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Speleothem records of the Younger Dryas

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The Younger Dryas (YD) was the last major cold event of the last glacial period, yet our understanding of how the event was propagated across the globe remains unclear, in spite of outstanding ice-core records from both polar regions. Speleothems have the potential to shed light on the synchronicity of the YD onset, intra-YD variability and the YD termination because of the widespread distribution of caves and our ability to generate speleothem age models of great precision. Here we explore this synchronicity question by collating suitable existing and previously unpublished speleothem records from both hemispheres. Each record is re-processed using a common age-modelling technique then compared to determine whether intra-YD variability is local or regional, and whether or not the timing of the YD termination contains significant leads and lags.