



The Southern Glacial Maximum 65,000 years ago and its Unfinished Termination



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ABSTRACT

Glacial maxima and their terminations provide key insights into inter-hemispheric climate dynamics and the coupling of atmosphere, surface and deep ocean, hydrology, and cryosphere, which is fundamental for evaluating the robustness of earth's climate in view of ongoing climate change. The Last Glacial Maximum (LGM, ~26–19 ka ago) is widely seen as the global cold peak during the last glacial cycle, and its transition to the Holocene interglacial, dubbed 'Termination 1 (T1)', as the most dramatic climate reorganization during this interval. Climate records show that over the last 800 ka, ice ages peaked and terminated on average every 100 ka ('100 ka world'). However, the mechanisms pacing glacial–interglacial transitions remain controversial and in particular the hemispheric manifestations and underlying orbital to regional driving forces of glacial maxima and subsequent terminations remain poorly understood.

Here we show evidence for a full glacial maximum in the Southern Hemisphere 65.1 ± 2.7 ka ago and its 'Unfinished Termination'. Our ^{10}Be chronology combined with a model simulation demonstrates that New Zealand's glaciers reached their maximum position of the last glacial cycle during Marine Isotope Stage-4 (MIS-4). Southern ocean and greenhouse gas records indicate coeval peak glacial conditions, making the case for the Southern Glacial Maximum about halfway through the last glacial cycle and only 15 ka after the last warm period (MIS-5a). We present the hypothesis that subsequently, driven by boreal summer insolation forcing, a termination began but remained unfinished, possibly because the northern ice sheets were only moderately large and could not supply enough meltwater to the North Atlantic through Heinrich Stadial 6 to drive a full termination. Yet the Unfinished Termination left behind substantial ice on the northern continents (about 50% of the full LGM ice volume) and after another 45 ka of cooling and ice sheet growth the earth was at inter-hemispheric Last Glacial Maximum configuration, when similar orbital forcing hit maximum-size northern ice sheets and ushered in T1 and thus the ongoing interglacial. This argument highlights the critical role of full glacial conditions in both

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hemispheres for terminations and implies that the Southern Hemisphere climate could transition from interglacial to full glacial conditions in about 15,000 years, while the Northern Hemisphere and its continental ice-sheets required half a glacial cycle.

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1. Introduction

Termination 1 (T1), began about 19 ka ago and transitioned the earth from the global Last Glacial Maximum (LGM; ~26–19 ka ago) of Marine Isotope Stage-2 (MIS-2; ~26–11.5 ka ago) to the ongoing Holocene interglacial. Important progress in understanding the climate events leading into global glacial maxima and through terminations has been made recently (Barker et al., 2009; Cheng et al., 2009; Clark et al., 2009; Denton et al., 2010). However, theories proposing the Northern Hemisphere and the maximum size of the continental ice-sheets during the LGM to be of critical importance for terminations (Denton and Hughes, 1981; Raymo, 1997; Abe-Ouchi et al., 2013), face opposing scenarios that assign the leading role in glacial–interglacial transitions to Southern Hemisphere drivers (for example WAIS Divide Project Members (2013); Wolff et al. (2006)).

Moreover, other basic questions remain, such as why the durations of mid-to late Pleistocene glacial cycles varied between 80 ka and 120 ka (Huybers and Wunsch, 2005) and why even prominent climate transitions during glacials have failed to end ice ages (Barker et al., 2009). Here we provide new evidence addressing these problems, based on the first comprehensive chronology and modeling of mountain glaciers in New Zealand's Southern Alps during MIS-4.

The MIS-4 cold period (74–59 ka ago) and its transition to the MIS-3 mild period (59–~26 ka ago) are recorded in polar ice cores (EPICA community members, 2004), marine sediments (Chapman and Shackleton, 1998; Kaiser and Lamy, 2010) and speleothems (Wang et al., 2001). However, direct terrestrial evidence and chronologies for glacier and ice-sheet response during these periods remain sparse and controversial (see Supplementary Discussion), in part because MIS-4 is beyond the radiocarbon time-scale. We date and quantify the response of southern middle-latitude summer temperature sensitive mountain glaciers to the MIS-4 cold period and evaluate the response of the cryosphere–atmosphere–ocean system to the transition towards the warmer MIS-3 climate. With the goal to highlight key drivers of terminations, we then compare the MIS-4/3 transition with the inter-hemispheric MIS-2 LGM and the subsequent T1.

2. Geomorphic setting, methods and analysis

2.1. Glaciers and climate

Mountain glaciers in New Zealand's Southern Alps are particularly sensitive recorders of atmospheric change and respond on the centennial and millennial scale primarily to summer temperature variations (Oerlemans, 2005; Anderson and Mackintosh, 2006; Anderson et al., 2010). We interpret our glacial-geological record accordingly.

2.2. Moraines

Outboard of the LGM moraines fringing Lakes Pukaki and Tekapo, are topographically more subdued moraines named 'Balmoral' (green in Fig. 1) as described in detail by Barrell (2014),

making New Zealand's Southern Alps one of the few locations where such glacial landforms have not been destroyed by LGM glaciers and related outwash floods (Burrows, 2005; Barrell, 2014). The particularly prominent and well-preserved Balmoral moraine belt fringing Lake Pukaki attests to a full-glacial cold period in New Zealand prior to the MIS-2 LGM (Fig. 1).

2.3. Samples

Numerous large greywacke boulders occur embedded in moraine ridges or ground moraine within the Balmoral moraine belts were the targets of our ^{10}Be surface exposure dating program. We focused on sampling the top 2 cm of flat rock surfaces. The quartzo-feldspathic greywacke lithology is very resistant to erosion, which is mirrored by the surprisingly high internal consistency of the boulder ages (Fig. 1, Supplementary Fig. 2).

We sampled and dated a total of 60 moraine boulders (Fig. 1; Supplementary Table 1): 48 boulders from the Lake Pukaki Balmoral moraines, 2 boulders from the Lake Tekapo Balmoral moraines, and for context, 10 from the Lake Pukaki LGM moraines, extending an earlier chronology (Schaefer et al., 2006). In order to date the Balmoral glacier culmination, we focused particularly on boulders from the outermost Balmoral moraine ridges at Lake Pukaki. We sampled 6 boulders from outer and 3 from the inner moraine segments of the well-preserved left-lateral Maryburn lobe area (Barrell, 2014). In the less-well-preserved terminal, left and right lateral moraines, we sampled 33 boulders on the outer remnants of the Balmoral moraine ridges (Fig. 1) and 6 boulders forming a transect of the inner Balmoral moraines. From the total of 39 boulders from outermost moraines, we include 36 ages in our final age determination of the Balmoral glacier culmination (3 young outliers excluded; see Fig. 1b). The 9 samples from the inner moraine segments yield generally consistent, and chronologically similar, results (Supplementary Fig. 2). We also present the ages of two samples from Balmoral moraines of the adjacent Lake Tekapo glacial trough (Fig. 1).

2.4. Geochemistry and AMS analysis

All samples were processed at the cosmogenic dating laboratory of the Lamont–Doherty Earth Observatory, the $^{10}\text{Be}/^9\text{Be}$ analyses were performed at the Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (CAMS) at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We applied standard techniques (Schaefer et al., 2009) to separate and decontaminate quartz from the whole-rock greywacke samples (http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/res/pi/tcn/LDEO_Cosmogenic_Nuclide_Lab/Chemistry.html) and standard isotope dilution methods.

^9Be currents for our samples ranged from 16 to 26 μA . Individual AMS sample targets were measured during 2–6 runs at 5 min each, providing high counting statistics and an internal control of the stability of the AMS. The data show 1 σ analytical error ranging from 1.4% to 5.0%, with an average of 2.5%. Overall background corrections, including boron correction, correction for process blank, and sensitivity variations of the AMS during analysis were below 1% for all samples.

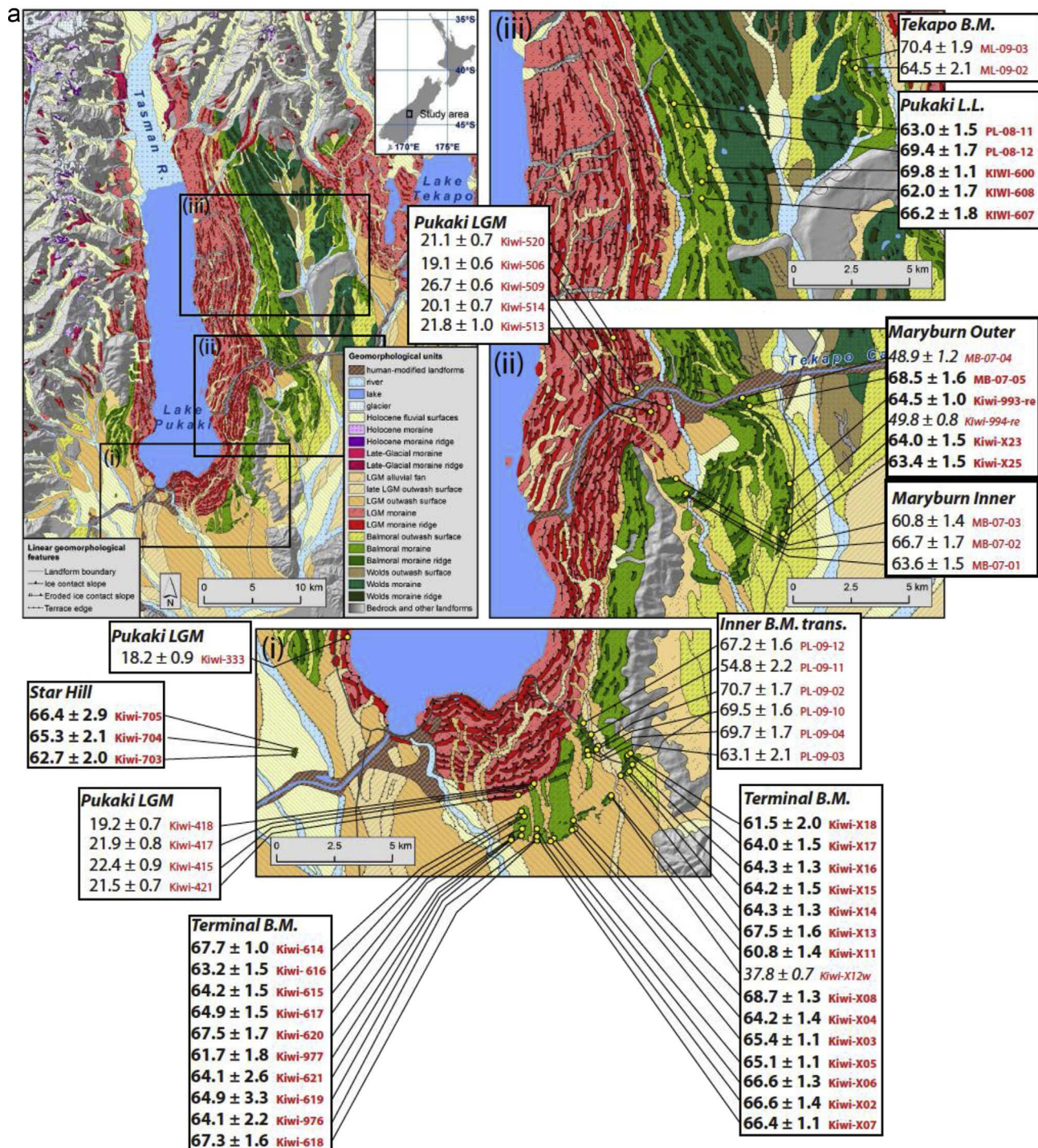


Fig. 1. a. Geomorphic map and 60 individual ^{10}Be boulder ages in the Pukaki glacial trough. The pre-LGM Balmoral moraines are shown in light green. The LGM moraines are shown in red (see insert legend). (i): The terminal moraine sequence fringing Lake Pukaki; (ii): The southern left lateral Pukaki moraine sequence, including the Maryburn lobe; (iii): The northern left lateral moraine sequence and the Balmoral moraines of the neighboring Tekapo glacial valley. All samples are shown with their ^{10}Be ages and 1σ analytical errors. Numbers in bold indicate the 36 ages used for dating the Balmoral glacier culmination, outliers are shown in italics (3 out of 39). The samples from the inner Maryburn lobe, the Balmoral moraine transect and the LGM samples are shown in normal font; for full details, see [Tables S1 and S2](#). B.M. = Balmoral Moraine; trans. = transect; L.L. = Left Lateral. b. **left panel:** Boulder age probability plot of all samples from outer Pukaki Balmoral moraines ($n = 39$), including the 3 young outliers Kiwi-X12, -994 and MB-07-04; **right panel:** the same boulder age probability plot with the 3 young outliers excluded, dating the culmination of the Balmoral glacier advance of Pukaki glacier (bold summary age curve is included in [Figs. 3 and 4](#)). Thin black lines represent individual boulder ages within 1σ -uncertainties ([Supplementary Table 2](#)); the thick black line represents the probability distribution of the boulder age population (normalized to 1). The arithmetic mean is indicated by the vertical blue line, 1σ range is given by gray, 2σ range given by red, and 3σ range given by green lines. We give different means within respective uncertainties and base our discussion on the arithmetic mean within standard deviation (1σ) of 36 boulder ages from the outer Balmoral moraines and include the uncertainty of the local ^{10}Be production rate of 2.5% ([Putnam et al., 2010](#)). The given reduced χ^2 statistics for the age population indicates that the measured scatter in the ^{10}Be ages of the 36 boulders used to date the Balmoral culmination of Pukaki Glacier can be entirely explained by the analytical 1σ uncertainty.

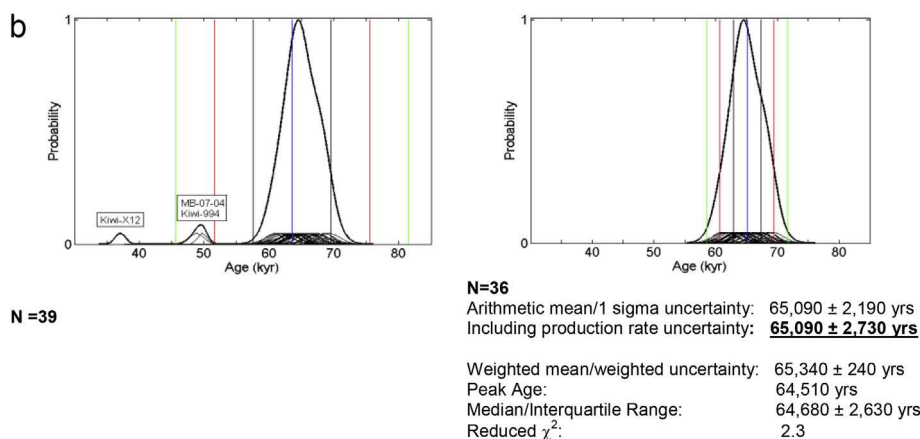


Fig. 1. (continued).

2.5. Production rates

We used a local ^{10}Be production rate calibration (Putnam et al., 2010), defined in Macaulay valley, only some 50 km away and on similar altitude, for the past ~10 ka, and corroborated by a ^{10}Be production rate constraint based on LGM moraines fringing Lake Pukaki that were independently dated to ~18 ka. The concordance of the ^{10}Be rate calibrated for the last 10 ka and that for the last 18 ka indicates that changes in the geomagnetic field strength, which are small during the last 10 ka but substantial between 10 ka and 18 ka ago, do not impact the ^{10}Be production to a measurable extent at 44°S and low altitude. This supports earlier numerical calculations showing robustness of time-integrated ^{10}Be production at latitudes of 40° and higher over the last glacial cycle (Masarik et al., 2001). Together, these findings imply that geomagnetic field changes have minor impact on the ^{10}Be production rate in New Zealand and that the local ^{10}Be production rate (Putnam et al., 2010) is also valid for the longer periods of exposure discussed here. Further, the high internal consistency of the Balmoral boulder ages indicates that potentially compromising effects such as erosion or seasonal snow cover of the boulder surfaces have been negligible (Supplementary Discussion). Detailed assessment of the tectonic uplift in our field area indicates that the influence on cosmogenic nuclide production is minor (Supplementary Discussion and Putnam et al. (2010)). Use of a local ^{10}Be production rate means that the choice of scaling protocol is not critical. We base our discussion on the widely used 'Lm' scaling (Lal, 1991; Stone, 2000; Balco et al., 2008; Supplementary Table 2).

2.6. Numerical modeling of the Balmoral glacial event

By reconstructing the geometry of the Pukaki glacier when it lay at the position of the outermost mapped Balmoral moraines (Fig. 1), Porter (1975) calculated in his pioneering work an equilibrium-line altitude (ELA) depressed 1050 m below the late 20th century value.

Here, we apply the University of Maine Ice Sheet Model (UMISM), a 2D finite-element mass and momentum ice dynamics solver with embedded components for calculating isostasy, thermodynamics, sliding, and surface mass balance (Fastook and Prentice, 1994; Fastook et al., 2008), and constrained it to mapped and dated Balmoral moraines in order to derive underlying climate and snowline parameters. A similar modeling approach determined the summer temperature cooling during the LGM in the adjacent Lake Ohau catchment to $6.25 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ (Putnam et al., 2013), which agrees with an independent modeling study of the LGM glaciers and related climate changes for the entire Southern

Alps, proposing a LGM cooling of at least 6–6.5 °C (Golledge et al., 2012).

Our model setup includes a 1 km gridded climatology derived from the WorldClim dataset (Hijmans et al., 2005), and a degree-day-based mass balance with an atmospheric lapse rate (5°C km^{-1}) and snow/ice melt rates (4.6 and 7.2 mm melting degree $^{-1}$) measured for New Zealand (Norton, 1985; Anderson et al., 2006). We expanded the previous 0.5 km-gridded Ohau model domain (derived from modern SRTM topography) given in Putnam et al. (2013) to include the Pukaki and Tekapo catchments (Fig. 2). Our tests include a series of 5000-year equilibrium experiments with temperature lowered systematically until modeled ice margins reached Balmoral moraine belts within all three glacial troughs, with particular emphasis on obtaining a close match to mapped ice limits of the Pukaki trough. For simplicity, precipitation was held at 100% modern, but we acknowledge the possibility of a slightly drier climate over South Island during major glaciations (Drost et al., 2007; Golledge et al., 2012).

3. Results

Our geomorphic map and glacier chronology of the Balmoral moraines together with the new LGM dates are shown in Fig. 1, Supplementary Fig. 2 and Supplementary Table 2. The ^{10}Be data from the outermost Balmoral ridges ($n = 39$; 3 outliers) show high internal consistency, ranging from 61 to 69 ka, dating the Balmoral glacier culmination to 65.1 ± 2.7 ka ago (Fig. 1b). The ^{10}Be ages from boulders from the inner moraines ($n = 9$) agree with this culmination date. Two samples collected from Balmoral moraines deposited by the glacier that expanded through nearby Lake Tekapo yield comparable ages of 63.5 ± 2.1 ka and 70.4 ± 1.9 ka. This ^{10}Be chronology shows robustly that the Balmoral moraines in New Zealand's Southern Alps were deposited during MIS-4. The 10 boulder ages from LGM moraines range from 18 to 27 ka ago, complementing earlier studies (Schaefer et al., 2006; Putnam et al., 2013; Kelley et al., 2014).

Our model results shown in Fig. 2 indicate that a favorable Balmoral reconstruction, in which ice remains very near mapped geomorphic targets, is attained under a temperature depression of 7°C relative to modern conditions. This is 0.75°C cooler than the MIS-2 LGM mean temperature estimate for the Ohau catchment simulated with a similar model (Putnam et al., 2013). However, we take the conservative view that this model result simply indicates the existence of a climate regime very similar to full LGM conditions during formation of the Balmoral moraines (see Supplementary Discussion).

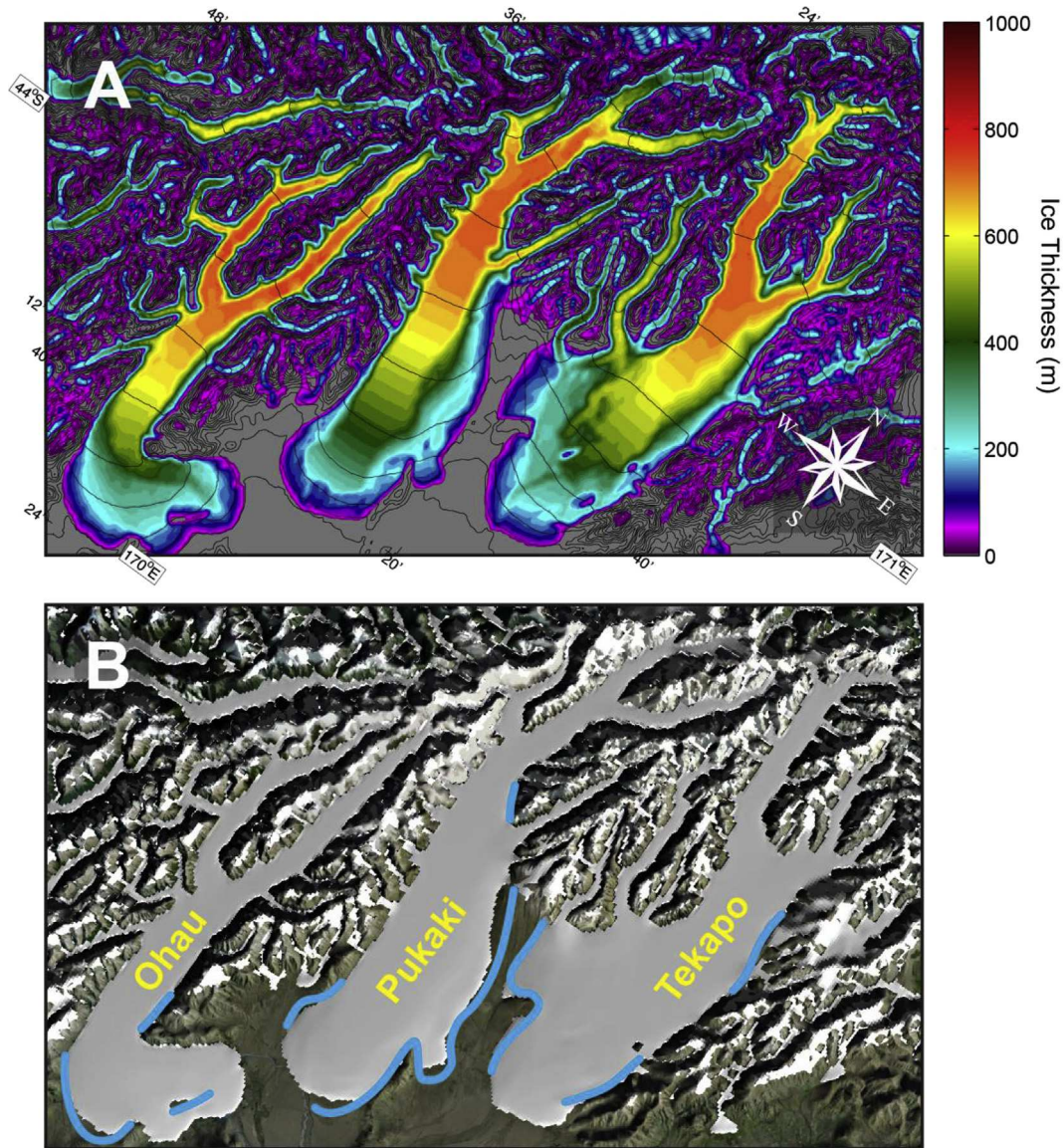


Fig. 2. Glaciological modeling results for MIS 4 across the Pukaki and adjacent basins. Shown are ice A) thicknesses and B) surfaces obtained from a 5000-year equilibrium simulation with temperature depressed 7 °C below modern climatology. Blue lines delineate the mapped outer limit of Balmoral moraines.

Glacial geomorphic mapping, chronology and modeling results together support the conclusion that the most extensive glacier advance of the last glacial cycle in New Zealand's Southern Alps culminated about 65 ka ago, and that this MIS-4 Balmoral glacier maximum represents similar climate conditions to those during the LGM of MIS-2.

4. Discussion

The terrestrial signature of maximum size glaciers 65 ka ago is widely supported by complementary climate records from New Zealand (Williams et al., 2015) and the wider Southern Hemisphere (Fig. 3). Sea-surface temperature records off New Zealand, Australia, in the Cape Basin (Pahnke and Sachs, 2006; Barker and Diz, 2014), and off Chile (Kaiser and Lamy, 2010), together with independent proxies of Southern Ocean (SO) stratification (Ninnemann and Charles, 1997; Robinson et al., 2007) and deep SO temperature (Elderfield et al., 2010), indicate a SO in full glacial conditions during the peak of MIS-4, concomitant with New

Zealand's glacier culmination. Dust fluxes to Antarctica (Lambert et al., 2008) and the SO (Martinez-Garcia et al., 2011), proxies of glacier activity in Patagonia (Sugden et al., 2009; Kaiser and Lamy, 2010), show MIS-4 levels consistent with the LGM. SO sea ice extent achieved LGM levels about 65 ka ago, indicated by sea salt sodium fluxes to Antarctica (Wolff et al., 2006). Taken together, these records indicate peak glacial conditions on the continents and surface oceans in southern latitudes during MIS-4, consistent with atmospheric CO₂ levels approaching the MIS-2 LGM level of ~185 ppmV (Fig. 3).

The subsequent climate transition to MIS-3 involved major changes of atmosphere, surface ocean and cryosphere (Figs. 3 and 4). Eustatic sea level rose >30 m between ~63 ka and 59 ka ago (~10 m/ka sea level rise (Siddall et al., 2003), driven by melting continental ice-sheets. Antarctic dust fluxes decreased markedly, implying glacier recession in Patagonia (Sugden et al., 2009). Atmospheric CO₂ levels began to rise in parallel with SO destratification (Ninnemann and Charles, 1997; Robinson et al., 2007), probably the result of increased upwelling of CO₂-rich deeper SO

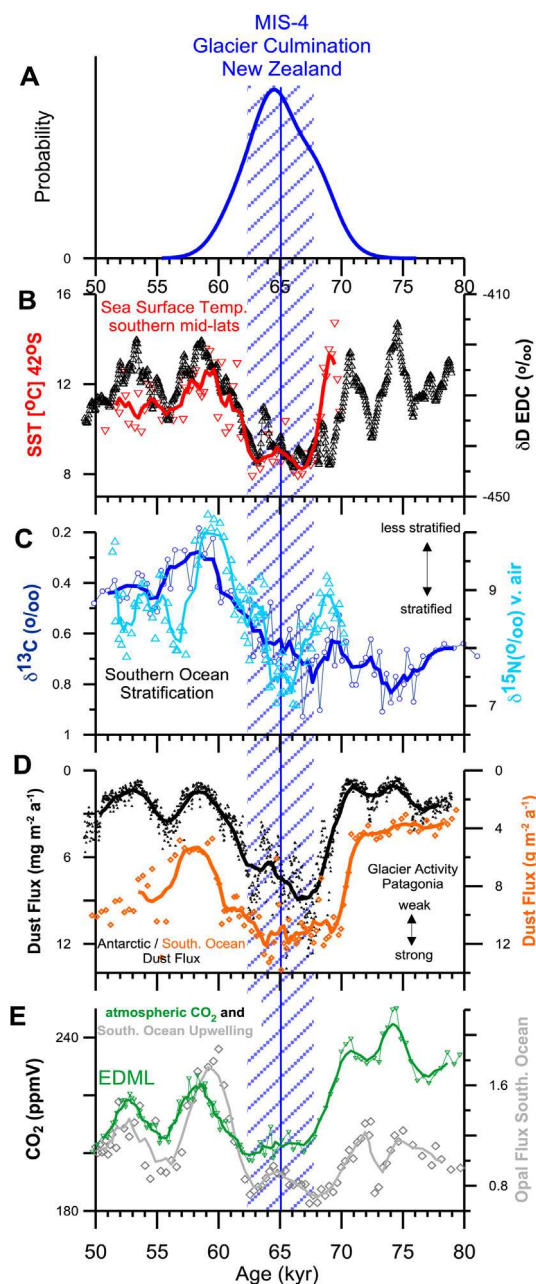


Fig. 3. Southern Hemisphere records of the MIS-4 period and the MIS-4/3 transition. **A:** Probability plot of the age of the glacier culmination in New Zealand (arithm. mean and standard deviation: 65.1 ± 2.7 ka; [Supplementary Fig. 2](#)); **B:** Southern Ocean alkenone-based sea surface temperature records from offshore Chile ([Kaiser and Lamy, 2010](#)) and deuterium-inferred Antarctic temperature (EPICA community members, 2004); **C:** Two independent Southern Ocean stratification records based on nitrogen ([Robinson et al., 2007](#)) and carbon isotopes ([Ninnemann and Charles, 1997](#)) from southeast Pacific sediments; **D:** Antarctic ([Lambert et al., 2008](#)) and southern ocean ([Martinez-Garcia et al., 2011](#)) dust fluxes (y-axis inverted); **E:** Atmospheric CO₂ from the EDML Antarctic ice core ([Bereiter et al., 2012](#)) and Southern Ocean upwelling strength derived from opal fluxes in Southern Ocean sediments ([Anderson et al., 2009](#)), based on an alternative age model (see [Supplementary Fig. 1](#)).

water ([Anderson et al., 2009](#)). Even dust fluxes to the equatorial Pacific began to drop from nearly full-stadial level ([Winckler et al., 2008](#)).

In [Fig. 4](#), we directly compare the two glacial maxima of the last glacial–interglacial cycle and the subsequent major climate transitions, T1 and the MIS-4/3 transition, addressing the question why T1 culminated in full and sustained interglacial warmth while the

MIS-4/3 transition stalled in a mild interstadial state, before slipping back towards glacial conditions.

Both transitions display striking consistencies: Orbital forcing represented by increasing boreal summer insolation was equally strong (38 W/m^2 increase between 70 and 58 ka and 40 W/m^2 between 21 and 12 ka). Both transitions were accompanied by the onset of major Heinrich Stadials (HS), multi-millennial periods of extreme cold in the North Atlantic region, associated with pulses of icebergs and meltwater from decaying northern ice sheets (HS-6 and -1, respectively). Several millennia later, an abrupt change to much warmer North Atlantic temperatures terminated each HS. The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), which is related to the earth's thermal equator, migrated southwards during both HS-6 and HS-1 ([Deplazes et al., 2013](#)), and then abruptly shifted northward at their end. Likewise, Chinese monsoon intensity weakened during, and abruptly increased after, HS-6 and HS-1 ([Wang et al., 2001](#)).

However, [Fig. 4](#) also displays the few quantitative key distinctions between the MIS-4/3 transition and T1. Most important, the difference in sea level (MIS-4: 95 m below present; MIS-2/LGM: 120 m) indicates that the MIS-4 northern ice sheets were at about 80% of their LGM volume. While Earth's orbital configuration and atmospheric CO₂ concentrations for both the LGM and MIS-4 cold peaks were comparable, the rates of change during the MIS-4/3 transition in atmospheric CO₂ (MIS-4/3: $\sim 8 \text{ ppmV/ka}$ ([Bereiter et al., 2012](#)); T1: $\sim 15 \text{ ppmV/ka}$ ([Monnin et al., 2001](#))), and also in Antarctic temperature (MIS-4/3: $\sim 0.75 \text{ }^\circ\text{C/ka}$; T1: $\sim 1.5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C/ka}$; [Jouzel et al. \(2007\)](#)), were only about half of that during T1. The ITCZ did not quite reach the southernmost position that it held towards the end of HS-1 ([Deplazes et al., 2013](#)). Weakening of the monsoon intensity was less severe during HS-6 relative to HS-1 and the abrupt monsoon intensification at the end of HS-6 was smaller than that after HS-1 ([Wang et al., 2001](#)). SO sea ice retreat was substantial through HS-1, but minimal during the MIS-4/3 transition/HS-6 ([Wolff et al., 2006](#)). Finally, there is no clear evidence for warming/destratification of the deepest Southern Ocean during the MIS-4/3 transition as occurred during T1 ([Adkins, 2013](#)).

We propose that these differences between the MIS-4 Southern Glacial Maximum and its Unfinished Termination and the MIS-2 LGM and T1 provide support for the view that the maximum size of the northern ice-sheets has been a necessary condition for terminations ([Denton and Hughes, 1981](#); [Raymo, 1997](#); [Clark et al., 2009](#); [Abe-Ouchi et al., 2013](#)). Only the destabilization and melting of maximum size northern ice sheets ([Denton and Hughes, 1981](#)) triggered high-intensity HS ([Denton et al., 2010](#)) with far-field effects that were essential to transition global climate from glacial to sustained interglacial conditions, including the SO destratification (for example [Sigman et al. \(2010\)](#)) and the related increase in SO upwelling and CO₂ release to the atmosphere ([Anderson et al., 2009](#)). By this argument, our study is not consistent with the scenarios making the case for regional southern forcing of terminations ([Vandergoes et al., 2005](#)) without northern control ([Wolff et al., 2009](#)).

Beyond the specific termination dynamics, the robust observation is that of a full glacial maximum of the Southern Hemisphere during MIS-4, and the onset of a termination that did not manage to bring the earth's climate out of the ice-age into a sustained interglacial state.

5. Conclusions

The Southern Hemisphere was in full-glacial configuration twice during the last glacial cycle, in both cases a termination began right after reaching the glacial culmination, that was paralleled by a HS in the North Atlantic region. This expands the polar ice-core

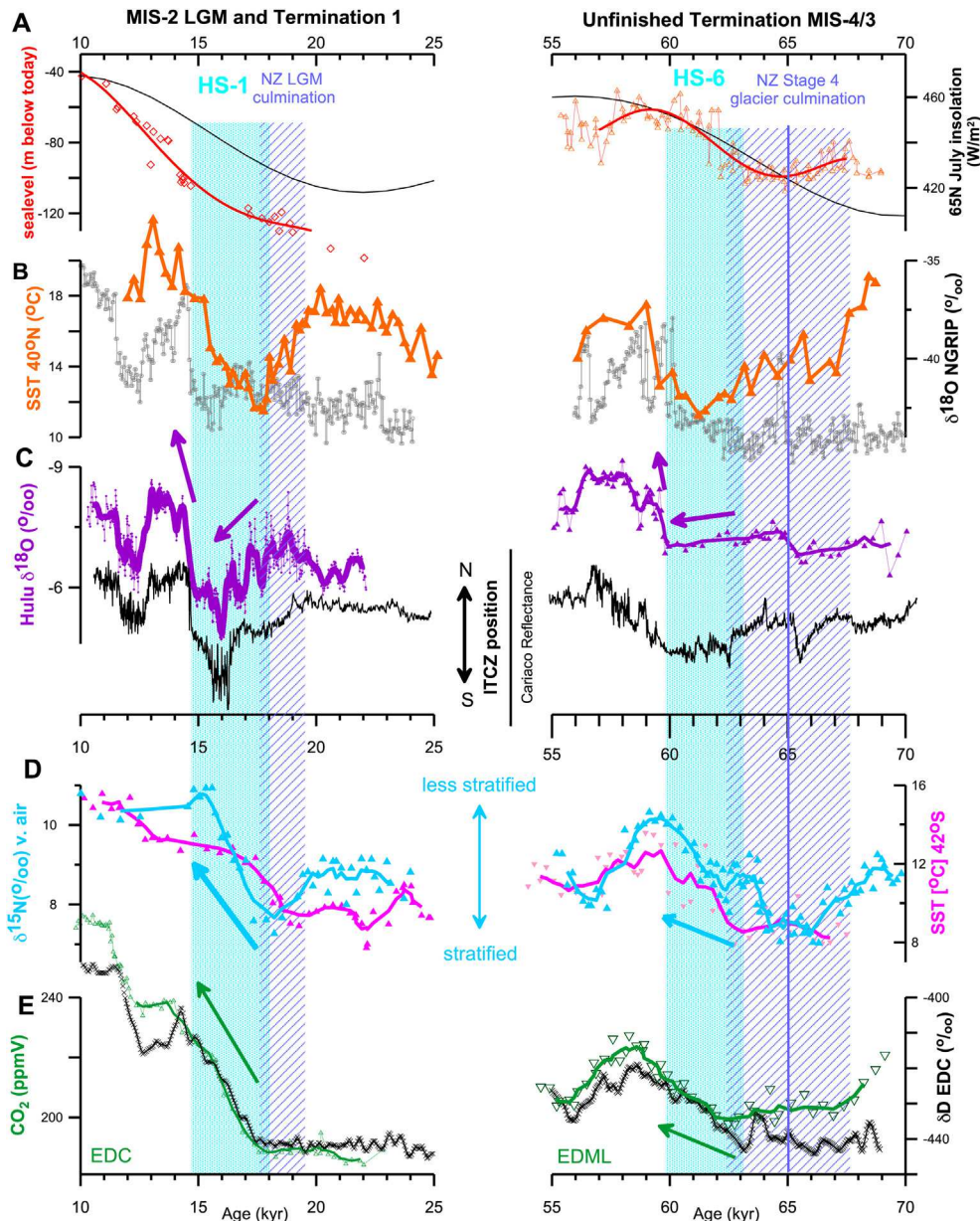


Fig. 4. Inter-hemispheric comparison of the MIS-4/3 transition and Termination 1. The end of 'LGM NZ' taken from Putnam et al. (2013). **A:** Northern insolation forcing and global sea level (Cutler et al., 2003; Siddall et al., 2003); **B:** Sea surface temperature at 40°N (orange) (Chapman and Shackleton, 1998) and Greenland summit temperature proxy (gray) (North Greenland Ice Core Project members, 2004); **C:** Chinese cave record ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from speleothems, interpreted as measure of the monsoon strength (Wang et al., 2001)) and position of the ITCZ inferred from the color reflectance signal in Cariaco Basin sediments (black) (Deplazes et al., 2013); **D:** Southern Ocean stratification records based on nitrogen isotopes (Robinson et al., 2007) and sea surface temperature at 42°S off Chile (Kaiser and Lamy, 2010); **E:** Antarctic temperature proxy (black) (EPICA community members, 2004) and atmospheric CO_2 concentrations (Monnin et al., 2001; Bereiter et al., 2012). (For interpretation of the references to colour in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

based observation that warming events in Antarctica tend to be in phase with stadials in the Greenland ice core record (for example, Barbante et al. (2006)), and strengthens the evidence that New Zealand's temperature-sensitive mountain glaciers culminated during Antarctic cold periods (Kelley et al., 2014).

This study provides a basis for estimating first-order time-scales for the hemispheres to reach full-glacial configuration. Starting from the near-interglacial conditions of MIS-5a about 80,000 years ago (Simms et al., 2009; Dorale et al., 2010), 15 ka were sufficient for the marine-dominated Southern Hemisphere to approach full glacial configuration. The Northern Hemisphere and its continental ice-sheets reached only about 80% of the full-glacial state during

this 15 ka interval. After the MIS-4/3 transition, 60 ka ago, about 50% of the maximum northern ice sheets were left on the continents. Subsequently, almost 40 ka of cooling grew the northern ice sheets from half to full glacial LGM size.

As a final observation, we note that major inter-termination transitions similar to the Unfinished Termination of the MIS-4 Southern Glacial Maximum were characteristic for glacial cycles exceeding 100,000 years in duration (EPICA community members, 2004; Lisiecki and Raymo, 2005). In contrast, about 425 ka ago, a shorter glacial cycle began subsequent to the MIS-11 interglacial, characterized by a quasi-steady cooling over some 55,000 years towards the full glacial MIS-10 peak 340 ka ago that was followed

by Termination 4. The proposed concept of Southern Glacial Maxima and their Unfinished Terminations might thus help to explain the different durations of glacial cycles in the 100 ka world.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data related to this article can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2015.02.009>.

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