Reconstruct Past Climate

Data Source, Proxies

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1 Parameter and Resolution

The follow-up weather parameters normaly could reconstruct:

- \bullet temperature
- precipitation
- \bullet wind

The Resolution depends on the data source.

2 Data Source

Descriptive documentary data such as:

- reports from chronicles
- daily weather reports
- travel diaries
- ship logbooks

Documentary proxy data are more indirect evidence that reflects weather or climate conditions.

2.1 Speleothem

Speleothems are secondary cave deposits such as stalactites and stalagmites (Stalagmites grow from the ground, stalactites grow from the ceiling).

2.1.1 Development of Speleothems

 $\begin{array}{rcl} \mathrm{CaCO}_3 + \mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O} + \mathrm{CO}_2 & \Longrightarrow & \mathrm{Ca}_2^+ + 2 \ \mathrm{HCO}_3^- \\ \mathrm{Ca}_2^+ + 2 \ \mathrm{HCO}_3^- & \Longrightarrow & \mathrm{CaCO}_3 + \mathrm{H}_2\mathrm{O} + \mathrm{CO}_2 \end{array}$

2.1.2 Age

Thorium-Uran method

2.1.3 Precipitation

The $\delta^{18}O$ depends on the precipitation. The $\delta^{18}O$ is more negativ in periods with more precipitation.

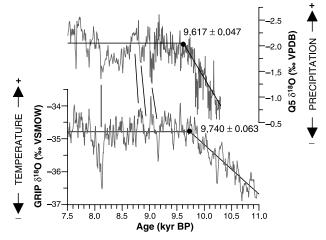


Fig. 2. Comparison of the Q5 δ^{18} O record with the smoothed (five-point running average) GRIP δ^{18} O ice core record (*15*). Lower monsoon precipitation correlates with colder North Atlantic air temperatures (visualized by vertical tie-lines). The heavy black line shows "ramp" function trends (*34*). Change-point times are given with their statistical errors (1 σ), which are estimated from bootstrap simulations. Taking dating uncertainties for both the Q5 and GRIP records into account (1 to 2%) shows that the changes occurred simultaneously.

3 Discussion

- Different proxies and their pros and cons
- The δ^{18} O dependence on precipitation

References

- P. Lionello et. al. The Mediterranean Climate: An Overview of the Main Characteristics and Issues. Developments in Earth & Environmental Sciences, 4:27–148, 2006.
- [2] D. Fleitmann et. al. Holocene Forcing of the Indian Monsoon Recorded in a Stalagmite from Southern Oman. *Science*, 300:1737–1739, 2003.