



Tipping points: Early warning and wishful thinking

Peter Ditlevsen and Sigfus Johnsen

University of Copenhagen, Niels Bohr Institute, Centre for Ice and Climate, Copenhagen O, Denmark (pditlev@gfy.ku.dk)

The causes for and possible predictions of rapid climate changes are poorly understood. The most pronounced changes observed, beside the glacial terminations, are the Dansgaard-Oeschger events. Present day general circulation climate models simulating glacial conditions are not capable of reproducing these rapid shifts. It is thus not known if they are due to bifurcations in the structural stability of the climate or if they are induced by stochastic fluctuations. By analyzing a high resolution ice core record we exclude the bifurcation scenario, which strongly suggests that they are noise induced and thus have very limited predictability.