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# Quaternary Science Reviews

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## Southern Ocean link between changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels and northern-hemisphere climate anomalies during the last two glacial periods

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 21 January 2019

Received in revised form

8 November 2019

Accepted 10 November 2019

Available online xxx

#### Keywords:

Glacials

Palaeoclimatology

Southern Ocean

Redox-sensitive elements

Carbon cycle

Foraminifera

Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> variations

Stadials

Interstadials

### ABSTRACT

Past millennial-scale changes in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (CO<sub>2,atm</sub>) concentrations have often been attributed to variations in the overturning timescale of the ocean that result in changes in the marine carbon inventory. Yet, there remains a paucity of proxy evidence that documents changes in marine carbon storage globally, and that links them to abrupt climate variability in the northern hemisphere associated with perturbations of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC). The last two glacial periods were suggested to differ in the spatial extent of the AMOC and its sensitivity to perturbations. This provides an opportunity to compare the nature of marine carbon cycle-climate feedbacks between them. Here, we reconstruct variations in respired carbon storage (via oxygenation) and the AMOC “geometry” (via carbonate ion saturation) in the deep South Atlantic. We infer decreases in deep South Atlantic respired carbon levels at times of weakened AMOC and rising CO<sub>2,atm</sub> concentrations during both glacial periods. These findings suggest a consistent pattern of increased Southern Ocean convection and/or air-sea CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes during northern-hemisphere stadials accompanying AMOC perturbations and promoting a rise in CO<sub>2,atm</sub> levels. We find that net ocean carbon loss, and hence the magnitude of CO<sub>2,atm</sub> rise, is largely determined by the stadial duration. North Atlantic climate anomalies therefore affect Southern Ocean carbon cycling in a consistent manner, through oceanic (e.g., ventilation seesaw) and/or atmospheric processes (e.g., Ekman pumping).

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### 1. Introduction

Changes in the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere (CO<sub>2,atm</sub>) recorded in Antarctic ice cores have been found to be tightly linked with Antarctic temperature proxies over the past eight glacial cycles (e.g., Fischer et al., 2010). This link can be partly explained by the radiative forcing imparted by CO<sub>2,atm</sub> (i.e., the greenhouse effect; e.g., Köhler et al., 2017), and by the temperature dependence of processes governing global ocean- and land-atmosphere CO<sub>2</sub>

exchange, such as the ocean CO<sub>2</sub> solubility (Bacastow, 1996), metabolic rates of plants and phytoplankton (Eppley, 1972; Policy et al., 1993; Matsumoto, 2007) and organic carbon respiration rates in the ocean (Matsumoto, 2007; Matsumoto et al., 2007; Kwon et al., 2009). However, this link is also thought to rely on a variety of biogeochemical and hydrographic feedback mechanisms that affect the deep- and surface ocean's total carbon- and alkalinity levels (e.g., Sigman and Boyle, 2000; Hain et al., 2010; Cartapanis et al., 2018). The ocean's sizeable carbon reservoir exchanges with the atmosphere on centennial- to millennial time-scales, in particular through vertical mixing and Ekman pumping in the Southern Ocean (Primeau, 2005; Marinov et al., 2006; Gebbie and Huybers, 2011). Other potential carbon sources/sinks that

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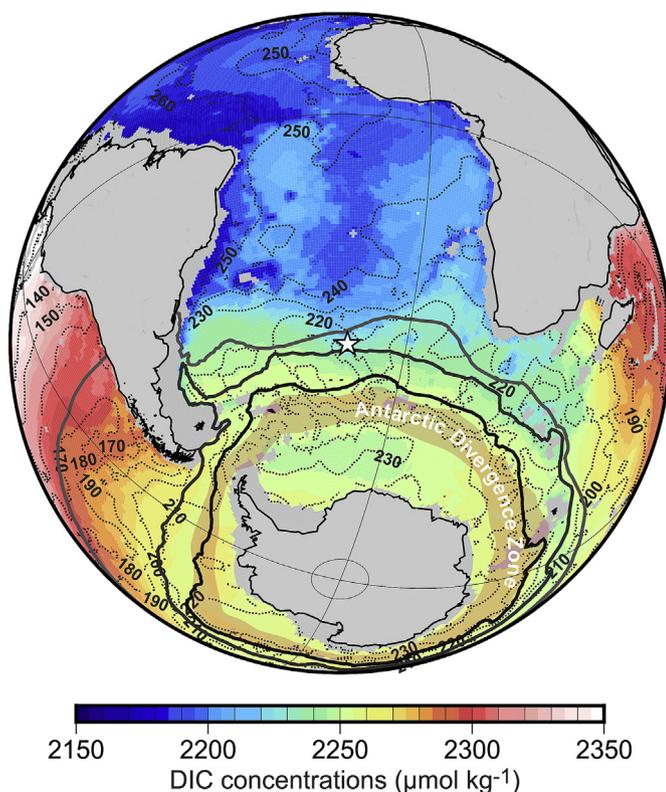
may have influenced  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  concentrations on these timescales include the terrestrial biosphere (Köhler et al., 2005; Menviel et al., 2008; Bozbiyik et al., 2011), Arctic permafrost (Zech, 2012; Köhler et al., 2014; Tesi et al., 2016) and the mantle/lithosphere (Huybers and Langmuir, 2009; Broecker et al., 2015; Lund et al., 2016). The Southern Ocean bears a strong leverage on the efficiency of ocean-atmosphere gas exchange (i.e., the “ocean  $\text{CO}_2$  solubility pump”) and on the global-ocean pre-formed versus respired nutrient ratio (i.e., the “soft-tissue/organic carbon pump”), while also influencing global-ocean alkalinity (i.e., the “hard-tissue/carbonate pump”). The Southern Ocean is therefore assumed to have played a dominant role in past  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  changes (Sarmiento and Toggweiler, 1984; Volk and Hoffert, 1985; Broecker et al., 1999; Sigman and Boyle, 2000; Ito and Follows, 2005; Fischer et al., 2010; Hain et al., 2010; Sigman et al., 2010).

Proxy evidence from the Southern Ocean covering the last glacial cycle strongly supports this view. The glacial Antarctic Zone of the Southern Ocean, south of the glacial Polar Front (Fig. 1), has provided proxy evidence for reduced vertical mixing and stronger water column density stratification during peak glacial periods, suggesting increased carbon sequestration from the atmosphere (e.g., François et al., 1997; Skinner et al., 2010; Jaccard et al., 2013; Roberts et al., 2015; Studer et al., 2015). In addition, an extended seasonal Antarctic sea ice zone during these intervals may have curbed air-sea gas exchange (Stephens and Keeling, 2000;

Gersonde et al., 2003; Benz et al., 2016), acting to further decrease  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$ . In the glacial sub-Antarctic Zone between the sub-Antarctic and sub-Tropical Front (Fig. 1), enhanced supply of aeolian dust that may have alleviated iron-limitation imposed on phytoplankton growth (Martin, 1990; Shoenfelt et al., 2018) is thought to have led to increased carbon export and  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  drawdown during the last peak glacial (Kumar et al., 1995; Ziegler et al., 2013; Anderson et al., 2014; Lamy et al., 2014; Martínez-García et al., 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Jaccard et al., 2016). These biological and hydrographic conditions were suggested to have relaxed over the last deglaciation and during Antarctic warming intervals, reducing the biological export of carbon to the deep ocean, and exposing the deep-ocean carbon reservoir to the atmosphere through enhanced vertical mixing and air-sea gas exchange in the Southern Ocean, causing a rise of  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  (e.g., Anderson et al., 2009; Skinner et al., 2010, 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Jaccard et al., 2016; Ronge et al., 2016; Sikes et al., 2016; Basak et al., 2018; Rae et al., 2018). In addition, these processes are thought to be closely connected to North Atlantic climate and parallel perturbations in the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) (Sigman et al., 2007; Anderson and Carr, 2010; Charles et al., 2010; Denton et al., 2010; Lee et al., 2011; Chiang et al., 2018). Specifically,  $\text{CO}_2$  evasion from the Southern Ocean may have been promoted through a poleward shift and/or intensifications of the southern-hemisphere westerlies (SHW) and an associated increase in Ekman pumping (Toggweiler et al., 2006; Anderson et al., 2009; Denton et al., 2010; Lee et al., 2011), surface buoyancy variations in the Southern Ocean (Watson and Naveira Garabato, 2006; Watson et al., 2015), Antarctic sea ice retreat and/or the rejuvenation of Southern Ocean deep waters (i.e., a “bipolar ventilation seesaw”; Skinner et al., 2010, 2014). These scenarios highlight separate atmospheric and oceanic pathways (though not mutually exclusive), by which northern-hemisphere climate variability might affect the respired carbon budgets and marine carbon cycling in the Southern Ocean (Buizert et al., 2018). Their relative contributions to  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  change remain, however, unclear.

An important test of the classical view of a primary role of Southern Ocean processes in driving millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations and their connection to North Atlantic climate anomalies gained from proxy records of the last 70 kyr can be made by extending the analyses to older millennial-scale climate events. The penultimate glacial period, i.e., Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 6, may prove particularly useful for this undertaking, because MIS 6 was characterised by slightly different climatic conditions compared to the last glacial period (i.e., MIS 3), in particular with respect to the extent of northern-hemisphere ice sheets (Svendsen et al., 2004) and the strength of the hydrological cycle (Margari et al., 2010). These differences have likely led to a weaker AMOC during MIS 6 that may be associated with lower-amplitude changes in Antarctic temperature (Margari et al., 2010). We hypothesise that the sensitivity of the ocean carbon system to perturbations was likely different during both glacial periods, and a comparison between the two may therefore provide important insights into the dependency of respired carbon changes in the deep South Atlantic and  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations to the nature, timing and duration of North Atlantic climate events and overall glacial conditions.

Here, we assess and compare changes in respired carbon content in the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean and the AMOC geometry during the last two glacial periods based on sub-Antarctic Atlantic sediment cores MD07-3076Q (14.20°W, 44.10°S, 3777 m water depth) and MD07-3077 (14.23°W, 44.15°S, 3776 m water depth). Respired carbon changes are derived from qualitative and quantitative estimates of bottom water oxygen concentrations ( $[\text{O}_2]$ ), which are reflected in the enrichment of redox-sensitive elements in foraminiferal authigenic coatings (Gottschalk et al.,



**Fig. 1. Location of the study site.** Concentration of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC, shaded; Key et al., 2004) in the ocean averaged below 2.5 km water depth. Contours indicate the average seawater dissolved  $[\text{O}_2]$  below 2.5 km water depth (García et al., 2014). The location of sediment cores MD07-3076Q and MD07-3077 is indicated by a star. Major fronts are shown as stippled lines from south to north: Polar Front (dark grey line), sub-Antarctic Front (grey line) and sub-Tropical Front (light grey line) (Orsi et al., 1995; Sokolov and Rintoul, 2009). The Antarctic Divergence Zone is highlighted by an orange circumpolar band, representing the region of strong positive air-sea  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes in austral winter in the Southern Ocean at present-day (see maps in Takahashi et al., 2002).

2016a) and epibenthic-to-deep infaunal foraminiferal  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  gradients (Hoogakker et al., 2015). Reconstructions of AMOC changes are based on partial sedimentary dissolution proxies that track variations in bottom water carbonate ion saturation. These proxies are sensitive to the presence of northern-sourced (carbonate oversaturated) and southern-sourced (carbonate undersaturated) water masses, as well as water mass end-member changes, at our study site (Gottschalk et al., 2015a). Additional analyses of past changes in local productivity approximated by determinations of the sedimentary opal content (e.g., Anderson et al., 2014) and cryosphere dynamics based on the abundance of ice-rafted debris (IRD; e.g., Kanfoush et al., 2000; Nielsen et al., 2007) help to assess the roles of ocean biology and sea ice/icebergs in Southern Ocean carbon cycle dynamics, respectively.

## 2. Study area

Sediment cores MD07-3076Q and MD07-3077 were retrieved from the eastern flank of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Ridge and are located within the sub-Antarctic Zone of the Atlantic sector of the Southern Ocean (Fig. 1). The cores were collected at the same site using different coring techniques, i.e., by square kasten- and piston coring, respectively. With a length of 10.9 m, MD07-3076Q covers the last ~100 kyr, while its sister core MD07-3077 has a length of 49.5 m and extends back to 450 kyr before present (BP) (Vázquez Riveiros et al., 2010). Analyses for MIS 3 were performed in core MD07-3076Q, while those for MIS 6 are based on MD07-3077.

The core sites are currently bathed in Lower Circumpolar Deep Water (LCDW), which is a mixture of DIC-rich and low- $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  Antarctic Bottom Water (AABW), derivatives of DIC-rich and low- $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  Indian and Pacific Deep Water and DIC-low and high- $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) (Carter et al., 2009; Talley, 2013). Our site is characterised by slight carbonate (i.e., calcite) oversaturation ( $\Omega = [\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{in-situ}}/[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]_{\text{saturated}} = 1.09$ ), but is proximal to carbonate-undersaturated water masses located deeper in the South Atlantic water column. It is therefore sensitive to changes in the preponderance of high- $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  NADW and low- $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  AABW in the deep South Atlantic through associated changes in carbonate saturation at the core site (Gottschalk et al., 2015a). The modern  $[\text{O}_2]$  at our core site is  $215 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  (García et al., 2014).

## 3. Methods

### 3.1. Respired carbon levels

Respired carbon levels are directly linked to apparent oxygenation utilization (AOU) in the ocean, which reflects the drawdown of  $\text{O}_2$  due to the respiration of organic matter (Kroopnick, 1985; Jaccard et al., 2014; Galbraith and Jaccard, 2015). AOU changes were suggested to be the main driver of deep-ocean  $[\text{O}_2]$  changes, because saturation  $[\text{O}_2]$  in the ocean varied little over glacial-interglacial timescales (Jaccard and Galbraith, 2012; Galbraith and Jaccard, 2015). We therefore reconstruct bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  to assess respired carbon changes during the last two glacial periods using the following two independent approaches in order to circumvent potential limitations and biases that may come with the analysis of a single proxy.

#### 3.1.1. Uranium enrichment in foraminiferal coatings

The enrichment of uranium (U) in marine sediments is mainly a result of reducing conditions in pore waters of marine sub-surficial sediments (Anderson et al., 1989; Barnes and Cochran, 1990; Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991; Morford and Emerson, 1999;

McManus et al., 2006; Tribovillard et al., 2006). Most of the soluble uranyl ( $\text{U}^{\text{VI}}$ ) carbonate ions that are reduced to insoluble uraninite ( $\text{U}^{\text{IV}}$  or  $\text{U}^{\text{III}}$ ) under oxygen-depleted conditions in pore waters diffuse from the water column into the sediment (Barnes and Cochran, 1990; Klinkhammer and Palmer, 1991; Morford and Emerson, 1999; Zheng et al., 2002). Uraninite precipitates on any substrate within marine sediments, including detrital material and carbonate shells of foraminiferal tests, resulting in a co-variation of authigenic U levels of bulk sediments and foraminiferal coatings (Boiteau et al., 2012; Chen et al., 2017).

Owing to the very low U concentrations within the carbonate lattice of foraminiferal shells ( $< 20 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ ) (Russell et al., 2004; Yu and Elderfield, 2007; Yu et al., 2008; Raitzsch et al., 2011) compared to those measured on non-reductively cleaned bulk (carbonate lattice and authigenic coating) foraminiferal shells (up to  $700 \text{ nmol mol}^{-1}$ ) (Boiteau et al., 2012; Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Lear et al., 2016), the U/Ca ratio of bulk foraminifera obtained by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) are dominated by U/Ca ratios of authigenic coatings. As the thickness of the shells and the size of the foraminifera may have varied over time (Barker and Elderfield, 2002) and may have had an impact on foraminiferal U/Ca ratios, it was suggested that normalization to manganese (Mn) might alleviate morphological biases (Gottschalk et al., 2016a). Under oxic conditions,  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  is oxidised and precipitates as insoluble  $\text{Mn}^{\text{IV}}$  or  $\text{Mn}^{\text{III}}$  oxyhydroxides (Calvert and Pedersen, 1996). Under reducing conditions, these Mn oxides dissolve releasing  $\text{Mn}^{\text{II}}$  that may be precipitated as Mn-carbonates below the anoxic boundary, or diffuse upward to the oxic zone, where it can be recycled (Froelich et al., 1979; Tribovillard et al., 2006). As foraminiferal tests in marine sediments act as a nucleus for the accumulation of both solid U- and Mn-phases, these phases are found to accumulate in coatings inside and/or outside of the foraminiferal shell (Pena et al., 2005, 2008; Hasenfratz et al., 2016; Detlef et al., 2020). Foraminiferal U/Mn ratios, along with U/Ca ratios (Boiteau et al., 2012), were hence suggested to be sensitive to and indicative of changes in bottom water oxygenation (Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Chen et al., 2017; Detlef et al., 2020).

However, Chen et al. (2017) do not find a close relationship between core-top epibenthic foraminiferal U/Mn ratios and bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$ . This may not be surprising, because the redox-cycling of U was suggested to be closely linked to that of Fe (Barnes and Cochran, 1990; Zheng et al., 2002), and hence occurs a few centimeters below the sediment-water interface, and may thus not be recorded by core-top foraminifera. This becomes evident in the tandem analyses of planktonic foraminiferal coatings and porewaters in multi-cores from a well-oxygenated setting performed by Skinner et al. (2019), which show that foraminiferal Mn/Ca ratios track the pore-water  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  concentration (with enrichment of both below the anoxic boundary), while foraminiferal U/Ca ratios track the loss of dissolved U from pore-waters through precipitation of U-compounds in oxygen-depleted sub-surface sediments (slightly lower than the zone of Mn accumulation). These findings emphasise a separation of early diagenetic reactions involving U and Mn in sub-surface sediments (Froelich et al., 1979). This is consistent with recent work by Detlef et al., 2020, who observe a correlation of foraminiferal U/Ca and Mn/Ca ratios in Bering Sea sediments, suggesting the accumulation of Mn in authigenic or recrystallised carbonate phases in foraminiferal coatings, possibly under anoxic conditions. The authors suggest that the increase in U accumulation over Mn accumulation in foraminiferal coatings in this setting is proportional to diagenetic alteration, and hence possibly dependent on bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  conditions. In contrast, Boiteau et al. (2012) show an anticorrelation of foraminiferal U/Ca and Mn/Ca in foraminiferal samples from the Southeast Atlantic, emphasising

different oxic and anoxic pathways of diagenetic precipitation of solid U- and Mn-phases. Further investigation is needed to fully understand the mechanisms driving the U/Mn proxy. Nonetheless, despite the different processes driving U- and Mn precipitation on foraminiferal shell, there is a strong connection to redox-chemical cycling in sub-marine sediments that is in turn tightly coupled to the availability of oxygen in bottom waters (Boiteau et al., 2012; Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Chen et al., 2017; Detlef et al., 2020; Skinner et al., 2019). In our study, we analyse the U enrichment in authigenic coatings on several foraminiferal species, and report the associated U/Ca and U/Mn ratios.

The foraminiferal record of redox-sensitive elements may be influenced by post-depositional deepening of the anoxic boundary, which may cause authigenic U compounds to be oxidised and redissolved (“burned-down”) (Zheng et al., 2002; Kasten et al., 2003; McManus et al., 2005). As we find high sedimentation rates of 10–15 cm kyr<sup>-1</sup> during MIS 3 and 6, we assume that the observed U/Ca and U/Mn ratios represent signals that mostly formed in equilibrium with bottom waters, with little overprints from non-steady state processes. We argue that the temporal offset between our redox-sensitive proxy changes and contemporaneous shifts in other foraminiferal proxies during past glacials is limited to a maximum of 0.5–1 kyr, assuming maximum oxygen penetration depths into sub-surface sediments of ~5–7 cm during past glacials. This is supported by a good agreement of foraminiferal U/Ca and U/Mn ratios with other bottom water oxygenation proxies and ventilation age changes over the last glacial cycle at the core site (Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Skinner et al., 2019).

U/Ca- and U/Mn analyses were performed on the planktonic foraminifer *Globigerina bulloides* (20–30 specimens; 250–300 μm size fraction) and *Globorotalia inflata* (20–30 specimens; >212 μm size fraction) for MIS 6 and Termination (T) II, and on *G. bulloides* (20–30 specimens; 250–300 μm size fraction) and the benthic foraminifer *Uvigerina* spp. (5–15 specimens; 250–300 μm size fraction) for MIS 3 and TI. Prior to ICP-MS analyses, the foraminiferal samples were cleaned through clay removal and silicate picking (Barker et al., 2003; Boiteau et al., 2012). The reproducibility of U/Ca and U/Mn ratios of replicate samples is within 30 nmol mol<sup>-1</sup> and 0.08 mmol mol<sup>-1</sup> (1σ, n = 6), respectively.

### 3.1.2. Epibenthic-deep infaunal foraminiferal δ<sup>13</sup>C gradients

The benthic foraminifer *Globobulimina affinis* is thought to actively migrate towards the low-oxygen microhabitat near or at the anoxic boundary within marine sub-surface sediments (Geslin et al., 2004), and has therefore a deep infaunal habitat (Corliss and Emerson, 1990; McCorkle et al., 1990). The δ<sup>13</sup>C offset of *G. affinis* from bottom water (i.e., from the supposedly epibenthic foraminifer *Cibicides kullenbergi*), Δδ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>Clk-Ga</sub>, has been proposed to record the depletion of pore water δ<sup>13</sup>C due to organic carbon respiration. This is thought to be controlled by bottom water oxygen diffusion into the sediment that is a function of bottom water [O<sub>2</sub>] itself (McCorkle and Emerson, 1988; McCorkle et al., 1990; Hoogakker et al., 2015). We use the Δδ<sup>13</sup>C–bottom water [O<sub>2</sub>] calibration of Hoogakker et al. (2015) to obtain quantitative estimates of bottom water [O<sub>2</sub>] at our core sites during the past two glacial periods.

We have performed stable isotopic analyses on *G. affinis* and *C. kullenbergi* on one to four specimens of the >150 μm size fraction. The analysed *C. kullenbergi* specimens refer to the *sensu lato*-morphotype as illustrated in Gottschalk et al. (2016b). The samples were measured on Finnigan Δ+ and Elementar Isoprime mass spectrometers at the LSCE in Gif-sur-Yvette (France). Prior to the analyses, foraminifera were rinsed with methanol, ultrasonicated

for 10 s, dried at room temperature, and finally roasted under vacuum at ~380 °C for 45 min to remove contaminant organic phases or detritus.

The oxygen and carbon isotopic shell composition is expressed as δ<sup>18</sup>O and δ<sup>13</sup>C in ‰ versus Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (VPDB). VPDB is defined with respect to the National Bureau of Standards (NBS)-19 calcite standard (δ<sup>18</sup>O = -2.20‰ and δ<sup>13</sup>C = +1.95‰) (Coplen, 1988). The mean external reproducibility of our carbonate standards is σ = 0.05‰ (δ<sup>18</sup>O) and σ = 0.03‰ (δ<sup>13</sup>C), and the measured NBS-18 δ<sup>18</sup>O and δ<sup>13</sup>C values are -23.2 ± 0.2‰ VPDB and -5.0 ± 0.1‰ VPDB, respectively.

### 3.2. Deep South Atlantic carbonate ion saturation as an indicator of the Atlantic overturning geometry

Partial sedimentary dissolution proxies, such as the benthic-to-planktonic (Be/Pl) foraminiferal ratio, planktonic foraminifer abundances or the planktonic foraminiferal fragmentation, are sensitive to the carbonate saturation (i.e., corrosiveness) of deep South Atlantic bottom waters in our study area (Barker and Diz, 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2015a, 2018). We have normalised and averaged these three proxy records from our study site for each glacial period in order to obtain the ‘carbonate saturation index’ (Gottschalk et al., 2015a). This index qualitatively reflects the southward advance of high-[CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>] NADW (Gottschalk et al., 2015a). However, given the complex processes affecting this proxy (such as changes in water mass end-members, local sedimentation rate and sediment porosity), it does not represent changes in the strength of the AMOC in a quantitative way.

Be/Pl ratios, planktonic foraminifer abundances and the foraminifer fragmentation were determined by sedimentary census counts of a sample aliquot of the >150 μm-fraction (CLIMAP project members, 1984). At least 300 planktonic foraminifera were counted for each sample, which also allowed an estimation of sea surface temperature (SST) changes at the core site based on planktonic foraminiferal assemblages and the Southern Ocean calibration of Haddam et al. (2016). The abundance of planktonic foraminifera is expressed as number per gram dry bulk sediment (>150 μm), while the fragmentation represents the percent fraction of planktonic foraminifer fragments (when larger than half a broken shell) of the total abundance of planktonic foraminifera and fragments. The reproducibility of reported planktonic foraminifer abundances, planktonic foraminifer fragmentation and the Be/Pl ratio has been inferred from 15 duplicate counts, and is within 6000 g<sup>-1</sup>, 1.9% and 0.014 (1σ), respectively.

### 3.3. Opal as an indicator for export production

The sedimentary biogenic silica (opal) content in our study cores was quantified by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIRS; Vogel et al., 2016) using a Vertex 70 FTIR-spectrometer (Bruker Optics Inc.). Repeating the analyses of parts of the record in MIS 3 and MIS 6 indicate the robustness of relative changes in sedimentary opal. However, absolute values may differ from wet-chemical opal analyses by 2.6 ± 2.6% (n = 112) during MIS 3 (Gottschalk et al., 2016a) and by 4.5 ± 1.6% (n = 55) across different FTIRS sample batches during MIS 6 (Supplementary Fig. S1). This may be associated with a bias of FTIR spectra due to a small residual water content in the samples (Vogel et al., 2016) that we were not able to eliminate despite several precautionary measures. Because absorbed water in the samples biases the opal content towards higher values, we have corrected all individual datasets onto those opal records with the lowest absolute values (based on calculated offsets

in overlapping sections, [Supplementary Fig. S1](#)).

#### 3.4. Ice-rafted detritus as an indicator of sea ice and/or iceberg export

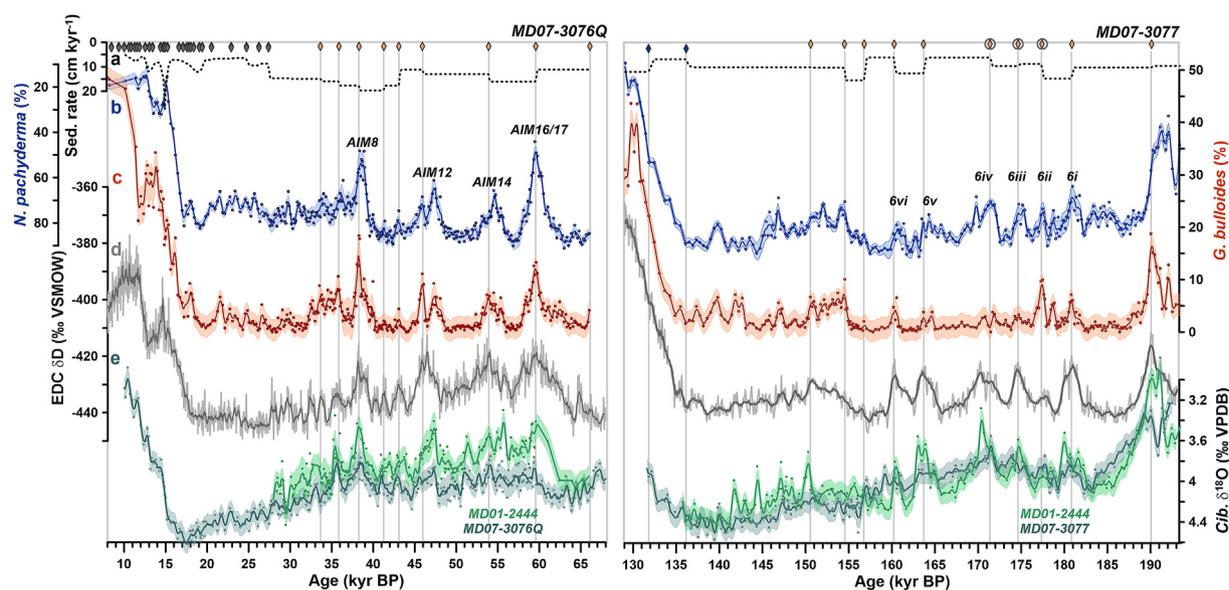
The abundance of IRD was assessed alongside the census counts of fragmented shells and foraminifera (see section 3.2.). It is reported as percentage with respect to the total number of sediment grains (including foraminifera and fragments). The reproducibility of estimated IRD percentages is within 1.5% ( $1\sigma$ ,  $n = 15$ ).

#### 3.5. Chronology

Chronological control of sediment core MD07-3076Q younger than 27 kyr BP is based on calibrated radiocarbon ages of mono-specific planktonic foraminifera samples, which have been adjusted for variations in surface ocean reservoir ages ([Skinner et al., 2010](#)). The age models of cores MD07-3076Q (i.e., for MIS 3) and MD07-3077 (i.e., for MIS 6) are based on a stratigraphic alignment of abundance peaks of *G. bulloides* with maxima in Antarctic air-temperature, represented by peaks in the EPICA (European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica) Dome C (EDC)  $\delta D$  Antarctic ice-core record ([Jouzel et al., 2007](#)) ([Fig. 2](#)). This approach assumes that temperature-sensitive *G. bulloides* abundance variations at our South Atlantic core site and Antarctic air-temperatures (at EDC) co-vary. We therefore take the age model for >27 kyr BP for our core site from a previous study that used this approach ([Channell et al., 2017](#)) with minor revision of three tiepoints during MIS 6 (encircled symbols in [Fig. 2a](#)), in order to produce a better match of *G. bulloides* variations with Antarctic air-temperature (The depths of two of these tiepoints (174.6 and 177.4 kyr) were shifted 20 cm towards the top of the core, and the tiepoint at ~2490 cm was shifted by 1 kyr towards older ages). Our simple approach is consistent with another age model approach that has

been applied to study millennial-scale variability at our core site based on the first time derivative of EDC  $\delta D$ , as demonstrated in [Gottschalk et al., 2015a](#). During TII, we use the age control points of [Gottschalk et al., 2016b](#) that are based on an alignment of abundance variations of *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* with EDC  $\delta D$ . Although this age model approach may deviate from an age model based on *G. bulloides* abundance variations (cf. [Fig. 2](#)), these age uncertainties are not relevant for the objectives of this paper.

Resulting sedimentation rates range between 5 cm kyr<sup>-1</sup> during the last deglaciation and 15 cm kyr<sup>-1</sup> during MIS 3 and MIS 6 ([Fig. 2](#)). We apply a 700 yr ad-hoc error for each of our planktonic abundance-based tiepoints (not considering absolute age uncertainties of the EDC chronology of up to 2.4 kyr in MIS 3 and 3 kyr in MIS 6), which translates into a relative age uncertainty of  $1.7 \pm 0.5$  kyr during MIS 3 and  $1.8 \pm 0.8$  kyr during MIS 6 and TII with respect to the Antarctic AICC2012 ice age scale ([Bazin et al., 2013](#); [Veres et al., 2013](#)). These age uncertainties were estimated based on Monte Carlo simulations with the Bayesian software package Bchron ([Haslett and Parnell, 2008](#)), and consider potential sedimentation rate changes in between our selected tiepoints. Although the millennial-scale accuracy of our age model is limited, circumstantial support for our age model alignment comes from benthic (*Cibicides* sp.)  $\delta^{18}O$  analyses. During both MIS 3 and MIS 6, we observe a good agreement on millennial timescales between the benthic  $\delta^{18}O$  records at our sub-Antarctic Atlantic site and sediment core MD01-2444 from the Iberian margin in the North Atlantic (2.6 km water depth, [Fig. 2](#); [Skinner et al., 2007](#); [Margari et al., 2010](#)), although both records are on entirely independent agescales. Benthic  $\delta^{18}O$  records are not per se expected to co-vary in the Atlantic (given the finite timescale of transport/mixing in the ocean, e.g., [Skinner and Shackleton, 2005](#)). However, the fact that they broadly parallel each other during both glacial intervals lends credibility to our chronostratigraphy.



**Fig. 2.** Chronologies of sediment cores MD07-3076Q (Termination (T) I and Marine Isotope Stage (MIS) 3, left) and MD07-3077 (TII and MIS 6, right). (a) Sedimentation rate (line) and tiepoints ( $^{14}C$  dates (grey)), alignment of abundance variations of *G. bulloides* (orange) and *N. pachyderma* (blue) with EPICA Dome C (EDC)  $\delta D$ ; [Gottschalk et al., 2016b](#); [Channell et al., 2017](#)), (b) abundance changes of *N. pachyderma*, (c) abundance changes of *G. bulloides*, (d) EDC  $\delta D$  ([Jouzel et al., 2007](#)) shown on the AICC2012 chronology ([Bazin et al., 2013](#); [Veres et al., 2013](#)) and (e) *C. kullenbergi*  $\delta^{18}O$  records in comparison to mean benthic  $\delta^{18}O$  records from the Iberian margin (MD01-2444; [Skinner et al., 2007](#); [Margari et al., 2010](#)). Lines and envelopes in (b), (c) and (e) show 500 yr-running averages and  $2\sigma$ -uncertainties, respectively. Encircled symbols show adjusted age markers that differ from the chronology published in [Channell et al. \(2017\)](#), as described in the text. The annotation of Antarctic warming events (AIM – Antarctic Isotope Maxima) follows [EPICA Community Members \(2006\)](#) for MIS 3 and [Margari et al. \(2010\)](#) for MIS 6.

### 3.6. Antarctic ice core CO<sub>2,atm</sub> data

In order to evaluate the possible influence of changes in the deep ocean carbon inventory on CO<sub>2,atm</sub>, we compare available high-resolution CO<sub>2,atm</sub> records, as compiled by Bereiter et al. (2015), with our marine proxy data on millennial timescales. The mean temporal resolution of the available ice core CO<sub>2,atm</sub> data covering MIS 3 from 63 to 32 kyr BP (~160±130 yr, n = 197) (Bereiter et al., 2012; Ahn and Brook, 2014) is much higher than during MIS 6 from 183 to 134.5 kyr BP (~1400±700 yr, n = 34) (Petit et al., 1999; Schneider et al., 2013), hampering a comparison of the CO<sub>2,atm</sub> variability during MIS 6 to our centennially resolved proxy data (220 ± 70 yr, n = 220). In order to circumvent this limitation, we predict millennial-scale CO<sub>2,atm</sub> variations by taking advantage of the close relationship between the Antarctic temperature proxy δD and CO<sub>2,atm</sub> (Petit et al., 1999; Fischer et al., 2010). We obtain separate linear regressions between EDC δD (smoothed by a 500 yr-running average; Jouzel et al., 2007) and CO<sub>2,atm</sub> for MIS 3 and MIS 6 using the compilation of Bereiter et al. (2015) (Fig. 3). Our regression for MIS 3 shows a correlation coefficient of ( $R^2=0.64$ ) ( $p<0.05$ ), whereas  $R^2$  for the MIS 6 regression is lower ( $R^2=0.41$ ,  $p<0.05$ , excluding two outliers; Fig. 3). Both are statistically significant. The resulting 2σ-uncertainty of the predicted CO<sub>2,atm</sub> (hereafter referred to as CO<sub>2,atm-PRED</sub>) is 10 ppm and 12 ppm, respectively (Fig. 3).

The ice-core records available for MIS 3 and MIS 6 suggest a difference in the baseline of CO<sub>2,atm</sub>, with overall lower values during MIS 6 mainly derived from the Vostok ice core (Fig. 3). However, known offsets in absolute CO<sub>2,atm</sub> levels among different ice cores, for instance in the case of glacial CO<sub>2,atm</sub> records (Bereiter et al., 2012; Eggleston et al., 2016), suggest that the difference in MIS 3-to-MIS 6 CO<sub>2,atm</sub> baselines might be an artefact driven by in-situ production of CO<sub>2</sub>. As such offsets still lack a coherent explanation, absolute differences smaller than 5–10 ppm in CO<sub>2,atm</sub> should be interpreted with caution. Nonetheless, given the low resolution of CO<sub>2,atm</sub> data during MIS 6 (Petit et al., 1999; Bereiter et al., 2015), we consider MIS 6 CO<sub>2,atm-PRED</sub> changes as a reasonable first-order approximation of CO<sub>2,atm</sub> variability during that

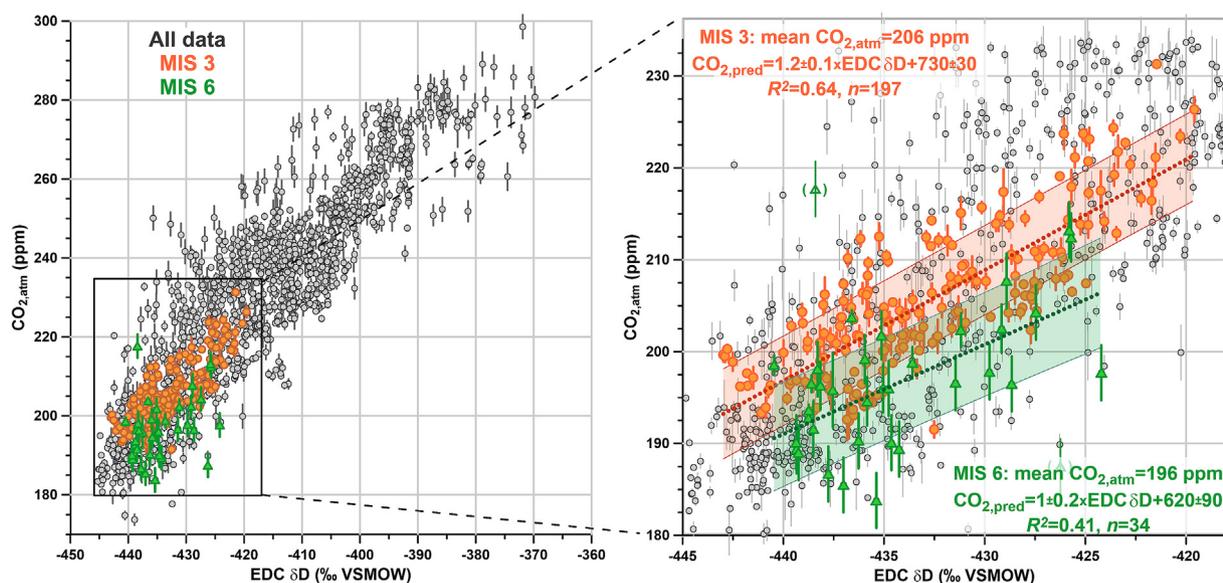
time period. High-resolution CO<sub>2,atm</sub> data from Antarctic ice cores during MIS 6 are needed to test the reliability of this approach.

## 4. Results

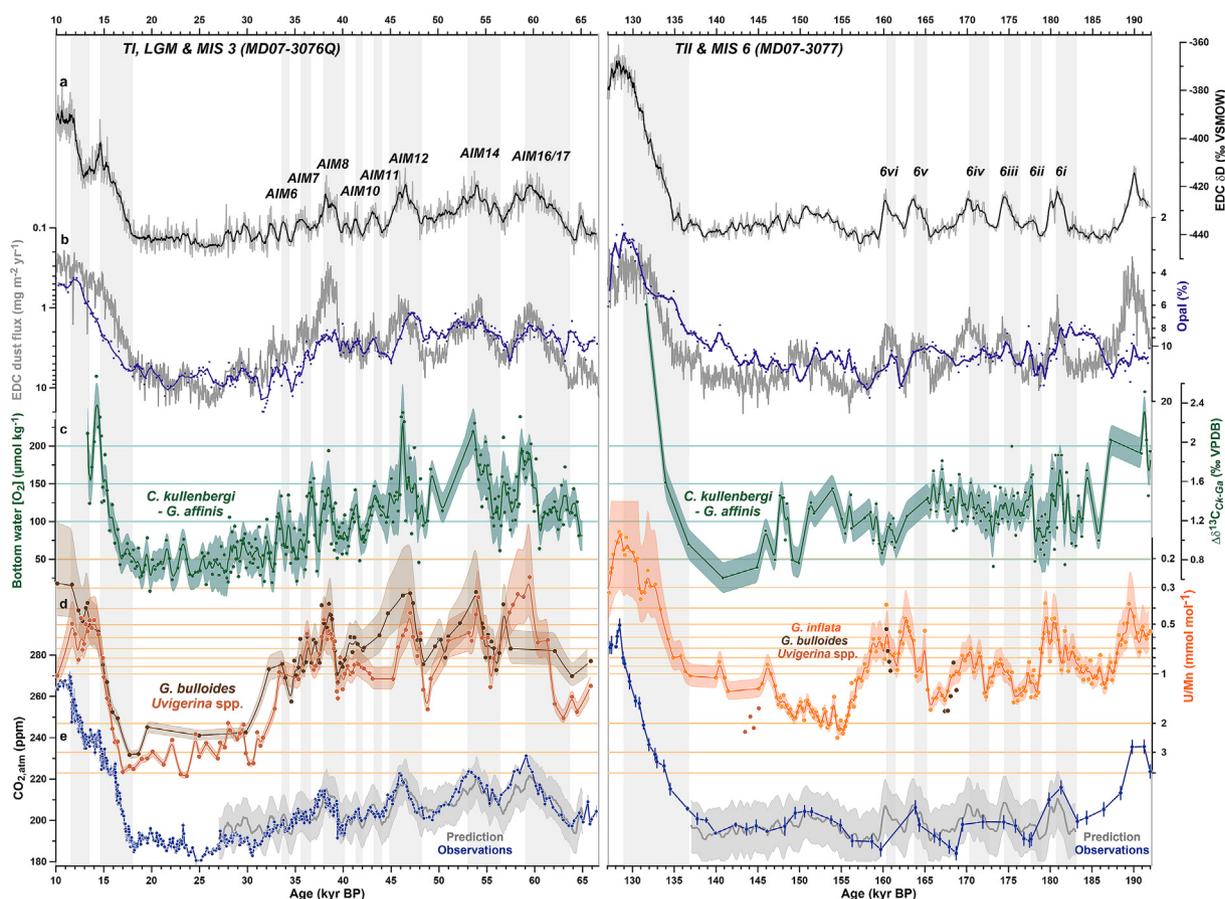
### 4.1. Changes in bottom water oxygenation

We observe systematic changes in the enrichment of U in authigenic coatings of foraminifera, which track past variations in Antarctic temperature and CO<sub>2,atm(-PRED)</sub> (Fig. 4). Bulk foraminifer U/Mn- and U/Ca ratios closely resemble each other both during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (Supplementary Fig. S2). If foraminiferal coating U and Mn enrichment is respectively driven by precipitation of uraninite and Mn-oxides under anoxic and oxic conditions, bulk foraminifer U/Ca- and Mn/Ca ratios are expected to anticorrelate (Boiteau et al., 2012). If their enrichment occurs below the anoxic boundary, they are expected to correlate with one another (Detlef et al., 2020; Skinner et al., 2019). U/Ca- and Mn/Ca ratios of our planktonic foraminifer samples show a statistically significant positive regression slope (*G. bulloides*: n = 96; *G. inflata*: n = 237; Supplementary Fig. S2), suggesting that they were governed by similar processes. In contrast, *Uvigerina* spp. do not show a strong relationship between U and Mn enrichment (if at all a slight anticorrelation; Supplementary Fig. S2), potentially highlighting the opposing redox-behaviour of these two elements. However, irrespective of whether Mn/Ca and U/Ca are correlated or anticorrelated, relative changes in the foraminiferal U/Ca- and U/Mn ratios agree (Supplementary Fig. S2), suggesting that the redox-sensitive U precipitation is the main control of the observed changes in foraminiferal U/Ca- and U/Mn ratios.

During MIS 3 and TI, *G. bulloides* and *Uvigerina* spp. U/Mn ratios and the δ<sup>13</sup>C<sub>CK-Ga</sub> gradient show marked variations during strong Antarctic warming events (AIM 8, 12, 14, 16/17), as well as during the more subdued AIM 6 and 7 (*sensu* EPICA Community Members, 2006, Figs. 4 and 5). Both bottom water oxygenation records parallel changes in CO<sub>2,atm</sub> levels, indicating an increase in bottom water oxygenation in the deep sub-Antarctic Atlantic during rising CO<sub>2,atm</sub> (Figs. 4 and 5). The relative change in *G. bulloides* and



**Fig. 3.** Prediction of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels (CO<sub>2,atm-PRED</sub>) during MIS 6 based on δD variations in the EDC ice core. Linear regression model between EDC δD (Jouzel et al., 2007) and CO<sub>2,atm</sub> concentrations (Bereiter et al., 2015) for 63–32 kyr BP (MIS 3, orange: CO<sub>2,atm-PRED</sub> = 1.2 ± 0.1 × (EDC δD) + 730 ± 30) and for 183–134.5 kyr BP (MIS 6, green: CO<sub>2,atm-PRED</sub> = 1.0 ± 0.2 × (EDC δD) + 620 ± 90), excluding two bracketed outliers, used to predict CO<sub>2,atm</sub> during MIS 3 and MIS 6, respectively. Grey symbols show all ice core data from 800 to 2 kyr BP. Envelopes (right) show the 1σ-uncertainties of the regression models.



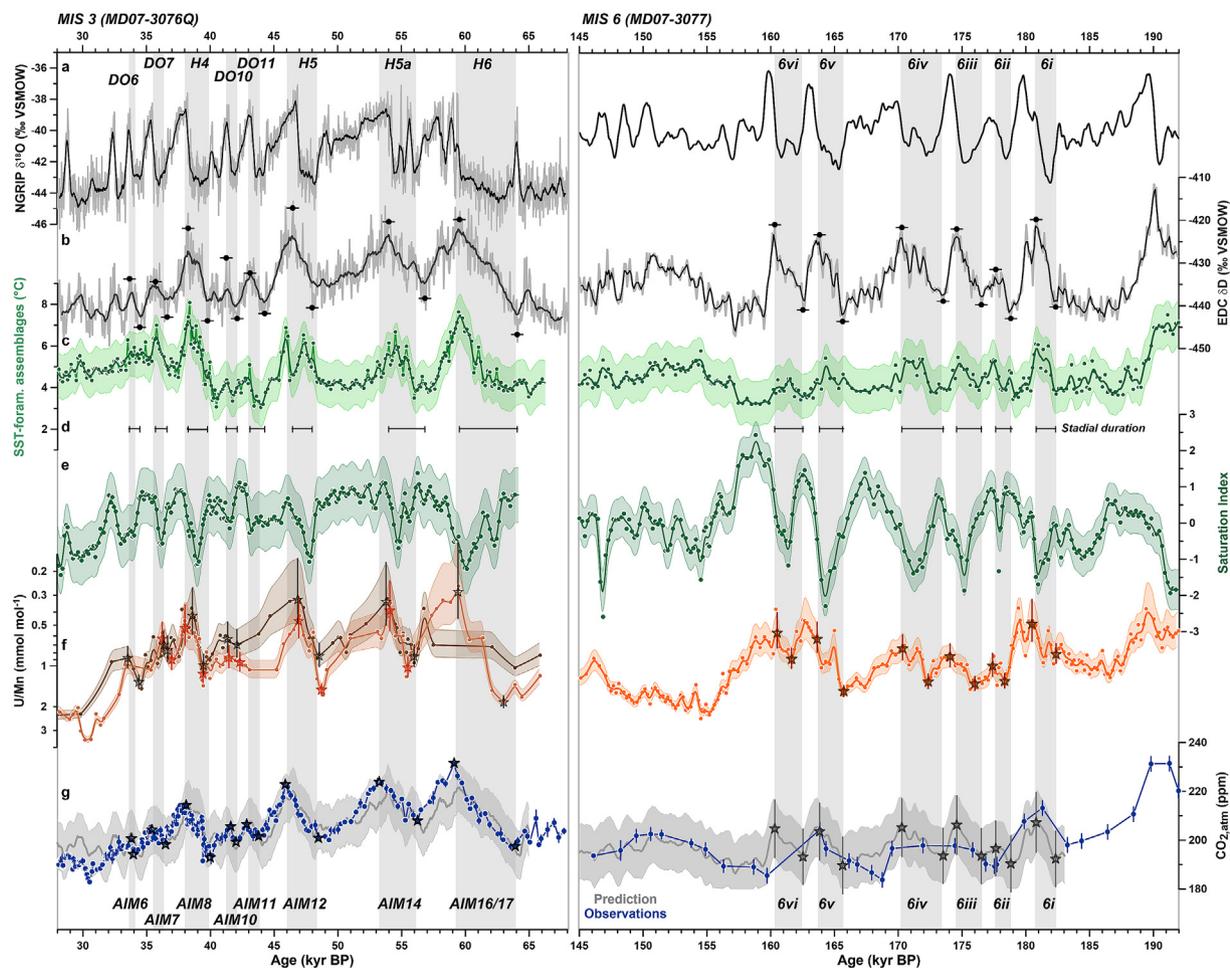
**Fig. 4.** Deep-ocean oxygenation- and productivity changes in the South Atlantic during TI and MIS 3 (left, MD07-3076Q), and TII and MIS 6 (right, MD07-3077). (a) EDC  $\delta D$  (Jouzel et al., 2007), (b) EDC dust fluxes (grey; Lambert et al., 2012) and sedimentary opal content at our study site (purple, corrected for incomplete water removal as shown in Supplementary Figs. S1), (c) gradient between *C. kullenbergi* (*Ck*)  $\delta^{13}C$  and *G. affinis* (*Ga*)  $\delta^{13}C$ ,  $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{Ck-Ga}$ , and corresponding bottom water  $[O_2]$  after Hoogakker et al. (2015), see Supplementary Fig. S3 for individual benthic foraminifer  $\delta^{13}C$  records, (d) U/Mn ratios of *G. bulloides* (dark brown), *Uvigerina* spp. (light brown) and *G. inflata* (orange) (cf. foraminiferal U/Ca ratios in Supplementary Figs. S2) and (e) observed  $CO_{2,atm}$  variations (dark blue; Bereiter et al., 2015) and  $CO_{2,atm}$  variations predicted from EDC  $\delta D$  (grey line with  $1\sigma$  envelope; cf. Fig. 3) for MIS 3 (left) and MIS 6 (right). Lines and envelopes in (b) to (d) represent 500 yr-running averages and  $1\sigma$ -uncertainties, respectively. The lower uncertainty range of *G. inflata* U/Mn is truncated at  $0.08 \text{ mmol mol}^{-1}$ . Grey bars indicate intervals of rising  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$ .

*Uvigerina* spp. U/Mn levels correlates with the magnitude of parallel  $CO_{2,atm}$  variations (Fig. 6a). During the penultimate glacial period (i.e., AIM 6vi to i, sensu Margari et al., 2010), changes in *G. inflata* U/Mn ratios are similar to Antarctic temperature variations (Figs. 4 and 5). Decreases in *G. inflata* U/Mn levels during Antarctic warming events coincide with increases in  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$  levels during MIS 6 (Figs. 4 and 5).

We estimated the maximum magnitudes of foraminiferal U/Mn change during intervals of Antarctic warming as defined in Margari et al. (2010) and link them with maximum parallel rises in  $CO_{2,atm}$  that we consider to be associated with (see Fig. 5). Intervals of U/Mn change,  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$  rise and Antarctic warming do not necessarily fully agree in their timing. In fact, during Dansgaard-Oeschger (DO) stadials 14 and DO16/17 as well as stadials associated with 6iv and 6ii, the U/Mn maximum occurs slightly later than the onset of Antarctic warming (Fig. 5f). Similarly, intervals of rising  $CO_{2,atm}$  levels during MIS 3 (e.g., DO14 and DO16/17) may last slightly longer than the period of rising temperatures over Antarctica (Fig. 5g). The relationship between foraminiferal U/Mn- and  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$  changes during stadial conditions is the same during both glacial periods (Fig. 6a).

Distinct excursions of *G. affinis*  $\delta^{13}C$  from *C. kullenbergi*  $\delta^{13}C$  during MIS 3 (Supplementary Fig. S3) indicate that the observed bottom water  $[O_2]$  change in parallel with variations in

foraminiferal U/Mn amounts to  $110 \pm 50 \text{ } \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$  on average (Fig. 4; Gottschalk et al., 2016a). Although the U/Mn proxy seems to provide the most consistent pattern of variability between the last two glacials, its agreement with  $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{Ck-Ga}$ -based bottom water  $[O_2]$  variations during MIS 6 is quite poor (Fig. 4). As the  $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{Ck-Ga}$  proxy is based on the aerobic respiration of organic matter in marine sub-surface sediments, one can surmise that strong carbon fluxes to the sea floor may have caused anaerobic organic matter degradation in sub-surface sediments to severely bias the proxy (Jacobel et al., 2019). This might have been the case during MIS 6, but not during MIS 3. Furthermore, the  $\Delta\delta^{13}C_{Ck-Ga}$  proxy relies on an accurate recording of pore-water  $\delta^{13}C$  at the anoxic boundary in sub-surface sediments via the deep-infaunal benthic foraminifera *G. affinis*, and of bottom water  $\delta^{13}C$  levels by the benthic foraminifer *C. kullenbergi*. Either or both of these conditions might not have been met during MIS 6: firstly, *Globobulimina* species and other deep infaunal benthic foraminifera were shown to be capable of denitrification, and can hence thrive significantly below the anoxic boundary, where pore water  $\delta^{13}C$  is lowered independently of  $[O_2]$  (Risgaard-Petersen et al., 2006; Piña-Ochoa et al., 2010; Glock et al., 2019); and secondly, *C. kullenbergi* was suggested to live and possibly prefer slightly infaunal habitats with lower  $\delta^{13}C$  than in bottom waters (Gottschalk et al., 2016b). Along with large intra-species  $\delta^{13}C$  variability and potential vital effects of both benthic



**Fig. 5.** Millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations compared to changes in carbonate saturation and bottom water oxygenation in the deep sub-Antarctic Atlantic during MIS 3 (left, MD07-3076Q) and MIS 6 (right, MD07-3077). (a) Observed (MIS 3: NGRIP members, 2004) and predicted NGRIP  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  variations (MIS 6: Barker et al., 2011), (b) EDC  $\delta\text{D}$  (grey; Jouzel et al., 2007) and symbols highlighting the onset and ends of northern-hemisphere stadials according to Margari et al. (2010), (c) summer sea surface temperatures (green; SST) derived from planktonic foraminiferal assemblage counts in the study cores and the calibration of Haddam et al. (2016), (d) stadial durations (i.e., duration of Antarctic warming), according to Margari et al. (2010), (e) saturation index as defined in Gottschalk et al., 2015a and shown in Supplementary Fig. S4, (f) authigenic-coating U/Mn ratios of *G. bulloides* (dark brown), *Uvigerina* spp. (light brown) and *G. inflata* (orange), stars indicate onsets and ends of gradual U/Mn change associated with northern-hemisphere stadials, (g) observed  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  concentrations (dark blue; Bereiter et al., 2015) and  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm-PRED}}$  (grey, cf. Fig. 3), stars indicate onsets and ends of  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm-PRED}}$  change associated with northern-hemisphere stadials. Grey bars indicate intervals of rising  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm-PRED}}$  levels. Annotations of Dansgaard-Oeschger (DO) stadials, Heinrich (H) events and AIMs follow Dansgaard et al. (1993), Hemming (2004), EPICA Community Members (2006) and Margari et al. (2010), respectively.

foraminifer species, as well as carbonate dissolution changing the pore-water  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  gradient, these processes may have conspired to cause a reduced sensitivity of the  $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}$  proxy to bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  changes during MIS 6. The apparent discrepancy of our MIS 6  $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ck-Ga}}$  data underlines possible differences in glacial climate background conditions but also emphasises the need for further work investigating the controls on both the  $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}_{\text{Ck-Ga}}$  and U/Mn redox proxies under a wide range of depositional and hydrographic settings.

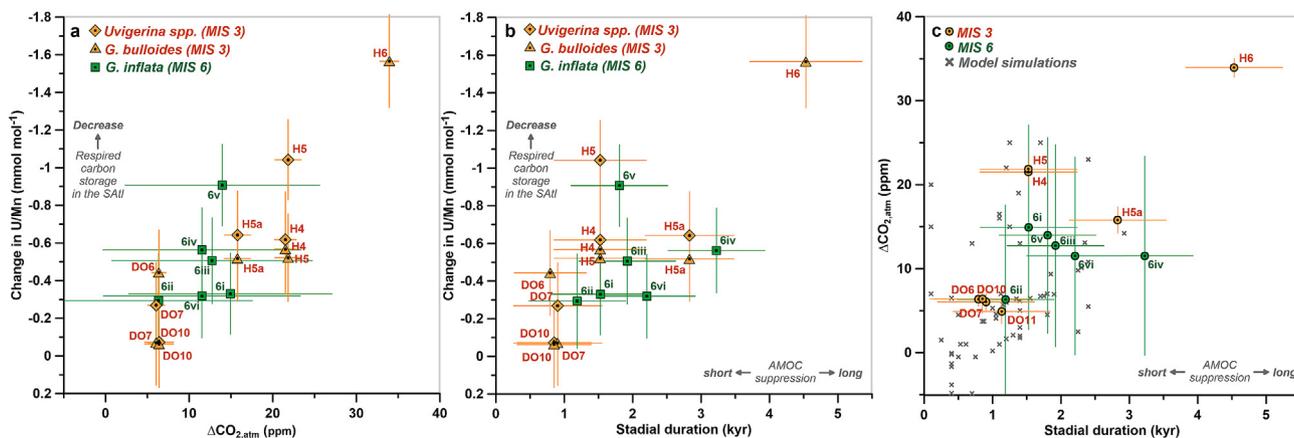
#### 4.2. Changes in the carbonate saturation state of the deep sub-Antarctic Atlantic Ocean

The carbonate saturation index (and all individual partial sedimentary dissolution proxies; Supplementary Fig. S4) exhibits several minima during MIS 3 and MIS 6 consistent with the presence of corrosive bottom waters in the deep sub-Antarctic Atlantic, likely of southern origin (Fig. 5; Gottschalk et al., 2015a). This is also consistent with quantitative bottom water  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  variations at the study site during MIS 3 (Supplementary Fig. S4; Gottschalk et al.,

2015a). The saturation index minima are paralleled by gradually decreasing foraminiferal U/Mn ratios (Fig. 5), and coincide with minima in epibenthic foraminiferal  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ , and hence stadial conditions, at the Iberian Margin (Fig. 7; Skinner et al., 2007; Margari et al., 2010).

The duration of northern-hemisphere stadials is expressed in the length of parallel Antarctic warming (Margari et al., 2010). By construction, SST at the core site closely varies with Antarctic temperature, and we hence compare the duration of Antarctic warming, i.e., the length of northern-hemisphere stadials, with the maximum amplitude of foraminiferal U/Mn change that we consider is associated with it (see Fig. 5; Margari et al., 2010). We find that the magnitude of change in foraminiferal U/Mn ratios during both glacial periods linearly correlates with the duration of northern-hemisphere stadal conditions (Fig. 6b). A difference between the two glacial relationships cannot be identified (Fig. 6b).

Furthermore, the presence of corrosive bottom waters at our core site (i.e., low saturation indices) parallels intervals of rising  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm-PRED}}$  levels (Fig. 5). Relying on MIS 6  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm-PRED}}$  levels and ice core observations during MIS 3 (Bereiter et al., 2015), we



**Fig. 6.** Variations in  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels during stadials and associated changes in respired carbon content at our study site. (a) Change in foraminiferal U/Mn versus parallel change in  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  (i.e., based on observations in MIS 3 and our MIS 6 prediction), (b) change in foraminiferal U/Mn ratios versus the duration of northern hemisphere stadials following Margari et al. (2010) and (c) change in  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  (i.e., based on observations in MIS 3 and our MIS 6 prediction) versus the duration of stadial conditions (circles). In (c) we also compare our proxy data with simulated  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  changes during stadials in freshwater hosing experiments in the North Atlantic (crosses; see review of Gottschalk et al., 2019). Data based on *G. inflata*, *Uvigerina* spp. and *G. bulloides* are shown as squares, diamonds and triangles, respectively. Time intervals are annotated as in Fig. 5. AMOC – Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation; SATl – South Atlantic.

observe a good correlation between the duration of these stadials and the magnitude of concomitant  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  increase (Fig. 6c). No significant difference in the relationship between the two can be identified during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (Fig. 6c).

#### 4.3. Changes in opal percentages

During MIS 3 and TI, changes in sedimentary opal percentages in MD07-3076Q broadly co-vary with EDC dust fluxes (Fig. 4; Gottschalk et al., 2016a). This relationship could suggest an influence of aeolian dust-driven iron fertilisation on nutrient utilisation and export production in the sub-Antarctic Zone during the last glacial period (Martin, 1990; Anderson et al., 2014; Lamy et al., 2014; Martínez-García et al., 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2016a). In contrast, during MIS 6 and TII, the link between opal percentages and EDC dust variations is rather poor on millennial timescales, and significant offsets exist between changes in the sedimentary opal content at our study site and the EDC dust flux record (Fig. 4).

#### 4.4. Ice-rafted debris

The abundance of IRD in our study core during the first half of MIS 3 is low but progressively increases towards the end of MIS 3, with pronounced peaks during North Atlantic stadials, and periods of Antarctic warming (Fig. 7). IRD percentages were generally higher during MIS 6 than during MIS 3, and show a more distinct response during stadials (Fig. 7). Kanfoush et al. (2000) interpreted IRD peaks in the South Atlantic as indication of significant iceberg fluxes to the South Atlantic. In contrast, Nielsen et al. (2007) highlighted that a large proportion of the IRD material in the South Atlantic identified by Kanfoush et al. (2000) was likely transported from the South Sandwich and Bouvet Islands via sea ice.

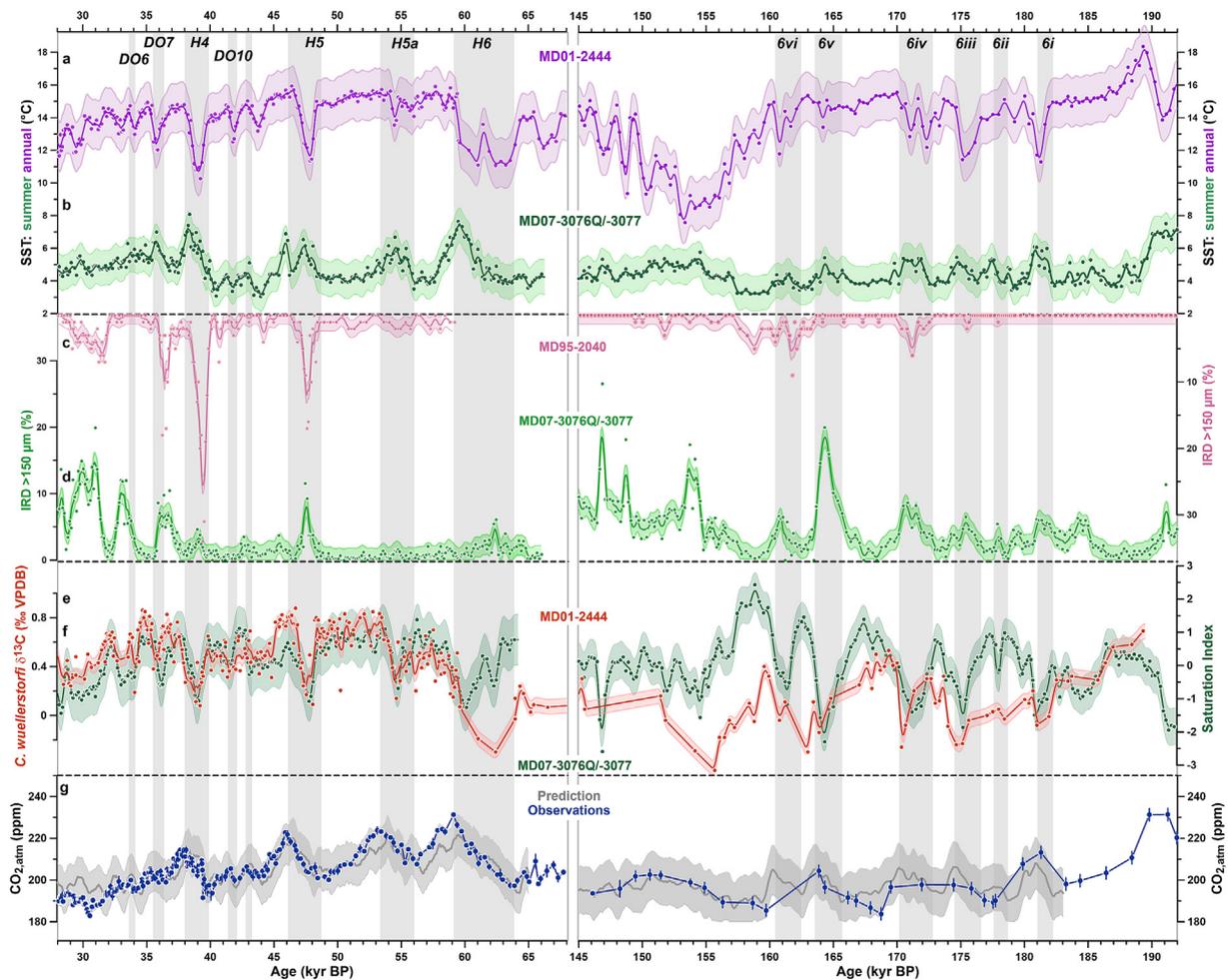
## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Changes in deep South Atlantic carbon sequestration during the last two glacial periods

Our foraminiferal U/Mn records spanning MIS 3 and MIS 6 indicate increases in bottom water oxygenation in the deep South

Atlantic during North Atlantic stadials, which we argue indicates changes in the respired carbon content of the deep South Atlantic (Gottschalk et al., 2016a; this study). During MIS 3, these occur in parallel to reductions in the sedimentary opal content (Fig. 4), rising SSTs (Fig. 5) and increased ice-rafting/-export (Fig. 7; Gottschalk et al., 2016a; this study). This also applies to MIS 6, with the exception of distinct offsets between variations in opal, Antarctic dust fluxes and deep South Atlantic bottom water oxygen changes (Fig. 4).

During MIS 3, variations in the degree of iron fertilisation via aeolian dust supply were suggested to control export production, and hence opal fluxes, in the glacial sub-Antarctic Atlantic (Anderson et al., 2014a; Martínez-García et al., 2014), contributing to millennial-scale bottom water oxygen and respired carbon changes at depth (Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Jaccard et al., 2016). However, whether the same mechanism operated during MIS 6 remains ambiguous (Fig. 4). The observed opal changes during MIS 6 may not be driven by aeolian dust supply (iron fertilisation), or sedimentary opal percentages may poorly represent annually integrated export production (of all taxonomic groups) in the sub-Antarctic Atlantic during that time interval. Indeed, the opal content in marine sediments was shown to be influenced by the availability of silicic acid, Antarctic sea ice extent, ecosystem structures and the degree of diatom silicification causing variable Si:C ratios of exported material (Chase et al., 2015). Irrespective of whether our opal data in MIS 6 faithfully record changes in export production, we argue, based on our proxy records and earlier findings (Gottschalk et al., 2016a), that increased ventilation of the deep Southern Ocean must be invoked to explain increased bottom water oxygen levels in the deep South Atlantic during intervals of Antarctic warming (e.g., Skinner et al., 2010, 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2015ab, Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Jaccard et al., 2016). Southern Ocean ventilation was likely accompanied by increased air-sea  $\text{CO}_2$  equilibration and adjusted surface ocean buoyancy forcing in the Antarctic Divergence Zone of the Southern Ocean, driving up both  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels and deep Southern Ocean oxygenation (Anderson et al., 2009; Skinner et al., 2010, 2014; Gottschalk et al., 2015ab, Gottschalk et al., 2016a; Jaccard et al., 2016). These changes were likely linked to variations in deep-ocean respired carbon content in other ocean basins, such as the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean (e.g., Jaccard et al., 2009; Menviel et al., 2015a, 2018; Umling and Thunell,



**Fig. 7.** Comparison of climate variability in the South Atlantic and the North Atlantic (Iberian margin) during MIS 3 (left) and MIS 6 (right). SST variability reconstructed in (a) sediment core MD01-2444 based on alkenone unsaturation indices (annual mean; Martrat et al., 2007) and (b) MD07-3076Q/-3077 based on planktonic foraminiferal assemblage counts (summer; this study), changes in the abundance of ice-rafted debris (IRD) in (c) MD95-2040 (de Abreu et al., 2003; age model based on Margari et al., 2010) and (d) MD07-3076Q/-3077 (this study), changes in the variability of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) recorded in (e) epibenthic foraminiferal *C. wuellerstorfi*  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  changes in core MD01-2444 (2.6 km water depth) (brown; Skinner et al., 2007; Margari et al., 2010), (f) carbonate saturation indices in core MD07-3076Q/-3077 (green; Gottschalk et al., 2015a; this study), and (g) observed (dark blue; Bereiter et al., 2015) and predicted  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels (grey; this study). Vertical bars highlight intervals of rising  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  concentrations. Solid lines and error envelopes show 500 yr-running averages. The error envelopes refer to  $1\sigma$ -calibration uncertainties: (a)  $1.5\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (Martrat et al., 2007), (b)  $\sim 1\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  (this study), (c)  $1.5\%$  (conservative estimate; de Abreu et al., 2003) and (d)  $1.5\%$  (this study), (e) the external  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  reproducibility of carbonate standards ( $1\sigma = 0.06\text{‰}$ ), (f) the  $1\sigma$ -uncertainties of the saturation index, and (g) the  $1\sigma$ -uncertainties of predicted  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  ( $\sim 12\text{ ppm}$ , cf. Fig. 3). All data are shown on the GICC05 or equivalent AICC2012 age scales.

2017; Anderson et al., 2019; Chalk et al., 2019). Hence, we suggest that similar mechanisms of (southern high-latitude) oceanic  $\text{CO}_2$  release might have operated during the last two glacial periods, which is supported by similar patterns of reconstructed bottom water oxygenation change at our study site and parallel  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  rise (Fig. 6a).

The occurrence of saturation index minima in the deep South Atlantic during intervals of increasing bottom water oxygenation (Fig. 5) indicates a shallower cell and/or reduced southward advection of NADW, favouring the presence of southern-sourced (carbonate ion-undersaturated) water masses at our core site, as suggested previously (Gottschalk et al., 2015a). This is supported by an agreement of our saturation index with epibenthic  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ - (Skinner et al., 2007; Margari et al., 2010) and SST changes at the Iberian Margin (Martrat et al., 2007, Fig. 7), the high-resolution  $^{231}\text{Pa}/^{230}\text{Th}$  record from Bermuda Rise (Henry et al., 2016) and a carbonate saturation record from the deep Cape Basin (Gottschalk et al., 2018), which reflect similar AMOC changes in the Atlantic basin. This agreement corroborates a strong causal link between

bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  changes in the deep South Atlantic and end-member changes of southern-sourced water masses related to variations in air-sea gas exchange- and/or the ventilation rate, which may be linked to variations in the southward extent of NADW.

However, this may be challenged by the observation of increasing bottom water oxygenation (i.e., decreasing respired carbon levels) in deep South Atlantic during periods of rising  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels, despite low  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  levels (i.e., saturation index minima) (Fig. 5), whereas a positive correlation between bottom water  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  and -oxygenation is expected. Our saturation index in fact shows an initial drop at the stadial onset and a subsequent gradual increase towards the end of the stadial (Fig. 5). Changes in bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  and  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  may be affected by different processes operating on different timescales, involving not only changes in the amount of respired carbon, but also changing northern- and southern-sourced end-member signatures and/or -contributions. A decrease in the contribution of northern-sourced water masses might have strongly affected bottom water  $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$  levels at the onset

of stadial conditions, when differences in bottom water  $[O_2]$  between northern- and southern-sourced water masses might have been small, thus explaining the absence of abrupt changes in our U/Mn-based bottom water  $[O_2]$  record. During North Atlantic stadials, however, increasing equilibration of southern-sourced water masses with the atmosphere and increased AABW formation might have rapidly affected bottom water  $[O_2]$  but more slowly  $[CO_3^{2-}]$ , because the equilibration time of the carbonate system is an order of magnitude longer compared to non-dissociating gases. Further sensitivity tests using numerical models and/or further spatial coverage across the Atlantic are required to test this hypothesis.

## 5.2. Inter-hemispheric climate variability and changes in deep-ocean carbon storage during the last two glacial periods

The exact mechanisms that connect the hemispheres over deglaciations or millennial-scale climate events, and their implications for ocean respired carbon storage and  $CO_{2,atm}$  change, remain difficult to determine. However, insights into the controls on deep-ocean respired carbon storage in the deep South Atlantic may emerge from a comparison of millennial events occurring under different background climate states during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (sections 5.2.1 and 5.2.2) and from a comparison of our proxy data with numerical model outputs (sections 5.2.3 and 5.2.4).

### 5.2.1. Role of glacial background conditions

We observe slightly higher foraminiferal U/Mn ratios (indicative of lower  $[O_2]$  and higher respired carbon levels) during MIS 6 (mean U/Mn = 1.12 mmol mol<sup>-1</sup>, 183–143.5 kyr BP) than during MIS 3 (mean U/Mn = 0.75 mmol mol<sup>-1</sup>, 63–32 kyr BP) (Fig. 4). This may be associated with differences in the foraminiferal species used for the U/Mn analyses during both glacial periods, but a few *G. bulloides* and *Uvigerina* spp. analyses during MIS 6 show agreement or slightly higher values than the *G. inflata* data (Fig. 4), which supports our observation. Although this needs to be tested with further proxy data, our observations may suggest overall more intense respired carbon sequestration in the deep South Atlantic during MIS 6 compared to MIS 3. In contrast, our  $\Delta\delta^{13}C$ -derived  $[O_2]$  data suggest similar bottom water oxygenation, and hence respired carbon levels, during these two glacial periods (Fig. 4). However, this  $[O_2]$  proxy may be biased during MIS 6, as discussed above.

Based on North Atlantic epibenthic  $\delta^{13}C$  data, Margari et al. (2010) argued for a shallower AMOC cell during MIS 6 than during MIS 3. This may have promoted an expansion of southern-sourced water masses, and may have hampered mid-depth mixing with overlying (northern-sourced) water masses, more so during MIS 6 than during MIS 3, owing to increased distance from rough topography (Adkins, 2013; Ferrari et al., 2014), or an increased density difference between the two. This slightly different water mass structure in the Atlantic and Southern Ocean during MIS 6 may have caused overall increased carbon sequestration in the deep South Atlantic and the Southern Ocean compared to MIS 3, and possibly also lower  $CO_{2,atm}$  levels. This is supported by numerical model simulations that highlight an increased carbon sequestration potential of the ocean through a combined weakening of the overturning rate of both NADW and AABW (Menviel et al., 2017; Ödalen et al., 2018).

In addition, we find increased variability in IRD supply to the central South Atlantic and overall cooler SST conditions during MIS 6 than during MIS 3 (Fig. 7). Our data are consistent with a more proximal seasonal sea ice edge to the study site and/or an increased production of icebergs, which would suggest more extensive sea ice cover and generally colder conditions in the Southern Ocean during MIS 6 (Fig. 7). Along with associated changes in Southern Ocean

buoyancy forcing, more extended Antarctic sea ice cover during MIS 6 may have contributed to stronger respired carbon storage during MIS 6 compared to MIS 3, as long as this reduced ocean-to-atmosphere  $CO_2$  fluxes (Stephens and Keeling, 2000) more than it reduced atmosphere-to-ocean  $CO_2$  fluxes due to diminished biological export production (Kurahashi-Nakamura et al., 2007; Sun and Matsumoto, 2010). Overall, our findings suggest that the difference in glacial boundary conditions, specifically through impacts on water mass geometries in the Atlantic (as indicated by Iberian margin benthic  $\delta^{13}C$  values) and Antarctic surface buoyancy forcing (as shown by IRD abundances at our study site) likely accounted for differences in deep ocean carbon storage, and possibly for differences in  $CO_{2,atm}$  background levels during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (Fig. 3).

### 5.2.2. Stadial duration and atmospheric $CO_2$ rise

Intervals of rising bottom water oxygenation, and hence decreasing respired carbon levels in the deep South Atlantic, coincide with periods of weakened AMOC, i.e., northern-hemisphere stadials, during the last two glacial periods (Fig. 4). The tight relationship between the duration of northern-hemisphere stadials and the magnitude of concomitant bottom water oxygen increase at our core site (Fig. 6b) suggests that respired carbon is gradually lost from the deep South Atlantic during AMOC perturbations. The associated millennial adjustment timescale may reflect the influence of Southern Ocean vertical mixing and deep-ocean turnover rather than fast (centennial-scale) adjustments in the terrestrial biosphere. The observed link between deep South Atlantic oxygen/respired carbon changes and  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$  variations (Fig. 6a) suggests that the time the AMOC remains suppressed largely defines the net  $CO_2$  flux from the ocean to the atmosphere, thus determining the magnitude of  $CO_{2,atm}$  increase during northern-hemisphere stadials (Fig. 6c).

Our interpretation is supported by idealised numerical simulations of stadial periods and parallel  $CO_{2,atm}$  change forced by freshwater fluxes to the North Atlantic (see crosses in Fig. 6c and review of Gottschalk et al., 2019). Although these simulations have slightly different experimental designs, background conditions and forcing functions, the simulated  $CO_{2,atm}$  change at the end of stadials is broadly consistent with our observations (Fig. 6c; e.g., Schmittner and Galbraith, 2008; Bouttes et al., 2012). Moreover, the  $CO_{2,atm}$  change in these simulations is largely driven by ocean carbon release (albeit from different ocean reservoirs) with compensatory effects from carbon inventory changes in the terrestrial biosphere (e.g., Marchal et al., 1998; Schmittner and Galbraith, 2008; Bouttes et al., 2012; Menviel et al., 2014). This emphasises that the observed millennial adjustment timescale of  $CO_{2,atm(-PRED)}$  in Fig. 6c is consistent with an influence from deep-ocean ventilation (e.g., Schmittner and Galbraith, 2008).

However, during short stadials, rapid changes in the terrestrial biosphere such as the decline of boreal forests and/or the expansion of southern-hemisphere land vegetation may dominate the atmospheric carbon inventory (e.g., Köhler et al., 2005; Menviel et al., 2008; Bozbiyik et al., 2011; Bouttes et al., 2012). This may also be influenced by fast upper-ocean carbon release through SHW strengthening (Menviel et al., 2018) or rapid sea ice changes (Rae et al., 2018). Numerical simulations show that modelled  $CO_{2,atm}$  change during short stadials (<700 yr) mostly range between  $-7$  and  $+7$  ppm depending on the interplay between oceanic versus terrestrial processes (Fig. 6c; Gottschalk et al., 2019), while  $CO_{2,atm}$  change observed in the Siple Dome ice core was suggested to be negligibly small during those intervals (Ahn and Brook, 2014). Two different processes driving centennial- to millennial-scale  $CO_{2,atm}$  change during stadials may thus be identified: the first is connected with a fast responding carbon reservoir such as the upper ocean

and/or the terrestrial biosphere; the second is driven by slow and gradual adjustments in the deep ocean (i.e., deep-ocean ventilation and -overturning).

The relationship between the duration of an AMOC perturbation (i.e., stadial) and deep South Atlantic respired carbon/oxygen- and  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  change is similar during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (Fig. 6b and c). The rate of respired carbon loss from the deep (southern, high-latitude) ocean during northern-hemisphere stadials was hence not discernibly different during MIS 3 and 6. This observation is important in light of proposed differences in the oceanic settings during the last two glacial periods: Margari et al. (2010) suggested that the AMOC was overall weaker during MIS 6, as shown by different baseline epibenthic  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values at the Iberian margin during MIS 3 and MIS 6 (Fig. 7e). A generally weaker AMOC during MIS 6 may have resulted from a reduced density of northern-sourced water masses owing to a stronger hydrological cycle in the mid-latitude North Atlantic (Margari et al., 2010). Furthermore, the change in Antarctic temperature and in SST at our core site (Fig. 7b) is much smaller in MIS 6 for a given stadial duration than in MIS 3 (Margari et al., 2010), and may suggest weaker AMOC perturbations and less intense Southern Ocean upwelling and deep-ocean ventilation during MIS 6. Additionally, increased IRD abundances at our study site during North Atlantic stadials in MIS 6 imply stronger ice wasting and/or -export during periods of Antarctic warming, when compared to MIS 3, which could have had implications for the density structure of the Southern Ocean surface, and hence ocean-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes during MIS 3 and MIS 6. However, despite these dynamic and hydrographic differences, we do not resolve any systematic differences in the rate and magnitude of respired carbon loss from the deep sub-Antarctic Atlantic and associated  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  change during the last two glacial periods. Although uncertainties of our estimates are quite large, in particular with respect to  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}(-\text{PRED})$  change during MIS 6, this suggests that the rate of Southern Ocean  $\text{CO}_2$  outgassing is similar during northern-hemisphere stadials of both glacial periods (Fig. 7). However, the degree to which compensatory effects in MIS 6, such as when a larger respired deep-ocean carbon pool and weaker AMOC/Southern Ocean perturbations are combined, cause a similar  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  rate of change as in MIS 3 remains unconstrained. High-resolution ice core  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  measurements in MIS 6 are needed to verify these findings.

### 5.2.3. Comparison with equilibrium climate model simulations

Numerical simulations forced by freshwater hosing in the North Atlantic produce a weakened AMOC (i.e., stadial conditions) that is qualitatively consistent with our observations (Gottschalk et al., 2019). A subset of these freshwater hosing experiments find that changes in Southern Ocean vertical mixing and -carbon release during AMOC perturbations are the main driver of simulated ocean carbon loss and increase in  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  at that time (Schmittner et al., 2007; Schmittner and Galbraith, 2008; Schmittner and Lund, 2015). This is supported by Menviel et al. (2008, 2014, 2015a, 2015b, 2018), who highlight that an agreement of simulated and observed  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  changes during stadial periods can only be achieved through an increase in AABW formation and Southern Ocean convection. Our proxy data support these model findings and highlight the operation of a bipolar seesaw in deep ocean convection between the northern and southern hemispheres (“ventilation seesaw”) during the last two glacial periods, which extends the findings of Skinner et al. (2014) to the last two glacial periods.

Intensifications and/or poleward shifts of the SHW were also suggested to occur in parallel with AMOC perturbations and to increase ocean ventilation and ocean-to-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes, with implications for  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  (Anderson et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2011; Jaccard et al., 2016; Chiang et al., 2018; Pedro et al., 2018). This can

be assessed based on numerical simulations that are forced by changes in the SHW, taking advantage of the recent compilation of Gottschalk et al. (2019).

Model simulations forced by increases in the SHW wind intensity show a  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  rise owing to enhanced Ekman pumping and ocean carbon loss primarily, but not exclusively, from intermediate depths (~500–2000 m) (Gottschalk et al., 2019). These simulations would be consistent with our observations, if ocean carbon loss from the deep South Atlantic was also significantly affected. With the exception of model simulations of Völker and Köhler (2013), numerical models forced by southward shifts of the SHW show a reduction in the surface outcrop area of deep water masses in the Southern Ocean, which decreases the simulated ocean-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  flux, and therefore lowers  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels (Gottschalk et al., 2019). These simulations predict increased deep-ocean carbon storage in the South Atlantic during North Atlantic stadials, and would hence contradict our findings.

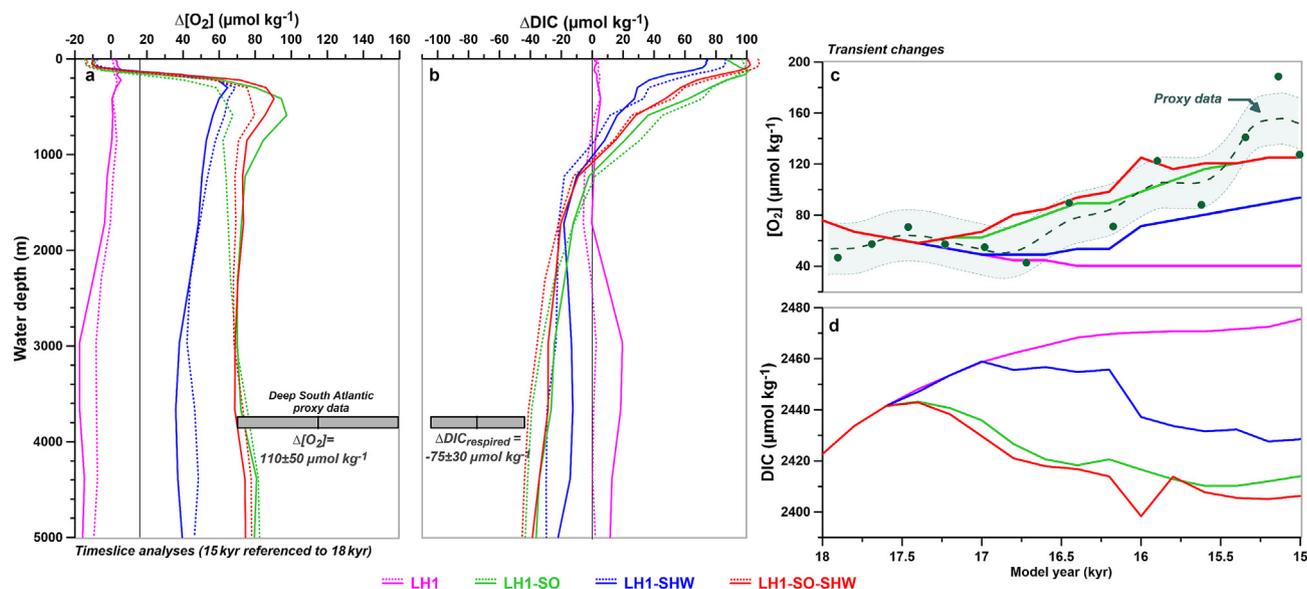
In summary, while equilibrium model simulations support our proxy data-based interpretation of an oceanic driver of millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations, the relative contributions from Southern Ocean vertical mixing and/or wind-driven Ekman pumping, both potentially representing a Southern Ocean response to North Atlantic climate anomalies (e.g., Anderson and Carr, 2010), cannot be unraveled based on our proxy data.

### 5.2.4. Comparison with transient model simulations

To gain more insights into the possible drivers of observed deep South Atlantic respired carbon changes, we compare our proxy data with recent transient model simulations of the last early deglaciation (Heinrich (H) stadial 1) performed with LOVECLIM, an Earth system model of intermediate complexity (Menviel et al., 2018). These simulations test the influence of a shutdown of the AMOC on  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels (Fig. 8; Menviel et al., 2018) through freshwater supply to the North Atlantic (0.04–0.07 Sv, 19 to 16.2 kyr) and to the Southern Ocean (0.1 Sv, 19 to 15 kyr), as well as a 20%-weakening of the SHW (simulation ‘LH1’). They also analyse the influence of a surface buoyancy-driven and wind-driven increase in Southern Ocean convection stimulated through prescribing salt fluxes in the Southern Ocean (simulation ‘LH1-SO’; –1.5 Sv, 18–15 kyr) or intensifications of the SHW wind stress (simulation ‘LH1-SHW’; 20%-increase, 18.3 to 15 kyr). Simulation ‘LH1-SO-SHW’ combines changes in surface buoyancy and winds, and applies both a SHW intensification and negative Southern Ocean freshwater fluxes.

We derive depth-varying  $[\text{O}_2]$  and DIC anomalies for H1 for the South Atlantic (60°W–20°E, 40–70°S) and the Southern Ocean (40–70°S) for each of these simulations by referencing the simulated water column profiles from model year 15 kyr to background levels at model year 18 kyr (Fig. 8a and b), and compare transient changes with our South Atlantic proxy data (Fig. 8c). The simulations show a 3 kyr-period of AMOC suppression, which is at the upper end of stadial durations considered here (Fig. 6c). Although these simulations apply transient changes in the orbital parameters and northern-hemisphere ice sheet evolution that are appropriate for H1, we assume that the model results provide insights into the dynamics during other earlier North Atlantic stadial periods.

Simulations LH1-SO and LH1-SO-SHW are characterised by increased AABW formation, and the upwelling of  $\text{CO}_2$ -rich Circumpolar Deep water, which leads to a carbon loss from the deep ocean, both from the Southern and Pacific Oceans, and a simulated  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  rise of 10–20 ppm (see Fig. 3 in Menviel et al., 2018). These findings are qualitatively consistent with our interpretation of the proxy data, although there are offsets in absolute bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  anomalies between the model and proxy data (Fig. 8a and b). However, transient changes in simulated bottom



**Fig. 8.** Geochemical fingerprints of different forcings of millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations in transient climate model simulations performed with LOVECLIM (Menviel et al., 2018). Water column profiles of (a)  $[\text{O}_2]$  and (b) DIC anomalies averaged over the South Atlantic (solid lines;  $60^\circ\text{W}$ – $20^\circ\text{E}$ ,  $40$ – $70^\circ\text{S}$ ) and the Southern Ocean (stippled lines;  $40$ – $70^\circ\text{S}$ ). Simulated transient changes of (c)  $[\text{O}_2]$  and (d) DIC anomalies at our South Atlantic core site (lines) compared to reconstructed bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  in core MD07-3076Q (dark green, cf. Fig. 4). The depth profiles show anomalies at model year 15 kyr referenced to background levels at model year 18 kyr, and represent a Heinrich (H) stadial 1 anomaly. The simulations apply transient changes in orbital parameters and in northern-hemisphere ice sheet characteristics for H1, and force a shutdown of the AMOC through time-varying freshwater supply in the North Atlantic (simulation 'LH1'). They additionally stimulate increased Southern Ocean convection through prescribed changes in the surface buoyancy fluxes in the Southern Ocean without (simulation 'LH1-SO') or with intensification of the southern-hemisphere westerly (SHW) wind stress (simulation 'LH1-SO-SHW'), or in fact with stronger SHW winds only (simulation 'LH1-SHW'). Grey bars indicate mean changes and  $1\sigma$ -uncertainties of bottom water  $[\text{O}_2]$  and respired DIC levels at depth during millennial-scale rises in  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  during MIS 3 derived from proxy reconstructions in core MD07-3076Q (Fig. 4; Gottschalk et al., 2016a).

water  $[\text{O}_2]$  in the South Atlantic closely resemble our smoothed proxy record (Fig. 8c), and are hence consistent with a loss of (respired) carbon from the South Atlantic (Fig. 8d).

In simulation LH1, Southern Ocean convection is suppressed due to parallel freshwater hosing in the Southern Ocean and weakened SHW winds (Menviel et al., 2018). This leads to little change in simulated  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels owing to a balance between increased ventilation and release of carbon from North Pacific intermediate depths and increased Atlantic carbon storage (Menviel et al., 2018). This is at odds with our proxy data (Fig. 8) and observed  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  change during long stadials (Fig. 6c). In the SHW-driven simulation (LH1-SHW),  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  increases on a centennial timescale, because upper Southern Ocean convection increases and respired carbon is rapidly lost primarily from the upper and intermediate ocean (Menviel et al., 2018). Its impact on simulated deep-ocean  $[\text{O}_2]$  and DIC is however minimal compared to what our proxy data suggest (Fig. 8). Although our deep-ocean proxy data cannot rule out a SHW-driven mechanism, they highlight that changes in the SHW geometry have likely not operated alone to change  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$ .

Overall, simulated geochemical anomalies in the South Atlantic and the Southern Ocean strongly resemble each other (Fig. 8), which suggests that our deep South Atlantic core site may be representative of a wider region of the Southern Ocean. Our proxy data comparison with the transient simulations of Menviel et al. (2018) corroborates our proxy interpretations of a role of Southern Ocean vertical mixing in changes of deep-ocean respired carbon storage, and hence millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations, during North Atlantic stadials of the last two glacial periods.

## 6. Conclusion

We extend existing high-resolution proxy reconstructions of deep South Atlantic bottom water oxygen changes, and by inference variations in respired carbon content, from the last glacial

period to MIS 6. Mainly based on sedimentary redox-proxies, we show that during both glacial periods respired carbon levels in the deep South Atlantic changed in parallel with millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  variations. Our observations support earlier findings of a contribution of increased Southern Ocean convection and ocean-to-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes in the Southern Ocean to increases in millennial-scale  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  concentrations.

Our foraminiferal U/Mn data suggest that respired carbon storage was overall slightly larger during MIS 6 than during MIS 3 in the deep South Atlantic, possibly due to more expansive southern-sourced water masses and a shallower AMOC cell, more expansive Antarctic sea ice cover and overall colder conditions in the Southern Ocean. These glacial differences may have accounted for overall slightly lower  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels during MIS 6 than during MIS 3. Our findings suggest that glacial background climate conditions may have had an impact on glacial respired carbon storage in the deep Southern Ocean.

Our proxy data highlight that the magnitude of carbon release from the Southern Ocean was proportional to the duration of the AMOC perturbation. This suggests that the rate of  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  change during long stadial periods ( $>700$  yr) was broadly constant, and was primarily set by the millennial timescale for deep ocean adjustment (i.e., ocean mixing/ventilation, Southern Ocean-atmosphere  $\text{CO}_2$  fluxes). During these stadials, the duration of the weakened AMOC may have determined the magnitude of net ocean carbon release, and hence the magnitude of  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  rise. However, for shorter stadial periods, processes operating on centennial timescales such as adjustments of land carbon inventories, with contributions from SHW- or sea ice effects on Southern Ocean upper-ocean convection and  $\text{CO}_2$  outgassing, may have influenced  $\text{CO}_{2,\text{atm}}$  levels, because they would have overwhelmed the effects of much slower deep-ocean overturning.

Based on our proxy data and a comparison with existing numerical model simulations, we cannot discriminate between

possible oceanic and atmospheric mechanisms driving a teleconnection between Southern Ocean carbon dynamics and North Atlantic climate anomalies, but contributions from both seem likely. A comparison with recent transient model simulations performed with LOVECLIM (Menviel et al., 2018) show the closest model-data agreement for scenarios with increased Southern Ocean convection prescribed through Southern Ocean salt fluxes at the surface, rather than SHW-only scenarios. However, whether the prescribed changes in Southern Ocean surface buoyancy forcing are realistic and how they are mechanistically linked to North Atlantic climate anomalies remains yet elusive and needs further study. A better understanding of the atmospheric and oceanic mechanisms by which interhemispheric climate variability affect the Southern Ocean carbon cycle and CO<sub>2,atm</sub> (for instance through buoyancy-driven Southern Ocean vertical mixing, SHW-driven Ekman pumping, and/or Antarctic sea ice extent) may ultimately emerge from tandem reconstructions of respired carbon reconstruction at intermediate and deep sites throughout the global ocean, and through comparison with existing and evolving climate model simulations.

## Acknowledgements

This study was supported by the Gates Cambridge Trust, the German Research Foundation (through grant GO 2294/2-1 to J.G.), the Royal Society, NERC grant NE/J010545/1, the Cambridge Newton Trust (L.C.S.), the Swiss National Science Foundation (grants PP00P2\_144811 and 200021\_163003 to S.L.J.), the Australian Research Council (grant DE150100107 and FT180100606 to L.M.), and the European Research Council (grant 339108 to C.W.). We thank Jinhwa Shin and Jérôme Chappellaz (Institut des Géosciences de l'Environnement, Grenoble, France) for fruitful discussions of CO<sub>2,atm</sub> variability in MIS 6, and Sophie Hines and Jerry McManus for sharing views on inter-hemispheric climate variability. Allison Jacobel and Babette Hoogakker are thanked for insightful discussions of the  $\Delta\delta^{13}\text{C}-[\text{O}_2]$  proxy. We are also grateful to Linda Booth, Adam Scrivner, Tim Setzkorn and Salima Souanef-Ureta for laboratory support, and sincerely thank three anonymous reviewers for their thoughtful and constructive feedback. Age models for the study cores and data presented in this study are available from the PANGAEA website (<https://doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.898193>).

## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2019.106067>.

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