## *Динамика вечной мерзлоты и цикл углерода в Арктике*

## *Vladimir Romanovsky*

*University of Alaska Fairbanks* 







### Circumpolar permafrost extent













# **Late Pleistocene includes**

- Previous interglacial generally warmer than now
- First phase of the Glacial Period cold (5-10°C colder than now) Early Wisconsin: 73-58 ka ago
- Middle Wisconsin warmer a bit: 58-31 ka ago
- Late Wisconsin very cold (the coldest): 31-14 ka ago global sea level was lower by 120-130 m than now
- A sharp turn to a warmer climate: 15-14 ka ago





FIGURE 1.2 Climate changes in central Greenland over the last 17,000 years. Reconstructions of temperature and snow accumulation rate (Cuffey and Clow, 1997; Alley, 2000) show a large and rapid shift out of the ice age about 15,000 years ago, an irregular cooling into the Younger Dryas event, and the abrupt shift toward modern values. The 100-year averages shown somewhat obscure the rapidity of the shifts. Most of the warming from the Younger Dryas required about 10 years, with 3 years for the accumulation-rate increase (Figure 2.2). A short-lived cooling of about 6°C occurred about 8,200 years ago (labeled 8ka event), and is shown with higher time resolution in Figure 2.3. Climate changes synchronous with those in Greenland affected much of the world, as shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.3.







Dan Mann holds the skull of a steppe bison that died on Alaska's North Slope more than 40,000 years ago.

Photo by Pam Groves

**Bison Bob** a big discovery on the North Slope By [Ned Rozell](mailto:nrozell@gi.alaska.edu)

# **Ice Wedges**

11

 $\bullet$ 



Photo by M. Grigoriev





FIGURE 1.2 Climate changes in central Greenland over the last 17,000 years. Reconstructions of temperature and snow accumulation rate (Cuffey and Clow, 1997; Alley, 2000) show a large and rapid shift out of the ice age about 15,000 years ago, an irregular cooling into the Younger Dryas event, and the abrupt shift toward modern values. The 100-year averages shown somewhat obscure the rapidity of the shifts. Most of the warming from the Younger Dryas required about 10 years, with 3 years for the accumulation-rate increase (Figure 2.2). A short-lived cooling of about 6°C occurred about 8,200 years ago (labeled 8ka event), and is shown with higher time resolution in Figure 2.3. Climate changes synchronous with those in Greenland affected much of the world, as shown in Figures 2.1 and 2.3.



LAT

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA









# **Abrupt Permafrost Thaw**







Weichselian 100 - ca. 16 ky BP

Kharaulakh Ridge with extensive perennial snow fields and névés. Thick, ice-rich medium to fine-grained deposits (Ice Complex) accumulate in the subsiding Bykovsky foreland plain. Large valleys like the Khorogor Valley are partly filled with Ice Complex.

Perennial snowfields are strongly reduced in extent. Deposits in the valleys are eroded by increased melt water. Ice Complex accumulation in the foreland plain is decreasing.

Late Glacial-Holocene transition

n

Start of intense thermokarst development in the plain. Large scale accumulation in the plain changes to a complex pattern of erosion, re-deposition, and accumulation of alas deposits (peats, lake sediments). Ice Complex deposits in the valleys are eroded.

Early Holocene



Early-Middle Holocene

Ongoing thermokarst development. The marine transgression results in coastal abrasion, the rapid ingression of thermoarst basins, and the formation of thermokarst lagoons.



Middle Holocene

Formation of the Neelov and Tiksi Bays due to further tectonic subsidence, thermokarst development and marine ingression. Some depressions drain or silt-up. Talik refreezing and pingo formation begins.



Late Holocene

Decrease of thermokarst development, refreezing of taliks, and pingo growth. Progradation of the Lena Delta into the Neelov Bay.



**Recent Holocene** 

Modern shape and relief. Subset of a Landsat-7 ETM+ image from the 5. August 2000. Further progradation of the SE Lena Delta into the Neelov Bay.



Near future 2050-2500

Separation of the Bykovsky Peninsula into islands due to ongoing coastal thermoabrasion, thermokarst subsidence, predicted sea level rise, and marine ingression.

### Grosse et al., 2007 (Geomorphology)



### **Thermokarst and C-Cycle**

### *Thermokarst Lakes as a Source of Atmospheric CH<sup>4</sup> During the Last Deglaciation*



#### Walter et al, 2007 (Science)

#### 12500 years before present



**Schematic models of Coastal and Submarine Permafrost distribution under different climatic conditions (after N. Romanovskii)**



PRESENT



# Late-Holocene Permafrost History

- 1. Air temperatures were cooling down
- 2. New "Holocene" permafrost was formed and southern boundary of permafrost moved far south
- 3. New ice wedges started to grow in cold enough places
- 4. Vegetation zones moved back south









imatrost Labor





## **Change in Annual Temperature** from historical anthropogenic climate forcing



Image credit: Noah Diffenbaugh and Marshall Burke, 2018



Year



Biskaborn et al., 2017

a



### **Distribution of Ice-Rich Yedoma (Ice Complex) Deposits in East Siberia**



- *Thickness of the deposit is between 5-100m*
- *Present day total coverage is > 1x10<sup>6</sup> km*
- *Gravimetric ground ice contents in the sediments between 60-120%*
- *Including the ice wedges, total volumetric ice content of up to >75%*
- *Organic carbon content averages between 2-5%*
- *Accumulation during several 10 000 years*

31

Zimov et al 2006 (Science), Schirrmeister et al., 2008









Cryostratigraphy of late Pleistocene syngenetic permafrost (yedoma) in northern Alaska, Itkillik River exposure

M. Kanevskiy<sup>a,\*</sup>, Y. Shur<sup>a</sup>, D. Fortier<sup>a,b</sup>, M.T. Jorgenson<sup>a,c</sup>, E. Stephani<sup>a</sup>













## Projected surface air temperature (2090-2099 relative to 1980-1999)











# Permafrost Carbon Emissions

Permafrost Zone Soil C Vulnerable Fraction ~5-15% by 2100

10% of known permafrost C pool =130-160 Pg

Similar in magnitude to biospheric sources (land use change) Less than human sources (fossil fuel)

Schuur et al. 2015 Nature



**A Mysterious Hole on Yamal** 



68° 22' 12.57"E





Рис. 6. Термокарстовое озеро с кратерами выбросов газа в северо-восточной части Ямала (фото В. И. Богоявленского из вертолета 15 июля 2015 г.) Fig. 6. Thermokarst lake with gas blowout craters in the north-eastern part of Yamal (photo by V. I. Bogoyavlensky from a helicopter on July 15, 2015)



Рис. 8. Схемы распространения кратеров выбросов газа на суше полуострова Ямал и зон дегазации из термокарстовых озер с кратерами на дне (1), плотности распространения зон дегазации из озер с кратерами на дне (2), условного риска мощных выбросов газа (3) и распределение концентрации метана по данным спектрометра TROPOMI спутника Sentinel-5P (4). Обозначения: 1 - кратеры выбросов газа C1, C2, C9, C11 и C12; 2 - озера с кратерами на дне; 3 - озеро Открытие; 4 - населенные пункты; 5 - участки детальных исследований (В - Бованенковский, ST - Южно-Тамбейский, NT - Северо-Тамбейский, N - Нейтинский, S - Сеяхинский, NS - Северо-Сеяхинский, WS - Западно-Сеяхинский, YR - Еркутинский); 6 - месторождения углеводородов, включая показанные цифрами Бованенковское (1), Южно-Тамбейское (2), Северо-Тамбейское (3), Западно-Сеяхинское (4), Нейтинское (5) и Новопортовское (6); 7 - нефтепровод; 8 - газопровод Бованенково-Ухта; 9 - железная дорога. Картографическая основа - ESRI

# Thank you very much !

## **www.permafrostwatch.org**