8c), as previously reported by Massom et al. (2013). In the TA firn core, Na, nssSO<sub>4</sub>, and MSA show symmetric cycles with minima in winter and maxima in summer (by construction of our time scale) (see Fig 8 g-i), consistent with previous studies of aerosols and ice core signals (e.g. Preunkert et al., 2008). The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  seasonal cycle is surprisingly asymmetric (Fig. 8j), with a maximum in December and a minimum in April, thus not in phase with the seasonal cycles of local sea-ice concentration (Fig. 8f) nor DDU temperature (Fig. 8a). The mean d-excessTA seasonal cycle (Fig. 8k) is marked by a maximum in February, two months after the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  maximum, and a minimum in October, six months after the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  minimum. We then calculated the mean of the isotopic seasonal amplitudes, preferentially to the amplitude of the mean seasonal cycle, due to the different timing of peaks from one year to another. The mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  seasonal amplitude is  $8.6 \pm 2.1$  ‰, more than three times higher than

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found in the S1C1 ice core, and close to the DSSA mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  seasonal cycle of  $8.0 \pm 2.8$  ‰. The mean d-excessTA seasonal amplitude is  $6.5 \pm 2.8$  ‰, close to the DSSA value of  $5.3 \pm 1.0$  ‰. Compared with other precipitation and firn/ice core isotopic data from other regions of Antarctica (see Table S7107 in the Supplementary Material), the average seasonal amplitude obtained from TA  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  is closest to the one obtained at KM, BI sites in Dronning Maud Land, and Vernadsky or Rothera in Peninsula, but is much larger than identified from NUS 08-7 or WDC06A, and significantly smaller than at Halley (by a factor of almost 2), Neumayer (a factor of 2.3), Dome C or Dome F (a factor of  $\sim 4$ ). In addition to DSSA, the average seasonal amplitude obtained from TA d-excess is also comparable to the one obtained in the KM, BI, and the IND25B5 firn cores in Dronning Maud Land, but is systematically higher (by a factor higher than 3) than in precipitation datasets. This calls for systematic comparisons of d-excess seasonal amplitudes in precipitation and snow data. Due to their common symmetric aspect, significant positive linear relationships emerge from the mean seasonal cycles of (i) temperature, nssSO<sub>4</sub> and MSA ( $r > 0.93$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), (ii) nssSO<sub>4</sub> and MSA ( $r = 0.97$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), (iii) nssSO<sub>4</sub> and Na<sup>+</sup> ( $r = 0.93$  and  $p < 0.05$ ) and finally (iv)  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  with nssSO<sub>4</sub> ( $r = 0.75$  and  $p < 0.05$ ). Due to the asymmetry of water stable isotope seasonal cycles, no linear relationship is detected between the seasonal cycles of DDU near-surface temperature,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$ , and d-excessTA. Finally, the seasonal cycle of d-excessTA is clearly anti-correlated with all sea-ice concentration indices (local, Indian, Amundsen and regional), with correlation coefficients varying between -0.83 and -0.80.

**Inter-annual variability of peaks** Over the whole period covered by the TA firn core (1998—2014), the seasonal cycle of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  shows a large inter-annual variability (see Table 6).  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  maximum values occur primarily in summer (41 % of the time) and winter (41 %), and more rarely in spring (12 %) and in autumn (6%). The same feature is observable for d-excessTA, which most of the time has its maximum in summer (38 %) and winter (43 %), and more scarcely in spring (6%) and in autumn (13%).

In summary, the TA water stable isotope seasonal cycles displays an asymmetry, with

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higher isotopic values in austral spring than in austral autumn. The TA d-excess seasonal cycle is anti-correlated with the reconstructed SMB local sea ice concentration. Finally, the TA isotopic seasonal cycles show a high inter-annual variability from one seasonal cycle to another one, with no recurrent pattern between those of  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  and d-excess TA. 3.5 Influence of synoptic weather on TA records: insights from ECHAM5-wiso simulation, ERA-interim reanalyses, and back-trajectories and modes of variability In order to explore the influence of the synoptic scale weather on TA records, we explore outputs of ECHAM5-wiso and back-trajectory calculations, driven by atmospheric reanalyses. None of the associated atmospheric simulations does resolve local processes such as katabatic winds or sea breeze. We used the ECHAM5-wiso model outputs to explore the following questions: (i) Do ECHAM5-wiso outputs show similarities with the corresponding observed variables for their inter-annual variability, trends and remarkable years? (ii) What are the simulated seasonal cycles for  $\delta^{18}O$  and d-excess? (iii) What are the simulated relationships between local near-surface air temperature and  $\delta^{18}O$ , and  $\delta^{18}O$  and d-excess at the seasonal and inter-annual scales? (iv) Are there significant relationships between our isotopic records and the large-scale climatic variability?

ECHAM5-wiso similarities with the corresponding observed variables For inter-annual variations, the annual means of DDU near-surface temperature measured at DDU and the simulated 2-meter temperature (hereafter 2m-TECH) are significantly correlated (slope of  $0.850 \pm 0.149$ ,  $r=0.767$  and  $p<0.05$ ). This relationship holds when selecting any season is valid for all seasons. It is the strongest in winter (slope of  $1.13 \pm 0.1$  °C °C<sup>-1</sup>,  $r=0.936$  and  $p<0.05$ ), and the weakest in summer (slope of  $0.986 \pm 0.3$  °C °C<sup>-1</sup>,  $r=0.69$  and  $p<0.05$ ). The simulated wind speed is only significantly related to the observed wind speed during spring and summer (slope of  $0.36 \pm 0.15$  m.s<sup>-1</sup> (m.s<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> and  $0.21 \pm 0.08$  m.s<sup>-1</sup> (m.s<sup>-1</sup>)<sup>-1</sup> respectively,  $r=0.54$  with  $p<0.05$  for both relationships). For  $\delta^{18}O$ , model outputs are only correlated with the TA record in winter (slope of  $0.25 \pm 0.11$  ‰ ‰<sup>-1</sup>,  $r=0.53$  with  $p<0.05$ ), and no correlation is identified for d-excess. There are no significant correlation between water stable isotope records from the TA and sim-

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ulated by the ECHAM5-wiso, neither for  $\delta^{18}O$ , nor for d-excess. Finally, we found no significant trend in any model output over 1998—20143. In terms of remarkable years, ECHAM5-wiso shows a low  $\delta^{18}O_{ECH}$  mean value in 1998 and a high d-excess ECH mean value level in 2007 (see Fig. S4118 in the Supplementary Material). Only year 2007 is remarkable in both the data (low reconstructed SMB) and the model. We thus explored more deeply the model. The highest d-excess value was simulated the 7th of May (see Table S8129a in the Supplementary Material). When comparing from the 6th to the 8th of May in 2007, with daily averages over the period 1979-20143, the model simulates similar near-surface temperature, but particularly low precipitation, and wind components (zonal and meridional). Despite the small precipitation amount, the daily isotopic anomaly is sufficiently large to drive the annual anomaly (see Fig. S5912b in the Supplementary Material). D-excess values higher than 30 ‰ (threshold chosen as it corresponds to the maximum d-excess mean + standard deviation simulated by ECHAM5-wiso over Antarctica at the monthly scale, see Fig. S613 in the Supplementary Material) occur only 4 other times over 1998—2014. We nevertheless remain cautious with these values which could be due to a numerical artefact. Neither  $\delta^{18}O_{2mECH} - \delta^{18}O_{ECH}$  temperature, nor  $SMBECH - d-excessECH - SMB$ , nor  $\delta^{18}O_{ECH} - d-excessECH$  relationships are identified in ECHAM5-wiso seasonal or annual outputs for precipitation and d-excess. Likewise, no significant relationship could be identified between d-excess TA and SMB simulated by ERA using both annual and seasonal values. A systematic positive correlation is identified between d-excess and  $\delta^{18}O$ , except in summer. It is the strongest in austral spring, with a correlation coefficient of 0.75 (with a slope of  $0.61$  ‰ ‰<sup>-1</sup>).

Simulated seasonal cycles for  $\delta^{18}O$  and d-excess We now explore the simulated seasonal variations in  $\delta^{18}O_{ECH}$  and d-excess ECH over the period of simulation (1998-20143, see Table 6). The peaks in the simulated  $\delta^{18}O_{ECH}$  predominantly occur in spring and summer (25 % and 63 % respectively), while it only happens 12 % of the time in winter and never in autumn. The simulated d-excess ECH peaks most often in autumn (69 %) and secondarily in winter (31 %), but never during the other seasons.

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As a result, the model simulates more regular isotopic seasonal cycles with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  maxima during spring to summer seasons, and d-excess maxima during autumn to winter seasons, than identified in the TA record.

Relationships with the large-scale climatic variability The ERA-interim outputs allow us to investigate whether the large-scale climatic variability influence the isotopic composition of Adélie Land precipitation recorded in the TA firn core. We looked at the simulated linear relationships between the TA isotopic records ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  and d-excess<sub>TA</sub>) with the ERA-interim outputs (2mT, u10, v10 and z500, Section 2.2). We here report only significant relationships with absolute correlation coefficients higher than 0.6. For  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$ , we found a correlation with 2m-T over the Antarctic plateau (Fig.12a), as well as a correlation with v10 (Fig. 12b) along the westerly wind belt, at  $\sim (55^\circ\text{S}, ; 100^\circ\text{E})$  and  $\sim (55^\circ\text{S}, ; 130^\circ\text{E})$  in the Indian Ocean, and at  $\sim (55^\circ\text{S}, ; 10-50^\circ\text{E})$  in the Atlantic Ocean, and a very little area on coastal Dronning Maud Land at  $\sim (60^\circ\text{S}, ; 30-40^\circ\text{E})$ . For d-excess<sub>TA</sub>, we found a correlation with 2m-T (Fig. 12c) toward the Lambert Glacier at  $\sim (70-80^\circ\text{S}, ; 30-40^\circ\text{E})$ , and an anticorrelation in the south of the Peninsulat at  $\sim (55-65^\circ\text{S}, ; 250-300^\circ\text{E})$ . Finally, we noted a correlation between d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and u10 (Fig. 12d) at a very narrow area of Dronning Maud Land at  $\sim (80^\circ\text{S}, ; 10-20^\circ\text{E})$ , and an anticorrelation on the westerly wind belt in the Atlantic Ocean at  $\sim (55^\circ\text{S}, ; 40-50^\circ\text{E})$ . No correlation is found with z500, neither with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  nor d-excess<sub>TA</sub>. Note that no significant relationship is obtained between the TA records and any mode of variability.

Origin of air masses Finally, we used the HYSPLIT back-trajectory model to count the proportion (in percentage) of air mass back-trajectories, based on daily calculations over the period 1998-2014, and averaged at the annual and seasonal scale, from four different regions (see Section 2.3): the plateau, the eastern Atlantic Ocean and th Indian Ocean (eastern sector), the Ross Sea sector (hereafter RSS), and the West Antarctic Ice Sheet with the Pacific Ocean and the western Atlantic Ocean (hereafter WAIS+Pacificwestern sector), as displayed on Fig. 92. IOn average, the highest an-

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nual proportion of air masses comes from the eastern sectorIndian Ocean ( $49.854.1 \pm 6.48.3\%$  over the period 1998-2014) and the East Antarctic plateau ( $32.54.3 \pm 4.93.8\%$  over the period 1998-2014), while a small proportion of air masses come from the WAIS and the Pacific Oceanwestern sectors ( $9.76 \pm 3.76\%$  over the period 1998-2014), and from the RSS ( $3.66.3 \pm 2.41.3\%$  over the period 1998-2014). A k-mean clustering over the last points of the whole back-trajectories indicate two main origins, in the Indian Ocean ( $62.4^\circ\text{S}, 131.7^\circ\text{E}$ ) and in the coastal West Antarctic Ice Sheet ( $73.4^\circ\text{S}, 227.5^\circ\text{E}$ ). Inter-annual variations in back trajectories (Fig. 9ba and 9b) reveal a positive trend for the fraction of air masses coming from western sector WAIS+Pacific (slope of  $0.416.5 \pm 0.162.1\%$  y<sup>-1</sup>,  $r=0.5563$  and  $p<0.05$ ), and remarkable years: 1999, which was identified as a remarkable high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  value and low nssSO<sub>4</sub> in our TA records, is here associated with a minimum of back-trajectories from the Plateau, and year 2011 which was associated with particular high MSA in our TA record, shows a minimum particular low proportion of air massesback-trajectories coming from the Indian regionestern sector and maxima ofwhile particular high proportion of air masses back-trajectories coming from the Ross and the western sectorsWAIS+Pacific regions. The seasonal cycles of back-trajectories per region is shown on Figures 9c and 9d. The percentage of back-trajectories coming from the Plateau display peaks in autumn and spring (March and November), those from the Ross Sea sector in winter and summer (January and June), those from the Indian Oceaneastern sector in autumn and winter (May and August), and finally those from the WAIS+Pacificwestern sector region in spring (November). We note a significant linear correlation between the seasonal cycles of the percentage of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and back-trajectories coming from the Ross sea sector ( $r=0.68$  and  $p<0.05$ ), and from the WAIS+Pacific regionwestern sector ( $r=0.59$  and  $p<0.05$ ), and between the seasonal cycles of d-excess and the percentage of back-trajectories coming from the WAIS+Pacific regionwestern sector ( $r=-0.678$  and  $p<0.05$ ). Finally, we associated each daily back-trajectory to daily precipitation  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and d-excess values simulated by ECHAM5-wiso in the precipitation, and classified the time series for each variables by back-trajectories sectors. We then computed the cor-

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responding seasonal cycles (see Fig. 10). The mean  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ECH}}$  value is slightly higher for air masses coming from the eastern Indian sector ( $-20.6\text{‰}$  compared to  $-21.9 \pm 0.2$  for the other sectors). The asymmetry in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ECH}}$  is particularly well marked for air masses coming from the Ross sea and western WAIS+Pacific sectors regions, with peaks in August and September respectively (resulting in a winter amplitude more than twice higher compared to the Indian eastern and Plateau sectors), and correspond to higher precipitation amounts during these months during the winter season. The d-excess mean seasonal cycles substantially differ by their amplitude: for air masses coming from WAIS+Pacific the western sector, it is  $11.8\text{‰}$  with outstanding values in March and October (minima) and in May (higher than the mean plus two standard deviations), whereas it varies between  $3.2\text{‰}$  and  $3.6\text{‰}$  for the other sectors. The back-trajectory of the 7th of May in 2007 (shown to be remarkable of simulated d-excess by ECHAM5-wiso) was identified as coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific, but those associated with the 4 other remarkable simulated d-excess (i.e.  $> 30\text{‰}$ ) indicate air masses coming from the three other regions, and sometimes varying with the hour of the day (S613 in the Supplementary Material). To summarize, we found a mismatch between ECHAM5-wiso outputs and the TA data for d-excess variations. There are no similarities for trends, for seasonal cycles, or for inter-annual isotopic variations. ECHAM5-wiso produces a significant relationship between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and temperature, a feature which is not identified in the TA record. However, similarly than in the TA firn core, ECHAM5-wiso simulates no  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ECH}} - \text{temp}$  correlation, but no d-excess  $\text{ECH} - \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ECH}}$ . Both TA records and ECHAM5-wiso depict an unusual feature in 2007, with dry conditions and high d-excess values. The comparison between TA records and air mass back trajectories suggests that the asymmetry in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  seasonal cycle is due to the precipitation of air masses coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific region, and that an increased occurrence of (rare) air masses coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific region is associated with high d-excess values.

#### 4. Discussion

**4.1 SMB** The estimated SMB of East Antarctica does not show a clear trend since 1900 (Favier et al., 2017). Recent studies (Altnau et al., 2015; Vega et al., 2016; Ekaykin et al., 2017) report negative SMB trends in coastal areas contrary to positive trends for the plateau. Especially, Thomas et al. (2017) report an unprecedented negative trend observed in Victoria Land for the last 50 years (1961-2010). For our study period (17 years for the TA record, and 16 years for the ECHAM5-wiso simulation), we observe no slightly increasing but not significant trend (Agosta et al., 2012), the TA firn core, the ERA or ECHAM5-wiso data. In Adélie Land, a quality controlled SMB dataset has been developed (Favier et al., 2013), but the drivers of SMB spatio-temporal variability remain unexplored (Favier et al., 2017). This is related to the challenges in monitoring 1) precipitation in windy areas 2) sublimation of precipitating snow flakes (Grazioli et al., 2017) in the katabatic flow, 3) and the amounts of surface erosion or deposition according to surface wind convergence or divergence, of drifting snow fluxes, and of sublimation of the drifting snow particles (Gallée et al., 2013; Amory et al., 2016; Amory et al., 2017). The low correlation (over 1998-2006) between TA192A annual accumulation and from the first shallow ice core ("S1C1" (Goursaud et al., 2017)), collected 14 km from TA192A site, demonstrates this complexity, even though this mismatch may be explained by age scale uncertainties. The S1C1 reconstructed accumulation was also weakly correlated with stake data and model outputs, reflecting the random snow accumulation amounts due to the presence or absence of sastrugis, and the potential occurrence of annual erosion at S1C1 site (Fig. S7 in the Supplementary Material). Here, the TA accumulation record is highly correlated not only with the closest stake data, but also with the ECHAM5-wiso model output over the period 2004–2014, showing the robustness of our reconstruction for this period. The fact that the TA record, the ECHAM5-wiso output for the corresponding grid point, and the "156 km" stake area data are pairwise correlated ( $0.79 \leq r \leq 0.90$  and  $p < 0.05$ ), indicates that the TA firn core captures a 100 km-scale regional signal. The differences between the local and regional SMB signal are (see Fig. 3b): (i) a higher local SMB average compared to the regional SMB, and (ii) the shift of minimum peak of 2007 in the local signal (i.e. the TA firn core and the "19.2" stake data) to 2008 in the regional signal (see the 2007–2008 plateau in the "156 km" network



and the 2008 minimum value simulated by the ECHAM5-wiso model in Fig. 3b). The anticorrelation between the d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and SMB<sub>TA</sub> shows the possibility to use water isotope firn core records from Adélie Land to complete the document of the SMB spatio-temporal variability. Dry air masses from the western sector may be associated with particular high d-excess values. The remaining uncertainty in the dating and the extraction of a pure signal limited our investigation. As a conclusion, the absence of similarity between the TA and the S1C1 accumulation reflects the uncertainty in the S1C1 dating resulting from the large spatial variability and from more frequent erosion processes occurring at the S1C1 site (see Fig. S10 in the Supplementary Material). More ice core records within a 100 km area will allow reducing uncertainties in the interpretation of ice core signals, in particular on the link with the atmospheric variability.

4.2 The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  – temperature relationship in coastal Antarctic regions Several studies have shown that the annual  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  – temperature relationship is weak in coastal regions. As an example, over Dronning Maud Land, Isaksson and Karlén (1994) found a weaker correlation between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records and Halley temperature for coastal ice cores, i.e. for sites below 1000 m a.s.l., with a correlation coefficient of 0.56 compared to a correlation coefficient of 0.91 for site above 1000 a.s.l. More recently, Abram et al. (2013) reported a coefficient correlation of 0.52 for the relationship between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  recorded in the James Ross Island ice core (at a high of 1524 m a.s.l., with a mean reconstructed SMB of 63 cm w.e. y<sup>-1</sup>), and the near-surface temperature measured at Esperanza station (n=56 and p<0.05001). In coastal West Antarctica, Thomas et al. (2013) also reported a significant but weak correlation between the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  recorded in an ice core drilled on the Bryan coast and the near-surface temperature simulated by ERA-interim, over the period 1979-2009. Closer to Adélie Land, in Victoria Land, Bertler et al. (2011) found a correlation coefficient of 0.35 between the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  recorded in the Victoria Lower Glacier ice core (at a high of 626 m a.s.l. ) and the summer near-surface temperature measured in Scott Base station (n=30 and p<0.0005). In this study, we find no relationship between the DDU near-surface temperature from DDU and the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  recorded in the TA firn core, based on annual averages. Similarly, no

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relationship had been identified in the S1C1 core (Goursaud et al., 2017), and was here not simulated by the ECHAM5-wiso model. The ECHAM5-wiso model, over the period 1979-2013, selecting the grid point corresponding to the location of DDU (as well as the TA and S1C1 drilling sites), produces however a significant but weak relationship between the 2m-T and precipitation-weighted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , with a slope of 0.27 ‰ (°C)<sup>-1</sup> and a correlation coefficient of 0.35 (p<0.05). Our study shows that changes in air mass trajectories (dynamics) may dominate over thermodynamical controls (condensation temperature) on coastal Adélie Land  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  signal, as shown by the asymmetry of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  seasonal cycle recorded in the TA firn core (see Section 3.4 and Fig. 8). The coupling of calculations of air masses back-trajectory and ECHAM5-wiso outputs suggests that  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  outstanding high values occurring during winter time would be brought by air masses coming from the WAIS+Pacificwestern sector (see Section 3.5 and Fig. 10). The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  measured in the ice of coastal Adélie Land may thus not allow to reconstruct surface temperatures of this region. However, correlations between  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  and the 2m-temperature by ERA-interim over each grid point of Antarctica (Fig.12a) show significant relationships over the plateau, confirmed by a significant correlation between annual  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{TA}}$  and the near-surface temperature measured at Dome C over the period 1998-2014 (slope of  $0.70 \pm 0.29$  ‰ °C<sup>-1</sup>, r=0.53, p<0.05value=0.03). These results support previous studies suggesting warm intrusions offshore Dumont d'Urville towards Dome C (Naithani et al., 2002). Finally, the significant linear relationships with the u<sub>10</sub> wind component above the westerly wind belt and at some coastal Antarctic area (Fig 12b) stress the influence of other processes than thermodynamic drive the isotopic composition of Adélie Land precipitations.

4.3 Water stable isotope, a fingerprint of changes in air mass origins In the TA firn core, the mean d-excess<sub>TA</sub> is  $5.4 \pm 1.0$  ‰ close to the  $4.7 \pm 0.4$  ‰ value simulated by the ECHAM5-wiso model for the “coastal Indian” region defined in Goursaud et al. (2017, different definition than in this study), and the  $5.2 \pm 0.6$  ‰ value for the grid point corresponding to the TA drilling site. Inter-annual variations of TA d-excess<sub>TA</sub> (see Fig. 7) are anti-correlated with TA reconstructed SMB, a feature not depicted by ECHAM5-wiso.

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Main trajectories imprinted in the TA isotopic records We suggest that air masses associated with small/large precipitation amounts are associated with different trajectories and moisture sources; with main mass air mass origins from the Indian Ocean. These maritime air masses, isotopically enriched may transport water vapor, that for some, pursue their trajectories, to the plateau, as shown by the significant relationship between  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  and the near-surface temperature of the plateau, especially in winter; and rare dry air masses may also come from the western sector, and that this with a signal is preserved in d-excess. These different cases we propose here are illustrated by Figure XX. Last point is leaded by the following hints: (i) the positive trends both for the TA d-excess and the percentage of air masses coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific region (ii) an anti-correlation between the seasonal cycles of the TA d-excess and percentages of air masses coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific region (iii) the high simulated d-excess amplitude simulated by ECHAM5-wiso for air masses coming from the western sector WAIS+Pacific sector, reflecting outstanding values occurring in autumn and winter times (iv) The particular case of the 7th of May in 2007 with very high d-excess values simulated by ECHAM5-wiso, corresponding to an air mass trajectory from the western sector WAIS+Pacific sector As pointed discussed earlier, the last item should be considered is however to take with caution as the four other remarkable d-excess values (i.e. higher than 30 ‰ simulated by the ECHAM5-wiso are associated to air masses coming from other regions (S613 in the Supplementary Material), and also to the fact that such high values it could be due to potential a numerical artefacts. Linear relationships between d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and ERA-interim outputs come to strengthen the link between the climate variability of western Antarctic and associated southern oceans, as we note an anticorrelation between d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and the 2m-T in the south of the Peninsula, the Ellsworth region and the Bellingshausen sea ( $r > 0.6$ ); and an anticorrelation between d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and the u10 wind component over the coastal Ross sector, consistent with the suggestion of air masses trajectories coming from western Antarctica towards Adélie Land via the Ross sea sector. These dry air masses might origin from the Amundsen Bellingshausen sea

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(Winstrup et al., 2017; Emanuelsson et al., 2018), but cannot be directly linked to the Amundsen sea cyclonic, as we obtain no significant relationship with the ASL center pressure indices.

Potential interaction with sea ice Noone and Simmonds (2004) have shown, thanks to climate modelling, that water stable isotopes were conditioned by changes in sea ice extent (as a contraction in sea ice increases the local latent heat and temperature due to open water), but confirmed that a thorough understanding of main mechanisms controlling the d-excess was still needed. Also, earlier studies have suggested the use of the d-excess ice core records in ice cores to reconstruct past sea ice extent (e.g. Sinclair et al., 2014). Although we find a significant correlation between the d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and the d'Urville summer sea ice extent (section 3.3), a correlation map between the annual d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and the summer sea ice concentration (S814 in the Supplementary Material) show significant correlations with further sea ice areas (e.g. an anticorrelation in the Amundsen sea and correlations in the Bellingshausen, Scotia and Lazarev seas). We also noted a coincidence between the sign of the correlation of the relationship between the d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and the sea ice concentration, and the sea ice extent trend over the period 1998-2014 (S915 in the Supplementary Material), especially positive correlations (negative) associated to positive sea ice concentration trends. These findings call for mechanistic studies to understand the different processes behind d-excess associated to each air mass origins. As we suggested a particular d-excess signature in the TA firn core, associated with air masses coming from the western sector, we tested the possibility for the d-excess<sub>TA</sub> to imprint changes in the Ross polynya. We thus estimated it, by counting the annual sea ice concentration over the polygon (60 – 70 °S; 150 – 210 °E), lower than 15 %. But we find no significant correlation between this estimated Ross polynya and the d-excess<sub>TA</sub> over the period 1998-2014.

The  $\delta^{18}O - \delta D$  relationship Earlier studies showed empirically that the relationship between d-excess and  $\delta^{18}O$ , and mainly the phase lag between signals within the seasonal cycle may indicate variations of the origin of the moisture source. This phase lag

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was shown to be of  $\sim 3$ – $4$  months over coastal regions such as Law Dome (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2003), Dronning Maud Land (Vega et al., 2016) and in the Ross Sea sector (Sinclair et al., 2014). By contrast, most studies identified an anti-phase over the East Antarctic plateau (e.g. Ciais et al., 1995; Landais et al., 2012), and at D47, situated close to the TA drilling site (Ciais et al., 1995). We thus focus on the outcome of the running linear regression between  $d$ -excessTA and  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  over 102 points all along the core (see Fig. 11). We focus on the periods (53.3%) when a significant linear relationship is identified (i.e.  $p < 0.05$ ). The time-averaged correlation coefficient is  $0.71 \pm 0.45$ , which is consistent with the results obtained from the annual averages (varying from 0.51 in autumn to 0.75 in spring, see Section 3.3). The time-averaged slope is  $0.83 \pm 0.83 \text{ ‰ ‰}^{-1}$ . These positive values prevail for 91.5 % of the significant linear regressions. However, we observe remarkable deviations from this overall relationship. Particularly, linear regressions within years 2002 and 2007 show slopes lower than the time-averaged minus two standard deviations (with a minimum value of  $-1.46 \text{ ‰ ‰}^{-1}$  in 2007), and others within year 2011 show surprisingly very high slopes up to  $6.9 \text{ ‰ ‰}^{-1}$ . The years 2007 and 2011 were also previously noticed: the mean  $d$ -excessECH simulated by ECHAM5-wiso for the year 2007 was shown to be driven by the high value occurring the 7th of May, associated to air masses coming from the WAIS+Pacificwestern sector; and year 2011 is associated with a minimum of annual back-trajectories percentage from the Indian regioneastern sector and maxima of back-trajectories from the Ross and the western sectorWAIS+Pacific regions. As a result, the  $\delta^{18}O$ - $d$ -excess relationship may be a fingerprint of changes in air mass origins, and particularly of the occurrence of precipitation of air masses coming from the WAIS+Pacificwestern sector. We undertook the same exercise with outputs of the ECHAM5-wiso model (see Fig. S10711 in the Supplementary Material), where only 19.2 % of the simulated linear regressions are significant (i.e.  $p < 0.05$ ). All significant relationships have negative correlation coefficients and slopes of time-averaged values  $-0.72 \pm 0.25 \text{ ‰ ‰}^{-1}$  and  $-0.39 \pm 0.23 \text{ ‰ ‰}^{-1}$  respectively (this is consistently with the annual meanswhat obtained within each year, see Section 3.4). Moreover, these sig-

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nificant relationships do not occur during the remarkable years 2002, 2007 and 2011 identified in the TA firn core. As a result, we propose that remarkable anomalies in  $d$ -excess /  $\delta^{18}O$  running linear relationships provide an isotopic fingerprint associated with changes in dominant air mass trajectories. But a more comprehensive mechanistic study would be necessary to quantify the fractionation processes associated with different moisture source and transport characteristics. 4.3 4.4 Limits associated with model-data isotopic comparisons We note a mismatch between ECHAM5-wiso outputs and the data (see Section 3.5 and Fig. S4118 in the Supplementary Material). This could be related to (i) to post-deposition processes associated with wind scoring or snow metamorphism not resolved in ECHAM5-wiso, (ii) the key role of very local atmospheric circulation effects related to katabatic wind processes, not resolved in large-scale atmospheric reanalyses and simulations, (iii) or the difficulties of ECHAM5-wiso to resolve the processes associated with the ocean boundary vapour  $d$ -excess, a mismatch already identified in the Arctic (SteenÅRLarsen et al., 2017). The first issue is related with the robustness of records from a single coastal firn core. Several studies have evidenced signal to noise limits (e.g. Graf et al., 2002; Mulvaney et al., 2002). Given the high SMB estimated from TA, diffusion effects can be ignored (Frezzotti et al., 2007), and the estimated inter-annual variations in TA SMB are closely correlated not only with the stake data the closest to the drilling site, but also with the 156 km network stake data and to precipitation from the corresponding grid point of ECHAM5-wiso within a  $100 \times 100$  km area. This finding supports an interpretation of the TA record to be representative of a regional SBM signal (100 km scale). However, we cannot draw have any conclusion of the signal to noise aspects of the water stable isotope records, given the lack of coherency between the inter-annual variability in the TA and S1C1  $\delta^{18}O$  records for the few years of overlap (Unfortunately, there are no striking features during the records common period, which makes it challenging to match the isotope recordswith unfortunately no remarkable year in this period), and the lack of any other  $d$ -excess record within hundreds of kilometers. The second source of uncertainty lies in the mismatch between inter-annual variations from coastal Adélie Land meteorolog-

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ical observations and the TA records, with ECHAM5-wiso outputs. For instance, we only see high correlation for the surface air temperature inter-annual variations for winter, and weak correlation for wind speed in spring and summer. These itemfindings suggest limitations in the skills of either atmospheric reanalyses or the ECHAM5-wiso model to correctly capture the processes responsible for local climate variability. We had previously reported the capability of ECHAM5-wiso to correctly simulate observed large-scale features of water stable isotopes and SMB across Antarctica, for spatio-temporal patterns identified from datasets spanning the last decades such as mean values, amplitudes and phases of mean seasonal cycles, amplitude of inter-annual variance, strength of isotope-temperature relationships, d-excess versus  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  relationships) (Goursaud et al., 2017). We thus highlight here specific challenges related to the Antarctic coastline, where local processes associated with katabatic winds, open water (e.g. polynya), and local boundary layer processes (e.g. snow drift) may affect isotopic records without being resolved at the resolution of reanalyses and ECHAM5-wiso simulation. Our study therefore depicts limited understanding of the drivers of seasonal and inter-annual variability in coastal Adélie Land hydrological cycle, and thus calls for more isotopic measurements (from ice cores, snow precipitation, and water vapour along ice cores, in precipitation and in vapour) in Adélie Land to reduce uncertainties.

4.4 4.5 Chemistry We compare the chemical concentrations recorded in the TA firn core with S1C1 core (Goursaud et al., 2017), for their common period (1998–2006). The mean concentrations are slightly lower for the We now compare the chemical concentrations recorded in the TA firn core compared to the costal S1C1 firn core (Goursaud et al., 2017a). On the common covered period (1998–2006), we observe that mean chemical concentrations are slightly lower in the TA than the S1C1 firn core from 30 % for  $\text{Na}^+$ , to 50 % for MSA (see Table S1941 in the Supplementary Material). This decrease with the increasing distance from the coast (or elevation above sea level) is consistent with atmospheric studies showing a decrease of levels from the coast to the plateau for sea-salt (Legrand et al., 2017) and sulfur aerosols (Legrand et al., 2017). No significant linear regression emerges from any chemical species, high-

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lighting a high spatial variability and/or the uncertainty in the dating of the S1C1 firn core. Finally, we initially processed chemical measurements in our firn core, to support the isotopic records not only for dating, but also to identify air mass origins, making the hypothesis of three possible cases: (i) Air masses formed near the sea- ice margin may be associated with relatively high d-excess and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values, due to respectively a high kinetic fractionation due to evaporation under low humidity levels, and limited distillation effects. Such a configuration should be associated to low sea-salt concentrations due to reduced sea-salt emissions when summer the presence of the sea ice, is present at the site as shown by atmospheric studies (Legrand et al., 2016). (ii) In contrast, vapour formed over the ocean By contrast, air masses formed over the Ocean in the absence of sea ice may be associated with high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values, low d-excess and high sea-salt concentrations. (iii) Finally, air masses from central Antarctica may be associated with depleted  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values and high d-excess, while air masses from ocean regions may lead to intermediate  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and d-excess values, due to distillation effects, and evaporation under relatively humid conditions, but with low sea-salt concentrations. The period from December 2003 to February 2004, associated with  $\text{Na}^+$  values higher than the mean plus five standard deviations, probably caused by marine advections, is not distinguishable in the isotopic records. And nNone of the three aforementioned cases was systematically observed. To make it short, taking into account the definition of summer observations only does not alter our results. The sea-salt and sulfur concentrations measured along the TA records are slightly lower compared to the S1C1 firn core, consistently with the coast-to-plateau depletion previously observed in atmospheric measurement. Unfortunately, we could not use the sea-salt measurements to support our hypotheses regarding the air mass origins associated with isotopic compositions.

5. Conclusions and perspectives In this study, we report the analysis of the first highly resolved firn core drilled in Adélie Land covering the very recent period 1998–2014, with a sub-annual resolution. The chronology was based on chemical tracers ( $\text{Na}$ ,  $\text{nssSO}_4$  and MSA) and adjusted by one year based on stake area information. Three  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  peaks found no counterparts in the chemical records. The high

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estimated SMB rate of  $74.1 \pm 14.1$  cm w.e.  $y^{-1}$  limits the effects of diffusion and ensures that records with sub-annual resolution are preserved. The high estimated SMB rate of  $74.1 \pm 14.1$  cm w.e.  $y^{-1}$  gives access to sub-annual records and limits the effects of diffusion (e.g. Johnsen, 1977). The good consistency of the estimated annual SMB variations with observations on stakes reflects that high accumulation amounts are needed to ensure that small-scale SMB random variability caused by presence of sastrugi, dunes and barchans is negligible. This condition allows avoiding the erosion of seasonal or annual layers, which would lead to removal of the annual cycle of the recorded signal. For this reason, getting long term observations on distributed stake networks around a drilling site, or ground penetrating radar data is crucial to accurately select a drilling site, by retrieving the location of mesoscale accumulation maxima, and by rejecting zones with potential erosion. Using an updated database of Antarctic surface snow isotopes, we showed that not only  $\delta^{18}O_{TA}$  but also d-excess<sub>TA</sub> mean TA values are in line with the range of coastal values in other locations. Neither in the TA – DDU dataset, nor in the ECHAM5-wiso output do we see any significant relationship between inter-annual variations in  $\delta^{18}O$  and local surface air temperature. The anti-correlation between annual reconstructed SMB<sub>TA</sub> and TA d-excess<sub>TA</sub> leads us to suggest that changes in large-scale atmospheric transport could lead to an explanation for this feature. Particularly back-trajectory simulations from HYSPLIT and atmospheric outputs from ECHAM5-wiso at the seasonal cycle show the occurrence of air masses coming from the WAIS+Pacific western sector during autumn and winter times, corresponding to high simulated d-excess values. Also, the identification of remarkable years both in back-trajectory percentages and in the relationships between d-excess and  $\delta^{18}O$  also lead us to evidence a potential in the d-excess –  $\delta^{18}O$  to identify remarkable features in moisture transport. We cannot explain at this stage the observed positive trends in the TA d-excess<sub>TA</sub> and local sea ice extent over the period 1998-2014. We suggest that an improved understanding of the drivers of moisture transport towards

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coastal Adélie Land can benefit from the interpretation of water stable isotope tracers, especially d-excess, through mechanistic studies and the exploration of global atmospheric models. Ways forward include a better documentation of the spatio-temporal variability in SMB and water stable isotopes using a matrix of coastal firn core records spanning longer periods over the last decades (17 points being small to assess linear relationships, and record climate shifts, e.g. the IPO shift occurring in 1998 (Turner et al., 2016)) the last decades; a better documentation of the relationships between precipitation and ice core records through the monitoring of the isotopic composition of surface vapour, and precipitation snow and firn (Casado et al., 2016; Ritter et al., 2016); and the implementation of water stable isotopes in regional models resolving the key missing processes linked for instance with katabatic winds, boundary layer processes, wind drift (Gallée et al., 2013). Data availability The TA192A isotope and chemical firn core records were archived on the PANGAEA data library at . Acknowledgements This study has been supported by the ASUMA project supported by the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Project n°: ANR-14-CE01-0001), which funded the PhD grant of Sentia Goursaud and the publication costs of this manuscript.

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