Style Guidelines for WAIS Divide Ice Core Publications

The WAIS Divide Ice Core Project is an integrated set of research projects. To communicate our information most effectively outside our community requires that we present our results as uniformly as is practical. Some of these guidelines may not work in your special situation and you may deviate from these guidelines as you choose.

Age-Depth Relationship

The age-depth relationship will evolve during and after the project as new information becomes available. It is critical that every age be referenced to the age-depth relationship it is based on. Do not publish or present anything that does not specifically state the name of the age-depth relation you used. Age-depth relationships are named using a convention of core name and time timescale number, for example WDC06A:1 the names are assigned by the dating committee. Do not make up your own time scale with out consulting with the dating committee.

Graphs

1) The name of the timescale should always be included in the figure image. Please do not relegate the timescale reference to the figure caption, because figures often get separated from their captions.

2) Plotting time or depth on the vertical axis should be avoided unless a comparison is being made to a two dimensional plot such as a radar profile. There may also be other situations were it makes sense to plot time or depth on a vertical axis. Please do not plot depth on the vertical axis just because the measurement instrument was moving vertically when the measurement was made.

3) If time is plotted on the horizontal axis, it should be increasing from left to right as is done in most sciences. This makes our science more accessible to the climate physics community as well as the general public. This also avoids the awkwardness that can occur when records of the last 2000 years are shown in the same paper as records of longer time periods in which time proceeds from right to left and the reader has to switch from one direction to the other.

4) If the time span covered is all with the C.E. period (last ~2,010 years), the units should be in calendar years C.E. For example, a plot of a last-millennium record should have an axis label of "Time, calendar years C.E., Timescale WDC06A:1". The number "1000" would be on the left-hand side of the axis and 2009 on the right side. For IPCC-style reports or the news media, this can be simplified to "Time". If you want to use A.D. instead of C.E. that is your choice.

5) If the time span covered extends beyond the C.E. period, the units should be in ky before 1950 C.E. (We selected 1950 because it is used for radiocarbon dating and hence has become a standard for a lot of paleoclimate work.) For example, a plot of the deglacial record should have an axis label of "Time kyears before 1950 C.E., Timescale WDC06A:1"". The number "20" would be on the left-hand side of the axis and 0 would be on the right. The axis can extend into negative numbers on the right for data from after 1950 C.E., but it is best not to include a tick label for the few negative years on the extreme right side. For IPCC-style reports or the news media, this can be simplified to "Time (thousands of years before 1950)" or "Time (years before 1950)". The abbreviation "b2k" is not widely understood in science or lay communities and should be avoided. Use of years B.C. or B.C.E. should be avoided unless there is strong reason for doing so.

6) Labeling an axis "age" should be avoided to reduce confusion.

7) Depth should generally be plotted on the horizontal axis. If both depth and time are shown, for example with depth on the top horizontal axis and time on the bottom horizontal axis, then time should increase from left to right, and depth should increase from right to left. If time is not shown depth can increase to the left or right, based on the author's preference.

Acknowledgements

It is likely that many people and organizations contributed to your publication. NSF requires that all grants that contributed to your published work be listed by grant number. If your work involved samples of the WAIS Divide core, you must cite the SCO grant numbers and notify the SCO that you have done so. In addition to that NSF requirement, you might consider acknowledging the organizations that facilitated your work. You may also wish to acknowledge people such as staff and students that contributed directly to the specific effort described in the publication. The following is a suggested acknowledgement.

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