

1       **Milankovitch frequencies in tephra records at volcanic**  
2               **arcs: The relation of kyr-scale cyclic variations in**  
3                       **volcanism to global climate changes**

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9  
10       **Abstract**

11       The increase in volcanic activity after the last glacial maximum observed on Iceland  
12       has led to one of the most fascinating hypothesis in science in the last decades: that  
13       deglaciation may force volcanism. Consequently, tephrostratigraphic records of  
14       sufficient length that cover multiple glacial cycles have been used to test whether  
15       such relationships hold systematically through the Quaternary. Here we review such  
16       tephra records that have been linked with climate proxy records such as  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in  
17       marine sediments, which is a measure of sea-level change and which is thought to  
18       be orbitally forced, as it exhibits the characteristic Milankovitch periodicities of  
19       precession (~23 kyr), obliquity (~41 kyr) and eccentricity (~100 kyr).

20       Statistical analyses have identified these periodicities also in long tephra records  
21       from different latitudes and geotectonic settings, as well as in compiled semi-global  
22       records. These studies detect Milankovitch periods in their tephra record, and also a  
23       phase shift relative to the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record in such that periods of increased eruption  
24       frequencies coincide with the deglaciation period at the glacial/interglacial transition  
25       when ice and water loads on the lithosphere change most rapidly. However, there

26 are also disparities in results and interpretations, which may be attributable to the  
27 different methods of analysis applied the studies.

28 We have therefore re-analyzed the four best-characterized tephra records by the  
29 same methods. We distinguish between analysis in the frequency domain, a novel  
30 approach, and analysis in the time domain, which has been used in previous studies.  
31 Analysis in the frequency domain identifies harmonic frequencies that arise from the  
32 binary nature of the tephra records and complicate the identification of primary  
33 frequencies. However, we show that all four records show spectral density peaks  
34 near the main Milankovitch periodicities of 41 and 100 kyr, and that they produce  
35 meaningful and significant statistical correlations with each other and the global  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
36 record but not with random time series. Although the time-domain correlations with  
37  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  roughly confirm phase shifts implying peak volcanism during deglaciation,  
38 correlation coefficients arising from very noisy records are generally too low for  
39 precise constraints on the relative timing.

40 These deficiencies presently hamper the recognition of the physical mechanisms  
41 through which global climate changes affect volcanism at both, high-latitude glaciated  
42 regions and low-latitude non-glaciated regions.

43

44 **Keywords: Quaternary, eruption frequencies, cyclicities, climate, tephra time**  
45 **series, Milankovitch, statistics**

46

## 47 **Introduction**

48 It is well known that large explosive and effusive eruptions can have a global impact  
49 on the climate through the injection of gas, aerosols and ash into the atmosphere  
50 which can reduce average global surface temperature over a period of years  
51 (McCormick et al., 1995; Robock, 2000; Miller et al., 2012). Some of these volcanic

52 impacts led to widespread droughts, crop losses, and famine causing dramatic  
53 casualties (e.g., Oppenheimer, 2003; Lavigne et al., 2013, Manning et al. 2017). The  
54 most prominent historic examples are the 1783-1784 Laki eruption on Iceland (e.g.,  
55 Highwood and Stevenson, 2003), the 1815 Tambora eruption in Indonesia (e.g.,  
56 Rampino et al., 1993; Rampino and Self, 1982) and the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption  
57 on the Philippines (e.g., Robock, 2000). Modern global measurement networks (for  
58 example, see [www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)) nowadays demonstrate the climatic effects of  
59 volcanic eruptions, but for events in the distant past these relationships need to be  
60 revealed by correlating volcanic and paleoclimate records. For example, tree rings of  
61 the last 600 years record excursions in the average northern hemisphere surface  
62 temperatures that can be related to large volcanic eruptions during this period (Briffa  
63 et al. 2004) (Fig.1). Sigl et al. (2015) correlated Arctic and Antarctic ice core data and  
64 lower latitude climate proxy records (such as tree cores) and identified global climate  
65 forcings by volcanic events over the past 2500 years. On time scales of tens of  
66 million years, geologic records reveal mass extinctions caused by the severe climate  
67 disruption associated with formation of large igneous provinces and flood basalts  
68 (Hofmann et al., 1997; McLean, 1985; Campbell et al., 1992; Courtillot and Renne,  
69 2003; Bond and Wignall, 2014).

70 However, there is also another way to assess the relationships between paleoclimate  
71 and volcanic records. Over past decades it has been recognized that variations in  
72 global climate and in volcanic activity share some common periodicities, also known  
73 as the Milankovitch periods, which led to the theory that global climate changes may  
74 be a driver of volcanic activity (Paterne et al., 1990; Rampino et al., 1979). Cyclic  
75 behavior of volcanoes and volcanic provinces can occur on a wide range of  
76 timescales, from seconds over hours and days up to millions of years (e.g., Table 1,  
77 Carey and Sigurdsson, 2000; Sigurdsson et al. 2000, Kutterolf et al. 2013; Sumita

78 and Schmincke, 2013; Scharff et al., 2015; Bredemeyer and Hansteen, 2014;  
79 Schindlbeck et al., 2015, 2018; Tolstoy, 2015; Mahony et al., 2016). The reasons for  
80 such temporal variations in volcanic activity can be internal drivers in volcano-magma  
81 systems (e.g., mantle melting rates, magma storage and replenishment conditions, or  
82 degassing processes) or external influences such as regional earthquakes, seasonal  
83 climate variations, Earth tides, regional sea-level changes or ocean tides, or regional  
84 tectonic rearrangements (e.g., Table 1; Schmincke, 2004; Johnston and Mauk, 1972;  
85 Dzurizin, 1980; McNutt and Beavan, 1987; Patanè et al., 1994; Mason et al., 2004;  
86 Sottili et al., 2007; Kasahara and Sato, 2001 Bredemeyer and Hansteen, 2014;  
87 Tolstoy, 2015; Mahony et al., 2016). Sealevel change has in particular been invoked  
88 as an external control on volcanism. For example, Steward (2018) links the sudden  
89 change from fissure-type to central-type volcanism at Mt. Etna to a dramatic sealevel  
90 rise. Sternai et al. (2017) propose that the dramatic sealevel drop of the Messinian  
91 salinity crisis increased the productivity of the pan-Mediterranean volcanic provinces.  
92 Jupp et al. (2004) developed a theoretical model to predict possible distributions of  
93 response times of volcanism depending on magnitude and frequency of a periodic  
94 stimulation.

95 Studies in Iceland (Sigvaldason et al., 1992; MacLennan et al., 2002) and other  
96 glacier-covered regions (e.g., Praetorius et al., 2016; Rawson et al., 2016) showed a  
97 significant increase in volcanic activity after the last glaciation, suggesting that  
98 lithospheric unloading during glacier retreat may drive volcanism. Theoretical  
99 modeling by Jull and McKenzie (1996) confirms that glacier unloading can  
100 significantly increase mantle melting at Iceland. Nowell et al. (2006) observed  
101 increased volcanic activity in young intraplate volcanic fields in France and Germany  
102 during post-glacial warming periods and related this to distal effects of flexural (un-  
103 )loading of the lithosphere in response to ice shield retreat.

104 A globally applicable proxy of global climate variations is the foraminiferal  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
105 record, which provides a measure of global ice volume and sea level change (Lisiecki  
106 and Raymo, 2005). The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record, as well as some other paleoclimate proxy  
107 records, contains cyclic variations on periods that reflect orbital forcing of the climate  
108 (Milankovitch cycles), of which the most prominent are precession (23 kyr) and  
109 obliquity (41 kyr) of Earth's rotation axis, and the eccentricity (100 kyr) of Earth's  
110 rotation around the sun; minor periodicities occur at 17-19 kyr and 400 kyr. The fact  
111 that the major periodicities have also been recognized in various volcanic records in  
112 geodynamic settings (Fig. 2) gave rise to the hypothesis that climate change drives  
113 volcanism (e.g. McGuire et al. 1997, Jellinek et al. 2004, Huybers and Langmuir,  
114 2009; Kutterolf et al. 2013, Schindlbeck et al. 2018). In this review we address the  
115 results as well as commonalities and disparities between the various studies of  
116 climate-volcanism relationships in order to provide a better basis for deducing the  
117 physical mechanisms of that relationship, which remain poorly understood and for  
118 which different processes have been suggested. Understanding such mechanisms is  
119 relevant to the present-day because anthropogenically enforced deglaciation may  
120 lead to increased volcanic activity and hazards (Tuffen, 2010; Pagli and  
121 Sigmundsson, 2008; Albino et al., 2010).

122

### 123 **Volcanic time series**

124 The geologic investigation of volcanic systems on land is the most common way to  
125 reconstruct time series of volcanic activity, typically involving a large number of  
126 radiometric datings (e.g., Glazner et al., 1999; Nowell et al., 2006). Coverage by  
127 younger deposits, erosion, or other reasons may render parts of the volcanic history  
128 inaccessible. Kiyosugi et al. (2015) found an exponential trend of under-recording of  
129 explosive eruptions with age in Quaternary Japanese tephra records, with stronger

130 under-recording of smaller eruptions. However, the mostly non-erosive conditions in  
131 lakes or on the ocean floor facilitate the recovery of medial to distal tephra records  
132 that approximate a continuous history of regional (e.g., Paterne et al., 1990), and  
133 even global-scale volcanism (Kutterolf et al., 2013) (Table 1). It can be assumed that  
134 the temporal variation in the frequency of explosive eruptions that produce  
135 widespread tephra beds is an image of the temporal variation of the entire volcanism  
136 because it has been shown that eruption magnitude and frequency are systematically  
137 linked to each other (e.g. Pyle, 1995; Deligne et al., 2010). An advantage of  
138 sedimentary tephra profiles is that there are often independent (mostly  
139 micropaleontological) methods to establish high-resolution age models, a prerequisite to  
140 further study the time series statistically. Most of the studies that investigate volcanic  
141 time series for Milankovitch frequencies build indeed on tephra successions, and in  
142 this review we will further focus on results from marine tephra sequences.

143 However, it should be noted that correlations with climate signals have also been  
144 observed in other volcanic records. For example, variations in crustal thicknesses in  
145 seafloor bathymetry suggest a sensitivity of mid-ocean ridge systems to sea level  
146 changes on Milankovitch time scales (e.g., Table 1; Tolstoy, 2015; Lund et al., 2011;  
147 Crowley et al., 2015). Moreover, the peak of hydrothermal activity on the Mid-Atlantic  
148 Ridge (Middleton et al., 2016), Juan de Fuca Ridge (Costa et al., 2017) and at the  
149 East Pacific Rise (Lund et al., 2016) ~15 kyr after the glacial maximum has been  
150 interpreted as the delayed melt formation following the hydrostatic pressure  
151 minimum.

152 The tephra time series can be distinguished into two categories: tephra successions  
153 that cover single volcanic systems, or volcanic provinces (e.g., Paterne et al., 1990;  
154 Schindlbeck et al., 2018), and compiled tephra records that include data from many  
155 sites in order to approximate a semi-global tephra record (e.g., Huybers and

156 Langmuir, 2009; Kutterolf et al., 2013) (Table 1). Both types of data sets can  
157 represent different age ranges. We will first summarize studies that investigate tephra  
158 records since the last glaciation; these records are best accessible and provide the  
159 best available time resolution. In a subsequent chapter we then discuss tephra  
160 record spanning several glacial cycles as only these can provide a conclusive test of  
161 the proposed climate-volcanism relationships.

162

### 163 ***Tephra studies covering the last glacial cycle***

164 Especially in glaciated regions (e.g. Chile, Iceland, Alaska) several studies found an  
165 increase in volcanic activity during the last deglaciation (e.g., Table 1; Praetorius et  
166 al., 2016; Rawson et al., 2016; Sigvaldason et al., 1992; MacLennan et al., 2002). In  
167 a combined tephra and lava study on Iceland, Sigvaldason et al. (1992) inferred that  
168 ice unloading increased post-glacial magma production rates and eruptability of  
169 Icelandic magmas following the last deglaciation. They note that a major problem is  
170 the sampling and volume determination of layers that are buried under younger  
171 deposits as well as the limitation of their data to the last deglaciation.

172 Figure 3a shows the temporal evolution of ice volume equivalent sea-level variation  
173 across the last glaciation after Lambeck et al. (2014). Sea-level rise during  
174 deglaciation is not steady but shows a significant pulse (meltwater pulse 1a, orange  
175 box in Fig. 3a) during the Bølling-Allerød period. Interestingly, this pulse is almost  
176 immediately followed by the period of postglacial rebound in Iceland (gray bar in Fig.  
177 3a; MacLennan et al., 2002). The phase of increased postglacial volcanism in Iceland  
178 largely overlaps with the postglacial rebound and the meltwater pulse (Fig. 3b).  
179 Similarly, on the other side of the planet, the high-resolution postglacial volcanic  
180 activity of Mocho-Choshuenco volcano at the glaciated southern Chilean arc  
181 (Rawson et al., 2016) peaks during the same 13-8 ka period (Fig 3b). Rawson et al.

182 (2016) attributed this to changes in magma storage times that are caused by  
183 deglaciation-related changes in the crustal stress field. They suggest that magma is  
184 stored during the glaciation and erupts in a first explosive phase immediately after  
185 the ice unloading. Praetorius et al. (2016) observed an abrupt increase in the  
186 volcanic activity at the Mt. Edgecumbe Volcanic Field in Southeast Alaska between  
187 14.6 and 13.1 ka, which coincides with the period of largest crustal uplift in response  
188 to glacial ablation (Fig. 3c). Note that there is a time shift of about 2000 years in peak  
189 rebound and peak volcanism between Alaska and Iceland.

190 A global increase of volcanic activity during the last deglaciation is also discussed. In  
191 a 40 kyr compilation of subaerial eruptions from different latitudes Huybers and  
192 Langmuir (2009) noticed an increase of volcanic activity during the last deglaciation  
193 (12-7 ka) and into the Holocene that largely coincides with the period of high sea-  
194 level stand (Fig. 3d). However, Watt et al. (2013) revised the work of Huybers and  
195 Langmuir by distinguishing between glaciated and non-glaciated arc regions. They  
196 conclude that the apparent increase in global volcanism during the last deglaciation  
197 is mainly due to an increase in volcanism in glaciated regions.

198 Huybers and Langmuir (2009) and Praetorius et al. (2016) speculated that increased  
199 volcanism may create a positive feedback on deglaciation by adding CO<sub>2</sub> to the  
200 atmosphere and by reduction of the albedo by ash mantling the ice sheets.

201

### 202 ***Tephra studies on longer time scales***

203 The longest tephra records, covering up to 35 Myr, have been documented by  
204 Kennett and Thunell (1975), and Kennett et al. (1977) who use the time distribution of  
205 volcanic ash in 320 Tertiary to Recent deep-drilled sequences obtained by the Deep  
206 Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) in combination with terrestrial data (Fig. 4). These data  
207 were complemented by Cadet et al. (1982a,b) offshore Central America and by



208 Carey and Sigurdsson (2000) and Sigurdsson et al. (2000) for the Caribbean region  
209 (Fig.4; Table 1). These studies identified several widely occurring cycles in volcanic  
210 activity that each lasted several million years and which can be attributed to plate  
211 tectonic processes. However, these tephra records did not have the temporal  
212 resolution necessary to identify cyclic variations in the 10's of kyr range. Prueher and  
213 Rea (2001) obtained a higher resolution tephra record (450 ash beds in 5 Myr) from  
214 the northern Pacific and detected episodes of increased explosive volcanism at  
215 approximately 0.2–0.5, 0.7–0.9, 1.5–1.7, and 2.5–2.65 Ma in the Kamchatka arc, and  
216 at 0.15–0.4, 1.7–1.8, 2.55–2.65, and at 3.0–3.1 Ma in the eastern Aleutian arc. These  
217 periods correspond to those found throughout the Pacific (e.g., Cambray et al., 1995)  
218 (Fig. 4). Prueher and Rea (1998) emphasize the synchronism of the ~2.5 Ma intense  
219 volcanic period all around the North Pacific and agree with Cambray et al. (1995)  
220 who suggest that the underlying mechanism operated on a much larger scale than  
221 just a local change in subduction angle or rate. They suggest a link between intense  
222 volcanism and Late Pliocene glaciation. Kennett et al. (1975) already hypothesized  
223 that climatic (e.g., late Pliocene glaciation) rather than tectonic controls forced  
224 periods of enhanced volcanic activity, but were unable to demonstrate this. In the  
225 following we focus on studies that employed statistical methods to analyze volcanic  
226 time series and their correlation with paleo-climate time series.

227 Paterne et al. (1990) studied the 190 kyr volcanic history of the Campanian province  
228 (Italy) through the tephra inventory of central Mediterranean marine sediment cores.  
229 Tephra layers were correlated between cores and dated by  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  stratigraphy as well  
230 as through correlation with dated tephras on land, providing a total of 151 volcanic  
231 events (118 Campanian, 33 from other Italian volcanic systems). Using a sliding-  
232 window technique, Paterne et al. (1990) generated a frequency distribution over time  
233 that revealed five periods of enhanced volcanic activity (Fig. 5), which correlate with

234 compositional changes in the volcanic rocks. Moreover, power spectral analysis  
235 shows that these pulses occur with a 23 kyr periodicity, which is close to the Earth's  
236 precession period.

237 McGuire et al. (1997) compiled an 80 kyr long succession of ash layers of the central  
238 and eastern Mediterranean Sea including also the time series of Paterne et al.  
239 (1990). They observed enhanced tephra accumulation at 8–15, 34–38, and 55–61  
240 kyr BP and compared these intervals with the paleo-sea-level record. They applied  
241 statistical methods to analyze the time series and noted that the around 22 kyr period  
242 of relative volcanic quiescence correlates with the last low sea-level stand while the  
243 volcanically intense period 8–15 kyr accompanied the very rapid post-glacial sea-  
244 level rise (Fig. 5). By determining the first derivative of the sea-level variation  
245 McGuire et al. (1997) showed that tephra frequency correlates with the rate of sea-  
246 level change but lags behind by a few thousand years.

247 Glazner et al. (1999) investigated the distribution of radiometric ages of intraplate  
248 volcanic events in eastern California over the last 800 kyr. Their smoothed age  
249 distribution shows peaks at 10, 100, 185, 320 and 690 kyr, which visually  
250 anticorrelate with interglacial maxima (Fig. 6). Subsequently, Jellinek et al. (2004)  
251 statistically evaluated the first 400 kyr of the data set by 1) distinguishing between  
252 basaltic and silicic volcanism, and 2) calculating power spectra for this volcanic time  
253 series as well as for a comparative climate time series (SPECMAP) that serves as a  
254 proxy for global glaciation (e.g., Shackleton, 1987), using a standard multi-taper  
255 algorithm (Fig. 7a, b). They found a clear 40 kyr and less-well constrained 17 and 23  
256 kyr periodicities (i.e., the well-known Milankovitch periods) in the volcanic record as  
257 well as in the SPECMAP climate proxy data. Their advanced statistical treatment  
258 also revealed a significant correlation between changes in eruption frequency and  
259 the first derivative of the glacial time series, suggesting a response of volcanism to

260 the rate of ice-volume reduction that occurs with a time lag of  $3.2 \pm 4.2$  kyr for silicic,  
261 and  $11.2 \pm 2.3$  kyr for basaltic magmas, respectively.

262 Schindlbeck et al. (2018) statistically analyzed the 1.1 Myr long tephra record of  
263 IODP Hole U1437B at the Izu-Bonin arc (IB) and its relation to a) the planktonic  
264 foraminifera  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  profile of the core, and to b) the global benthic foraminifera  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
265 reference stack of Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) as climate and sea level proxy (Fig. 6).  
266 Spectral analysis of the tephra dataset yields a statistically significant spectral peak  
267 at the  $\sim 100$  kyr period (the Milankovitch eccentricity period), which dominates global  
268 climate cycles since the Middle Pleistocene (Fig. 7c, d). A time-domain analysis of  
269 the tephra and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records shows that volcanism peaks approximately 7 kyr after  
270 the glacial maximum, which coincides with the period of the fastest rate of  
271 lithospheric pressure change generated by deglaciation.

272 At Site U1437B, the best tephra-  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  correlation obtained for the last 0.7 Myr. The  
273 quality of the correlation is less for the period 0.7 – 1.1 Ma, also known as the Middle  
274 Pleistocene Transition (MPT), a period during which the climate signal, expressed as  
275  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , the gradually changes from a 40 kyr dominant frequency to the 100 kyr  
276 frequency (Fig. 7). Despite the decrease in spectral density of the 100 kyr periodicity  
277 in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record during the MPT, the tephra record maintains its dominant 100 kyr  
278 periodicity. Since this periodicity is associated with the formation of huge Northern  
279 hemisphere continental ice sheets (Mudelsee and Schulz, 1997), Schindlbeck et al.  
280 (2018) conclude that ice sheet formation persistent through the MPT, yet its 100 kyr  
281 periodicity in the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  spectrum is largely obscured due to interference with other,  
282 shorter periodicities. Differences in the correlation between volcanism and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
283 record across the MPT were also observed by Nowell et al. (2006) in their analysis of  
284 the 2 Myr eruption record of the western European volcanic fields. They note that  
285 correlation results would be biased by the higher abundance of volcanic events

286 associated with higher oxygen isotope levels at <800 ka. However, comparison of  
287 volcanic events with the contemporary slope in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  yielded best correlations as  
288 volcanic activity lagged maximum warming rate 3-6 kyr.

289 While the above studies focused on geographically and geotectonically limited  
290 regions, Kutterolf et al. (2013) compiled a tephra record from marine drill sites around  
291 the entire Pacific Ring of Fire (ROF) (Fig. 6). This tephra record is assumed to  
292 approximate the global temporal variation in eruption frequencies, since the ROF  
293 accounts for about half of the global length of active plate subduction. Spectral  
294 analysis identified a strong spectral peak for the obliquity period (41 kyr), while the  
295 other Milankovitch periods are less significant or absent in that tephra record (Fig.  
296 7e). Kutterolf et al. observed excellent correlation between the tephra record and the  
297 first derivative of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record with a time lag of  $4.0 \pm 3.6$  kyr, i.e. highest  
298 frequency of volcanic eruptions is associated with the highest rate of rising eustatic  
299 sea level (decreasing global ice volume). Numerical simulations quantify how  
300 changes in eustatic sea level and glacial loading induced near-surface stress  
301 variations during the last glacial cycle (Kutterolf et al., 2013). For Central America,  
302 the most detailed ROF tephra record, maximum eruption frequency coincides with  
303 the time of maximum rate of lithostatic pressure change after the last glaciation.

304 The baseline derived from these diverse regional and global studies is that periodic  
305 pulses of volcanic activity are observed and that these periodicities correlate with the  
306 Milankovitch periodicities of the global sea-level ( $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ) record with a certain phase  
307 shift. However, the periodicities recognized differ between the tephra records, and no  
308 tephra record contains the entire set of Milankovitch periodicities. These differences,  
309 which may arise from the different lengths and event densities of the tephra records,  
310 make it difficult to identify the underlying driving mechanisms by which climate affects  
311 volcanic frequencies. We will further discuss these subjects in the following sections.

312

## 313 **Discussion**

314 While the studies summarized above all agree that global climate changes affect  
315 volcanism and typically lead to increased volcanism during deglaciation, there are  
316 also significant differences in the results (Table 1). For example, does peak  
317 volcanism correlate with absolute sea-level/glaciation variations or with the rate of  
318 change of sea-level? Why does each tephra record contain a different subset of the  
319 Milankovitch periodicities? Why do the observed time lags in the volcanism-climate  
320 correlations vary significantly? We now discuss two important issues that may be  
321 responsible for the different results:

322 1) the nature of tephra time series, and

323 2) the methods of statistical treatment.

324 Understanding these aspects is important for deducing the physical mechanisms  
325 through which climate changes may force volcanism.

326

### 327 ***The nature of tephra time series***

328 The tephra time series are largely based on drill cores, in some cases also involving  
329 data from geologic field studies. Uncompacted to little compacted sediments are  
330 typically cored by gravity or piston coring including APC (advanced piston coring)  
331 employed during deep sea drilling. These methods usually provide mostly full (100%)  
332 recovery so that late Pleistocene through Holocene sequences can be recovered  
333 almost completely. Harder rocks typically in deeper core sections require rotary  
334 drilling, which yields much less recovery. Moreover, in highly compacted, altered and  
335 cemented rocks the recognition of thin ash beds can become difficult, especially  
336 when mineral-glass transitions as well as secondary mineral growth modify the  
337 sediment and obscure tephra signals. Therefore early Quaternary to Tertiary tephra

338 sequences are expected to yield a lower event frequency. An increasing under-  
339 representation of volcanic events with age in the geologic record has been  
340 quantitatively analyzed for the Quaternary of Japan by Kiyosugi et al. (2015). This  
341 effect can be observed in Figure 8b where the curves of cumulative event number  
342 typically flatten to older ages. For instance, in the records of Glazner et al. (1999) and  
343 Kutterolf et al. (2013) 85% and 70%, respectively, of the eruptive events are  
344 concentrated within the first half of the length of the time series. In the 40 ka record of  
345 Huybers and Langmuir (2009) 80% of the events occur in the last 1000 years, i.e. in  
346 the first 1/40's of the entire time series.

347 Where several cores from a given region are used to compile a tephra time series, it  
348 is essential to correlate the ash beds between cores in order to avoid multiple  
349 counting of single volcanic events. Even in single cores primary ash beds can appear  
350 to occur multiply by reworking (e.g., Eisele et al., 2015), hence distinction between  
351 primary and reworked ash beds is important. Another issue is different methods and  
352 precision of tephra age dating and the respective data density within the time series.

353 Sources of variations and errors include: (1) Biostratigraphic and foraminiferal  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
354 correlations determined at different decades may differ due to updating of methods.  
355 (2) Preservation of datable calcareous fossils may vary due to fluctuations in  
356 carbonate compensation depth (CCD). (3) Ash bed dating by linear interpolation  
357 between age tie points in cores assumes constant accumulation rate of intercalated  
358 sediments which may not be true; this risk increases the farther apart the tie points.  
359 (4) Competing age models may exist for the same drill site (e.g. Schindlbeck et al.,  
360 2018). (5) Additionally radiometric age datings of tephra beds can have variably large  
361 errors and are usually variably abundant across the entire age range (e.g., variable  
362 age resolution in lacustrine records, Kutterolf et al., 2016). (6) The density of age

363 data throughout the time series that is variable and sometimes may not be high  
364 enough to facilitate the detection of higher frequencies.

365 Tephra ages derived from an age model exclusively based on sediment correlation  
366 with a global stable oxygen isotope record, which itself contains orbital tuning, carries  
367 the risk that the fitting may “artificially” transfer that tuning to the tephra record.  
368 Hence it would be better to use age models based on a combination of different  
369 dating techniques.

370 Drill cores on oceanic plates have changed their position over time relative to  
371 volcanic sources at subduction zones, typically moving closer to the arc. This  
372 potentially causes an increase in recorded volcanic events to the younger core  
373 sections (e.g., Kennett et al., 1977) particularly with fast plate motion such as in the  
374 Pacific.

375 There are two ways by which tephra time series can be described, by tephra  
376 thickness and by event number. Prueher and Rea (2001), for example, use the  
377 variation in slope of a curve of cumulative thickness over age to distinguish times of  
378 increased or reduced volcanic activity. However, in many records ash bed  
379 thicknesses are not consistently reported, volcanic eruptions of a given magnitude  
380 may be represented by variable thicknesses depending on position relative to source,  
381 ash layer thickness may be reduced by erosion, many ash beds do not have a  
382 sharply defined top but gradually change into ash-rich sediment, and cryptotephra  
383 (ash dispersed in sediment) have no thickness at all. Therefore most tephra records  
384 are described by event numbers, meaning they are binary records, where each point  
385 in time has a value of either 0 or 1 (e.g., Fig. 8a).

386

387 ***Methods of statistical treatment***

388 One way to investigate binary tephra records is to analyze curves of cumulative  
389 event number over age (Fig. 8b). For example, McGuire et al. (1997) used this  
390 approach to identify divergences from a straight line in cumulative number versus  
391 age, which reflect times of increased or reduced rate in volcanism analogous to the  
392 thickness approach mentioned above. More commonly, however, the binary series is  
393 converted into a continuous series either by applying kernel methods (Newall et al.,  
394 2006) or by running a moving average over the data, whereby different time windows  
395 and progression steps have been employed (Jellinek et al., 2004; Kutterolf et al.,  
396 2013; Schindlbeck et al., 2018). These authors as well as Paterne et al. (1990) then  
397 used somewhat different techniques of spectral analysis to investigate the frequency  
398 contents of the tephra time series. While each published approach certainly had its  
399 justification and value, the diverse methods make it difficult to compare the results  
400 and may lead, at least in part, to different results (e.g., observed periodicities).  
401 Another problem is the different lengths of the records. The 23 kyr periodicity has  
402 been observed in relatively short time series (e.g., Paterne et al., 1990), but was not  
403 identified in longer records (e.g., Kutterolf et al., 2013). One cause for this may be -  
404 next to required high data and age resolution - the increasing likelihood of missing  
405 volcanic events with increasing age, which masks high frequency variations in  
406 volcanic activity at age. It can therefore neither be proven nor disproven whether a 23  
407 kyr periodicity existed consistently over the last millions of years.

408

409 In order to improve comparability between data sets, we re-analyzed the tephra time  
410 series by the same approach. We chose records for which the individual data are  
411 available, which are to our knowledge well dated, cover a sufficient length in time,  
412 and presumably do not strongly suffer from sampling bias (Fig. 8a; Table 1). The re-  
413 analyzed records are **Jell04** with the East Californian data from Jellinek et al. (2004)



414 and Glazner et al. (1999), **PR01** with the northwestern Pacific data from Prueher and  
415 Rea (2001), the Pacific Ring of Fire tephra compilation **K13** from Kutterolf et al.  
416 (2013), and the Izu-Bonin-Japan tephra series **Sch18** from IODP hole U1437B  
417 recorded by Schindlbeck et al. (2018). Table 1 summarizes essential features of  
418 these records such as their different age ranges and number of events, and their  
419 cumulative number of events over time is displayed in Figure 8b.

420 The time series constitute binary time series equally sampled at 10 years intervals. A  
421 value of 0 indicates that no eruption took place, a value of 1 indicates an eruption.  
422 We limited longer records to the last 700 kyr; the McGuire et al. (1997) and Paterne  
423 et al. (1990) data sets only cover the last 200 kyr and are therefore not included in  
424 the following analyses despite high sample density and the presence of high-  
425 frequency periodicities. The four records extend from before and across the post-  
426 MPT period, and include multiple 100 kyr cycles.

427 The number of events in each record varies. The slope of the cumulative event  
428 number curves in Figure 8b is proportional to the density of the eruption record and  
429 typically deviate from a straight line, which represents a homogeneous time  
430 distribution (which means no periodicities). For all time series, short and long term  
431 deviations are visible. Particularly eye catching are the change from high to lower  
432 slope at ~100 kyr in the K13 and ~200kyr in the Jell04 time series. Overall the K13  
433 record exhibits the largest slope due to its highest event density (450 events in 1.2  
434 Myr). A high density is also present in the McG97 record (107 events in 180 kyr). The  
435 Sch18 time series has the lowest density (162 events in 1-1 Myr). Over the entire age  
436 range, the slope of the cumulative curves slightly decreases as an artifact of  
437 increasing under-recording of events to older ages (cf. Kiyosugi et al., 2015). On the  
438 other hand, the PR01, Sch18 and Jell04 time series show an increase in slope  
439 across the first 100-400 kyr where event density is relatively low.

440 In the following we do not apply a moving average to the data as it was done in the  
441 previous studies, because this acts as a low-pass filter eliminating variations with a  
442 period shorter than the moving-average time window. Instead we analyze the binary  
443 data directly, which should lead to a better comparability between the different time  
444 series. Moreover, unlike in earlier studies, we first perform the analysis in the  
445 frequency domain rather than in the time domain; we will discuss the time domain  
446 analysis in a later section.

447

#### 448 Spectral density estimations in the frequency domain

449 In order to understand the behavior of binary data series in spectral analysis, we first  
450 analyze an artificial binary sequence consisting of 10 events every 100 ka and  
451 compare this to a time series consisting of a sine with a period of 100 kyr (Fig. 9a, b).  
452 We calculate the spectra using the multi-taper spectral analysis method (Percival and  
453 Walden, 1998; Thomson, 1982), which reduces the estimation bias in the power  
454 spectra. It estimates the spectral density for each frequency by obtaining multiple  
455 independent estimates from the same time series using a sequence of discrete  
456 prolate spheroidal (DPSS) tapers. The resulting spectral resolution is determined by  
457 the time-bandwidth product. A larger time-bandwidth product results in a smoother  
458 spectrum, i.e. less resolution in the frequency domain. A smaller value gives higher  
459 spectral resolution. Throughout this analysis we use a narrow time-bandwidth  
460 product of 2.0.

461 The resulting spectrum of the sine wave consists of a single peak at a frequency of  
462  $1/100$  kyr. Due to the pulsed nature of the binary sequence, the corresponding  
463 spectrum shows a series of spikes of equal height, situated at the fundamental  
464 frequency of  $1/100$  kyr and at the higher harmonic frequencies at  $2/100$  kyr,  $3/100$  kyr  
465 etc. (Fig. 9b). Thus, a particular periodicity in volcanic eruptions manifests itself not

466 by a single peak at that frequency in the spectrum but by a series of peaks with  
467 similar amplitudes at the harmonics of the fundamental frequency (Fig. 9b). This  
468 renders it more difficult to identify different periodicities in the discrete, binary  
469 volcanic records than, for example, in the more smoothly varying continuous  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
470 record, where only one peak is associated with a particular frequency. The spectra  
471 will be particularly difficult to interpret if more than one periodicity is present and the  
472 resulting spectral patterns superimpose and affect each other. This is shown in  
473 Figure 9c where we analyzed an artificial binary sequence consisting of 10 events  
474 every 100 ka as well as every 41 ka. Evidently the overlay of just two periodicities in  
475 the time series can generate an already fairly complex pattern of peaks in the  
476 frequency spectrum.

477 In a further step, Figure 10 shows the spectra of the re-analyzed natural ash and  
478  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  time series for the last 700 kyr compared with bars which indicate the expected  
479 positions of peaks for the pure 100 kyr and 40 kyr periods derived from the artificial  
480 time series as shown in Figure 9c. As a reference we also include the spectrum of an  
481 artificial random binary sequence. The  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  time series, which is known to contain  
482 the dominant 41 and 100 kyr periodicities, has spectral density peaks at the  
483 corresponding primary frequencies indicated by the left-most blue and pink bars.

484 For some of the ash time series, a visually good agreement in frequency position is  
485 seen at the expected peak positions for the pure 100 kyr and 40 kyr periodicities,  
486 both for the primary (left-most) frequencies and for some of the harmonic  
487 frequencies. In contrast, no systematic correlation is seen for the spectrum of the  
488 random time series (Figure 10f). Figures 10b to 10e strongly suggest that all four ash  
489 time series contain the ~40 kyr and ~100 kyr periodicities although these have not  
490 always been found in the previous (time domain) studies (Table 1).

491 At first order, if an underlying global periodic physical process exists that influences  
492 eruption frequencies next to the local effects, one would expect that the tephra  
493 spectra are correlated with each other. This hypothesis is tested by calculating the  
494 mutual correlations between the different ash record spectra. Table 2a shows the  
495 correlation coefficients for correlation over a period range of 160 kyr to 10kyr. The  
496 range was chosen since it encompasses the main Milankovitch periods of 100kyr,  
497 41kyr and 23kyr. However, due to the decreasing density of volcanic events with  
498 increasing age, we do not necessarily expect conclusive results for the 23kyr period  
499 peak. The chosen range excludes longer periods, which are more strongly influenced  
500 by long term sampling bias, and shorter periods, which may not be represented  
501 adequately due to low sampling densities. Table 2b lists the probabilities that the  
502 derived correlation coefficients may be reached by chance if the paired spectra were  
503 actually uncorrelated. The spectra of K13, Sch18 and PR01 are statistically  
504 significantly correlated, with probabilities of false correlations below <2%. The  
505 spectra correlations with the Jell04 time series mostly do not yield statistically  
506 significant correlation coefficients and higher (but still small) probabilities for a false  
507 correlation; an exception is a weak correlation with Sch18 (probability of false  
508 positive less than 4%). The observed correlation coefficients are generally not close  
509 to one because all time series contain abundant “noise” from uncorrelated frequency  
510 contents.

511 The lack of any statistically significant correlation between the tephra spectra and the  
512 spectrum of a random time series indicates that the analysis is statistically valid, and  
513 further verifies that correlations among the tephra spectra are significant. We can  
514 thus conclude that there is a high probability that the eruption frequency variations  
515 observed at different regions have a common underlying frequency component that  
516 point to a global underlying mechanism.

517 We further correlate the tephra spectra with the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  spectrum, bearing in mind that  
518 the correlations may be biased by the existence of the harmonic peaks in the tephra  
519 spectra. However, the coefficients of correlation are similar or even better than the  
520 coefficients of correlation between the ash records (Table 2). They are again highest  
521 and statistically most significant for K13, Sch18 and PR01 records, but low for the  
522 Jell04 record. For our test case against the spectrum of a random time series the  
523 coefficients are almost zero. These results further support the hypothesis that there is  
524 a common underlying periodic mechanism that links eruption frequencies and  
525 climate.

#### 526 Correlations in the time domain

527 The approach in the frequency domain offers the opportunity to identify the frequency  
528 distribution of the signal, yet it does not allow to identify the phase shift between the  
529 time series. Therefore we now attempt to correlate the tephra time series with the  
530  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  time series such that the correlation coefficient is determined as a function of  
531 time lag. Positive lags in our definition are due to a shift of the ash record towards the  
532 past and negative lags to a shift towards the present. The correlation tests how well  
533 one record can be transformed into the other by a linear function and we expect a  
534 maximum correlation (positive or negative) for a time shift that aligns variations in the  
535 ash and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records.

536 To achieve meaningful values of the correlation coefficient, we cannot use the binary  
537 series employed in the last section because the large number of zeros in the record  
538 would result in very low correlation values. Instead, we need to create a continuous  
539 time series and hence return to applying a 10 kyr phase-stable running average to  
540 the ash record. Figure 11 shows the resulting smoothed time series in which  
541 frequency peaks are mostly distributed along the age range. Only the Jell04 (~10 ka  
542 and ~200 ka) and Sch18 (~340 ka) series contain unusually large peaks.

543 Figure 12 shows the correlations of these ash time series with the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  time series as  
544 a function of lag. Also included is the correlation of a random time series (which in  
545 theory contains variations with all frequencies) with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , which can serve as a  
546 threshold above which a correlation becomes statistically significant. The best  
547 correlation is Sch18 with  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ . Sch18 attains the largest negative correlation  
548 coefficient ( $\sim -0.5$ ) at positive phase shift of +13.2 kyr. This implies that a maximum  
549 eruption frequency occurs 13.5 ky before a minimum in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and 7 kyr after the  
550 glacial maximum respectively, which places it in the transition from cold to warm  
551 climate.

552 However, there are some critical issues of such time domain correlations. In contrast  
553 to Sch18 the correlation coefficients for K13, Jell04, and PR01 are relatively low and  
554 close to those for the random time series making it difficult to determine any phase  
555 shift; this also implies a less clear correlation with sea-level change. Since Sch18 is  
556 the only time series that is from a region completely unaffected by ice loading, it is  
557 tempting to interpret these contrasting results to reflect some different driving  
558 mechanism in glaciated and non-glaciated as well as oceanic and continental  
559 regions. Yet our analysis in the frequency domain has demonstrated that all four  
560 tephra series contain the important  $\sim 100$  kyr and  $\sim 40$  kyr periodicities that also  
561 dominate the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record, which is the generally accepted sea-level proxy. The noise  
562 from other frequencies is large in all tephra series and the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record, leading to  
563 correlation coefficients generally well below 1 (table 2). The dominant frequencies in  
564  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  are not precisely defined but form broad peaks over some frequency range  
565 (e.g., the 100 kyr eccentricity does in fact range from 95 to 125 kyr), which introduces  
566 relatively large errors for the calculated time lag. Moreover, the data density of the  
567 time series poses a lower limit on the time lag that can be determined (Nowell et al.,

568 2006). Especially more evenly distributed and more precise high-resolution ages of  
569 the tephra time series may also provide solutions for some of the above described  
570 variations and problems. As a consequence, it remains difficult to judge whether or  
571 not the periodicities in eruption frequency occur synchronously between the records,  
572 and the precise relationship with the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record. In summary, we conclude that the  
573 correlation in the time domain suffers from a number of uncertainties, which make it  
574 difficult to interpret the results. The results of analysis in the frequency domain,  
575 however, show that significant correlations exist even though correlation coefficients  
576 in the time domain remain near the level for the random series.

577

## 578 **Conclusions**

579 The four re-analyzed tephra records cover a wide range in geographic latitudes and  
580 include oceanic and continental settings, as well as glaciated and non-glaciated  
581 regions. Three records represent from regional volcanic sources, and one record is a  
582 semi-global compilation. Yet our analysis of the data in the frequency domain  
583 demonstrated that all contain the ~40 kyr and ~100 kyr periodicities that also  
584 dominate the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  spectrum. The frequency spectra of the tephra and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  records  
585 are significantly correlated. This observation supports the hypothesis that orbital-  
586 driven global climate changes interact with the volcanic eruption frequency regionally  
587 and globally.

588 In order to investigate the relative timing or synchronicity of volcanic and climate  
589 events, analysis in the time domain needs to be performed as was done in previous  
590 studies (Jellinek et al., 2004; Nowell et al., 2006; Kutterolf et al., 2013). However, the  
591 simultaneous analysis of the four best-characterized tephra records shows that  
592 correlations suffer from a number of uncertainties and results should be used with  
593 caution. For example, Jellinek et al. (2004) determined different time lags when

594 correlating silicic ( $3.2\pm 4.2$  kyr) and basaltic ( $11.2\pm 2.3$  kyr) tephra records separately  
595 with the SPECMAP climate record (in fact, they correlated the first derivatives). But  
596 are these different time lags the results of different physical processes or of the  
597 different nature of the two data sets? Jellinek et al. (2004), Nowell et al. (2006),  
598 Kutterolf et al. (2013) and Schindlbeck et al. (2018) consistently obtained time lags  
599 that place the peak in volcanism in the deglaciation period. The observations from  
600 Iceland and Alaska for volcanism since the last glacial maximum (Fig. 3) combined  
601 with physical modeling results (e.g., Jull and McKenzie, 1996; Schmidt et al., 2013;  
602 Albino et al., 2010) support such timing as plausible. However, considering the  
603 uncertainties discussed above, can the time lags really be determined with such  
604 precision to hit the deglaciation periods which typically last about 20 kyr for the 100  
605 kyr cycles and are much shorter for the 41 kyr cycles? Moreover, most volcanoes  
606 that contributed to the K13 and Sch18 tephra records lie well outside glaciated  
607 regions. Is it plausible that volcanism increases at low latitudes where the rising sea-  
608 level increases the lithospheric pressure while at the same time high latitude  
609 volcanism increases presumably as consequence of the decreasing lithospheric load  
610 as glaciers melt?

611 Most likely volcanic reactions to global climate changes are modulated by  
612 geotectonic setting, regional geologic conditions, and geographic position but with  
613 the presently available abundance and quality of the tephra and age records and the  
614 associated uncertainties in the time domain analyses it is not yet possible to  
615 disentangle these various influences. Therefore more precise tephra time series  
616 (preservation and age optimized) from different regions (glaciated versus non-  
617 glaciated) and geological settings (island arcs, continental arcs, intraplate) are  
618 needed together with standardized statistical analysis to decipher the impact of these  
619 factors on a global perspective of how climate may control volcanism. Disentangling



620 these influences will also provide better understanding of the physical processes that  
621 regulate the feedback between global and regional volcanism and climate changes.

622

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633

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911  
912 **Figure captions:**

913  
914 Figure 1: A) Land-surface temperature variations of the last 600 years at >20°N with  
915 extreme negative excursions labeled by calendar year. Comparison with the record  
916 of volcanic eruptions (green arrows scaled by Volcanic Explosivity Index VEI) shows  
917 that volcanic eruptions are often immediately followed by negative excursions .

918 Modified after Briffa et al. (2004). Question marks indicate uncertain eruption dates.

919 B) Co-variation of global volcanic aerosol forcing and Northern Hemisphere  
920 temperature variations for the past 2,500 years after Sigl et al. (2015). Upper panel  
921 shows record of tree growth anomalies emphasizing the 40 coldest years and the 12  
922 coldest decades. Lower panel shows the global volcanic aerosol forcing  
923 reconstructed from composite bipolar ice-core sulfate records .

924

925 Figure 2: Global topographic map (<http://www.geomapapp.org>; GMRT-Global Multi-  
926 Resolution Topography; Ryan et al., 2009) showing regions of major volcanic centers  
927 (red triangles) and areas where longer tephrostratigraphic records have been  
928 obtained (white boxes). Numbers in the boxes refer to the studies listed in Table 1.

929

930 Figure 3: A) Ice-volume equivalent sea level variation of the last glacial cycle (35 ka -  
931 Recent) with its 95% confidence range (gray). Major events in this interval are the  
932 Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), the Bølling-Allerød warm period (orange bar) which  
933 contains the short period of the major meltwater pulse MWP1a, and the subsequent  
934 period of peak post-glacial rebound in Iceland (gray bar; from MacLennan et al.,  
935 2002). Associated major peaks in volcanic eruptive activity at Iceland (Sigvaldason et

936 al., 1992), Southern Chile (Rawson et al., 2016), Southeast Alaska (Praetorius et al.,  
937 2016), and globally (Huybers and Langmuir 2009) shown as time ranges at top. Also  
938 shown is the interval of increased hydrothermal activity at mid ocean ridges (Lund et  
939 al., 2016). B) The steep postglacial increase in cumulative tephra volume from  
940 Mocho-Choshuenco volcano (Chile) after Rawson et al. (2016) (gray curve; thick  
941 lines representing mean ages and dashed lines the respective  $1\sigma$  uncertainties) and  
942 the period of high eruption rates of Krafla volcanic center (light green curve) after  
943 MacLennan et al. (2002) overlap each other as well as the period of peak post-glacial  
944 rebound observed in Iceland. C) Vertical land motion due to glacial rebound in Alaska  
945 (green curve) compared with the abundance of tephra in marine sediment cores off  
946 southeast Alaska, modified after Praetorius et al. (2016). Increased tephra input into  
947 the sediments (tephra grains  $>125\mu\text{m}$ , red) follows the peak glacial rebound as well  
948 as the melt water pulse 1a (dashed red lines). D) The increase in global eruption rate  
949 (normalized to the last 2 ka) during the last deglaciation (purple) after Huybers and  
950 Langmuir (2009), appears to follow high rates of sea level rise (blue curve) as well as  
951 the melt water pulse 1a.

952

953 Figure 4: Upper panel: Tephra frequency over the last 5 Ma in northwestern Pacific  
954 drill cores after Prueher and Rea (2001); histogram is a 3-point moving average after  
955 binning into 100 kyr slots. Increased volcanic activity occurs  $\sim 3.1$  to 2.9 Ma, 2.6 to  
956 2.1 Ma, 1.8 to 1.4 Ma, and 0.85 to 0.1 Ma. Lower panel: Comparison of periods of  
957 increased volcanic activity observed around the Pacific Ocean by Hein et al. (1978)<sup>1</sup>,  
958 Shane et al. (1995)<sup>2</sup>, Kennett et al. (1975)<sup>3</sup>, Cambray and Cadet (1994)<sup>4</sup>, Kennett et  
959 al. (1977)<sup>5</sup>, and Carey and Sigurdsson (2000)<sup>6</sup>.

960



961 Figure 5: Bottom: Variations in the Campanian eruption frequency (Italy) using an 8-  
962 kyr sliding window width (pink) from Paterne et al. (1990). Gray bars indicate periods  
963 of increased Mediterranean volcanism according to McGuire et al. (1997). Top: The  
964 global  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  stack of Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) shown for comparison; low  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
965 values indicate warm periods with high sea level, high  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values cold periods with  
966 low sea level (note inverted axis).

967

968 Figure 6: Top: Global  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  stacked curve (blue) of Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) for the  
969 last 1.1 Myr, identifying warm and cold periods. MPT= Mid-Pleistocene Transition,  
970 the time interval during which the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record changes from dominating ~40 kyr  
971 Milankovitch periods to the dominance of the ~100 kyr cycle. Center: Variation in the  
972 volcanic eruption frequency at the Izu Bonin Mariana arc (IBM, red, after Schindlbeck  
973 et al., 2018), using 10 kyr binning. Bottom: the Ring of Fire (ROF) variation in  
974 eruption frequency (green, after Kutterolf et al. 2013) using 1 kyr binning. The purple  
975 curve shows eruption frequencies for California after Glazner et al. (1999). Vertical  
976 gray bars mark marine isotope stages (MIS) after Railsback et al. (2015) for  
977 comparison.

978

979 Figure 7: a) and b) Power spectra for the silicic (green line) and basaltic (red line)  
980 time series of Californian volcanism as well as for the SPECMAP  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  reference  
981 curve for climate (dashed line) shown as a function of 0.5 kyr (a) and 1 kyr (b) bin  
982 widths after Jellinek et al. (2004). c) Comparison of the spectral density of the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$   
983 time series after Lisiecki and Raymo (2005) (blue curve) and d) the Hole U1437B ash  
984 time series (purple curve) after Schindlbeck et al. (2018). Solid lines show results  
985 post-MPT (<0.7 Ma), dashed lines syn-MPT (0.7-1.1 Ma). Dotted vertical lines mark  
986 the ranges of the characteristic 23, 41, 100 kyr Milankovitch periods. Each spectrum

987 has been calculated using multitaper power spectral density estimate with a time-  
988 bandwidth 3. e) Power spectrum (red solid line; computed with a time bandwidth of  
989 1.5) with 95% confidence limits (light red field) of the ROF time series after Kutterolf  
990 et al. (2013); all values are normalized to the maximum power at the 40 kyr period.

991

992 Figure 8: A) Tephra records shown as binary bar codes from the Central  
993 Mediterranean (Paterne et al., 1990), East California (Jellinek et al., 2004; Glazner et  
994 al., 1999), the northwestern Pacific (Prueher and Rea, 2001), the Pacific Ring of Fire  
995 (Kutterolf et al., 2013), and IODP Hole U1437B of the Izu-Bonin-Japan region  
996 (Schindlbeck et al., 2018). B) Cumulative number of tephtras versus age for each  
997 tephra series in A).

998

999 Figure 9: A) Artificial time series for a 100 kyr period. Vertical black lines are the  
1000 binary series with 10 events every 100 kyr, red line is a continuous sine function with  
1001 100 kyr periodicity. B) Normalized power spectral density of the artificial time series  
1002 in A showing the main peak at the 1/100 kyr frequency for the continuous function  
1003 (red) while the binary series also shows the corresponding harmonic frequencies  
1004 (1/50 kyr, 1/33 kyr, 1/25kyr ... etc). C) Normalized power spectral density of an  
1005 artificial binary series composed of the 100 kyr and 40 kyr periodicities (black line).  
1006 Underlying bars show the expected positions of the 100 kyr (purple) and 40 kyr (blue)  
1007 primary (left-most) and harmonic spectral peaks. A binary series containing just two  
1008 frequencies can already generate a complex spectral pattern.

1009

1010 Figure 10: Normalized power spectra of (A) the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  global stack of Lisiecki and  
1011 Raymo (2005) and of the binary ash time series (B – E) discussed in the text, as well

1012 as of a random time series (F). Pink and blue bars indicate the expected peak  
1013 positions for the 100 kyr and 40 kyr periods as in Fig. 9c.

1014

1015 Figure 11: Variation of the number of eruptions per 10 kyr over the last 700 ka for the  
1016 four investigated time series (**Jell04**, **PR01**, **K13**, **Sch18**) and a random time series,  
1017 smoothed by applying a moving average with a 10 kyr time window. Vertical gray  
1018 bars mark marine isotope stages (MIS) for comparison.

1019

1020 Figure 12: Correlation coefficients as a function of time lag for the correlations of the  
1021 four 10kyr-filtered tephra series (**Jell04**, **PR01**, **K13**, **Sch18**) and the random time  
1022 series with the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  global stack after Lisiecki and Raymo (2005). The correlation is  
1023 best where maximum positive (correlated) or negative (anti-correlated) coefficients  
1024 are reached, and this defines the lag time.

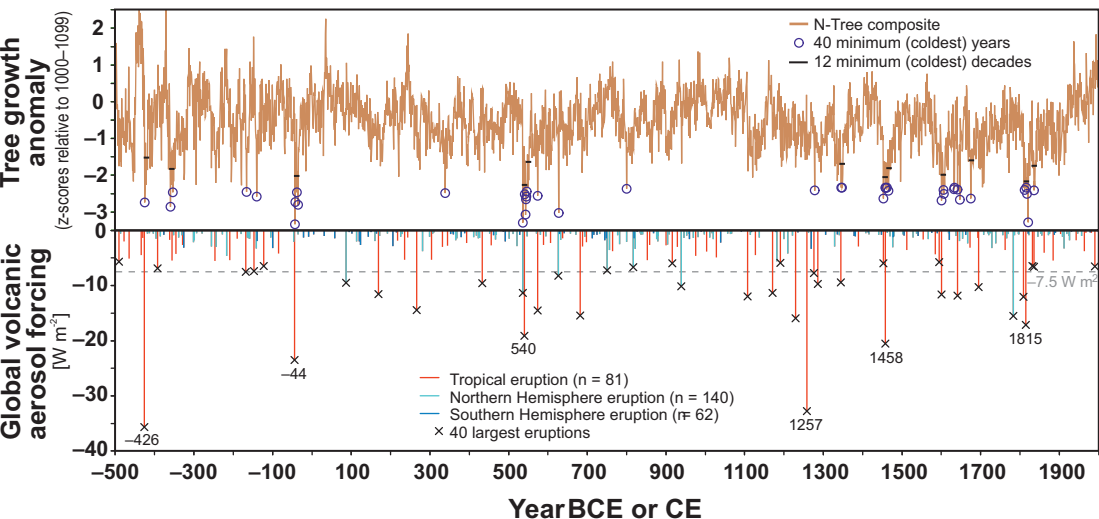
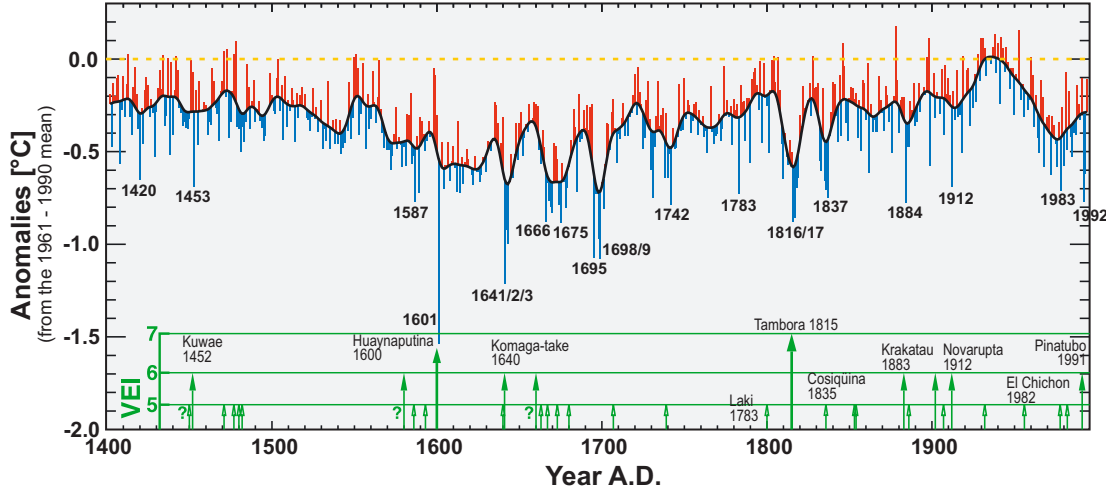
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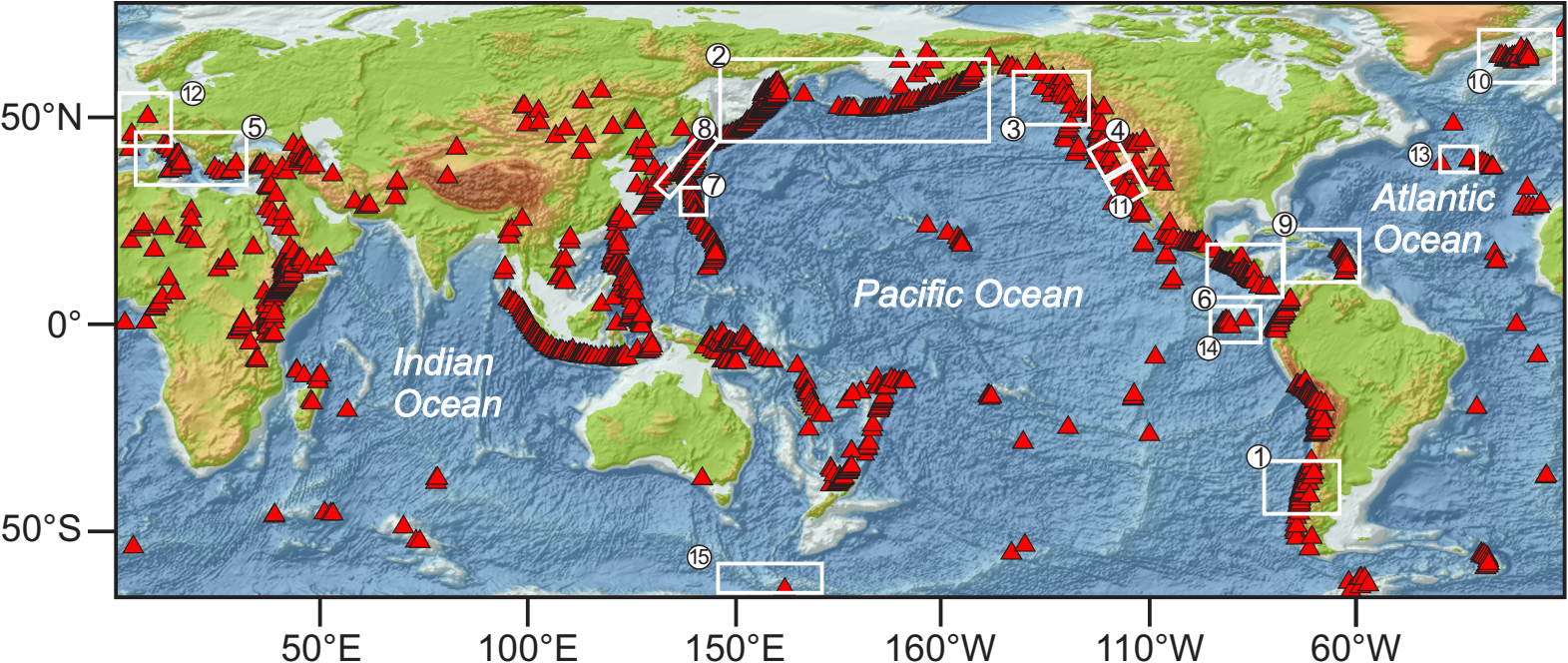
1026 Table 1: Comparison of major parameters of selected studies on episodic and  
1027 periodic volcanic activity. Entries are sorted by length of record. Numbers in column 4  
1028 refer to geographic position in Figure 2. Colors group records according to geological  
1029 settings.

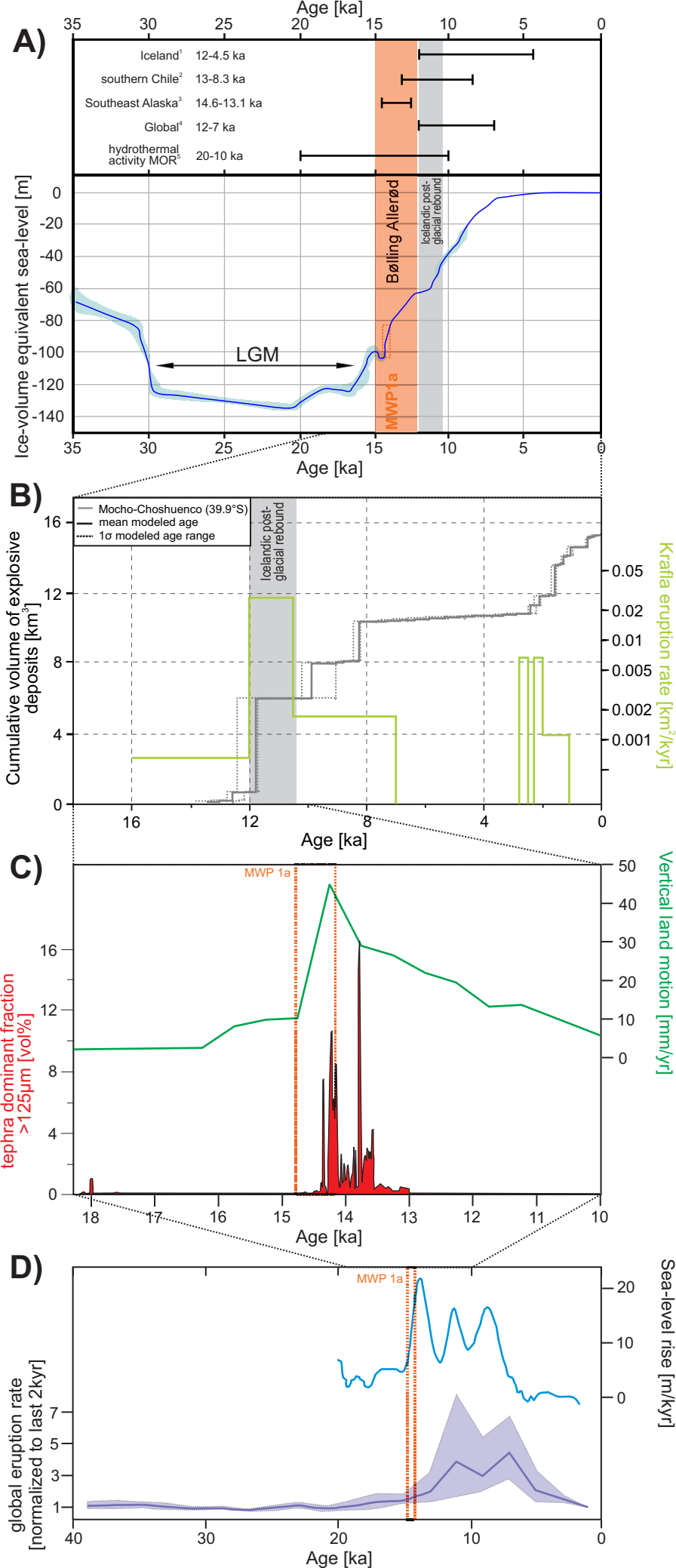
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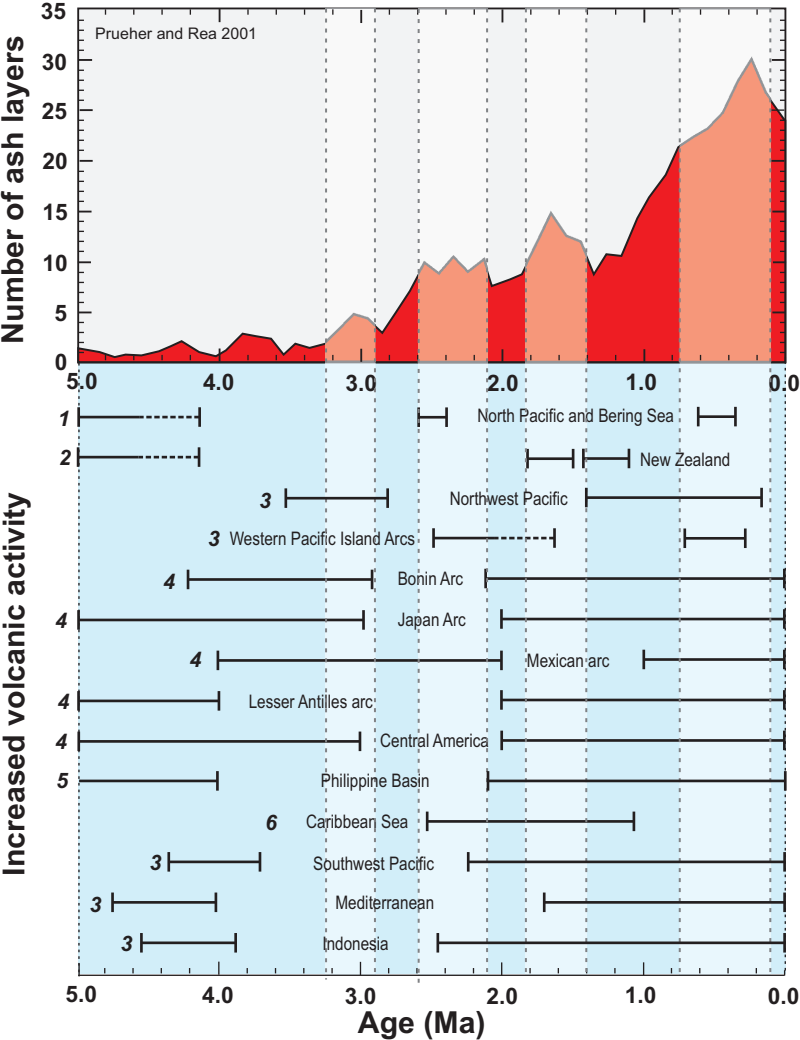
1031 Table 2: a) Correlation coefficients between the tephra time series spectra and a  
1032 random time series spectrum. b) Probabilities of coincidental correlations between  
1033 the time series; values  $<0.05$  indicate statistically significant correlation.

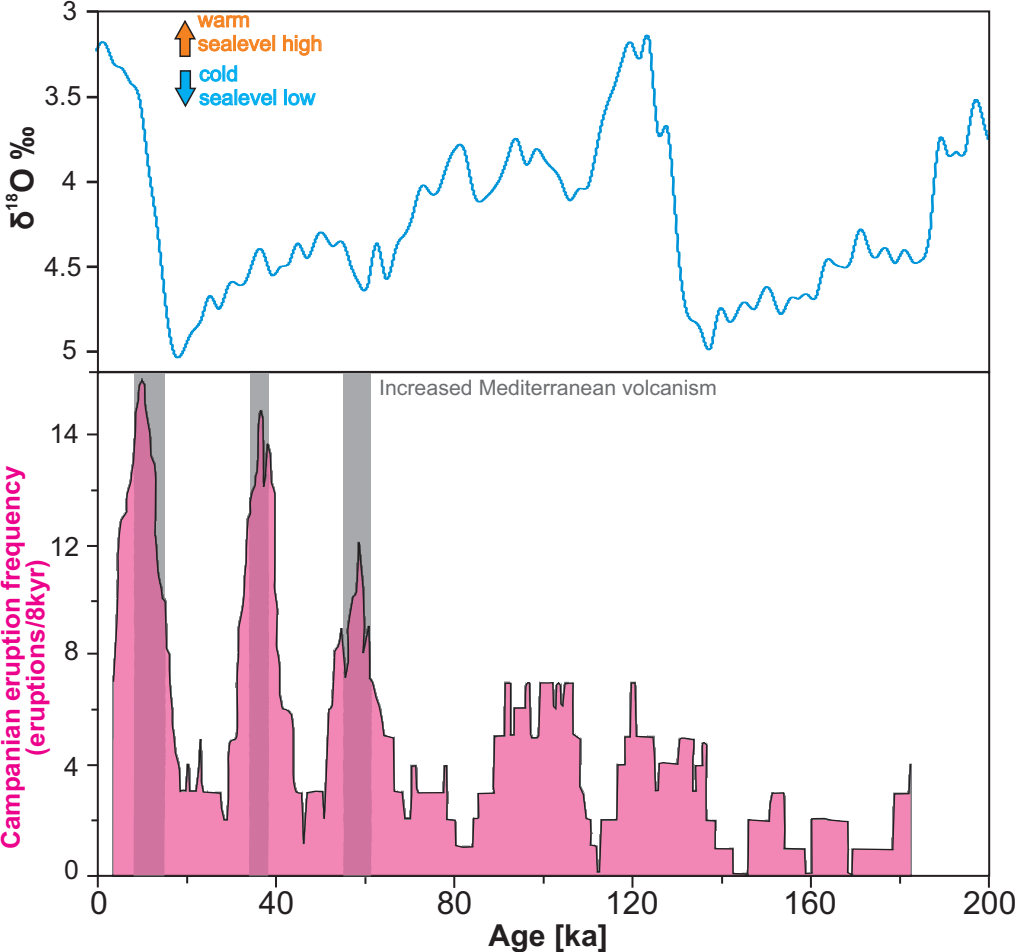
1034



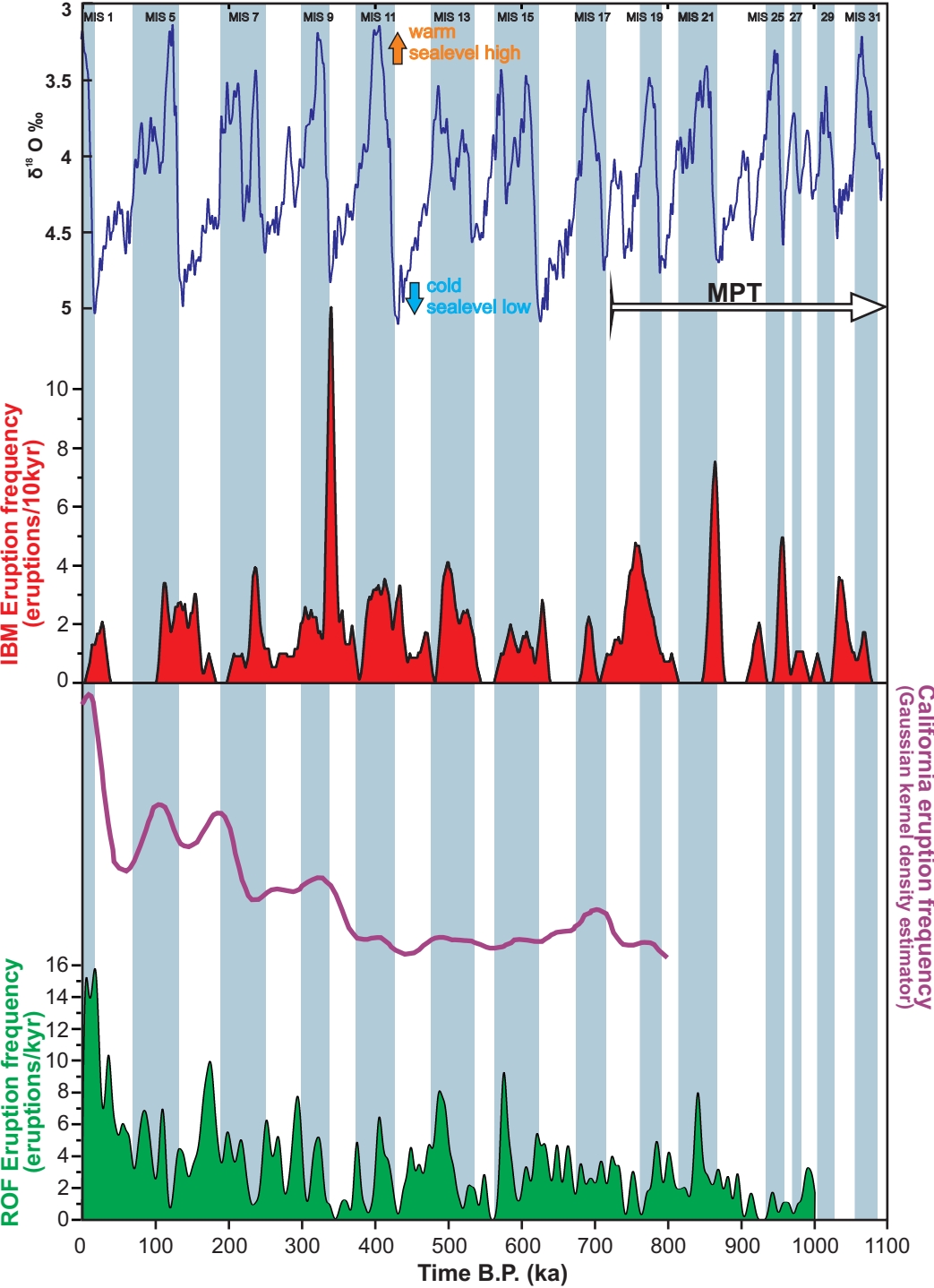


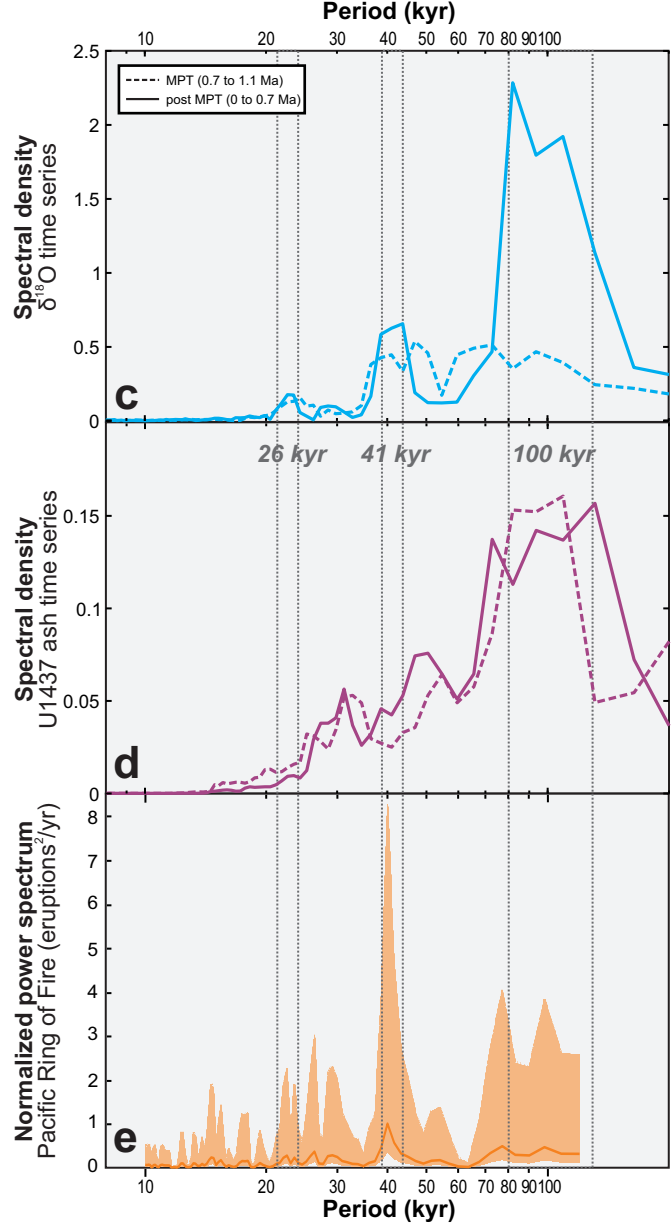
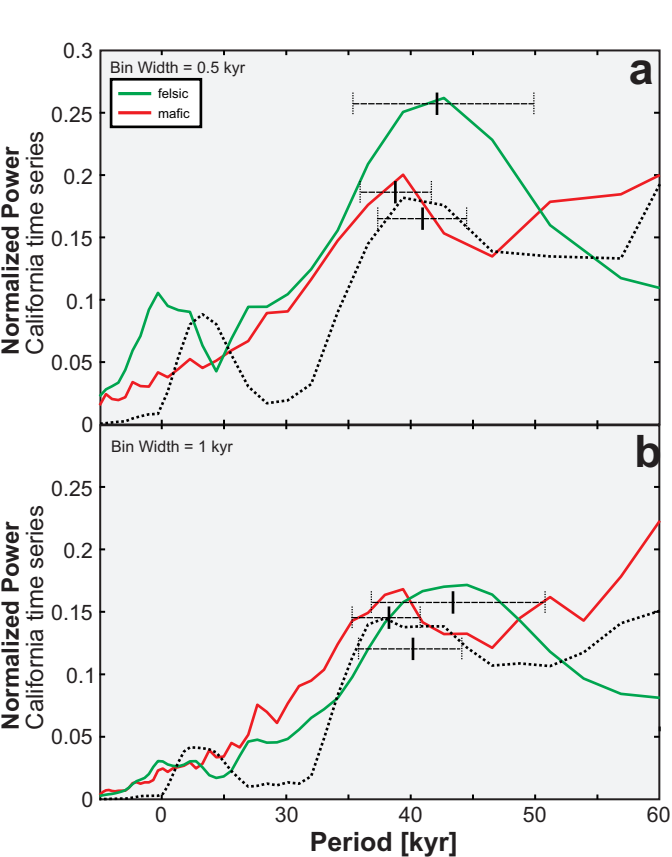


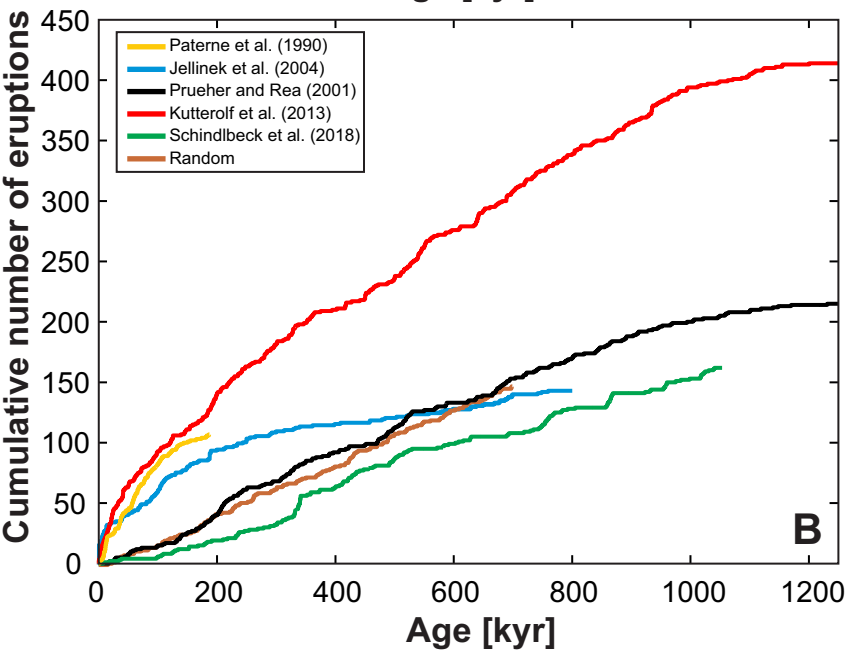
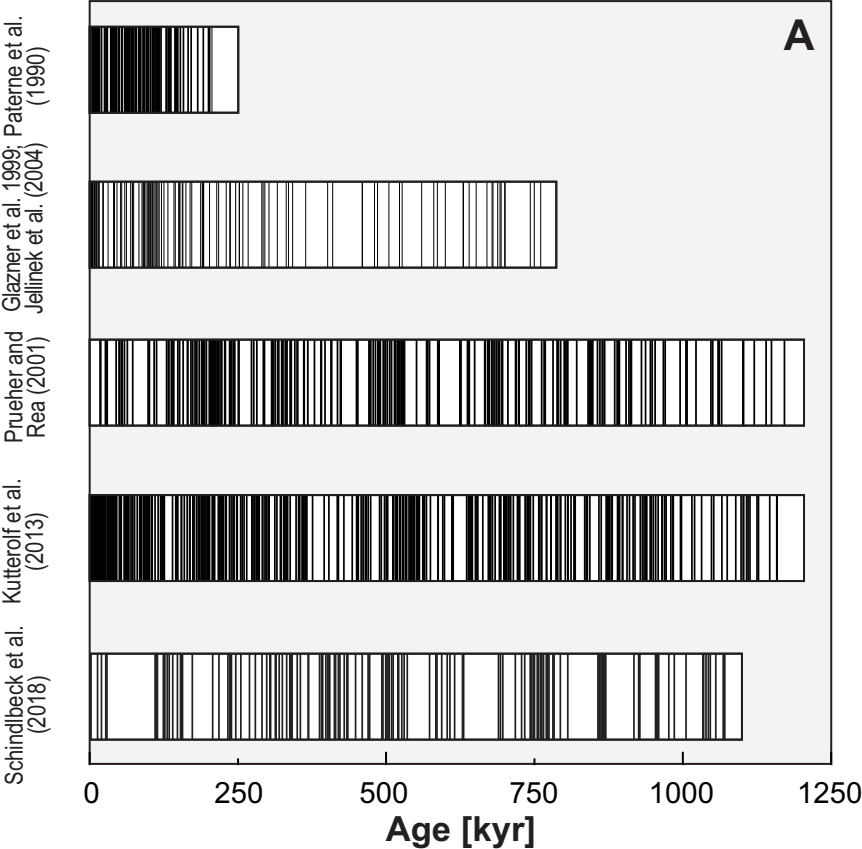


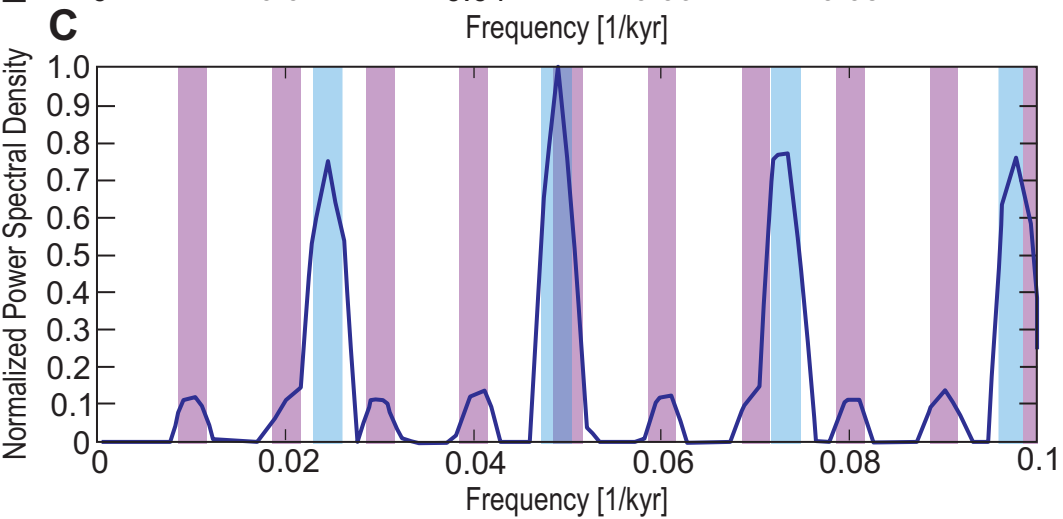
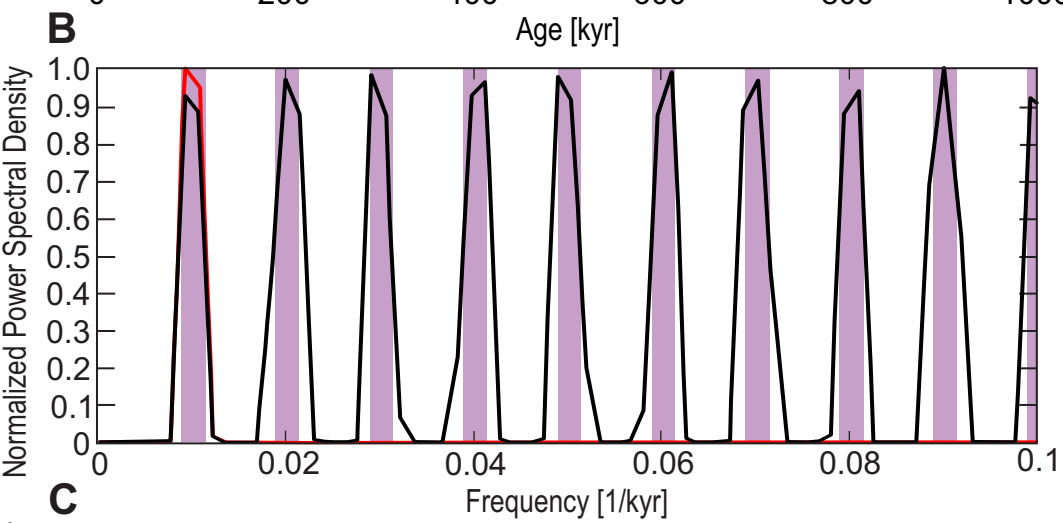
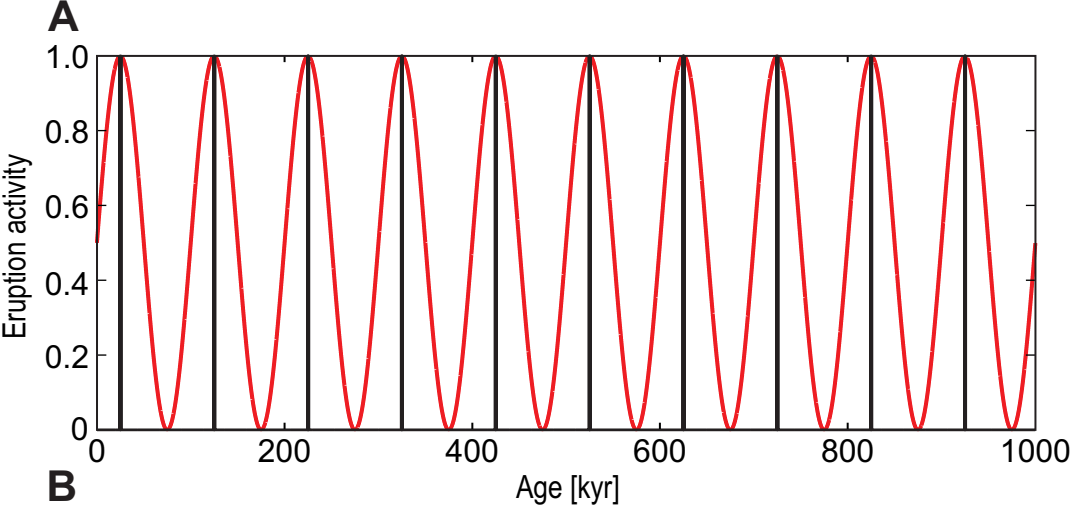


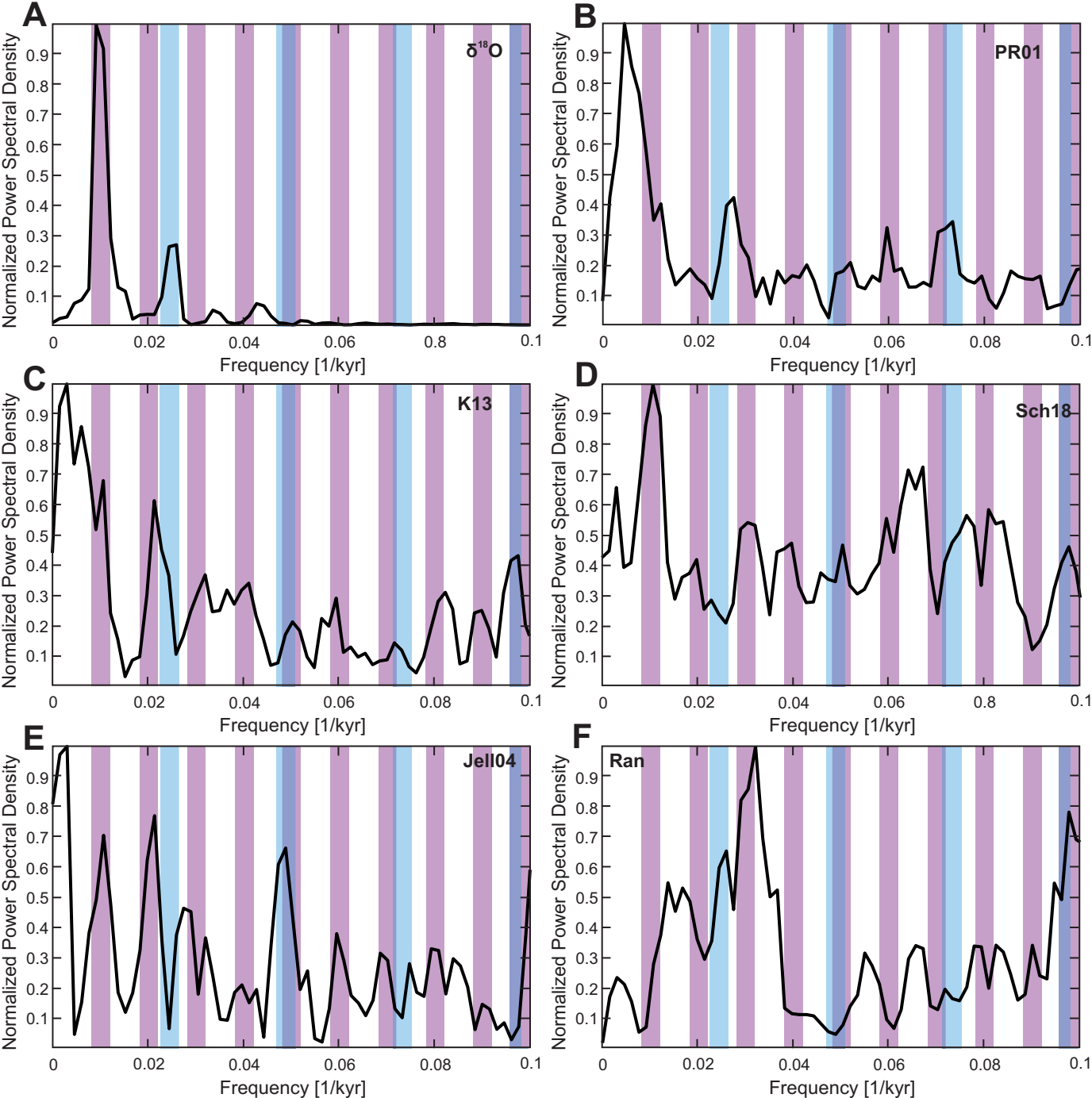


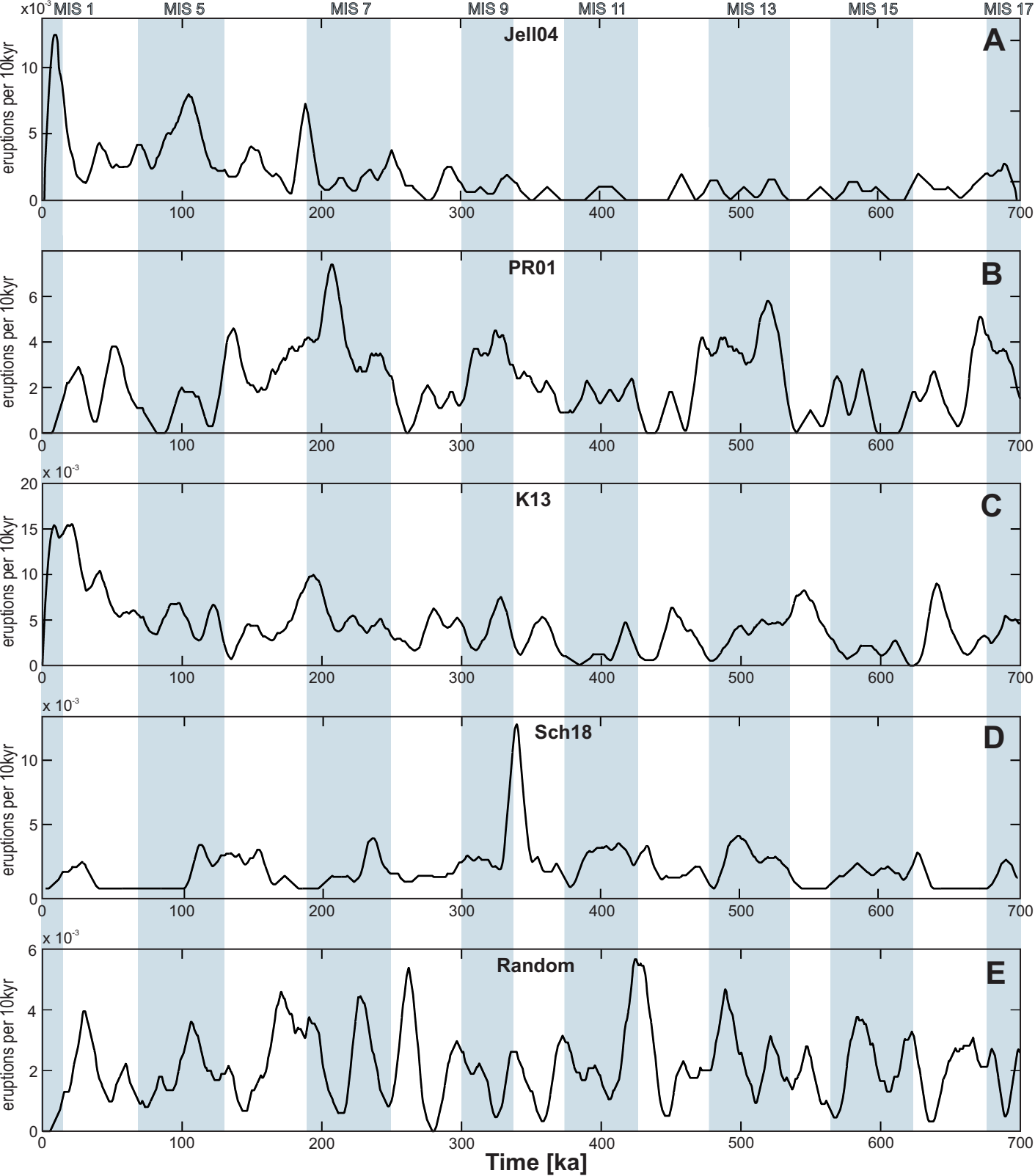












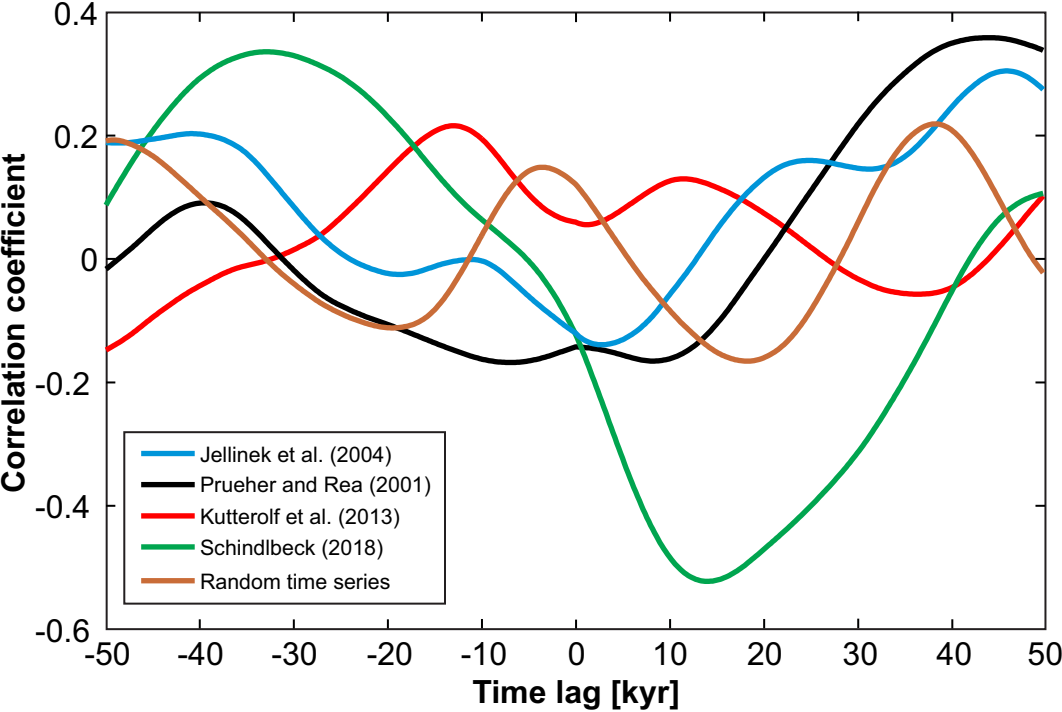


Table 1: Comparison of major parameters of selected studies on episodic and periodic volcanic activity. Entries are sorted by length of record. Numbers in column 4 refer to geographic position in Figure 2. Colors group records according to geological settings.

Study	length of time series [ka]	number of events/type of events/distribution of events	# in Figure 2	latitude (ice covered or not)	setting*	frequency/cycle/periods	suggested physical process	age dating
Rawson et al., 2016	18	75 tephras	1	yes	CIA	increase in volcanism with deglaciation	ice removal induced stress change	radiometric/age modelling
Praetorius et al., 2016	20	19 tephras	2	yes	CIA	increase in volcanism with deglaciation	stress change	sedimentation
Watt et al., 2013	25	121 tephra	1, 3, 4	yes/no	CIA	no or weak increase	stress change	rate/radiometric/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ radiometric and from Huybers and Langmuir
Huybers and Langmuir, 2009	40	5352 tephras/80% <1 ka	global	mixed	CIA	2-6 times higher during 12-7 ka deglaciation	magma production	probability distribution
McGuire et al., 1997	80	86 tephras	5	no	CIA	episodes of increased volcanism in kyr scale	stress/tectonics	sedimentation
Paterne et al., 1990	190	151 tephras	5	no	CIA	23 kyr	stress change	rate/radiometric/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ sedimentation rate/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
Kutterolf et al., 2013	1000	408 tephras /70% <500 ka	6+ROF	mixed	OIA/CIA	41 kyr, (23, 100)	stress change	sedimentation rate
Schindlbeck et al., 2018	1100	162 tephras	7	no	OIA	100 kyr, (23, 41)	stress change	sedimentation
Kennett et al., 1975	2000	250 tephras	global	mixed	OIA/CIA	episodes of increased volcanism, broader focus	tectonics/climate	rate/radiometric/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ sedimentation
Prueher and Rea, 2001	5000	450 tephras	2, 3	yes	OIA/CIA	episodes of increased volcanism in Myr scale	glaciation/tectonics	rate/radiometric/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ paleomagnetism/sedimentation rate
Mahony et al., 2016	15000	4936 tephras	8	no	CIA/OIA	episodes of increased volcanism in Myr scale	tectonics	sedimentation rate
Cambay and Cadet, 1994	20000	~1000 tephras	global	mixed	OIA/CIA	episodes of increased volcanism in Myr scale	stress/tectonics	sedimentation rate
Sigurdsson et al., 2000	55000	ash accumulation	9	no	OIA/CIA	episodes of increased volcanism in Myr scale	tectonics	sedimentation rate/radiometric
Sigvaldason, 1992	10	eruption rate [ $\text{km}^3$ ]	10	yes	OIV	20-30 times increase during deglaciation	magma production or stress change	radiometric/stratigraphy
Maclennan et al., 2002	17	eruption rate [ $\text{km}^3$ ]	10	yes	OIV	100 times increase during deglaciation	magma production	radiometric/stratigraphy
Jellinek et al., 2004	400	138 tephras	11	yes	CIV	41 kyr	stress change	radiometric
Glazner et al., 1999	800	165 tephras/85% < 400 ka	11	yes	CIV	anticorrelated volcanism and interglacial maxima	stress change	radiometric
Nowell et al. 2006	2.000	~600 ages form volc. products	12	yes	CIV	increase in volcanism with deglaciation	ice removal induced stress change	radiometric
Hasenclever et al., 2017	130	$\text{CO}_2$ degassing	global	submarine	MOR	5 - 15 kyr	magma production	multiple proxies, not direct
Lund and Asimov, 2011	200	chemical variation	13	submarine	MOR	increase of hydrothermal activity aftermaximal glaciation	magma production	sedimentation rate/radiometric/ $\delta^{18}\text{O}$
Tolstoy, 2015	800	bathymetry	global	submarine	MOR	tidal to 100 kyr	magma production	bathymetry
Crowley et al., 2015	1250	bathymetry	14	submarine	MOR	23, 41, 100 kyr	magma production	sea level variations (models& $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ )

\* OIA= Ocean Island Arc, CIA= Continental Island Arc, OIV= Oceanic Intraplate Volcanism, CIV= Continental Intraplate Volcanism, MOR= Mid Ocean Ridge, ROF= Ring of Fire



**Table 2:** Correlation coefficients between the tephra time series spectra and a random time series spectrum. b) Probabilities of coincidental correlations between the time series; values <0.05 indicate statistically significant correlation.

a)	Kutterolf et al. 2013	Prueher and Rea 2001	Schindlbeck et al. (2018)*	Jellinek et al. 2004	Random
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , Lisiecki and Raymo 2005	<b>0.41</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Kutterolf et al. 2013	<b>1</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Prueher and Rea 2001		<b>1</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>-0.09</b>
Schindlbeck et al. 2018			<b>1</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Jellinek et al. 2004				<b>1</b>	<b>0.20</b>
Random					<b>1</b>

b)	Kutterolf et al. 2013	Prueher and Rea 2001	Schindlbeck et al. (2018)*	Jellinek et al. 2004	Random
$\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , Lisiecki and Raymo 2005	<b><math>7.0 \times 10^{-3}</math></b>	<b><math>1.3 \times 10^{-2}</math></b>	<b><math>1.0 \times 10^{-5}</math></b>	<b><math>9.3 \times 10^{-2}</math></b>	<b>0.95</b>
Kutterolf et al. 2013	<b>1</b>	<b><math>1.3 \times 10^{-1}</math></b>	<b><math>3.5 \times 10^{-5}</math></b>	<b><math>9.6 \times 10^{-4}</math></b>	<b>0.9</b>
Prueher and Rea 2001		<b>1</b>	<b><math>1.1 \times 10^{-2}</math></b>	<b><math>2.4 \times 10^{-2}</math></b>	<b>0.48</b>
Schindlbeck et al. 2018			<b>1</b>	<b><math>5.4 \times 10^{-8}</math></b>	<b>0.6</b>
Jellinek et al. 2004				<b>1</b>	<b>0.11</b>
Random					<b>1</b>