

We thank referee #1 and #2 for helpful comments.

## To referee #1

Lee et al establishes the chronology of a blue ice field at the Larsen Glacier in north Victoria Land, East Antarctica by cross-correlating properties recorded in the ice (and the enclosed air). Further aided by absolute radiometric  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  dating, the authors report the discovery of a horizontally continuous ice section spanning from the early Holocene through the Last Glacial Maximum, with the age gets progressively older downstream. It is therefore concluded that Larsen Glacier could serve as a paleoclimate archive to study the transition from the Last Glacial Maximum to the Holocene. While the study subject of this manuscript (blue ice) is clearly part of the cryosphere, hence making the manuscript within the scope and aim of the journal *The Cryosphere*, the manuscript would benefit from more in-depth discussion on the glaciological or climatic implications of the discovery of stratigraphically continuous blue ice at the Larsen Glacier: what does it mean for the local ice dynamics, East Antarctic Ice Sheet, or paleoclimate (given the authors argue this blue ice field could be utilized to study climate changes across the Last Deglaciation)?

- In this manuscript, we described the stratigraphy and established the unknown ice and gas ages for the Larsen blue ice. Our chronostratigraphic study for the outcropped ice will serve as a groundwork for future study on Larsen Glacier. Well-constrained chronology for the outcropped ice will enable studies that have been difficult by the limits of availability of large ice samples.
- We added a reconstruction of past accumulation rate and surface temperature in section 3.7. In addition, we also added a description of the greenhouse gas alteration at the very shallow depth in BIAs with comparing the gas alteration with other BIAs in section 3.3. For the ice age and gas age uncertainties, we added section 3.6.

It must be acknowledged that a continuous blue ice section is exciting and rewarding for all the field and lab work that was done, but LGM (or Termination I) isn't a particularly understudied interval. A large number of deep ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica have provided a detailed record of atmospheric composition and local to regional climate.

- Lots of studies were published in terms of the LGM and the last glacial termination. However, the associated climatic processes remain unclear partly because of the limited size of ice samples, especially for isotopic analysis of greenhouse gas and trace elements. Huge volume of ice sample is allowed from BIAs given that the chronology of the ice is well-constrained.

A blue ice field in Taylor Glacier in the Dry Valleys, less than 500 km away from the Larsen Glacier, provides a near continuous surface ice record already providing large-volume samples for various novel geochemical analyses. Therefore one has to wonder what new information blue ice field in Larsen Glacier could bring about.

- Distance between Larsen Glacier and Taylor Glacier is about 330 km and we think this is not a small distance. In addition, when considering the original snow deposition sites, the spatial difference between the Larsen

and Taylor glacier might be larger. Further study in Larsen BIA will give ice flow information of the Northern Victoria Land, while Taylor Glacier will give information about the Southern Victoria Land. Using the ice samples from Taylor Glacier, Allan Hills, and Larsen Glacier together, may also give information about climate conditions in the past as well as the growth and/or retreat of Ross Ice Shelf during the last deglaciation. In addition, we may get benefits from various sites because the ice quality for paleoclimate study depends on glaciological conditions.

- We added description of the gas alteration at the very shallow depth in BIAs and compared it with other BIAs (Elephant Moraine, Allan Hills, Taylor Glacier) in section 3.3.

A few questions that may be worthy of consideration: Can you trace the original deposition site by GPR and dust bands? Or if you already know where the ice was deposited, could you estimate the velocity of ice motion? In terms of climate, presumably you could infer annual layer thickness from GPR and that should provide information about past accumulation rates and ice thinning function. If so, what does it mean for the local climate and ice dynamics?

- To trace the original deposition site, we should operate an ice flow modeling and conduct further GPR surveys. For study in this aspect, the work in our manuscript will give fundamental information.
- Estimation for past accumulation rates and surface temperature can be derived from using  $\Delta$ age (ice age and gas age difference), and  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$ . We added the estimated values in section 3.7.

Since both hydrogen and oxygen isotopes in water have been measured, could you calculate the deuterium excess and what does that tell us about the hydrological changes in north Victoria Land on glacial-interglacial timescales?

- **Line 284: We added** “Deuterium-excess ( $d = \delta^2\text{H}_{\text{ice}} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$ ) shows a wide range (5.40 to  $-3.89$  ‰, Table S5) from the entire near-surface ice samples. The negative d-excess likely indicates that isotopic fractionation is attributed to the sublimation of ice in the accumulation zone (Hu et al., 2021). Negative d-excess values were also observed in the Allan Hills BIA (Hu et al., 2021). Meanwhile, sublimation can deplete  $^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  in ice and make the isotopic ratios ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}_{\text{ice}}$ ) enriched. Thus, the wide range and negative value of d-excess results indicate that stable water isotopes are not proper proxies for the changes in temperature and vapour sources.”

This is not to say that these are the only questions that must be answered here. The bottom line is that as a reader of The Cryosphere I am hoping to see what new scientific discovery is being made. It might be an abrupt change in accumulation rates, or a different local precipitation regime. The current manuscript feels to me more like a detailed progress report without firm conclusion on what new is being presented. Of course it could be argued that the discovery of a potentially useful paleoclimate archive itself is an achievement, but back to my earlier points, the Last Glacial Maximum is already an intensively studied interval.

- Taking the advantage of BIA (using huge amount of ice) is essential to discover new insights for the last deglaciation. Therefore, well-constrained chronology for the outcropped ice will enable studies that have been difficult by the limits of availability of large ice samples.
- To find very old ice (> 1 Ma BP), BIAs are the major targets recently. However, well-constrained chronostratigraphic study of BIAs is scarce. Thus, the manuscript here is not just a detailed progress report but a fundamental work and a pioneer of BIA study. The manuscript highly contributes to the ice core society for finding very old ice in BIAs.
- We added a comparison of depths of the un-altered gas between BIAs in section 3.3.
- We added the estimated value of past accumulation rate and surface temperature and the interpretation of it in section 3.7.

Finally, before proceeding to detailed comments, I feel a bit confused why the manuscript does not present the absolute dating results first.  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  is a well-established absolute dating method for glacial ice and underground water. Unless the authors are worried about contamination of modern air (a hypothesis that was later rejected based on undetectable  $^{85}\text{Kr}$ ), the results of absolute dating (high accuracy, low precision) should come before the cross-dating efforts that have a high level of precision. In doing so you could easily narrow the range of age search to the last glacial cycle and therefore shorten a considerable portion of the current discussion (in particular 3.5) that might be devoted to more glaciological-focused discussion.

- We used the  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  dating method later in the manuscript, serving as an independent age constraint and strengthening the age constraint established by correlations with existing ice core record. Even though the modern air contamination could be rejected, the use of  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  isotopes for accurate age constraint could be limited because of the age uncertainty originating from inaccurate calibration, estimation of the Kr half-life, and the production rate of Kr through the past.

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Specific comments:

Line 18: the claim of a “simple stratigraphy of ice” seems to contradict the description that the ice upstream has age repetitions (i.e. is folded). Perhaps you could rephrase it into something like “Here we report a surface transect of ice that has a simple horizontal stratigraphy.” This would exclusively correspond to the downstream section described in the current manuscript.

- Line18: We rephrased the sentence.
  - “Here, we report a surface transect of ice with an undisturbed horizontal stratigraphy from the Larsen BIA, Antarctica, making the area valuable for paleoclimate studies.”

Line 32: please add Lüthi et al (2008) Nature and Bereiter et al (2015) GRL to the citation.

➤ Line 36: We added “Lüthi et al., 2008; Bereiter et al., 2015”.

Line 49: it is necessary to point out that the current longest continuous ice core record stops at 800,000 years.

➤ Line 54: We added “(to date, the longest continuous ice core record covers the last 800 ka BP)”.

Line 60: this sentence is equivocal. Does “globally well-mixed” also apply to glaciological records? Based on the nature of stable water isotopes I don't the authors imply that the glaciological records are also globally mixed (in fact, they are not). Please (1) consider splitting the gas age and ice age synchronization methods and (2) point out that the age of the gas is different from the age of the ice at the same depth.

➤ Line 76: We split the words related to dating methods for gas and ice ages. The relevant text is reworded as follows:

- One effective method for dating the gas age is to correlate globally well-mixed atmospheric gas records (e.g., CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, δ<sup>18</sup>O<sub>atm</sub>) with existing well-dated ice core records (Spaulding et al., 2013; Baggenstos et al., 2017; Menking et al., 2019; Yan et al., 2021). Other methods include the use of stable Ar isotopes (Higgins et al., 2015; Yau et al., 2015; Yan et al., 2019) or radioactive <sup>81</sup>Kr (Loosli&Oeschger 1969; Buizert et al., 2014; Tian et al., 2019; Crotti et al., 2021), both of which provide independent and absolute age constraints. However, the use of Ar and Kr isotopes have certain limitation for accurate age constraint. The age uncertainty of Ar dating is ±180 ka or 11 % of the age; the uncertainty is originated from the regression line Bender et al. (2008) used. In addition, the ages can be corrupted by the injection of radiogenic <sup>40</sup>Ar from the continental crust (Bender et al., 2010). The age uncertainty of <sup>81</sup>Kr dating ranges between 5–20 % of the age depending on the sample age and sample size (Jiang et al., 2020). It also has a systematic age uncertainty of ~5 % due to the uncertainty in the <sup>81</sup>Kr half-life. For dating ice ages, glaciochemical records (e.g., nss-Ca<sup>2+</sup>, δ<sup>18</sup>O<sub>ice</sub>, δ<sup>2</sup>H<sub>ice</sub>) can be used for correlation with existing well-dated ice core records (Baggenstos et al., 2018; Menking et al., 2019). Notably, the ice is older than the gas at the corresponding depth because the gas is isolated and stops mixing with the atmospheric air when the firm completely transforms into ice (Schwander and Stauffer, 1984).

Line 61 & 81: please add Yan et al (2021) Clim. Past to the citation.

➤ Line 66: We added “Yan et al., 2021”.

➤ Line 78: We added “Yan et al., 2021”.

➤ Line 91: We added “; Yan et al., 2021”.

Line 62: if absolute dating methods are effective, readers without sufficient knowledge on their limits may why bother correlating gas-phase and ice-phase properties? It may be better to introduce

absolute dating methods first, then acknowledge their uncertainties, and finally introduce a more precise way of age synchronization.

- Line 78: We removed “effective”.
- Line 80: We added the limitations of Ar and Kr dating.
  - “However, the use of Ar and Kr isotopes have certain limitation for accurate age constraint. The age uncertainty of Ar dating is  $\pm 180$  ka or 11 % of the age; the uncertainty is originated from the regression line Bender et al. (2008) used. In addition, the ages can be corrupted by the injection of radiogenic  $^{40}\text{Ar}$  from the continental crust (Bender et al., 2010). The age uncertainty of  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  dating ranges between 5–20 % of the age depending on the sample age and sample size (Jiang et al., 2020). It also has a systematic age uncertainty of  $\sim 5$  % due to the uncertainty in the  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  half-life.”

Line 85: please specify which “area” you are referring to (north Victoria Land?).

- Line 70: We changed “area” to “BIAs in Northern Victoria Land.”.

Fig 1: Is there a particular reason for the current orientation of the Antarctic continent?

- In Figure 3, north is directed to the top and the directions of ice flow and GPR results are presented in the same way. To keep a consistent orientation in the figures, we flipped the Antarctic continent in Figure 1. We think the opposite orientation in Figure 1 may make the readers confused. However, if the editor and the reviewers strongly suggest to change the orientation, we will do that in the revised manuscript.
- Line 104: We added “To keep a consistent orientation with the GPR profile in Fig. 3, we flipped the classical map of Antarctica (East Antarctica to the left-hand side)”.

Line 154: could you please evaluate the potential of in situ methane production in ice cores with high dust concentrations (Lee et al 2020 GCA)?

- We have not measured concentration of ion species such as  $\text{Na}^+$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  so we are not able to discuss excess  $\text{CH}_4$  with high dust concentrations in this manuscript.

Line 157: please specify what 2nd gas extraction means. Does it imply the refrozen meltwater is melted once again?

- Line 182: We added “(refrozen meltwater was melted and refrozen once again)”.

Line 169: please specify the temperature of the water trap.

- Line 195: We added “(approximately  $-80$  °C)”.

Line 189: what does “unclear ice” mean? It is not a common word to describe ice cores. Please elaborate.

➤ Line 217: We changed “removed some unclear ice surface” to “shaved away some blurry ice surface”.

Line 240: could you define the origin to which downstream and upstream are referenced against?

➤ Line 276: We added “(from ice cores #23 to #200)”.

➤ Line 278: We added “(from 81w to ice core #23)”.

Line 261: the possibility of large variations in temperature and vapor sources is an interesting one. Perhaps you could quickly test them using deuterium excess data.

➤ Line 302: We added “Deuterium-excess ( $d = \delta^2\text{H}_{\text{ice}} - 8 \times \delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$ ) shows a wide range (5.40 to  $-3.89\%$ , Table S5) from the entire near-surface ice samples. The negative d-excess likely indicates that isotopic fractionation is attributed to the sublimation of ice in the accumulation zone (Hu et al., 2021). Negative d-excess values were also observed in the Allan Hills BIA (Hu et al., 2021). Meanwhile, sublimation can deplete  $^{16}\text{O}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  in ice and make the isotopic ratios ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}_{\text{ice}}$ ) enriched. Thus, the wide range and negative value of d-excess results indicate that stable water isotopes are not proper proxies for the changes in temperature and vapour sources.”.

Line 289: why aren't  $d^{15}\text{N}-\text{N}_2$  and  $d^{18}\text{O}-\text{O}_2$  expected not to be altered substantially? The intrusion of modern air might not be a problem, but there could be gas loss from the ice and hence fractionation.

➤ Line 346: We changed the sentence.

➤ “As  $\delta^{15}\text{N}-\text{N}_2$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  were measured at very shallow depths ( $\sim 1.95$  m), we compared the horizontal results with the vertical distribution of the ice core #23.”.

Line 300: the depth at which  $d^{15}\text{N}-\text{N}_2$  and  $d^{18}\text{O}-\text{O}_2$  no longer vary appears to be different at different sites. In Allan Hills BIA gas composition is stabilized below 7 to 10 m (Spaulding et al 2013, Quaternary Res). Can you comment on this variability?

➤ Line 339: We added “Table 2. Depth of unaltered greenhouse gas composition and mean annual temperature of BIAs.”.

**Table 2. Depth of unaltered greenhouse gas compositions and mean annual temperature of BIAs.**

Site	Depth of unaltered greenhouse gas composition (m)	Mean annual temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Reference for depth of unaltered air	Reference for mean annual temperature
Elephant Moraine	$> 10^*$	-30.3	This study (Fig. A1)	KOPRI AWS ( $76.27^{\circ}$ S, $156.71^{\circ}$ E)
Texas Bowl	$> 7-10$	$-31^{\dagger}$	Spaulding et al. (2013)	Delisle and Sievers (1991)
Allan Hills	$> 4.6$	-24.4	This study (Fig. A1)	Antarctic Meteo-Climatological Observatory
Larsen Glacier	$> 4$	$-18^{\ddagger}$	Baggenstos et al. (2017)	United States Antarctic Program

\*Depth of unaltered greenhouse gas compositions from Elephant Moraine Texas Bowl remains uncertain due to the lack of data at depth of > 10 m. Mean annual temperature of Elephant Moraine: provided by KOPRI's automatic weather station (AWS) record of year 2020 and 2021. <sup>†</sup>Allan Hills: not provided by an AWS but by stable water isotopes; <sup>‡</sup>deduced by vertical profile of  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  values in Allan Hills. <sup>‡</sup>Taylor Glacier: assumed to be comparable with the mean annual temperature of nearby McMurdo station (~100 km away). <sup>¶</sup>Pakitsoq: assumed to be comparable with the mean annual temperature of the nearby town of Ilulissat (~40 km away).

- Line 357: We added “In contrast,  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  values in the Allan Hills are stabilized below 7–10 m (Spaulding et al., 2013).”.

Line 303: it seems that this section could be simplified given your  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  dating results.

- We used the  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  dating method later in the manuscript, serving as an independent age constraint and strengthening the age constraint established by synchronization. Even though the modern air contamination could be rejected, the use of  $^{81}\text{Kr}$  isotopes for accurate age constraint is limited because of the age uncertainty originating from inaccurate calibration, estimation of the Kr half-life, and the production rate of Kr through the past.

Line 374-375: the origin of ice age-gas age difference should be introduced in the earlier section.

- We moved the statement to line 86. It was also more elaborated.
  - Notably, the ice is older than the gas at the corresponding depth because the gas is isolated and stops mixing with the atmospheric air when the firn completely transforms into ice (Schwander and Stauffer, 1984).

Line 385: the maximum delta-age at 17.5 ka is another interesting observation that could have important paleoclimate implications (Buizert et al 2021, Science).

- We estimated the past accumulation rate and temperature with the delta-age and  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$  (see the new section 3.7 below).

Line 403 & 414: it would be worthwhile to calculate the temporal resolution of the Larsen BIA samples, especially in the horizontal dimension (easy to do given Fig A7). How does that compare to, for example, the Talos Dome ice core record nearby?

- Line 457: We added temporal resolution for the Larsen BIA.
  - The established horizontal ice chronology shows that temporal resolution of  $10\text{ yr m}^{-1}$  and  $17\text{ yr m}^{-1}$  are available for the Holocene (5.6–12 ka BP) and for the last deglaciation (12–24.6 ka BP), respectively, at the surface ice from Larsen BIA. These estimated resolutions are higher than those of the deep ice core TALDICE covering this time interval ( $\sim 18\text{ yr m}^{-1}$ ) (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2011).

Line 405: the word “chemical” usually refers to ions in ice cores.



- Line 573: We changed “chemical result” to “analytical data”.

Line 406: again please provide a clear reference point against which downstream and upstream are defined.

- Line 574: We added “(from ice cores #23 to #200)”.

Line 412: can you provide more proof to back the claim of “high-precision ages”? It would be helpful if errors associated with cross-correlating different properties could be presented, like what Menking et al (2019) Clim. Past did.

- We added “Section 3.6 Age uncertainty”. In this section we discussed the gas age, ice age, and  $\Delta$ age (ice age – gas age) uncertainties. See below.

#### References:

Bereiter, B., Eggleston, S., Schmitt, J., Nehrbass-Ahles, C., Stocker, T.F., Fischer, H., Kipfstuhl, S. and Chappellaz, J., 2015. Revision of the EPICA Dome C CO<sub>2</sub> record from 800 to 600 kyr before present. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 42(2), 542-549.

Buizert, C., Fudge, T.J., Roberts, W.H., Steig, E.J., Sherriff-Tadano, S., Ritz, C., Lefebvre, E., Edwards, J., Kawamura, K., Oyabu, I. and Motoyama, H., 2021. Antarctic surface temperature and elevation during the Last Glacial Maximum. *Science*, 372(6546), 1097-1101.

Lee, J.E., Edwards, J.S., Schmitt, J., Fischer, H., Bock, M. and Brook, E.J., 2020. Excess methane in Greenland ice cores associated with high dust concentrations. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 270, 409-430.

Lüthi, D., Le Floch, M., Bereiter, B., Blunier, T., Barnola, J.M., Siegenthaler, U., Raynaud, D., Jouzel, J., Fischer, H., Kawamura, K. and Stocker, T.F., 2008. High-resolution carbon dioxide concentration record 650,000–800,000 years before present. *Nature*, 453(7193), 379-382.

Menking, J.A., Brook, E.J., Shackleton, S.A., Severinghaus, J.P., Dyonisius, M.N., Petrenko, V., McConnell, J.R., Rhodes, R.H., Bauska, T.K., Baggenstos, D. and Marcott, S., 2019. Spatial pattern of accumulation at Taylor Dome during Marine Isotope Stage 4: stratigraphic constraints from Taylor Glacier. *Climate of the Past*, 15(4), 1537-1556.



Spaulding, N.E., Higgins, J.A., Kurbatov, A.V., Bender, M.L., Arcone, S.A., Campbell, S., Dunbar, N.W., Chimiak, L.M., Introne, D.S. and Mayewski, P.A., 2013. Climate archives from 90 to 250 ka in horizontal and vertical ice cores from the Allan Hills Blue Ice Area, Antarctica. *Quaternary Research*, 80(3), 562-574.

Yan, Y., Spaulding, N.E., Bender, M.L., Brook, E.J., Higgins, J.A., Kurbatov, A.V., and Mayewski, P.A., 2021. Enhanced Moisture Delivery into Victoria Land, East Antarctica During the Early Last Interglacial: Implications for West Antarctic Ice Sheet Stability, *Climate of the Past*, 17(5), 1841–1855.

## To referee #2

### General comments

The authors present a thorough analysis of ice samples collected in a blue ice area in Northern Victoria Land, East Antarctica. With complementary methods, both in the field, and in the laboratory, the chronostratigraphy of the ice is analyzed. By comparing the results to existing ice core records, a convincing proof of the estimated age of the ice and the gas entrapped in the ice is provided. Together with radar observations, the analyses from a three-dimensional image of age isochrones, which also allows an estimation of the age of ice near the bedrock. Given the importance of Antarctic blue ice areas in the recent developments in the search for the oldest ice, where 2.7-million-year-old ice has been recovered from a blue ice area in the Transantarctic mountains, the manuscript is very relevant for future paleoclimatic studies, and it can help in defining field work practices of sample collection and motivating site selection for shallow ice cores from blue ice areas.

The authors place their manuscript into context through a short literature review, after which the methods are described with clear subheadings. The results and discussion do justify the conclusions that are drawn, after which the paper is shortly wrapped up in a conclusion.

I do think the implications of the analyses are underexposed and need to be further elaborated without reducing the technical details. These technical details are generally clearly described and seem to ensure reproducible research, although the editor must know that I do not have the required laboratory experience/background to criticize this well. I have noted my suggestions below.

### Specific comments per section

**Abstract:** clear and concise

Line 1: I do think the first line provides a circular argument

➤ We do not understand the comment.

Line 26: BIAs

➤ Line 31: We changed “BIA” to “BIAs”.

**1 Introduction:** In general, the introduction gives all necessary background for reading the paper. However, I think the structure is a bit confusing, with paragraphs that do not follow each other in a logical order. Moreover, the last paragraph that introduces the study is too concise and does not clearly bring forward the goal of the research. Proposed solution: I would suggest to merge the paragraph starting on line 77 to the other paragraph on blue ice areas, starting on line 47.

➤ Line 62: We moved the paragraph right after the paragraph that the reviewer suggested.

Moreover, the approaches in the study (now outlined in the last paragraph), could be merged into the paragraphs starting from line 56 and from line 65 and/or the last paragraph can be more elaborate.

➤ Line 107: We more elaborated the last paragraph as follows:

➤ “Our study focuses on the chronostratigraphy of ice in Larsen BIA, Antarctica, which may facilitate future research in this region. We describe the ice flow and structure of an ice body using dust bands and ground penetration radar (GPR) surveys, and then assessed the alterations of the measured stable water isotopes, greenhouse gases (CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>), and gas isotopes ( $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$ ,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ ). To constrain the unknown gas and ice ages,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ , CH<sub>4</sub>, and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  were correlated with existing ice core records. We also independently confirmed the ages using the radiometric <sup>81</sup>Kr dating method. Finally, using the  $\delta^{15}\text{N-N}_2$ , and the  $\Delta\text{age}$  (ice age-gas age difference) results, we present the record of surface temperature and accumulation rate. In contrast to the previous studies, which used the Herron-Longway model (Herron and Langway, 1980; Baggenstos et al., 2018; Menking et al., 2019; Yan et al., 2021), we applied a recently developed analytical framework to estimate past surface temperature and accumulation rates (Buizert, 2021).”

Line 42: I think it is important to mention that the flow is redirected. Normally, the ice flows under gravitational forces towards the margins of the continent. Moreover, it is not the bedrock itself that causes the ice to flow upwards, but it is the bedrock geometry (which in some sense is equal to the mentioned basal topographic obstacles). Also, in many cases these obstacles are exposed above the ice (nunataks).

➤ Line 46: We added that the ice flow is redirected and removed “bedrock” from the sentence.

➤ “Once ice is deposited, ice flows to the margin of the ice sheet, where it is exposed on the surface since the basal topographic obstacles cause deep glacial flow upward. Moreover, surface snow is ablated by katabatic winds and/or sublimation (Bintanja, 1999; Sinisalo and Moore, 2010).”

Line 52: instead of blue ice, specify that you mean samples taken from blue ice areas. This remark also applies to the rest of the paper.

➤ Line 17: Changed “blue ice” to “blue ice area.”

➤ Line 53: Changed “blue ice” to “BIAs”.

➤ Line 58: We changed “blue ice” to “ice samples taken from BIAs (hereafter referred to as blue ice)”.

➤ Line 59: Changed “blue ice” to “BIAs”.

Figure 1: Specify that orange dots represent “a selection” or “examples”, as not all BIA where the chronology has been studied seem to be included (e.g., Zekollari et al. 2019)

- Zekollari, S. Goderis, V. Debaille, M. van Ginneken, J. Gattacceca, A. J. Timothy Jull, J. T. M. Lenaerts, A. Yamaguchi, P. Huybrechts, P. Claeys, Unravelling the high-altitude Nansen blue ice field meteorite trap (East Antarctica) and implications for regional palaeo-conditions. *Geochim. Cosmochim. Acta.* **248**, 289–310 (2019).

➤ We added Nansen BIA and Taylor Dome (TD) to the figure 1.



**2 Study area and methods:** In general, well-structured and clearly described.

Line 97: (Fig. 2a)

➤ Line 119: We changed “Fig. 2” to “Fig. 2a”.

Line 97-99: A low mean annual temperature does not guaranty the absence of melt in a blue ice area. We need to know either the standard deviation of this annual temperature, or a maximum/high percentile of the observations.

➤ Line 120: There was a typo. We changed “-27.2 °C” to “-24.4 ± 11.7 °C”.

Line 104: Using Quantarctica needs to be acknowledged by also citing the entire dataset and the corresponding paper

Matsuoka, K., Skoglund, A., & Roth, G. (2018). Quantarctica [Data set]. Norwegian Polar Institute. <https://doi.org/10.21334/npolar.2018.8516e961>

Matsuoka, A. Skoglund, G. Roth, J. De Pomereu, H. Griffiths, R. Headland, B. Herried, K. Katsumata, A. Le, K. Licht, F. Morgan, P. D. Neff, C. Ritz, M. Scheinert, T. Tamura, A. Van De Putte, M. Van Den Broeke, A. Von Deschwanden, Quantarctica, an integrated mapping environment for

Antarctica, the Southern Ocean, and sub-Antarctic islands. Environ. Model. Softw. 140, 105015 (2021).

➤ **Line 126:** We added “Matsuoka et al., 2018; Matsuoka et al., 2021”.

Line 104-105: it is remarkable that the stratigraphy is disturbed upstream. Why does this not have implications on the stratigraphy downstream? What is the cause of the disturbances? Is there a temporal component to this? These questions should be addressed in the results and discussion section.

➤ Generally, many BIAs have a complicate stratigraphy because of the complicate ice flow and basal topography, as we explained in the introduction section. According to the GPR survey and the dust bands, we confirmed that the stratigraphy of the downstream part is not disturbed. However, it is hard to specify why the upstream part is disturbed but the downstream part is not disturbed. We need ice flow modeling studies and clearer GPR profile.

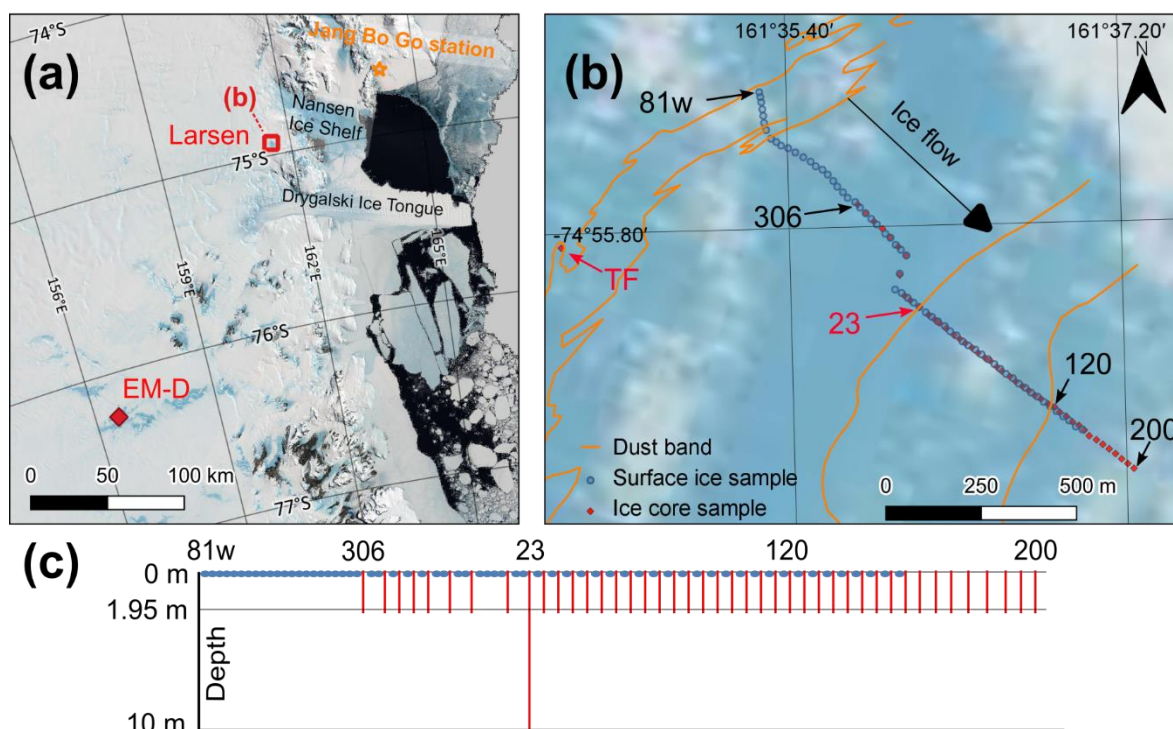
Line 110-113: can be more concise and clearer, something like: reprojected perpendicular to a line parallel to the ice flow direction.

➤ **Line 134:** We rephrased the sentence.

➤ “An imaginary line parallel to the ice flow direction was used to define the horizontal distance, while a perpendicular line from each sampling location to the line parallel to the ice flow direction was projected to identify the intersection point. Each intersection point was then used to measure the horizontal distance from the most upstream sampling site (Fig. S1).”

Figure 2: mention that dust bands are observed in the field and how they are measured (GPS tracks?)

➤ **Line 139:** We added “observed in the blue ice field. The line marks are derived from what appeared on Google Earth.”.



**Figure 2. Location of the Larsen BIA and sample collection.** (a) Location of Larsen BIA, EM-D core, and Jang Bo Go station. (b) Magnified map of Larsen BIA including sample locations. Orange lines represent dust bands observed in the blue ice field. The line marks are derived from what appeared on Google Earth. Blue dots represent locations of surface ice samples. Red diamonds are locations of shallow ice cores. Six representative names are shown, red letters for ~10 m long cores (TF and #23), black letters for 2 m long cores (#306, #120, and #200) and surface ice (81w). Z- and S-folds are recognized by the dust bands at upstream ices. The total transect of the ice sample is approximately 1.4 km. (c) Schematized cross-section of the transect. Satellite photo of Antarctica is from the QGIS Quantarctica package (Bindschadler et al., 2008).

Line 135: change “interval” to “spacing”?

➤ Line 159: We changed “interval” to “spacing”.

Line 136: specify that these are vertical intervals (also in line 146).

➤ Line 160: We added “vertical”.

➤ Line 171: We added “vertical”.

Line 154: an average offset should be one number, not a range.

➤ Line 179: Daily average offset is not constant. It changes every day. Hence, we provided the range of the daily average offset. We added “which is in the range of 2–20 ppb”.

Line 182: in this section I miss the description of the  $\delta\text{Ar}/\text{N}_2$  analyses that are mentioned in the abstract and published in the supplementary materials.

➤ Line 210: We added “, and  $\delta\text{Ar}/\text{N}_2$ ”.

➤ Line 240: We added “Gravity-corrected  $\delta\text{Ar}/\text{N}_{2,\text{gravcorr}}$  ( $\delta\text{Ar}/\text{N}_{2,\text{gravcorr}} = \delta\text{O}_2/\text{N}_2 - 12 \times \delta^{15}\text{N}$ ) is listed in Table S1 and Table S2 but was not used in this study.”.

Line 228: please briefly specify here why you use the TALDICE ice core in your research.

➤ Line 261: We added “When constraining the ice age of Larsen ice, the TALDICE record was selected to synchronize Larsen  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  due to its proximity to the upstream direction of the Larsen BIA.”.

**3 Results and discussion:** In general, the emphasis of this section seems to be more on the results than on the discussion. To make the manuscript more accessible for a wide readership and to do justice to the analyses performed by the authors, most paragraphs would need some additional sentences that discuss (the implications) of the data.

Line 243: This line should be at the end of the subsection 3.1, as now first the authors explain the stratigraphic profile, then discuss the basal topography and then return to discussing the stratigraphic profile. Also, in Figure 3b, the ice thickness varies between 200 and 320 meter (not 400). Lastly, it would be nice to have a qualitative statement that the ice thickness decreases along the flow and how this relates to the exposure of glacial ice (as mentioned in the introduction).

➤ Line 281: We moved the sentence to the last part.

➤ Line 282: We changed “400 m” to “380 m”.

➤ Line 282: We changed “Fig. 3b” to “Fig. 3a, b”.

➤ Line 284: We added a statement about the ice thickness.



- “The ice thickness decreases as ice flows with increasing bedrock elevation, which is a favourable condition for the ice to be outcropped.”
- **The modified paragraph is as follows:**
  - “In the GPR survey, we identified ice layers (or isochrones) in the transect parallel to the ice flow direction (Fig. 3). The dips of the ice layers range from 1° to 6° with a decreasing trend from the upstream to the downstream direction. The ice layers of the radargram were not clearly visible at a depth of < 10 m because of the direct wave signal. We did not observe any stratigraphic folding structure in the ice layers that made age inversion along the ice flow direction in the mid- to downstream areas (from ice cores #23 to #200). Therefore, we expect monotonic and continuous age changes along the ice-flow direction. However, as shown in the dust bands with S- and Z-folds in the upstream area (Fig. 2b), the upstream stratigraphy might be repeated on a scale of tens of meters (from 81w to ice core #23). In addition, the subsurface ice layer in the upstream area (0–800 m from the most upstream side) was not well recognized from the GPR profile (Fig. 3c). It is possible that the noise caused by crevasses, cavities, or cracks could obscure the signals. In addition, accurate data acquisition might have been hindered by antenna tremors or low battery power at severely cold temperatures. The basal topography is well defined from the GPR data; we observed an ice thickness variation of 200–380 m (Fig. 3a, b). The results of the bedrock elevation and ice thickness (Fig. 3a) were obtained using a kriging method, which is a method of interpolation that provides unbiased prediction at unsampled areas (Oliver and Webster, 1990). The ice thickness decreases as ice flows with increasing bedrock elevation, which is a favourable condition for ice to be outcropped.”

Line 245: are these crevasses, cavities, or cracks observed during the measurement campaign?

- **Cracks were observed at the surface but crevasses or cavities were not. However, we cannot exclude the existence of crevasses or cavities in the subsurface. So, we are suggesting the possibility of those factors.**

Figure 3: From Figure S1, it does not appear that the GPR has been performed as a grid of flight lines, are the results presented in panel a obtained by interpolation? Moreover, in the text there is no reference/analysis of the data shown in panel a, so I would suggest to either move the panel to supplementary materials or discuss it in the main text.

- **Line 282: We added** “The results of the bedrock elevation and ice thickness (Fig. 3a) were obtained using a kriging method, which is a method of interpolation that provides unbiased prediction at unsampled areas (Oliver and Webster, 1990).”.

Line 277: Reconsider combining section 3.3 and 3.4 and renaming it: “analysis of gas entrapped in the ice”.

- **Line 324: We combined section 3.3 and 3.4 and renamed it as** “Analysis of gas entrapped in the ice”.

Line 252-271: clear and nice balance between results and discussion of results.



Line 259: Please mention the references to the other published ice core records.

➤ Line 298: We added “(Petit et al., 1999; EPICA Community Members, 2004; Stenni et al., 2011)”.

Line 265: why do you conduct a linear interpolation? To have measurements at equal horizontal/vertical spacing?

➤ In order to be most objective, we did a linear interpolation. As our data sets are not a continuous measurement, directly pinpointing the data point is subjective.

Line 279: What do you mean by altered? In Figure A1 only large fluctuations can be observed. Proof for altering comes only when discussing the comparison of the results from NIPR to SNU. This textual discussion would be greatly supported by plotting them in a (separate?) figure.

➤ Line 327: The sentence is modified as follows:

➤ “The measurement results of the CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations for the vertical cores are presented in Fig. A1. The shallow ice cores (#306, #120, #201) show that greenhouse gases are significantly altered for the top 2 m, showing out-of-range values of the range of natural greenhouse gas concentrations during the last 800 ka BP: 340–800 ppb for CH<sub>4</sub> and 180–300 ppm for CO<sub>2</sub>.”

Line 295: Refer to Figure 4.

➤ Line 352: We added “(Fig. 4b)”.

Line 303: Reconsider combining section 3.5 and 3.6 and adding a little introduction that explains your approach of first identifying the glacial termination, then matching the measured isotope and gas concentration profiles with existing (dated) ice cores, and then confirming your findings with the <sup>81</sup>Kr dating.

➤ Synchronizing Larsen to existing ice core record and identification of the glacial termination is a different subject, so providing a separate section of it will be more proper.

Line 319: ... > 1.95 m (Fig. A2); the offset....

➤ Line 377: We moved “(Fig. A2)” to the suggested place.

Line 319: It is not clear why the offset may also come from age difference.

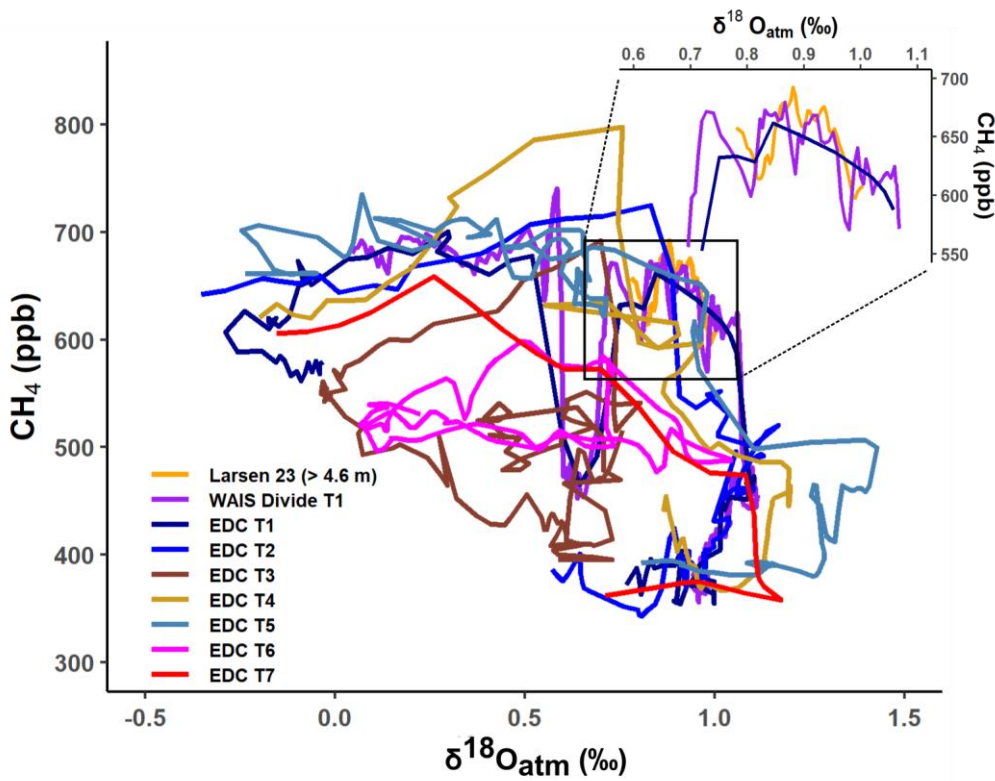
➤ Line 377: We added “because some  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  record is estimated by linear interpolation due to the lack of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  record corresponding to the CH<sub>4</sub> of core #23”.

Line 321: The statement about that it is altered naturally and/or contaminated is rather speculative. It is also in disagreement with section 3.3. In my opinion, this observation is very interesting and deserves further research (could be mentioned as limitation/recommendation).

- Line 380: We deleted “Probably, it is altered naturally and/or contaminated, even at depths of 4.6–10 m (Fig. A3, Fig. A4)”.
- Line 381: We added “CO<sub>2</sub> concentration warrants further investigations.”.

Figure 7: Consider omitting T3, T5 and T6, and check the color scheme for color blinds.

- We changed the color of EDC T2 to blue from dark green.
- We want to show  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ - CH<sub>4</sub> trend also indicates T1. Thus, we did not omit T3, T5, and T6.



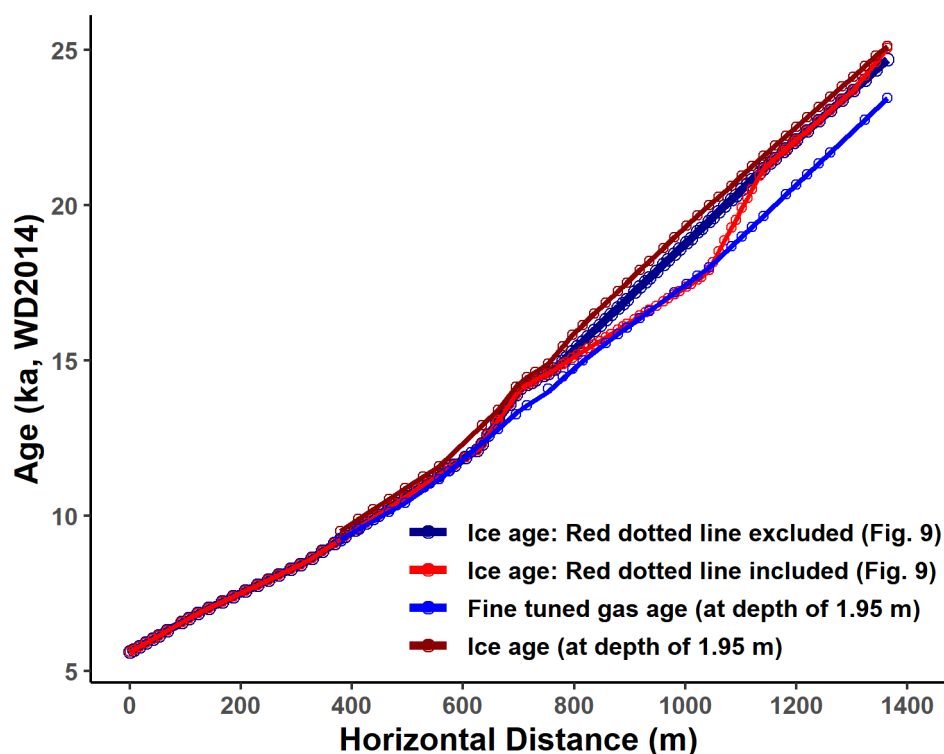
Line 342: (Fig 8d)

- Line 401: We changed “Fig. 8c” to “Fig. 8d”.

Line 345-355: Did you consider an automated method such as dynamic time wrapping? Also, it would be nice to discuss already in this paragraph the relation between the corrections made to match the horizontal distance to the age and the observed dip angles (as in line 380-384).

- We did not consider an automated method. We will add a new section of age uncertainty (see below).
- We added the horizontal distance and age relationship of the fine-tuned gas age and 1.95 m depth ice age in figure A7.

- Line 417: We added “The age/distance relationship was reasonable (Fig. A7), showing no abrupt change, as supported by the gradual change in the ice layer dip (Fig. 3c).”.



Line 371: I do not understand how biases in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  record are avoided by interpolating the original record.

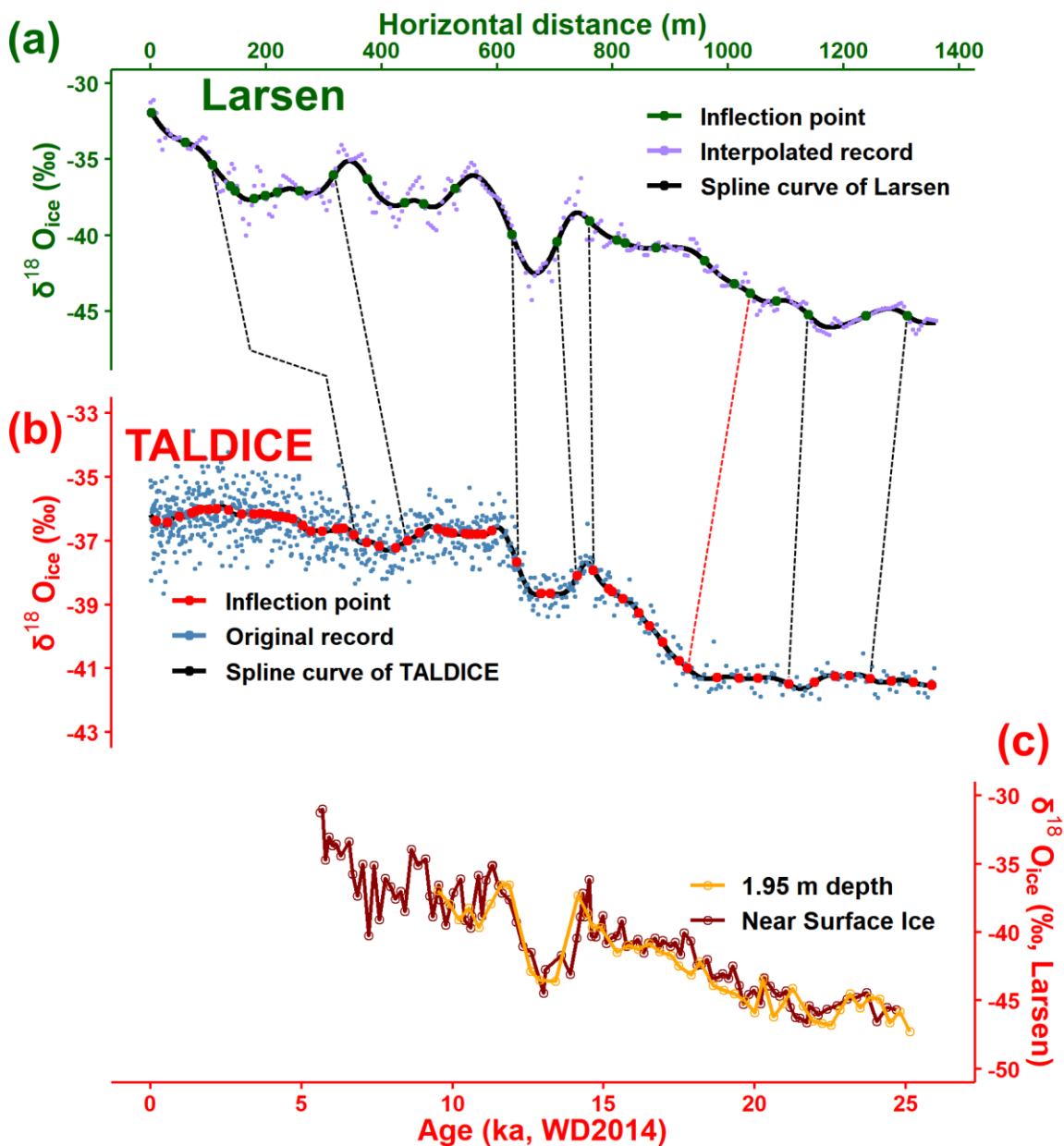
- Line 431: We added “spline curve of the”.

Line 374: This statement is not clear and can be elaborated.

- We moved the statement to line 86. It is also more elaborated as follows:
  - “Notably, the ice is older than the gas at the corresponding depth because the gas is isolated and stops mixing with the atmospheric air when the firn completely transforms into ice (Schwander and Stauffer, 1984).”

Figure 9: Panel d does not show much more detail and could be omitted.

- We removed panel (d).



➤ Line 467: We removed “(d)  $\delta^{18}O_{ice}$  record of TALDICE shown in more detail (Stenni et al., 2010, Bazin et al., 2013c).”

Line: 398-403: This paragraph sounds more like a part of the conclusion.

➤ Line 453: We removed the paragraph.

Line 398: The first sentence undersells the results. It can be a valuable (but obvious) recommendation but needs an explanation of why we would need more precise ages. Moreover, it is not in line with the statement on Line 412.

➤ Line 453: We removed the paragraph.

Line 401: please specify which atmospheric greenhouse gas can be measured at what depth (very relevant for other field work missions).

➤ This is written in line 578–579.

Line 401-403: nice and clear statement.

**4 Conclusion:** The conclusion section can be more elaborate. I suggest including the last paragraph of the previous section (line 398-403). Moreover, an estimation of the horizontal relationship between distance and age (i.e., xxx year/horizontal m), would be informative for other studies at blue ice areas.

➤ We think the paragraph should be in the chronology section.

➤ Line 457: We added temporal resolution for the Larsen BIA.

➤ “The established horizontal ice chronology shows that temporal resolutions of  $10 \text{ yr m}^{-1}$  and  $17 \text{ yr m}^{-1}$  are available for the Holocene (5.6–12 ka BP) and for the last deglaciation (12–24.6 ka BP), respectively, at the surface ice from Larsen BIA. These estimated resolutions are higher than those of the deep ice core TALDICE covering this time interval ( $\sim 18 \text{ yr m}^{-1}$ ) (Masson-Delmotte et al., 2011).”

Line 409-410: would be nice to guide the reader along the blue ice area and explain why the observations reveal a very typical glacial termination (as for instance Line 304-305, and the mention of the Antarctic Cold Reversal). Moreover, the  $\Delta$ age along the flowline (Figure A6) can be included in this explanation.

➤ Line 580: We added “(the Larsen  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  shows both negative and  $> 1.0$  value)”.

Line 414: not only on blue ice areas in the Northern Victoria Land. The comprehensiveness makes it a valuable study for BIAs across the Antarctic continent.

➤ Line 585: We changed “blue ice in the Northern Victoria Land.” to “on BIAs across the Antarctic continent.”.

**Appendices:** clear and concise.

Figure A3, A4: Consider omitting T3, T5 and T6.

We wanted to show that  $\text{CO}_2\text{-CH}_4$  and  $\text{CO}_2\text{-}\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$ , also indicate Termination 1. Hence, should be included.

➤ We added new sections.

### 3.6 Age uncertainty

#### 3.6.1 Gas age uncertainty

There are two types of uncertainty to consider: (1) the relative Larsen gas age uncertainties to the WAIS Divide (WD) gas age, and (2) the absolute WD gas age uncertainty itself. To assess the relative Larsen gas age uncertainty to WD gas age, we applied a Monte Carlo simulation running the model 10000 times. The model is described in detail in the following paragraph.

First, to assign relative Larsen gas age uncertainties of the points that were pin-pointed to WD (pink and purple dots in Fig. 8a, b), analytical uncertainty should be defined. The analytical uncertainty of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  from Larsen is assumed to be  $\pm 0.05\%$ , as discussed in Sect. 3.3.2. The analytical uncertainty of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  from WD was  $\pm 0.006\%$  (Severinghaus et al., 2015). Because the analytical uncertainty of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{atm}}$  from WD is about one order of magnitude lower than Larsen's uncertainty, we assume the total analytical uncertainty to be  $\pm 0.05\%$ . Then, the gas age for the pink dots (Fig. 8a, b) was assigned 10,000 times using a Monte Carlo simulation considering the analytical uncertainty. The standard deviation of the assigned ages were used for the relative gas age uncertainty.

The relative Larsen gas age uncertainty estimation process for the older tie-points (purple dots in Fig. 8a, b) is more complicated. We repeatedly produced the spline curve 10000 times using the Monte Carlo approach and found the location (horizontal distance) of the local maximum and local minima. The simulation results were rejected when there was no or only one local minimum. This Monte Carlo result and its uncertainties were used to detect outliers ( $> 2\sigma$ ). The process was iterated until no outliers were detected. Using the location (horizontal distance) uncertainty of the local maximum and local minima, we then estimated the relative Larsen gas age uncertainty to WD gas age using the Monte Carlo simulation.

The absolute WD gas age uncertainty itself should also be considered (Sigl et al., 2019). Because the relative Larsen gas age uncertainty to WD gas age and the absolute WD gas age uncertainty are independent, the total Larsen gas age uncertainty can be calculated using Eq. (4):

$$\sigma_{\text{total}} = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{abs.}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{rel.}}^2} \quad (4)$$

The uncertainties are presented in Table 3. The gas age uncertainty between the tie-points was determined by linear interpolation, and the uncertainty located outside the last tie-point was linearly extrapolated using the uncertainty/age relationship of 18–22 ka BP.

**Table 3. Result of gas age uncertainties.**  $\sigma_{\text{rel.}}$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{abs.}}$ , and  $\sigma_{\text{total}}$  represent relative Larsen gas age uncertainty to WD gas age, absolute WD gas age uncertainty, and total uncertainty of Larsen gas age, respectively.

Gas age (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{rel.}}$ (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{abs.}}$ (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{total}}$ (ka)
9.24	0.324	0.055	0.329
10.74	0.130	0.062	0.144
13.02	0.274	0.117	0.298

15.17	0.084	0.158	0.179
18.05	0.194	0.214	0.289
22.04	0.254	0.257	0.361

### 3.6.2 Ice age uncertainty

Similar to the Larsen gas age uncertainty, the Larsen ice age uncertainty consists of (1) the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to TALDICE ice age, and (2) the absolute TALDICE ice age uncertainty itself. The total analytical uncertainty of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  is assumed to be  $\pm 0.6\%$ , the same as the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  uncertainty of Larsen ice (Sect. 3.2) because the analytical uncertainty of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  for TALDICE ( $\pm 0.07\%$ ) is negligible (Stenni et al., 2011). The method to constrain the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to the TALDICE ice age is similar to the case of estimating the gas age uncertainty of the older tie-points (purple dots in Fig. 8a, b). In contrast, in this case, we found the location (horizontal distance) of the inflection points, not the local maxima or minima. The relative uncertainty can also be derived from when choosing the tie-points in TALDICE. In addition, the ice age uncertainty for a depth of 1.95 m should be larger than the uncertainty we provide because it was estimated using the average dip of the ice layer (Appendix C). Therefore, the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty provided here is a lower limit.

The absolute TALDICE ice age uncertainty itself should also be considered, where the uncertainty is calculated by quadratically combining the absolute WD ice age uncertainty and the volcanic synchronization uncertainty. Then, quadratically combining the absolute TALDICE ice age uncertainty and the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to the TALDICE ice age (Eq. (4)) provides the total Larsen ice age uncertainty (Table 4). The ice age uncertainty between the tie-points was determined by linear interpolation, and the uncertainty located outside the last tie-point was linearly extrapolated using the uncertainty/age relationship of 18–23.8 ka BP.

**Table 4. Result of ice age uncertainties.**  $\sigma_{\text{rel}}$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{abs}}$ , and  $\sigma_{\text{total}}$  represent relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to TALDICE ice age, absolute TALDICE ice age uncertainty, and total uncertainty of Larsen ice age, respectively.

Ice age (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{rel}}$ (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{abs}}$ (ka)	$\sigma_{\text{total}}$ (ka)
6.73	0.023	0.030	0.038
8.51	0.014	0.040	0.043
12.12	0.044	0.084	0.095
14.12	0.023	0.135	0.137
14.67	0.041	0.147	0.152
21.14	0.053	0.211	0.218
23.83	0.060	0.238	0.246



### 3.6.3 $\Delta$ age uncertainty

To estimate the Larsen  $\Delta$ age uncertainty, the relative Larsen gas age uncertainty and relative Larsen ice age uncertainty should be on the same ice core. Here, we used the relative Larsen gas age and ice age uncertainties to the WD gas age and ice age, respectively. We assumed that the Larsen  $\Delta$ age uncertainty consists of (1) the relative Larsen gas age uncertainty to WD gas age, (2) the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to WD ice age, and (3) the  $\Delta$ age uncertainty of WD. Quadratically combining these three components provides the total Larsen  $\Delta$ age uncertainty, similar to Eq. (4). The relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to TALDICE ice age and the relative TALDICE ice age uncertainty to WD ice age were quadratically combined to estimate the relative Larsen ice age uncertainty to WD ice age. Volcanic synchronization uncertainty is used for the relative TALDICE ice age uncertainty to the WD ice age. The Larsen  $\Delta$ age uncertainty is presented in Table S8.

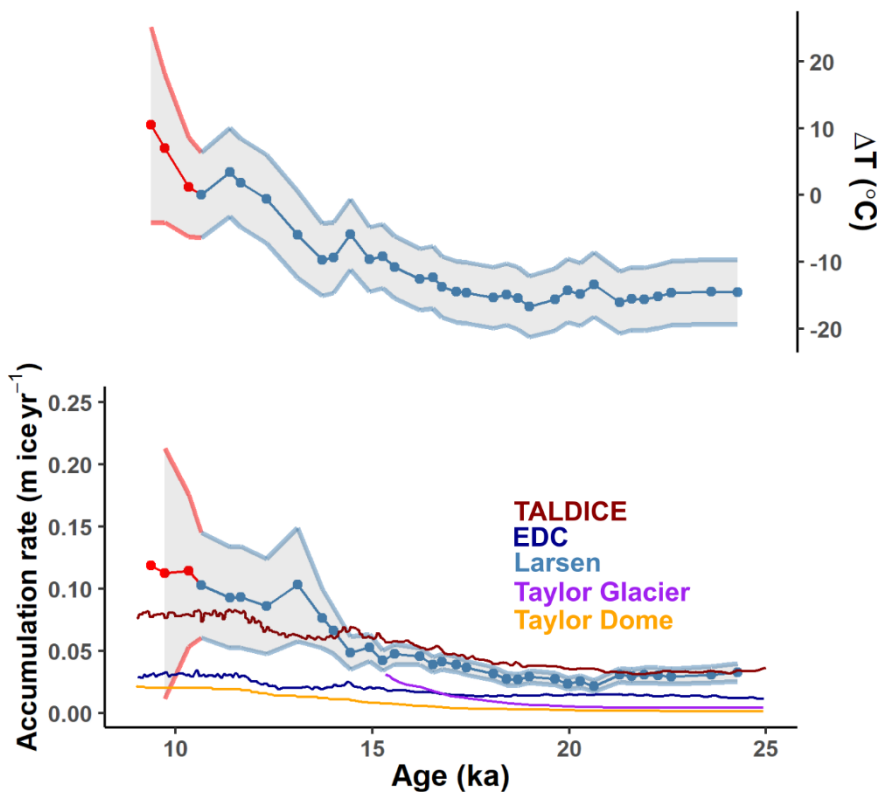
### 3.7 Estimation of past surface temperature and accumulation rate

As discussed in Sect. 3.2,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}_{\text{ice}}$  might have been enriched during the sublimation of ice. Therefore, it is inadequate to use stable water isotopes to estimate past surface temperatures. Instead, the analytical framework developed by Buizert (2021) allows us to estimate the past surface temperature using the  $\delta^{15}\text{N}-\text{N}_2$  and  $\Delta$ age. The methods for estimating the surface temperature and accumulation rate are described in detail in the Supplement (Text S1). The results are presented in Table S9 and Fig. 10. The accumulation rates in TALDICE, EDC, Taylor Dome, and Taylor Glacier are also shown for comparison (Veres et al., 2013; Baggenstos et al., 2018). The youngest three reconstructed values of Larsen BIA were rejected (red line in Fig. 10) due to the large relative uncertainty in  $\Delta$ age (including the possibility of negative  $\Delta$ age), and the implied 10.5 °C increase in just ~1,200 years. This might be due to a low bias in the reconstructed ice age, which leads to a lower  $\Delta$ age. Hence, the ice age in this part should be more strongly constrained by using dust concentrations in a future study.

During the last deglaciation, the surface temperature increased by approximately  $15 \pm 5$  °C (from 24.3 ka BP to 10.6 ka BP), which is greater than those for any other ice core sites including nearby Taylor Dome where a recent reconstruction suggests  $7.1 \pm 2$  °C of deglacial warming (Buizert et al., 2021). However, the interpretation should be cautious because of the large uncertainty. The large magnitude of the reconstructed temperature change is a consequence of  $\Delta$ age, which is around 300 % larger during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) than during the Holocene in our reconstruction. By comparison, most Antarctic sites show only a 60 % to 120 %  $\Delta$ age increase (Buizert et al., 2021). While the Larsen BIA is currently close to the open ocean, during the LGM, the Antarctic ice sheet reached the continental shelf break covering the entire Ross Sea Embayment (Conway et al., 1999). Climate models identified strong cooling over the Ross sea sector, reflecting the increased elevation and albedo of the extended ice sheet (Buizert et al., 2021). We suggest that this enhanced cooling may have affected the deposition site of Larsen BIA. We note that the past ice sheet thickness at Larsen and the upstream distance travelled since deposition are poorly constrained; both of these should impact the magnitude of the reconstructed temperature change. The temporal isotope slope ( $\alpha_T = 0.58$  ‰ K<sup>-1</sup>) is lower than that for any other ice core site (Buizert et al., 2021) and smaller than the spatial regression slope of around 0.8 ‰ K<sup>-1</sup> (Masson-Delmotte 2008). However, the temporal isotope slope we reconstructed is likely to be a lower bound because the sublimation might have enriched the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  of the glacial (downstream) part of Larsen BIA. The reconstructed surface temperature change of  $15 \pm 5$  °C assumes that the selected tie points are correct. However, if the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{ice}}$  features used for the matching are not climatic in origin but rather reflect local effects (such as sublimation intensity, and accumulation controls by surface slope), then our tie points would be incorrect. Future

measurements of ice chemistry and dust loading may improve our  $\Delta$ age estimates, which will allow a refined estimate of past glacial cooling.

From 24.3 ka BP to 10.6 ka BP, the accumulation rate increased by a factor of 1.7–4.6 (from  $0.033 \pm 0.007$  to  $0.103 \pm 0.042$  m ice yr<sup>-1</sup>). The accumulation rate at TALDICE and EDC began to decrease transiently around 14.5 ka BP following the Antarctic Cold Reversal (ACR), while the reconstructed accumulation rates at the deposition site of Larsen BIA and Taylor Dome keep increasing across the ACR. We acknowledge that the accumulation rate of the deposition site of Larsen ice younger than 14 ka BP remains poorly constrained because of the large uncertainty, but is highly constrained for the older part (> 14 ka BP). The accumulation rate at the deposition site of Larsen ice is lower than that of TALDICE during 14–21 ka BP and exceeds the accumulation rate of TALDICE after 14 ka BP. The Ross Ice Shelf (RIS) retreated during the last deglaciation (Ship et al., 1999; Yokoyama et al., 2016), and as the RIS retreats, the storm track migrates to the Southern Victoria Land from the northern part and increases precipitation to the site (Morse et al., 1998; Aarons et al., 2016; Yan et al., 2021). Therefore, we speculate that the storm track affects the original deposition site of the Larsen BIA more than the Talos Dome after 14 ka BP. This interpretation may help studies for reconstructing past atmospheric circulation associated with the retreat of RIS. Likewise, a strong accumulation increase across the last deglaciation was seen at the coastal Law Dome site in the Indian Ocean sector (Van Ommen et al., 2004), also attributed to increases in storm-derived precipitation. However, spatial difference of the original deposition site of the upstream and downstream Larsen ice is not constrained; this must be known for better interpretation of the accumulation rate.



**Figure 10. Reconstructed surface temperature and accumulation rate.** Accumulation rates of TALDICE, EDC are from Veres et al. (2013). Accumulation rates of Taylor Dome, and Taylor Glacier are from Baggenstos et al. (2018). The three youngest values of Larsen blue

ice are rejected (red line) due to the large uncertainty in the  $\Delta$ age that translates into the possibility of negative accumulation rates and an unexpected 10.5 °C increase in ~1200 years. The  $\Delta$ T is a relative value to 10.6 ka BP. The uncertainty for the  $\Delta$ T and accumulation rate ( $1\sigma$ ) was estimated through the error propagation formula.