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Offsets among ice core derived CO₂ reconstructions covering the Holocene and Last Interglacial

Christoph Nehrbass-Ahles^{1,2}, Jochen Schmitt¹, Bernhard Bereiter^{1,3}, Sarah Eggleston^{1,4}, Lars Mächler¹, Lucas Silva¹, Thomas Stocker¹, and Hubertus Fischer¹

¹Climate and Environmental Physics, Physics Institute and Oeschger Centre for Climate Change Research, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

²Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (cn425@cam.ac.uk)

³Laboratory for Air Pollution/Environmental Technology, Empa, Dübendorf, Switzerland

⁴PAGES, Past Global Changes, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland

There is a general consensus in the scientific community that Greenlandic ice cores do not allow for reconstruction of past atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentrations due to artifacts likely caused by *in-situ* production of excess CO₂ from both organic and inorganic carbon compounds within the ice archive. In the case of Antarctic ice cores such processes are thought to be insignificant, making Antarctic ice cores the only direct archive of past atmospheric CO₂ concentrations beyond modern observations. However, with increasing numbers of high-precision CO₂ reconstructions from multiple Antarctic ice cores – mostly covering specific time intervals during the last 130 ka – it has become evident that offsets in CO₂ are not unique to Greenland ice cores. Over the last decade evidence is mounting that small systematic offsets of typically 2-10 ppm exist among different Antarctic CO₂ records covering the same time period. Because CO₂ is well-mixed within the atmosphere different ice cores should agree with each other within their measurement uncertainty, independent of the ice core drilling site. The unambiguous detection of such offsets between different ice cores is only possible in the absence of strong atmospheric trends, such as during interglacial periods. Here, we take a closer look at CO₂ offsets among records available for the Holocene and the Last Interglacial and investigate their long-term evolution. We present unpublished CO₂ data from multiple ice cores, including Talos Dome and EPICA Dome C, and discuss possible offset producing mechanisms. We speculate that Antarctic ice cores are also subject to slowly progressing *in-situ* production of CO₂ over many millennia, similar to Greenlandic ice cores, however to a much smaller extent and limited to about 10 ppm. We further note a tendency for higher offsets in the case of high accumulation sites. Despite all possible mechanisms that have the potential to alter CO₂ concentrations within the ice archive, we highlight that the overall integrity of the ice core-based CO₂ reconstruction is not in question, as all records generally share the same common signal. However, the absolute CO₂ levels should be interpreted with care and in light of such potential offsets.