Microstructure, Micro-inclusions and Mineralogy along the EGRIP ice core - Part 2: Implications for paleo-mineralogy

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Abstract. Impurities in polar ice do not only allow the reconstruction of past atmospheric aerosol concentrations, but also influence the physical properties of the ice. However, the localisation of impurities inside the microstructure is still under debate and little is known about the mineralogy of solid inclusions. In particular, the general mineralogical diversity throughout an ice core and the specific distribution inside the microstructure is poorly investigated, the impact of the mineralogy on the localisation of inclusions and other processes is thus hardly known. We use dust particle concentration, optical microscopy and Cryo-Raman spectroscopy to systematically locate and analyse the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in situ inside eleven solid ice samples from the upper 1340 m of the East Greenland Ice Core Project ice core. Micro-inclusions are more variable in mineralogy than previously observed and are mainly composed of mineral dust (quartz, mica and feldspar) and sulphates (mainly gypsum). Inclusions of the same composition tend to cluster, but clustering frequency and mineralogy changes with depth. A variety of sulphates dominate the upper 900 m while gypsum is the only sulphate in deeper samples, which however contain more mineral dust, nitrates and dolomite. The analysed part of the core can thus be divided into two depth regimes of different mineralogy, and to a lesser degree of spatial distribution, which could originate from different chemical reactions in the ice or large-scale changes of ice cover in NE-Greenland during the Mid-Holocene. The complexity of impurity mineralogy on the metre- and centimetre-scale in polar ice is still underestimated and new methodological approaches are necessary to establish a comprehensive understanding of the role of impurities. Our results show that by applying new methods the mineralogy in ice cores, its complexity and importance for localisation studies, opens new avenues for understanding the role of impurities in ice cores.

1 Introduction

Deep ice cores from the polar ice sheets are a valuable archive of information: studying ice crystals allows the analysis of ice dynamics (e.g., Thorsteinsson et al., 1997; Faria et al., 2014; Fitzpatrick et al., 2014) while impurities and isotopes preserved in the ice enable the reconstruction of the paleoclimate of our planet (e.g., Dahl-Jensen et al., 2013; EPICA Community Members, 2004). Impurities form solid micro-inclusions or dissolve in the ice lattice or in grain and subgrain boundaries as snow eventually transforms into ice. Soluble impurities (in water or ice) are chemical compounds, such as Na^+, Cl^-, and

NO_3^-, of atmospheric, marine, terrestrial or biological origin dissolving in the lattice (Legrand and Delmas, 1988). They can originate from salts dissociated into ions (Legrand and Mayewski, 1997; Della Lunga et al., 2014) or from dissolved gases such as hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) (Legrand and Mayewski, 1997). Water-insoluble impurities are rejected from the ice lattice (Ashby, 1969; Alley et al., 1986) and range in size from sub-micrometre to hundreds of micrometres (Steffensen, 1997; Wegner et al., 2015; Simonsen et al., 2019). Micro-metre sized inclusions are called "micro-inclusions" and the focus of this study. Water-insoluble impurities normally originate from terrestrial sources and mainly consist of salts (e.g., sulphates and nitrates) and mineral dust which is abundant in elements from the crust, such as Si, Al, Ca, and Fe, and in chemical compounds, such as SiO_2 or Fe_2O_3.

Impurities have different transport histories and originate from different atmospheric aerosols, in the form of e.g., salt particles or terrestrial dust (Legrand and Mayewski, 1997; Weiss et al., 2002), and are deposited on ice sheets. With time ice, and the impurities within, move into deeper parts of the ice column. Though the absolute concentrations are extremely low, the impurities inside the polar ice sheets are of interest for various research fields and applications. Tephra layers provide a record of local and distal volcanic eruptions and offer a chronological correlation between ice cores. The sulphate record can provide time lines and information about the atmospheric impact of volcanic eruptions. Furthermore, the isotopic and chemical composition of impurities enables the investigation of climatic and atmospheric processes of the past.

Impurities in polar ice can be measured with a variety of methods, each with certain limitations. Main differences are the state of the analysed particles (soluble or insoluble in water or ice) and the applied aggregate phase of the sample: methods analysing a liquid and thus melting the ice are e.g., Ion Chromatography (IC)(Cole-Dai et al., 2006), Continuous Flow Analysis (CFA) (Röthlisberger et al., 2000a), and Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (McConnell et al., 2002; Erhardt et al., 2019) while Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) (Reinhardt et al., 2001) and Cryo-Raman spectroscopy (Fukazawa et al., 1998) analyse solid ice samples. Over the last decades different ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica were analysed regarding the chemistry and location of impurities and the main results were recently summarised by Stoll et al. (2021b). While studies using optical microscopy by e.g., Kipfstuhl et al. (2006); Faria et al. (2010) focused mainly on the location of water-insoluble particles Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) coupled with energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) (e.g., Wolff et al., 1988; Baker et al., 2003; Barnes et al., 2003a) and LA-ICP-MS (e.g., Reinhardt et al., 2001; Della Lunga et al., 2014; Bohleber et al., 2020) studies also allowed the identification of impurities. They mainly found chlorine, sulphur and sodium at several locations, ranging from grain boundaries to filaments and the grain interior. However, these methods are limited to the investigation of elemental concentrations. Identifying the mineralogy of inclusions is however possible with Raman spectroscopy (e.g., Fukazawa et al., 1997; Ohno et al., 2005; Sakurai et al., 2011; Eichler et al., 2019) while preserving the microstructural location, a crucial aspect regarding their impact on the physical properties of the host material. Identified inclusions in Antarctic and Greenlandic ice mainly consist of terrestrial dust (e.g., quartz, feldspar, mica, hematite) and sulphates of different chemical composition (Ca, Na, Mg, K, Al) (Ohno et al., 2005; Sakurai et al., 2009, 2011; Ohno et al., 2014; Eichler et al., 2019). Calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) was identified by Sakurai et al. (2009) mainly in the last glacial period from the Greenland Ice Core Project (GRIP) ice core. These studies are demanding in time and costly and thus often rely on a small number of samples. The number of identified inclusions is thus limited and the underlying processes are

not fully understood yet. Developing generalisations of the mineralogy and localisation of impurities in polar ice is hence still challenging (Stoll et al., 2021b).

The impurity content plays a major role regarding the physical properties of snow, firn, and ice, such as electrical conductivity (Alley and Woods, 1996; Wolff et al., 1997), permittivity (Wilhelms et al., 1998), and mechanical properties (e.g., creep behaviour, dislocation velocity) (e.g., Jones and Glen, 1969; Dahl-Jensen and Gundestrup, 1987; Paterson, 1991; Hörhold et al., 2012). Several studies investigated the impact of impurities on the deformation of ice (e.g., Jones and Glen, 1969; Petit et al., 1987; Iliescu and Baker, 2008; Eichler et al., 2019), which in turn influences the flow of ice - a major uncertainty regarding future projections of ice sheet behaviour and solid ice discharge. This chain of processes at the micro-scale resulting eventually in the large-scale deformation behaviour of ice needs to be better understood, especially in fast flowing ice, as present in ice streams. The microstructure of ice can be impacted directly by processes related to impurities such as Zener pinning (Smith, 1948; Humphreys and Hatherly, 2004) or grain boundary drag (Alley et al., 1986, 1989). These result in changes of the energy, shape and mobility of grain boundaries. Furthermore, impurities such as micro-inclusions directly impact deformation when they form obstacles in the ice matrix and thus enhance strain localisation and the introduction of protonic defects (Glen, 1968) or the formation of dislocation lines (Weertman and Weertman, 1992). In turn, these small-scale processes can also influence climate proxies by altering the stratigraphic integrity of impurity records (Faria et al., 2010; Ng, 2021).

The mineralogy of impurities, their localisation and the possible interplay between both certainly plays a role in the interaction of impurities and ice physical properties (e.g., Jones and Glen, 1969; Paterson, 1991) and ice dynamics. Reasons for the current lack in understanding of the whereabouts of impurities in polar ice are manifold, the methodology to systematically look in parallel at localisation (as a microstructural feature) and mineralogy (as a chemical feature) of micro-inclusions has just recently been developed (e.g., Eichler et al., 2019). Commonly used methods, developed to derive (paleo-) climate information on impurities such as CFA (e.g., Kaufmann et al., 2008), apply their analysis on melted sample water for the sake of decontamination and time constraints. Doing so, information on the phase and localisation of impurities are not considered. On the other hand, dedicated studies on localisation are spatially very limited and do not catch the overall chemistry of a certain sample. The mineralogy and its possible interplay for localisation was therefore not possible to investigate. However, to develop a deep understanding of the mineralogy and localisation of impurities in polar ice, a combination of both approaches is required.

With our study we attempt to push forward to combine the information of both, microstructure and chemistry, to elaborate on the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in polar ice, its possible sources and its interplay with microstructure. There is no investigation of the mineralogy and location of inclusions in one polar ice core with a high enough spatial resolution and reliable statistics to generalise the spatial distribution of inclusions or to investigate the effect of different minerals on ice mechanics. We aim to gain a better understanding of the mineralogical variability of micro-inclusions inside one ice core on the large (hundreds of metres) and on the small (millimetre-centimetre) scale. We further investigate whether the mineralogy of the deposited impurities was stable over the last 14 ka or whether there were changes as a result of the evolution of the Greenland Ice Sheet. Deriving a mineralogy record of inclusions might also enable a better understanding of the aerosol content of the past. Finally, we investigate whether the location of the inclusion in the ice microstructure is related to its mineralogy. Our approach is a combination of methods from microstructure and impurity research to perform a systematic high-resolution analysis along
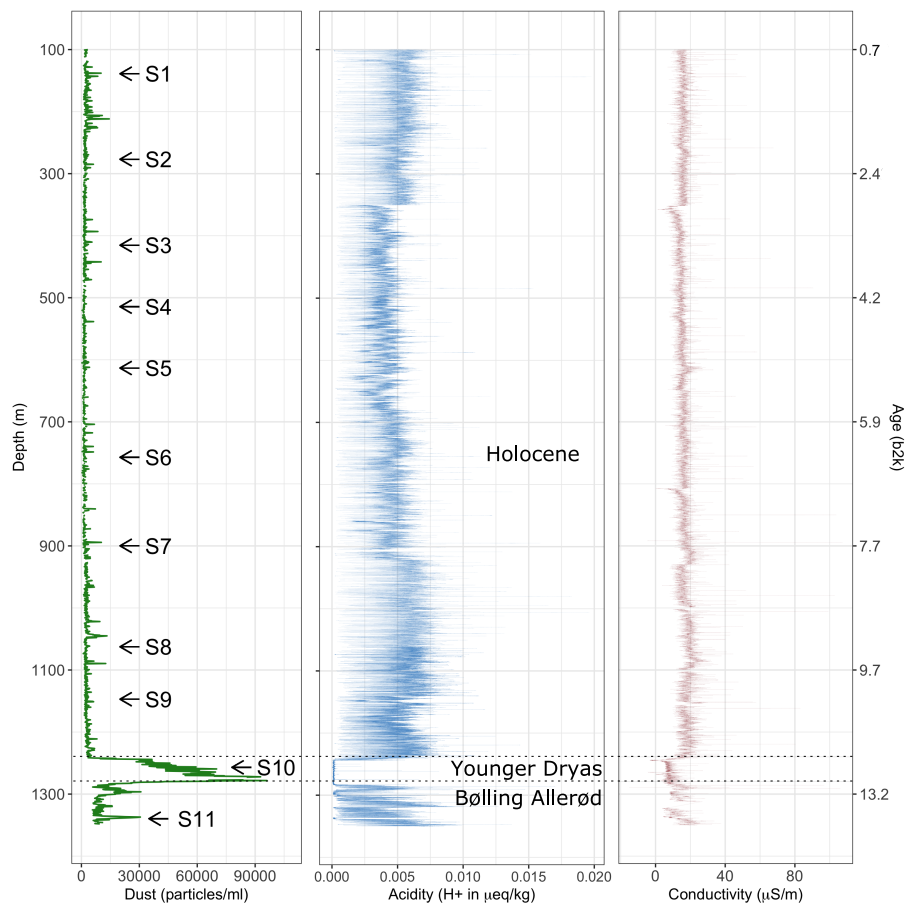
Figure 1. Number counts of particles larger than 1 μm per ml of melt water (dust) derived via CFA from the upper 1340 m of the EGRIP ice core. Samples analysed with Raman spectroscopy are indicated with arrows. Acidity data from Mojtabavi et al. (2020b), conductivity data from Mojtabavi et al. (2020c). Age from Mojtabavi et al. (2020a), b2k = before 2000 CE.

one deep ice core. The East Greenland Ice Core Project (EGRIP) ice core, the first ice core drilled through the Northeast
95   Greenland Ice Stream (NEGIS), enables such an interdisciplinary undertaking. Stoll et al. (2021a) investigate the location of micro-inclusions and their role regarding deformation and microstructure. In this study we investigate the mineralogy of these visible micro-inclusions, which also offer a limited insight into mineral formation pathways. We use bulk insoluble particle data from CFA and optical microscopy and Raman spectroscopy on eleven samples along the EGRIP ice core. With this combined data set covering the Holocene, the Younger Dryas, and the Bølling Allerød, i.e. the upper 1340 m, we aim to give a systematic
100   overview of the evolution of the mineralogy of the EGRIP ice core by identifying a relevant number of micro-inclusions at equal depth intervals. We discuss the interpretation of the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in the EGRIP ice core with respect to environmental boundary conditions and survey implications for future research.

2 Methods

2.1 The East Greenland Ice Core Project

The EGRIP ice core drilling project is located at 75°38' N and 35°58' W, 2704 m a.s.l. (2015) on NEGIS, the largest ice stream in Greenland (Joughin et al., 2010; Vallelonga et al., 2014). At the drill site the ice flows with a velocity of 55 ma^{-1} (Hvidberg et al., 2020) offering a novel possibility to study ice rheology and physical parameters contributing to deformation, such as crystal preferred orientation and impurity content, in an active deformation regime, i.e. an ice stream. While first results regarding the physical properties of EGRIP ice were recently published (Westhoff et al., 2020) microstructure and micro-inclusions are investigated in detail in Stoll et al. (2021a).

The present day accumulation in water equivalent at the EGRIP drill site is between 13.8 and 14.9 cm/yr (Nakazawa et al., 2021) and the averaged annual layer thicknesses for the period 1607–2011 is 0.11 m ice equivalent (Vallelonga et al., 2014). In the last 8 kyr before 2000 CE, i.e. the upper 900 m, annual layer thicknesses were almost constant, probably due to a combination of flow-induced thinning and increased upstream accumulation (Mojtabavi et al., 2020a; Gerber et al., 2021). Accumulation rates were highest 7.8 kyr ago (0.249 ma^{-1}) and decrease towards the Last Glacial Period with a peak during the Bølling Allerød. Due to the flow of NEGIS ice from the last 8 kyr was deposited under increasingly higher accumulation rates with increasing age caused by higher precipitation closer to the ice divide (Gerber et al., 2021). Traced radar layers from the North Greenland Ice Core Project (NGRIP) drill site indicate an undisturbed climatic record of at least 51 kyr (Vallelonga et al., 2014).

Drilling at EGRIP has not continued since 2019 and the current drill depth is 2121 m, roughly 530 m above bedrock. We analyse the upper 1340 m of the core covering the Holocene (present-11.7 ka) in the upper 1240 m, the Younger Dryas (11.7-12.8 ka) at 1240-1280 m, and the Bølling Allerød (12.8-14.7 ka) at 1280-1375 m (Walker et al., 2018; Mojtabavi et al., 2020a). Gerber et al. (2021) propose that Last Glacial Period ice was deposited 197 to 332 km upstream from EastGRIP.

2.2 Micro-particle concentration from CFA

Micro-particle data were obtained during three CFA measurement campaigns (2018-2020) at the University of Bern using the CFA setup described in detail in Kaufmann et al. (2008) with a few minor improvements. For the analysis a longitudinal 35 x 35 mm section of the ice core was cut and melted down-core and analysed using continuous measurement methods to produce mm-cm resolution records of soluble and water-insoluble impurities in the ice. Micro-particle concentrations where determined using an Abakus (Fa Klotz) Laser Particle Sizer (e.g., Ruth et al., 2003) operating in the size range between 1-15 μm, which covers the size range of optical microscopy. The depth resolution of the data is limited by signal dispersion in the analytical system to approximately 0.5-1 cm. Depth co-registration to the samples analysed with Raman spectroscopy is limited by the accuracy of the depth assignment in the field and is typically on the order of a few mm. We calculated the arithmetic mean dust particle concentration of each 55 cm sample for an overview.

Table 1. Properties of the samples analysed with Raman spectroscopy. Acidity data from Mojtabavi et al. (2020b), conductivity data from Mojtabavi et al. (2020c).

Sample	Depth (m)	Age b2k (ka)	Size (mm x mm)	∅ Acidity (H+ in μeq/kg)	∅ Conductivity (μS/m)
S1	138.9-138.913	1.0	13.01 x 16.96	$5.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	19.2
S2	276.87-276.881	2.2	11.00 x 12.76	$4.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	14.3
S3	415.305-415.315	3.5	10.01 x 13.27	$1.4 \cdot 10^{-3}$	16.4
S4	514.435-514.445	4.3	9.94 x 60.60	$3.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	13.5
S5	613.30-613.32	5.2	17.31 x 54.19	$3.2 \cdot 10^{-3}$	12.4
S6	757.17-757.25	6.4	90.00 x 16.78	$3.7 \cdot 10^{-3}$	17.2
S7	899.965-899.975	7.6	11.32 x 12.62	$6.1 \cdot 10^{-3}$	18.4
S8	1062.645-1062.655	9.3	9.67 x 8.47	$4.0 \cdot 10^{-3}$	14.0
S9	1141.158-1141.175	10.2	16.61 x 21.67	$3.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$	15.8
S10	1256.945-1256.956	12.1	10.45 x 48.50	$4.1 \cdot 10^{-4}$	7.18
S11	1339.735-1339.747	14.1	11.24 x 11.96	$3.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$	13.9

b2k=before 2000 CE (Mojtabavi et al., 2020a)

2.3 Sample preparation

135 Aiming to derive a systematic overview over the EGRIP core we selected samples roughly every 100 m of depth. Samples were chosen based on a combination of depth-representative and prominent features in the micro-particle concentration (e.g., high insoluble particle concentration), grain size (e.g., fine or large) and crystal preferred orientation. The latter two are presented in Stoll et al. (2021a), we here focus on the mineralogy and water-insoluble particle content. Exact regions of interests in these samples for microstructural and Raman analysis were defined using high-resolution micro-particle data (Fig. 2). The chosen

140 areas included areas without prominent properties and specific areas of interest, such as high water-insoluble particle content. We analysed eleven samples between depths of 138.92 and 1339.75 m (Fig. 1 and Table 1). The nine shallower samples are from the Holocene and the two deepest from the last glacial termination (Mojtabavi et al., 2020a).

As described in Stoll et al. (2021a) we used the remaining ice of the physical properties samples analysed at the EGRIP camp and created thick sections following a standard procedure (Kipfstuhl et al., 2006). No silicon oil was used to avoid artificial

145 Raman spectra masking the micro-inclusion spectra. Most samples were approximately 10 x 10 mm, but dimensions varied (Table 1) depending on the water-insoluble particle content. A Leica microtome was used to polish the top and bottom surface of the samples, which was followed by 1.5-2 hours of sublimation under controlled humidity and temperature conditions. Thus, a good sample surface quality was obtained and small-scale disturbances (e.g., microtome scratches) were erased while grain-boundary grooves became more distinct. Polished surfaces allow the localisation of micro-inclusions 500 μm below the

150 sample surface and successful Raman spectroscopy measurements with strong signals.
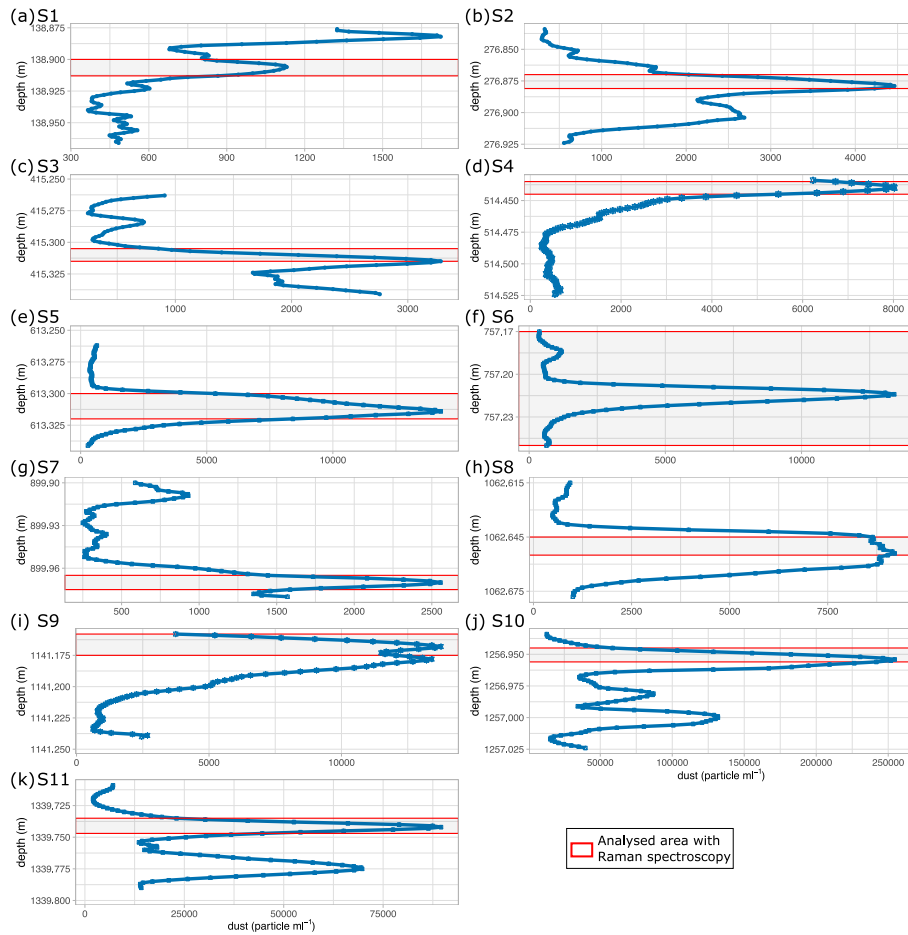
Figure 2. Number counts of insoluble particles larger than 1 μm per ml (dust) derived via CFA from the chosen depths analysed with Raman spectroscopy. Please note the different scales in dust concentration on the abscissa. S10 is within a cloudy band, a horizontal layer of much higher dust content than the area above and below.

2.4 Microstructure mapping and impurity maps

Microstructure mapping was performed following Kipfstuhl et al. (2006) and Eichler et al. (2017) and the detailed investigation of the microstructural location of micro-inclusions is explained in detail in Stoll et al. (2021a). Samples were placed under an optical Leica DMLM microscope with an attached CCD camera (Hamamatsu C5405) and several hundred individual photomicrographs were created grid-wise with a scanning resolution of 3 μmpix^{-1}. The creation of high-resolution maps to detect micro-inclusions provided the basis for a structured Raman analysis. These inclusions are usually 1-2 μm in diameter (Fig. 4A) and consist of droplets, dust particles or salts. We focused inside the ice using transmission light mode and different focus depths to locate micro-inclusions below the surface (Fig. 3B). Microstructure maps with indicated micro-inclusions are from now on called "impurity maps". We mapped grain boundaries on the sample surface and translated them into the impurity map

160   (Fig. 3) by applying a grain boundary width of 300 μm. This is an upper-limit assumption and compensates for vertically tilted grain boundaries and internal light diffraction with depth (Eichler et al., 2017). Micro-inclusions inside these grain boundaries were classified as "at the grain boundary" (Fig. 3C).

2.5   Cryo-Raman spectroscopy

The Raman effect is the inelastic scattering of light caused by the excitation of vibrational modes of crystals or molecules. This
165   results in the Raman shift – a loss of scattered light energy, which is specific for each vibrational mode (Raman and Krishnan, 1928). The Raman shift is used to identify chemical impurities in samples in a non-destructive way – Raman spectroscopy. It is well suited for light-transparent materials, such as ice (e.g., Fukazawa et al., 1998; Weikusat et al., 2012; Eichler et al., 2019). Using confocal optics, it is possible to focus the excitation laser on a small volume segment (few μm^3) inside the sample (Fig. 4A). The same confocal optics collect the backscattered light, which is conducted into a spectrometer to resolve
170   the spectral distribution. Due to the low probability of a photon being Raman-scattered long integration-times, high incident light intensities and sufficient particle concentration is needed. To avoid melting, laser power is limited and thus, well-prepared sample surfaces and precise focusing of the laser is essential to obtain identifiable spectra (Fig. 4B-D) (Eichler et al., 2019).

    Spectroscopy analysis was performed at the Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar- and Marine Research, Bremerhaven with a WITec alpha 300 M+ combined with a NdYAG laser ($\lambda = 532\,nm$) and a UHts 300 spectrometer with
175   a 600 grooves mm^{-1} grating resulting in a spectral range of >3700 cm^{-1} and a pixel resolution of <3 cm^{-1}. The system was calibrated with a Hg/Ar spectral calibration lamp. The used Raman system is further described by Weikusat et al. (2015). The microscope unit is located in a small cold lab inside an insulated cabin with a temperature of -15°C. The control unit, spectrometer and excitation laser are located close to the cell at room temperature and connected with the microscope. We used a 100 μm fibre to obtain a good compromise between signal intensity and confocality. If necessary, samples were re-
180   polished in the same cabin, allowing fast and controlled sample sublimation and a low risk of contamination. The small cabin volume resulted in increasing temperatures over time; measurements were stopped at the very latest at -8°C. To avoid extensive sublimation measurements were continued on the next day. Sample analysis was carried out until a maximum of ~500 μm from the sample surface sublimated. However, we were able to analyse high numbers of micro-inclusions, often exceeding 100 micro-inclusion measurements per sample. Raman spectra were background corrected and identified using reference spectra
185   (e.g., Ohno et al., 2005; Eichler et al., 2019), and the RRUFF project base (Lafuente et al., 2015) (examples in 4B-D).

    When using Raman spectroscopy on micro-inclusions inside ice, the ice spectrum is always present (Fig. 4B-D). Other factors hampering clear Raman signals are: 1) small sizes of micro-inclusions, 2) laser beam path length, 3) quality of sample surface, and 4) acquisition time. Normally, one micro-inclusion was measured ten times with an acquisition time of 0.5-2 s per spectrum, resulting in a total acquisition time of at least 5 s. Weak signals were remeasured with up to 3 s per spectrum and
190   thus, up to 30 s in total. The potential cumulative heating of the micro-inclusion limits the total acquisition time, because it could result in melting of the sample or the destruction of the inclusion.

    We measured in a maximal focus depth of 500 μm below the surface to obtain high-quality signals (Fig. 3B). Surface pollution and possible reactions or rearrangements of elements on the surface were avoided by focusing into the sample, thus
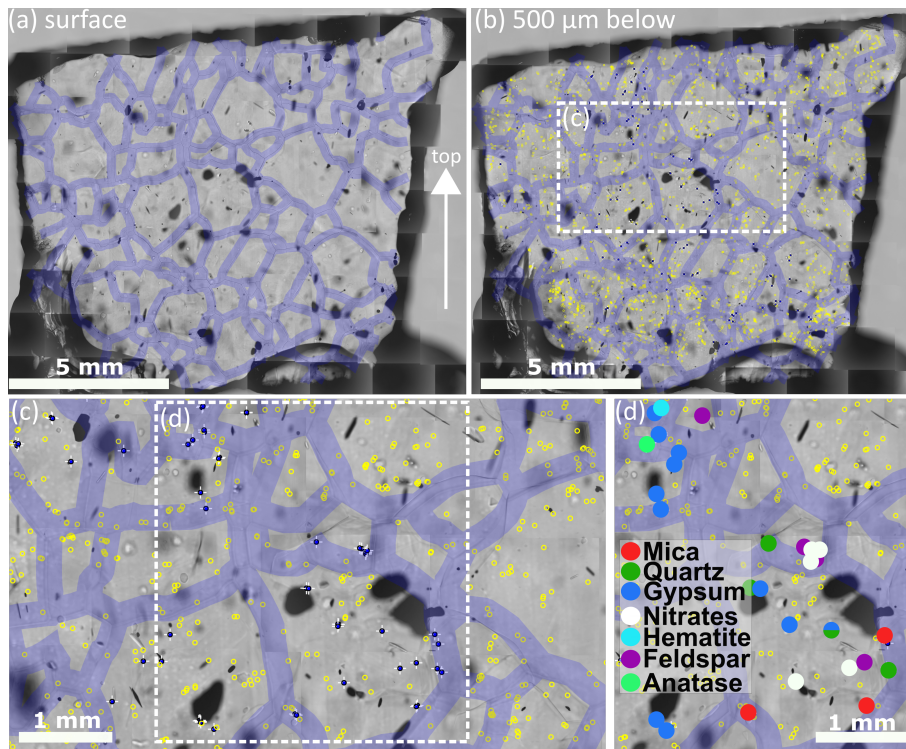
Figure 3. Details of the analysis procedure on S11 (1339.75 m). Grain boundaries are indicated with 300 μm thick violet lines. Localised micro-inclusions 500 μm below the surface are indicated by yellow circles; micro-inclusions analysed with Raman spectroscopy are indicated by filled blue circles with white crosses. Out of focus black shapes are air bubbles. A) Map of the sample surface with highlighted grain boundaries, the arrow indicates the surface of the ice sheet. B) Impurity map with a focus depth of 500 μm below the sample surface, micro-inclusions and grain boundaries are indicated. C) Detail of the area indicated in B. D) Identified Raman spectra of the micro-inclusions indicated in C. One inclusion consists of a quartz and gypsum spectra simultaneously.

only analysing inclusions in the ice. Nevertheless, this leads to a permanent superimposition of the ice spectrum. Impurity
195   peaks were well distinguishable in most cases, even though some signals with strong ice-vibrational bands were hidden by the Raman-active ice spectra. This is often the case for O-H signals of hydrates, which are luckily shifted to higher frequencies in minerals and normally very strong – distinguishing them was usually possible.

3   Results

3.1   Evolution of water-insoluble particle number with depth

200   To put the samples analysed for micro-inclusions into a broader context, Fig. 1 shows a profile of 55 cm average micro-particle concentrations over the entire depth range of the core. Generally, during the Holocene, particle concentrations are relatively low,
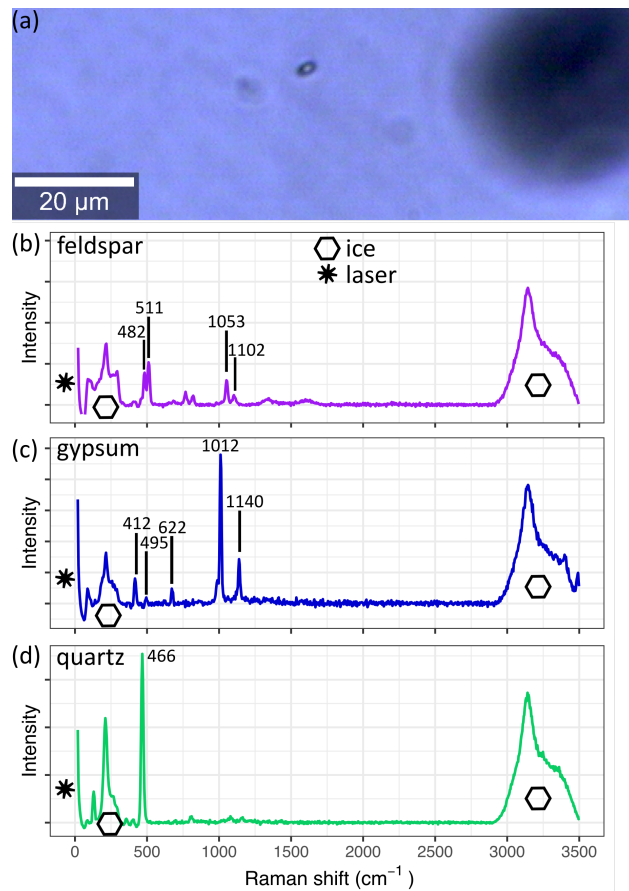
Figure 4. A micro-inclusion in S11 (1339.75 m) as seen with the 20x lens of the Raman system. The derived spectrum of the inclusion is shown in B). The spectra in C) and D) are from the same sample and frequently measured throughout the core. Spectra are background corrected and the superimposed ice and laser signals are indicated. A) The small black object is a micro-inclusion, the larger black object out of focus is an air bubble. B) Observed spectra of feldspar. C) Observed spectra of gypsum. D) Observed spectra of quartz.

compared to the Preboral and Younger Dryas periods in good agreement with previous studies of micro-particle concentrations in Greenland ice (Steffensen, 1997; Ruth et al., 2003). However, a detailed climatological interpretation of the data, including e.g., possible upstream effects, is outside the scope of this study and will follow at a later time.

205   Mean particle numbers are generally consistent and vary for example at a depth of 210 m. The general increase in water-insoluble particle numbers with depth also occurs in our chosen samples and is up to two orders of magnitude from the shallowest to the deepest samples (Fig. 2).

    The four shallowest samples show water-insoluble particle peaks between 1400 and 8000 ml^{-1} (Fig. 2A-D), while the highest values are observed in the three deepest samples (up to >250000 ml^{-1}) (Fig. 2I-K). There is a high variability of

210 the water-insoluble particle concentration on small spatial scales and significant changes occur within centimetres due to

the pronounced seasonality in the dust deposition in Greenland. Fig. 2J) and 2K) display water-insoluble particle numbers skyrocketing and dropping over a few centimetres.

Table 2. Most abundant Raman spectra in EGRIP Holocene ice and localisation data. Mg- and K-sulphate minerals could not be identified clearly. Sulphates, except gypsum, at grain boundaries were not distinguished and are indicated with hyphens. Details on grain boundary statistics are shown in Table 1 in Stoll et al. (2021a).

Mineral	Number	Absolute at GB	Relative at GB (%)	Spatial pattern	Formula
Total sulphates	386	92	23.8	clusters and layers	XSO_4
Gypsum	170	47	27.6	throughout	$CaSO_4 * 2H_2O$
Quartz	126	28	22.2	NA	SiO_2
Total mica	81	22	27.2	limited area	$(K, Na, Ca, NH_4)Al_2(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH)_2$
Na- and/or Mg-sulphates	73	-	-	clusters and layers	$NaSO_4$ and/or $MgSO_4$
Feldspar	67	21	31.3	NA	$(K, Na, Ca, NH_4)(Al/Si)_4O_8$
Bloedite	88	-	-	clusters and layers	$Na_2Mg(SO_4)_2 * 4H_2O$
Nitrates	39	9	25	throughout	XNO_3
Hematite	33	8	24.2	NA	Fe_2O_3
K-sulphate	31	-	-	clusters and layers	K_2SO_4

GB=grain boundaries, NA=no common pattern

3.2 Raman spectra and derived mineralogy

We conducted Raman spectroscopy on several of the previously located micro-inclusions from all eleven samples. Analysed inclusions were chosen randomly, but with the intention to represent the entire area of the sample. The use of confocal mode and a 20x and 50x lens allowed us to find more than 97 % of the micro-inclusions indicated in our impurity maps. The number of analysed micro-inclusions per sample ranged from 47 to 134 and a total of 791 spectra were identified. Luminescence was present in 131 measurements, which were excluded. Micro-inclusions with no obtained Raman signal could be Raman-inactive or the Raman signal might be superimposed by the ice signal, i.e. too low in intensity to be identified with confidence. Some analysed micro-inclusions showed Raman spectra of more than one mineral. We classified these complex micro-inclusions (Fig. 3D and Fig. 8B) as one spectra of each type regardless of the relative strength of the Raman peak as done by e.g., Sakurai et al. (2011).

We identified 24 different Raman signals, which can be mainly differentiated into mineral dust and sulphates. An overview is presented in Fig. 5 and the most abundant minerals are displayed in Table 2 (all spectra are displayed in Table A1 and in the appendix). Mineral dust minerals are primarily silicates such as quartz and members of the feldspar or mica group. Less abundant dust minerals are hematite, rutile and anatase (both TiO_2, rutile is the high-temperature form), titanite ($CaTiSiO_5$), jacobsite ($MnFe_2O_4$). Sulphate minerals (from now on "sulphates") can be difficult to distinguish due to tiny differences in their Raman spectra, but most sulphates were identified (Fig. 5B). The position of the main peaks of Na- and Mg-sulphates are
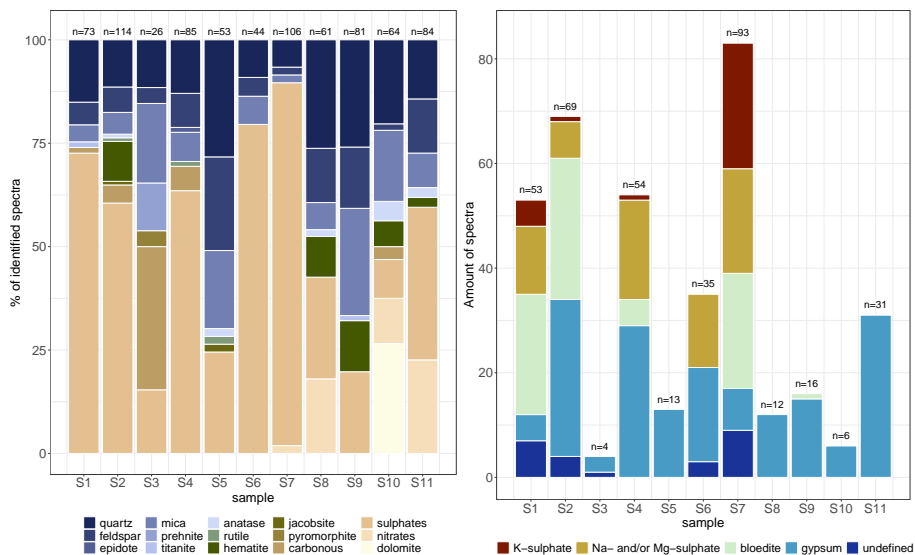
Figure 5. Identified Raman spectra of micro-inclusions in EGRIP Holocene ice, n is the total amount of identified spectra per sample. The two deepest samples are from the Younger Dryas and Bølling Allerød and have by far the highest water-insoluble particle concentrations. A) All identified Raman spectra per sample. For better visibility some Raman spectra are condensed in groups (e.g., sulphates and mica). B) Identified sulphates in detail. Sulphate diversity decreases below 900 m.

only slightly different (1 cm^{-1} shifted), we thus classify these spectra as Na- and/or Mg-sulphates similar to e.g., Sakurai et al.
(2011). Most abundant are gypsum, Na- and/or Mg-sulphates, and bloedite; less abundant are K-sulphates. Spectra with a peak at 1052 cm^{-1} indicate K-nitrates while a peak at 1070 cm^{-1} indicates Na-nitrates (slightly shifted compared to Ohno et al. (2005)). The carbonate mineral dolomite ($CaMg(CO_3)_2$) was identified in S10 (1256.96 m) in large quantities. We further measured Raman spectra of carbonaceous particles (C), prehnite ($Ca_2Al_2Si_3O_{10}(OH)_2$), pyromorphite ($Pb_5(PO_4)_3Cl$), and epidote ($Ca_2(Fe/Al)Al_2(Si_2O_7)(SiO_4)O(OH)$), the latter two were only found once. It is likely that the carbonaceous particles originate from biomass combustion, i.e. black carbon.

3.3 Mineral diversity with depth

Between 8 and 15 different spectra were identified per sample, the median value is 10 different spectra per sample (Fig. 6A). To compare our samples despite the varying amount of total identified Raman spectra per sample we calculated the ratio of the amount of different minerals per sample (n_m) to the total amount of identified micro-inclusions per sample (n_i) resulting in the diversity index I_{var} with a maximum of 1. I_{var} of 1 indicates that every inclusion is of different mineralogy while values close to 0 indicate a homogeneous mineralogy.

$$I_{var} = \frac{n_m}{n_i} \tag{1}$$

I_{var} varies between 0.095 and 0.308, the mean value is 0.152 (Fig. 6B). Mineralogy diversity decreases slightly with depth, the large diversity of sulphates is only found in the upper 900 m (Fig. 5B).
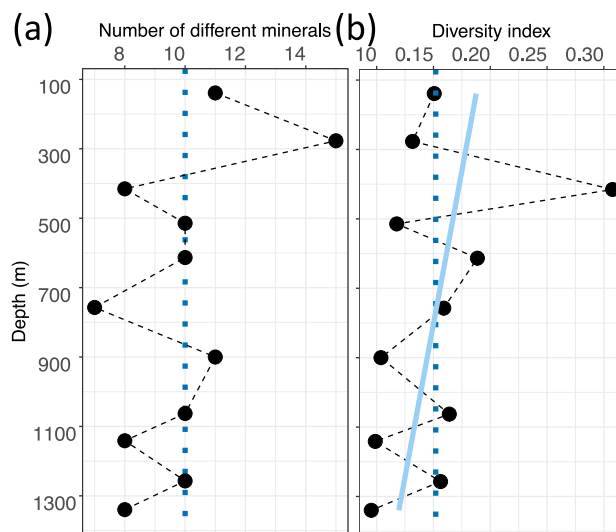
Figure 6. Mineral number and diversity with depth in EGRIP ice. A) Absolute numbers of different minerals per sample. The dotted blue line is the median value (10). B) Diversity index values calculated after Eq. (1). The light blue line is a linear regression, the dotted blue line is the mean value (0.152). Higher values indicate a larger mineral diversity in relationship to the amount of identified Raman spectra per sample.

3.4 Spatial patterns revealed by mineralogy

3.4.1 Large-scale: Mineralogy evolution along the ice core

The relative abundance of the three silicates quartz, feldspar and mica often correlates, with increased values at the same depths (e.g., S2, S5, S8). Quartz represents between 6.6 % (S7) and 28.3 % (S5), feldspar between 1.6 % (S10) and 22.6 % (S5), and mica between 1.9 % (S7) and 25.9 % (S9) of all identified micro-inclusions at one depth. These minerals dominate S5 and the three samples between 900 and 1257 m (S8, S9, S10). The deepest sample S11 shows an additional high amount of sulphates, i.e. gypsum (Fig. 5). Minerals, such as epidote or jacobsite, were only found in the samples below 614 m. Nitrates were found in S7 and were among the main impurities in three of the four deepest samples, i.e. S8, S10, and S11. Dolomite was only identified in S10. Carbonaceous particles were found in the four shallowest samples (S1, S2, S3, and S4) and in S10.

The majority of sulphates was found in the seven shallowest samples above a depth of 900 m (Fig. 5B). Over the core sulphate spectra represent between 9.4 % (S10) and 87.7 % (S7) of all identified micro-inclusions at one depth. As displayed in Fig. 5B and briefly described in Sect. 3.3 various different sulphates are found above 900 m while the only sulphates below 900 m are gypsum and one bloedite micro-inclusion in S9. Gypsum sometimes follows the abundance pattern of the terrestrial dust minerals (in S2, S4, and S9).
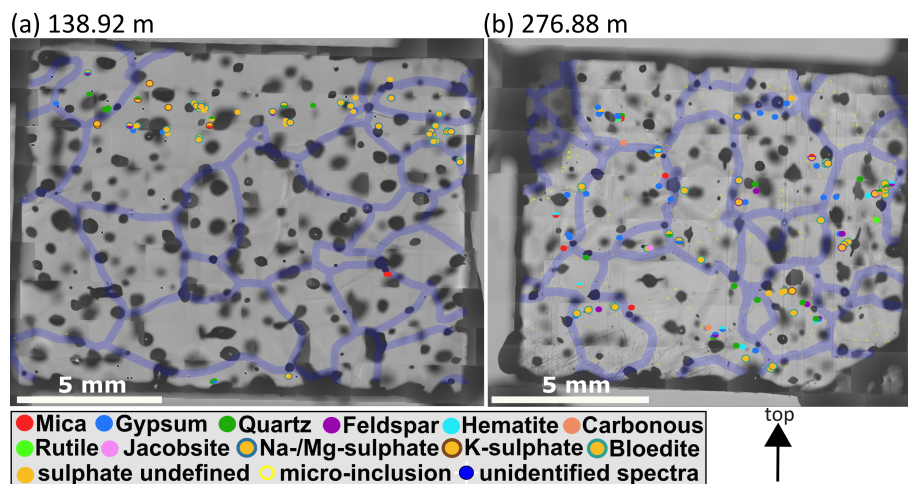
Figure 7. Impurity maps of S1 (138.92 m) and S2 (276.88 m). Identified micro-inclusions are represented by filled circles with different colours; sulphates are orange circles with differently coloured contours. Transparent violet lines are 300 μm thick grain boundaries, the arrow points towards the surface of the ice sheet. A) A layer of sulphate micro-inclusions is in the upper part of the sample, below are almost no micro-inclusions. B) A wide variety of different Raman spectra and spatial patterns, e.g, clusters and rows of sulphates.

3.4.2   Small-scale: Clusters

Dense clusters of micro-inclusions (minimum of three proximal inclusions) of the same mineralogy were observed throughout the core, but especially above 900 m (e.g., S1, S4, S6, and S7). Specifically sulphates at these depths were often found in such clusters (Fig. 7 and 8A, B). The abundance of such clusters of micro-inclusions with similar chemistry declines with depth and is rarely observed below 900 m. Certain minerals, such as mica, only occur in a limited area of the sample (e.g., in S11) without creating distinct layers or clusters. Gypsum and nitrates were found throughout the entire sample area while no specific localisation was identified for minerals such as quartz, hematite or nitrates (Table 2).

3.4.3   Small-scale: Horizontal layers

Often micro-inclusions of the same mineralogy are found in distinct layers horizontal to the core axis (distinct vertical layers were not observed) or broader bands. Fig. 8A shows that at a depth of 757.2 m (S6) mineralogy changes on the centimetre-scale. The shallowest part of the sample is characterised by a mixture of sulphates (mainly gypsum) and terrestrial dust (quartz, feldspar, mica). Some centimetres deeper a small layer of gypsum is followed by a layer of mainly Na- and/or Mg-sulphates. At the bottom of the sample Na- and/or Mg-sulphates dominate, accompanied by gypsum and mica.

A broad layer is observed at 899.98 m (S7) (Fig. 8B). The upper three quarters of the sample are dominated by different sulphates, especially the middle section shows a clear layer. Sulphates in this layer are often found in clusters. The deepest part of the sample inhibits a broader variety of minerals, ranging from different sulphates to mica and quartz (Fig. 8B).

3.4.4 Small-scale: Localisation at grain boundaries

181 identified micro-inclusions were located at grain boundaries, i.e. in the upper-limit assumption of 300 μm thick grain boundaries. 92 sulphate particles (including 47 gypsum inclusions) were found at grain boundaries, followed by quartz (28), mica (22), feldspar (21), nitrates (9), hematite (8), and anatase and titanite (both 1). In relation to the total number of each mineral 31.3 % of feldspar, 27.6 % of gypsum, 27.2 % of mica, 23.8 % of sulphate (including gypsum, 20.8 % without gypsum), and 22.2 % of quartz was located at grain boundaries.

The relative amount of sulphates at grain boundaries was higher in samples with a high diversity in sulphate types, i.e. S1, S2, S4, S5, S6, and S7, than the relative amount of terrestrial dust located at grain boundaries. Below 900 m feldspar, mica and quartz were more common at grain boundaries than sulphates, i.e. gypsum. However, in S11 37.9 % of all identified micro-inclusions at grain boundaries were gypsum.
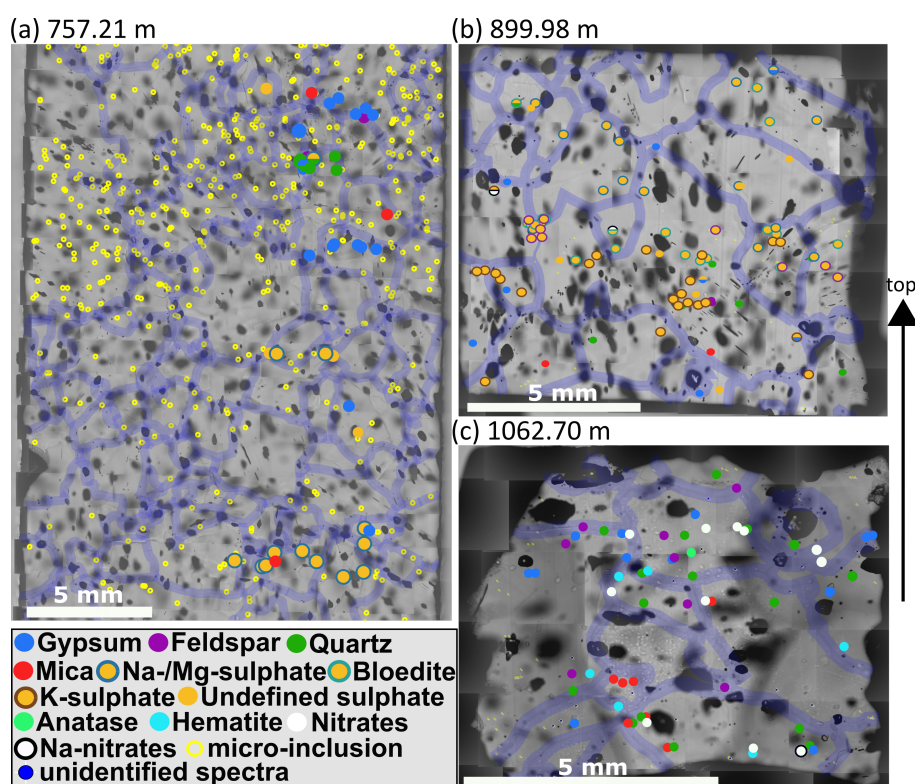
Figure 8. Impurity maps from a depth of 757.21 (S6), 899.98 (S7), and 1062.7 (S8) m. Same annotations as in Fig. 7. A) Mineralogy changes within centimetres along the vertical axis. The shallower part is dominated by gypsum and terrestrial dust while the deeper part is dominated by Na- and/or Mg-sulphates. B) A strong sulphate layer is found in the middle of the sample, terrestrial dust is mainly found below. C) Mineralogy differs strongly from the shallower samples: sulphates are less diverse, mineral dust and nitrates dominate, and clusters are less common.

4 Discussion

In this study we have shown that the water-insoluble particle content is variable on the centimetre-scale, but increases with depth. Furthermore, the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in EGRIP ice varies on the large-scale, i.e. throughout the core, and on small spatial scales, i.e. centimetres. Applying different methods (CFA, microstructure-mapping, and Raman spectroscopy) enabled us to create high-resolution impurity maps showing that sulphates and terrestrial dust are the most abundant minerals. The upper 900 m are characterised by sulphates with a diverse mineralogy while mineral dust and gypsum dominate below. Spatial patterns of inclusions of the same mineralogy were revealed, ranging from distinct layers of several millimetre thickness to clusters (mainly of sulphates).

4.1 Water-insoluble particles at EGRIP

We here present the 55 cm sample mean water-insoluble particle number (Fig. 1), representing the dust concentration in the ice. We find the particle concentration to vary with depth, indicating changes in mineral dust through the Holocene. The concentration is comparable to e.g., the North Greenland Ice Core Project ice core (Steffensen et al., 2008) and is low in overall concentration compared to Glacial ice (e.g., Steffensen, 1997; Ruth et al., 2003).

High concentrations of water-insoluble particles correlate with areas of numerous micro-inclusions observed with optical microscopy and Raman spectroscopy. The samples with the highest water-insoluble particle counts, i.e. S10 and S11, are from the Younger Dryas and the Bølling Allerød. This explains the much higher water-insoluble particle concentration, compared to our Holocene samples (Fig. 1), which is closer to resemble concentrations found in Glacial ice (Ruth et al., 2003). The highest amount of water-insoluble particles is in S10 (Fig. 2J), inside a cloudy band. Cloudy bands originate from seasonal events, such as atmospheric storms, resulting in increased transport and deposition of impurities on the ice sheet (Svensson et al., 2005). This explains the high number of mineral dust minerals, the low number of sulphates measured with Raman spectroscopy (Fig. 5A) and the resulting higher I_{var} compared to the deepest sample S11. It further supports the hypothesis that water-insoluble dust contributes significantly to cloudy bands (Svensson et al., 2005). Because the EGRIP drilling site is uniquely located on an ice stream, and the assumed high impact of high-impurity layers on the deformation of the ice (e.g., Dahl-Jensen and Gundestrup, 1987; Paterson, 1991; Miyamoto et al., 1999), there is a need for an in-depth study of cloudy bands at EGRIP.

We adjusted the approach of using micro-particle data, obtained from CFA, for efficient Raman analysis (Eichler et al., 2019) and conclude that analysing water-insoluble particle data first on the large-scale, i.e. along one ice core (Fig. 1), followed by small-scale analysis, i.e. over centimetres (Fig. 2A-K), provide an excellent basis for a systematic analysis of different depth regimes while ensuring a sufficient number of micro-inclusions. Combined with microstructure-mapping it additionally accelerates the time-consuming search for micro-inclusions, especially in pure Holocene ice.
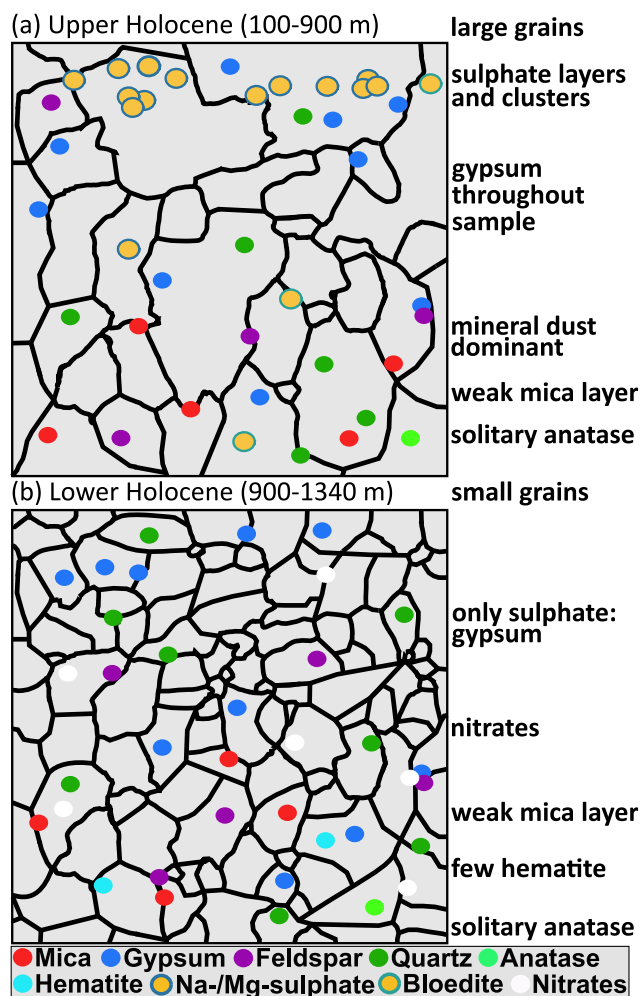
Figure 9. Sketch of the simplified distributional patterns of minerals found in A) upper Holocene ice and B) lower Holocene ice.

4.2 Minerals in EGRIP ice

4.2.1 Abundance of minerals

In general, our results show a large abundance of minerals across all samples while depth-related differences occur in total, and relative, mineral abundance. A detailed discussion of the observed change in mineralogy over the EGRIP ice core is presented in Sect. 4.2.2.

The most abundant minerals are sulphates and terrestrial dust minerals, which agrees with observations by e.g., Ohno et al. (2005); Sakurai et al. (2009); Eichler et al. (2019). We identified most sulphates as gypsum or Na- and/or Mg-sulphates, which agrees with e.g., Ohno et al. (2005); Eichler et al. (2019) (Fig. 5B). A total of 170 gypsum micro-inclusions makes it the most abundant mineral and the only sulphate which occurs in every sample supporting e.g., Legrand and Mayewski (1997)

and Sakurai et al. (2009). Mineral dust, such as feldspar, mica and quartz, were abundant at all depths, but generally in lower abundances than gypsum (Table 2). These minerals were especially abundant at a depth of 613.3 m (S5) and in the deepest sample close to the Glacial (S11). The Glacial sample analysed by Eichler et al. (2019) shows a similar abundance of terrestrial dust minerals. We observed nitrates in S7, S8, S10 and S11. Nitrates were also found with Raman spectroscopy by Fukazawa et al. (1998); Ohno et al. (2005), while Sakurai et al. (2009) and Eichler et al. (2019) observed nitrate-ions only with IC, not with Raman spectroscopy. The secondary minerals pyromorphite and epidote were each only found once. Prehnite was identified three times. Jacobsite was found twice (S2 and S5).

Antarctic ice is dominated by sulphates (Ohno et al., 2005, 2006; Sakurai et al., 2010, 2011; Eichler et al., 2019), they represent e.g., up to 96 % of all identified spectra in the interglacial samples of Eichler et al. (2019). Contrary to this, our samples show, in general, a higher diversity in minerals (Fig. 6). Only the sample from 899.98 m of depth (S7) has a comparable amount of sulphates (87.7 % of all identified spectra).

4.2.2 Change in mineralogy

We have observed a pronounced change in mineralogy from a sulphate-diverse, while terrestrial dust rich, regime in the upper 900 m to a terrestrial dust-dominated regime with comparably large amounts of gypsum at some depths (e.g., S8 and S9) (Fig. 5). The lack of a variety of sulphate minerals below 900 m is shown in our diversity index, which decreases with depth even though some minerals, such as dolomite, only occur below 900 m. Similar findings were reported by earlier studies (e.g., Ohno et al., 2005; Sakurai et al., 2009; Eichler et al., 2019) who found sulphates and mineral dust in varying numbers.

The most common minerals, i.e. sulphates and terrestrial dust, are found throughout the entire ice core, but in varying abundance (Fig. 5 and simplified in Fig. 9). The abundance of comparably rare minerals, such as hematite, anatase and titanite, does not detectably vary with depth. Other minerals e.g., rutile and epidote, were only found in shallow samples while e.g., dolomite and nitrates were only found in deep samples. However, deeper samples show smaller amounts, and varieties, of sulphates, which almost completely disappear below 900 m. In the four deepest samples gypsum is the only sulphate, except for one bloedite micro-inclusion in S9. Though previous data are scarce, Sakurai et al. (2009, 2011) and Eichler et al. (2019) show that sulphates are found in deeper parts of ice sheets, also consisting almost entirely of gypsum supporting our results.

The changes in mineralogy that we observe at 900 m depth are similar to observations made in other settings at a transition between Glacial and Interglacial. Eichler et al. (2019) found a strong difference in mineralogy between Interglacial and Glacial ice in the EDML ice core. However, main minerals in Interglacial ice are sulphates (especially Na-sulphate and gypsum) while mineral dust and gypsum dominate in Glacial ice (Eichler et al., 2019). Ohno et al. (2005) show that inclusions consist mainly of Na- and/or Mg-sulphates in Holocene ice from Dome Fuji, Antarctica while gypsum and nitrate salts dominate in the Last Glacial Maximum. This agrees with our findings and could indicate that, in Greenland and Antarctica, compounds bearing a variety of sulphates are more abundant in warm periods, such as the Holocene or the Eemian, while mineral dust and gypsum dominate during cold periods, such as the last Glacial. An investigation of EGRIP glacial samples will show if prominent changes in mineralogy also occur in deeper depth than the analysed upper 1340 m.

4.2.3 Detailed comparison with mineralogy in the GRIP ice core

A limited number of polar ice cores have been drilled over the last decades and mineralogy data are only available for a few of those. In Greenland, the GRIP ice core was analysed with Raman spectroscopy and EDS by Sakurai et al. (2009). The GRIP and EGRIP drill sites are relatively close by, we thus compare both cores here in detail.

360   We found gypsum at all depths at EGRIP resembling the results by Sakurai et al. (2009). Similar to our findings, Na- and/or Mg-sulphates, quartz, and nitrates are less abundant in their samples. Sakurai et al. (2009) analysed 6.9 and 9.8 ka BP old samples, which we compare to our 6.4 ka (S6), 9.3 ka (S8), and 10.2 ka (S9) old samples. The younger samples from both studies are mainly composed of gypsum, Na- and/or Mg-sulphates, and smaller amounts of quartz, feldspar, and mica. In the 9.8 ka old sample Sakurai et al. (2009) found gypsum, slightly less Na- and/or Mg-sulphates and some "other" minerals while
365 our 9.3 ka and 10.2 ka old samples (S8 and S9) show a slightly different mineralogy. Quartz is dominant in both samples and is accompanied by gypsum, feldspar and, to varying degrees, mica. Both samples contain no sulphates except gypsum and bloedite. Gypsum is the only sulphate in our oldest sample S11 (14.1 ka), which agrees well with the 13.5 ka sample from Sakurai et al. (2009).

    The higher relative amount of terrestrial minerals in our samples is difficult to explain conclusively, because the GRIP and
370 EGRIP sites are comparably close to each other and in similar distances to the coast. Intentionally choosing samples with a high water-insoluble particle content could partly explain this observed difference. In certain samples, e.g., S5, S8, and S10, the majority of micro-inclusions consists of mineral dust, which might indicate strong dust storms or deposition events as proposed for cloudy bands by e.g., Svensson et al. (2005). However, we show that the diversity in mineralogy can be high within centimetres (e.g., Fig. 8). The observed differences are thus probably caused by natural variability amplified by methodological
375 differences, such as different sample sizes.

4.2.4 Methodological drawbacks

We can not determine if rarely found minerals only occur at certain depths, or if this is related to statistics drawbacks. Minerals, such as hematite and anastase, were only found in a few samples while epidote, prehnite, pyromorphite, and dolomite were only found in one sample. Unfortunately, the problem of statistics reoccurs in microstructural impurity research, which can
380 only be partly solved by analysing larger samples, and with a higher spatial resolution which is not always feasible due to the amount of work needed for the analysis.

    Furthermore, there are known drawbacks of Raman spectroscopy, such as the inability to identify Raman-inactive components, the superimposition of the ice spectra, and the focus on visible, undissolved impurities. Especially the main component of sea salt, NaCl, is inaccessible with Raman spectroscopy and thus not considered in our analysis. Some Raman spectra
385 in S3 were difficult to identify, we thus had to exclude several spectra. However, analysing inclusions inside the ice prevents contamination and preserves their in situ locations and is thus a well justified approach.

    Obtaining good Raman spectra and identifying them with enough confidence will always be a challenge. We could not identify all measured Raman spectra similar to other studies using this method. As an example we measured the same unknown

spectra as presented in Fig. 2G by Sakurai et al. (2011). These technical limitations hamper a fully holistic analysis and are difficult to overcome. A partial solution would be an analysis of the same samples with a subsidiary method which identifies location and chemistry of impurities, such as SEM coupled with EDS or LA-ICP-MS.

4.3 Mineral origin and possible formation pathways

Raman spectroscopy data do not allow insights into the specific formation pathways of the identified inclusions. However, we give a brief overview of the most likely origins or formation pathways of the major groups of minerals, and of some rare minerals.

4.3.1 Mineral dust

Dust minerals, such as quartz, feldspar, hematite, and mica, usually originate from desert regions where strong winds erode crustal material. The small, sub-micron, particles can then be transported over long distances by the prevailing winds. As the particles are crustal material the most abundant elements are consequently Si, Al, Fe and their mineralogy can depend on the source regions. These particles represent the chemical composition of the crust and the most abundant elements are consequently Si, Al, and Fe.

4.3.2 Sulphates

The high abundance of sulphates in many samples can be largely explained by blown-in sulphate-bearing compounds from the continents (e.g., gypsum) or from sea salt (e.g., Na_2SO_4) (Legrand and Mayewski, 1997). However, sulphate minerals can also form after initial deposition when acidic aerosols of sulphuric acid, such as H_2SO_4 droplets, gain cations from other sources (e.g., Ohno et al., 2005). The main cations of the sulphate minerals in our samples are Ca^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, and Na^+ (Table 2). Ohno et al. (2005) suggest that Mg^{2+} and Na^+ could originate from blown-in sea salt ($NaCl$ and $MgCl_2$), which was deposited on the ice sheet. This would result in the possibility that HCl and Cl^- enter the ice lattice creating point defects and thus effecting the electric conductivity (Petrenko and Whitworth, 1999; Ohno et al., 2005) and dislocation mobility (e.g., Hu et al., 1995). HCl solution is monoatomic and without a vibrational spectrum and thus not detectable with Raman spectroscopy. We are limited in evaluating the process of sulphatisation in our samples, but our results imply that the process proposed by Ohno et al. (2005) could occur.

The difference in sulphate diversity between shallower and deeper samples could be explained by a difference in available dust (Fig. 1 and 2). Iizuka et al. (2012) concluded that aerosol sulphatisation in Antarctica is proportional to the dust flux and more likely to occur in the atmosphere or during fallout than after deposition. During the Holocene, sea salt aerosols reacted with acid-gas particles during transport and in the snowpack. In the Glacial however, acids were often neutralised by the higher amounts of terrestrial dust, i.e. with high concentrations of Ca^{2+}, and thus reacted less with sea salt (Röthlisberger, 2003). Fittingly, our results show that high dust concentrations often correlate with the dominance of gypsum over other sulphate minerals while lower dust values correlate with medium to high numbers of Na- and/or Mg-sulphates.

4.3.3 Nitrates

Nitrates are well soluble in water and a major impurity component in polar ice as obtained from CFA (Röthlisberger et al.,
2000b) and IC (Eichler et al., 2019) analyses, but there is a lack of understanding in which form they are present in ice. Nitric
acid (N_2O_5 or HNO_3) is a component of atmospheric fallout, and thus of ice cores, and could compete with other acids, such
as sulphuric acids. Sulphuric acid competes with other acids to react with the relative rare cations, replaces other acids in their
salts and thus forms a variety of sulphate salts (Iizuka et al., 2008). The relative abundance of nitrates at a certain depth (Fig.
5A) indicates that similar processes occur with nitrates. However, nitrate ions seem to be more likely to exist in dissolved forms
than in particle forms due to their good solubility in water.

4.3.4 Rare minerals

The rarely observed minerals pyromorphite, epidote, prehnite, and jacobsite are most likely of detrital origin and were trans-
ported together with more common dust minerals. The micrometre-sizes of the inclusions indicate a distant source region, such
as the deserts of Asia (Bory et al., 2003; Vallelonga and Svensson, 2014).

Pyromorphite and epidote are secondary minerals and were only found once. Pyromorphite is usually found in the oxidised
zones of lead ore deposits. Epidote is abundant in e.g., schistose rocks or marble. It can be a product of the hydrothermal
alteration of minerals in igneous rocks, such as feldspar or mica. Prehnite was identified three times and is normally found
in Mg- or Fe-rich (i.e. mafic) volcanic rocks and can be a product of hydrothermal alteration in chasms or veins. Jacobsite
was found twice (S2 and S5) and can occur as a primary phase or as a product of the metamorphism of manganese deposits
and thus, altered manganese minerals. It is typically associated with, among others, hematite and both were identified in S2.
Fe-minerals, such as hematite and jacobsite, were identified in this study and occur relatively often in polar ice (e.g., Baccolo
et al., 2018; Eichler et al., 2019; Baccolo et al., 2021). Baccolo et al. (2018) showed that the deep ice sheet environment is not
anoxic and dissolved oxygen and liquid water veins might support the oxidation and dissolution of specific mineral phases.

Dolomite was only observed in S10 originating from the Younger Dyas, which is the only section of the ice core that is not
acidic (Fig. 1). This indicates either that the carbonate is dissolving in the other parts of the core or that it has precipitated in
the part where the acidity was low.

4.3.5 Chemical reactions in ice

Chemical reactions occurring inside the ice could explain the diversity in chemical compounds as summarised for snow by
Bartels-Rausch et al. (2014), and further discussed for ice by Steffensen (1997); de Angelis et al. (2013); Baccolo et al. (2018)
and Eichler et al. (2019). Time spans of several thousand years could enable that impurities in the ice react and thus, led to
post-depositional changes in the composition of impurities. Barnes et al. (2003b); Masson-Delmotte et al. (2010); de Angelis
et al. (2013) suggest movement of chloride and sulphate ions after deposition while Barnes and Wolff (2004) report of possible
reactions between dust particles and soluble impurities. Faria et al. (2010) observed the formation of solid inclusions in deep ice,
which was supported by Eichler et al. (2019). A local mixing of impurities in shear bands with high strain rate and strain could

explain our observations of clustering of sulphates and is not unlikely due to the dynamic conditions inside NEGIS. Local small-scale processes could lead to preferred clustering of micro-inclusions with similar chemistry. We observed preferred clustering at all depths, however samples below 900 m show significantly fewer clusters. This correlates with the depth of declining sulphate-diversity and could indicate that, around this depth, certain unknown chemical reactions occur or that large-scale boundary conditions, such as climate or ice sheet extent, changed during the time of deposition. Furthermore, visual stratigraphy data (Weikusat et al., 2020) and the core break record show that the brittle zone, the transition from air bubbles to clathrates hydrates (Ohno et al., 2004; Neff, 2014), at EGRIP is roughly at 550-1000 m of depth. Defects in the ice matrix, grain boundaries and micro-inclusions can act as nucleation sites for hydrate nucleations (Ohno et al., 2010). We found most clathrates below 900 m evoking the possibility that this transition zone also impacts sulphate chemistry, but details are unknown.

4.4 Mineralogy related to Holocene climate

We observed a diverse mineralogy of micro-inclusions in EGRIP ice across all scales. Mineral abundance changes throughout the core, i.e. the observed change in sulphate diversity (Sect. 4.2.2), and across samples, i.e. in distinct layers and clusters (Sect. 3.4). This can be partly explained by different deposition conditions throughout the Holocene which we briefly discuss here.

Previous studies have suggested two possible scenarios for the Holocene climate evolution. It was either a stable period of climate with the Holocene Thermal Maximum in the Mid-Holocene (9-5 ka BP), or a period with a rather long-term cooling trend and an earlier, stronger Holocene Thermal Maximum (Axford et al., 2021). The prominent change of abundant minerals at a depth of 900 m could be explained by these two scenarios leaving different imprints on the mineralogy. The extension of the Greenland Ice Sheet during the Holocene cannot be constrained exactly, and it probably differed significantly between regions (Lecavalier et al., 2014; Young and Briner, 2015). The rapid retreat of the ice sheet in NE-Greenland 12 ka ago lead to ice-free coastal areas in NE-Greenland after ~9 ka BP (Lecavalier et al., 2014; Simonsen et al., 2019). Air temperatures over Greenland increased in the Holocene Thermal Maximum and peaked ~7.8 ka BP (Lecavalier et al., 2014; Axford et al., 2021). The average EGRIP annual layer thickness is surprisingly constant during the Holocene, but a significant change occurs around 7-8 ka b2k (Mojtabavi et al., 2020a). The RECAP dust record shows the exposition of local dust sources, e.g., in King Christian X land, between 12.1 ± 0.1 and 9.0 ± 0.1 ka b2k (Simonsen et al., 2019). Syring et al. (2020) show that the sea ice cover in NE-Greenland transformed from a reduced state towards a marginal, almost extended, state between Early (~11.7-9 ka BP) and Mid Holocene (~9-5 ka BP) possibly impacting the input of sea salt (ss), a major source of sulphates ($ss - SO_4^{2-}$). The variability in sulphate diversity and number could display the variety in blown-in sea salt aerosols (ssa) carrying sulphate compounds, such as gypsum. Even though the main dust input to Greenland was from East Asia (Svensson et al., 2000; Bory et al., 2003), regional changes (e.g., exposed bedrock) might have had an impact on the availability of chemical compounds in the air, and thus during deposition. The occurrence of other sulphates than gypsum in 9.8 ka old GRIP ice (Sakurai et al., 2009) supports a site specific, regional difference at EGRIP compared to GRIP.

A difference in the chemistry at the ice sheet surface at the time of deposition and different atmospheric circulation patterns, and thus varying aerosol input, could be indicated by the micro-particle record (Fig. 1). Dust particle numbers generally increase with depth (Fig. 2) and especially S10 is from a dust-rich period, the Younger Dryas. For Greenland, the major dust

source areas for the Last Glacial and the Younger Dryas were the East Asian deserts (Svensson et al., 2000; Vallelonga and Svensson, 2014) with minor contributions from the Sahara (Han et al., 2018). Dust particles deposited in the Holocene are likely from the Takla Makan and Gobi desert (Bory et al., 2003; Vallelonga and Svensson, 2014). These differences in dust input between the Holocene and the Last Glacial are represented in our results, e.g., the lowest I_{var} value was measured in the deepest sample originating from the Bølling Allerød. The strong layering and clustering of sulphates observed in some samples could originate from dry deposition events, which form deposition crusts mainly containing sulphates.

Another possible aspect is the impact of NEGIS. Our analysed samples were deposited within 197 km upstream from EGRIP and thus at slightly higher surface elevations (2993±7 m a.s.l. at 1400 m depth), which limits the impact on the aerosol input. Accumulation rates for ice from depths of 900 to 1400 m were low, except the peak during the Bølling Allerød (Gerber et al., 2021). This peak coincidences with a low I_{var} value in S11 displaying that a high accumulation rate does not necessarily lead to mineral diversity. However, it is difficult to compare the Holocene samples to the two samples from the Younger Dryas and Bølling Allerød. A systematic follow-up study on EGRIP Glacial ice is needed to investigate if the observed trends, e.g., of mineral diversity, continue with depth.

5 Conclusions

We here derive the first systematic analysis of the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in Holocene and Late Glacial ice from the EGRIP ice core, the first deep ice core from a fast flowing ice stream. More specific, we used dust particle concentration derived via CFA along the upper 1340 m and analysed micro-inclusions in detail with a combination of optical microscopy and Cryo-Raman spectroscopy at eleven different depths. Combining these methods, and thus covering different scales, provides a good basis for a systematic analysis of different depth regimes while ensuring a sufficient number of micro-inclusions.

By identifying almost 800 Raman spectra we obtained new qualitative, and quantitative, insights into the mineralogy of micro-inclusions in polar ice. 24 different spectra were identified, which indicates a more diverse mineralogy in ice from the last 14 ka than previously observed. In general most inclusions are sulphates, especially gypsum, and mineral dust, such as quartz, mica, and feldspar. Sulphates in the upper 900 m tend to create clusters of similar chemical composition and mineral diversity decreases slightly with depth. The 1340 m of the EGRIP ice core analysed here can be divided into two depth regimes of different mineralogy. The upper 900 m are characterised by various sulphates while below this depth gypsum is the only sulphate. This might be explained by different amounts of water-insoluble particle input, other reasons might be large-scale changes in NE-Greenland during the Mid-Holocene, such as the decreasing lateral extent of the Greenland Ice Sheet revealing bedrock at the coast, the varying sea-ice cover impacting the availability of sulphates in the air during deposition or processes taking place at the bubble-clathrate transition. Further studies are however needed to define exact reasons.

Our study emphasises the need to overcome technical limitations, which could be achieved by an inter-method comparison of e.g., Raman spectroscopy, LA-ICP-MS and SEM. However, our systematic overview of the mineralogy of micro-inclusions throughout a large part of one deep ice core helps to develop a better understanding of the role of impurities in polar ice.

Appendix A: Appendix A

Table A1. Identified Raman spectra in the upper 1340 m of the EGRIP ice core.

Mineral	Number	Formula
Gypsum	170	$CaSO_4 * 2H_2O$
Quartz	126	SiO_2
Bloedite	88	$Na_2Mg(SO_4)_2 * 4H_2O$
Na and/or Mg-sulphate	73	$NaSO_4$ and/or $MgSO_4$
Feldspar	67	$(K, Na, Ca, NH_4)(Al/Si)_4O_8$
Mica undefined	42	$(K, Na, Ca, NH_4)Al_2(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH)_2$
Nitrates	36	XNO_3
Hematite	33	Fe_2O_3
K-sulphate	31	K_2SO_4
Mica (Phlogopite)	25	$KMg_3(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH,F)_2$
Sulphate undefined	24	XSO_4
Carbonous	22	C
Dolomite	17	$CaMg(CO_3)_2$
Mica (Muscovite)	11	$KAl_2(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH,F)_2$
Anatase	8	TiO_2
Rutile	3	TiO_2
Mica (Paragonite)	3	$NaAl_2(Si_3Al)O_{10}(OH)_2$
Prehnite	3	$Ca_2Al_2Si_3O_{10}(OH)_2$
Na-nitrates	3	$NaNO_3$
Jacobsite	2	$MnFe_2O_4$
Titanite	2	$CaTiSiO_5$
Epidote	1	$Ca_2(Fe/Al)Al_2(Si_2O_7)(SiO_4)O(OH)$
Pyromorphite	1	$Pb_5(PO_4)_3Cl$
Air	1	O_2

Data availability. Raman data and high-resolution microstructure and impurity maps are available at PANGAEA. CFA data will be published
520 separately with an in-depth CFA study.

Author contributions. Conceptualisation by NiS, IW, and MH. Microstructure mapping and Raman methodology developed by NiS, JE, and IW. CFA micro particle data was provided by CJ and TE. Investigation and data curation by NiS, TE, and CJ. Formal analysis by NiS and TE. Funding acquisition for NiS by IW. The original draft was written by NiS with assistance from all co-authors.

Competing interests. The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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