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ACROSS THE ARID DIAGONAL: DEGLACIATION OF THE WESTERN ANDEAN CORDILLERA IN SOUTHWEST BOLIVIA AND NORTHERN CHILE

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ABSTRACT. *Here we review published cosmogenic records of glaciation and deglaciation from the western cordillera of the arid subtropical Andes of northern Chile and southwest Bolivia. Specifically, we examine seven published studies describing exposure ages from moraines and glaciated bedrock spanning the glaciological Arid Diagonal, the region of the dry Andes where there is no clear evidence for glaciation over at least the last global glaciation. We also present new cosmogenic ³⁶Cl exposure ages from two previously undated sets of moraines in the deglaciated region near 22°S. Taken together, these records indicate that the most extensive regional glaciation occurred ca. 35-45 ka, followed by slow, punctuated retreat through the global last glacial maximum, and rapid retreat after ~15-17 ka. In the vicinity of the large Altiplanic lakes that existed during the late glacial stage, the 15-17 ka moraines overrode the earlier moraines, whereas elsewhere regionally, on both sides of the Arid Diagonal, late glacial wet periods are represented only by less-prominent moraines in more retracted positions.*

A Través de la Diagonal Árida: la deglaciación de la Cordillera Andina Occidental en el suroeste de Bolivia y el norte de Chile

RESUMEN. *En este trabajo se revisan los registros cosmogénicos de la glaciación y deglaciación publicados previamente sobre la cordillera occidental de los Andes subtropicales áridos del norte de Chile y el suroeste de Bolivia. Específicamente, se examinan siete estudios que describen las edades de exposición de las morrenas y el sustrato glaciado desde la zona glaciológica Diagonal Árida, hasta la región de los Andes secos, donde no hay evidencias claras de glaciación desde al menos la última glaciación global. También se presentan nuevas dataciones cosmogénicas de exposición de ³⁶Cl en dos conjuntos de morrenas no datados previamente de la zona deglaciada sobre los 22°S. Considerados en conjunto, estos registros indican que la glaciación regional más extensa comenzó ca. 35-45 ka, seguida de un retroceso lento y con interrupciones durante el último máximo glacial global, y un rápido retroceso después de ~15-17 ka. En las inmediaciones de los grandes lagos altiplánicos tardiglaciares, las morrenas de 15-17 ka sobresalían de las morrenas anteriores, mientras que en otras regiones, a ambos lados de la*

Diagonal Árida, los periodos húmedos tardiglaciares están representados sólo por las morrenas menos destacadas y en posiciones más retraídas.

Key words: deglaciation, Andes, cosmogenic dating, moraines, paleoclimate.

Palabras clave: deglaciación, Andes, datación cosmogénica, morrenas, paleoclimatología.

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1. Introduction

The Andean Orogen (Andes) stretches ~7000 km along the western subduction margin of South America, and nearly this entire length has extant glaciers or has been glaciated in the Pleistocene. The history of glaciation and deglaciation along the length of the Andes can reveal linkages between modern climate systems as well as the global progression of regional climate changes during major climate transitions (e.g., Rodbell *et al.*, 2009; Denton *et al.*, 2010). Along the strike of the Andes, the large-scale patterns of major global (Hadley) circulation features change, and are modulated by regional systems (e.g., the El Niño/Southern Oscillation and the South American Summer Monsoon; Baker and Fritz, 2015) and by apparent teleconnections with longer-range climatic drivers such as Northern hemisphere Heinrich events (Kanner *et al.*, 2012) or Antarctic polar front migration (Moreno *et al.*, 2009).

In the subtropical Andes, easterly systems influenced by the north and central Atlantic in the tropics give way to westerly systems related to the Southern Westerly Winds. The transition region is a zone of persistent aridity known as the Arid Diagonal (De Martonne, 1934). The western cordillera of the Andes in northern Chile crosses the Arid Diagonal between 18°S and 27°S. Between Nevado Sajama (18.1°S) and Cerro Tapado (30.2°S) there are no large extant glaciers (Cassassa *et al.*, 2007), but glacial deposits can be mapped as far south as ~24°S on the north side of the Arid Diagonal, and likewise as far north as 27°S on the south side (Jenny *et al.*, 1996). A few small rock glaciers and permanent snowfields exist on very high peaks throughout the Arid Diagonal. It is not clear whether past glaciers in the Chilean arid diagonal region should have responded similarly to glaciers more directly affected by northeasterly or southwesterly climate features.

Understanding the timing of peak glaciation and deglaciation across this region is one approach to determining the relative influence of the subtropical easterly and mid latitude westerly moisture sources, and their importance relative to radiation and temperature changes over the last global glacial cycle. However, compared to the outer tropical Altiplano and mountains of Peru and Bolivia, and mid-latitudes of Chile and Argentina, there is a paucity of numerical age constraints on these deposits. This is due

in part to the aridity, which means that organic material suitable for radiocarbon dating is scarce in glacial deposits, and in part to the dominance of intermediate volcanic rock, which limits the utility of the well-constrained ^{10}Be cosmogenic method. In the last few years, the refinement of ^{36}Cl and ^3He cosmogenic dating has resulted in some progress in the dating of the glacial deposits in the arid Andes and proximal regions.

In this paper, we review several recent records of deglaciation of the western cordillera of the Andes of northern Chile in a climatic context. We also present new cosmogenic datasets developed for previously undated valley moraines at two sites near 22°S , and refine a previously presented chronology of the Chajnantor ice cap, which was present at least until early in the global last glacial maximum (LGM) at 23°S (Ward *et al.*, 2015). Our focus is a review of available glacial records and data with the aim of understanding the longitudinal pattern in timing of deglaciation over the last global glacial cycle.

2. Study Area

2.1. Geographical setting

Here we focus on the latest glaciation of the western cordillera of the Andes in northern Chile. This region spans the southwest Altiplano and Puna Plateau regions, which are dominated by high plateau landscapes with typical elevations of 4000-5000 m. Large volcanic complexes of ignimbrite shields, dacite domes, and stratovolcano edifices reach elevations above 6000 m (e.g., Ramírez and Gardeweg, 1982). The west flank of the Andes here is steep, rising to Altiplanic elevations from the ~2000-3000 m central depression of northern Chile over tens of km distance. The western cordillera lies ~130 km inland from the Pacific Ocean near the north and south ends of the study region, and up to 300 km in the central latitudes. It is separated from the eastern lowlands by 300-500 km, again with the largest distance in the central latitudes of ~ $21\text{-}24^\circ\text{S}$.

2.2. Modern regional climate

The overall aridity of the Altiplano and subtropical Andes is maintained primarily by the large-scale subtropical downwelling and cold oceanic upwelling along the west coast of South America related to the Humboldt Current (e.g., Hartley, 2003). The basic climatology of the region is also modulated by the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which induces circulation anomalies over South America and is associated with regionally heterogeneous precipitation anomalies (e.g., Vuille, 1999; Garreaud and Aceituno, 2001), and by the South American Summer Monsoon (SASM), which promotes heavy rainfall in the central Amazon Basin (e.g. Cook and Vizi, 2006). An upper-level high-pressure system called the “Bolivian High” appears over the subtropical Andes centered around 19°S , 60°W (Lenters and Cook, 1997) in response to latent heating associated with the monsoon. The positioning of the Bolivian High modulates upper-level easterly winds on inter- and intra-annual timescales (Vuille *et al.*, 1998; Garreaud and Aceituno, 2001), affecting moisture transport from the east into the Altiplano and arid Andes (Garreaud, 2000).

The modern mean annual temperatures at the previously glaciated elevations of the study area (>4000 m) range from 4 to -4 °C (Grenon, 2007; Kull and Grosjean, 2000). Upper elevations of the Puna Plateau and surrounding area receive between 200 and 350 mm/yr of water-equivalent precipitation (Grosjean *et al.*, 2001), with high interannual variability (e.g., Garreaud and Aceituno, 2001; Houston, 2006). Much of this precipitation falls during austral summer (Garreaud *et al.*, 2003) and is derived from moist air transported from the east, arriving from the tropical Atlantic via the Amazon Basin. This moisture promotes summer rain and snow and occasional damaging floods (Mather and Hartley, 2005; Houston, 2006). At the surface of the Altiplano, midday solar radiation ranges from 600 to 1100 W/m² (Garreaud *et al.*, 2003). The region's very low humidity, high winds, and high insolation result in high rates of sublimation; field studies indicate 2-4 mm/day water equivalent at Cerro Tapado (Stichler *et al.*, 2001; Kull *et al.*, 2002). In this setting, melting has a negligible impact on mass balance, as meltwater quickly refreezes in the firn: temperatures at depths below ~10 cm during the Cerro Tapado study never exceeded 0° and the daytime air temperature was ~3° during the austral summer period of 11-16 February, 1999 (Stichler *et al.*, 2001).

2.3. Lacustrine highstands of the Altiplano

Given how dry it is in the region, many have assumed that glaciers are effectively moisture proxies, and their timing has been assumed to correspond to the highstands of Altiplanic lakes. The most important of these was Lake Tauca, which spread up to 60,000 km² across the modern day Poopo Basin, the Salar de Uyuuni, and the Salar de Coipasa in the Bolivian Altiplano (Placzek *et al.*, 2013; Fig. 1). The most extensive highstand of Lake Tauca occurred 18.1–14.1 ka; the previous deepest phase in these basins (Lake Ouki) likely dates to 120-98 ka (Placzek *et al.*, 2013). These highstands are attributed to significant changes in hydroclimate, particularly increased moisture delivery. Minor highstands in the Altiplano occurred ca. 80-95 ka, 46 ka, 20-24 ka, and 11-13 ka, and may be attributed to reduced evaporation and temperature. The 20-24 ka and ~46 ka highstands of Altiplanic lakes correspond with highstands in the Salar de Atacama (Fig. 1; Bobst *et al.*, 2001).

However well-constrained the Tauca history is, it does not universally correspond to lacustrine records farther south in the Altiplano-Puna region. McGlue *et al.* (2013) presents a record of sedimentation, dated using radiocarbon, from Pozuelos Basin, northwestern Argentina (22.5°S). Sedimentology from 6 cores indicates that this lake was profundal 43-32 Cal ka, transitioning to saline from ~25 ka-18 ka, and drying to a playa by the late Holocene. There is little evidence here of a major transgression during the Tauca wet phase of the Altiplanic lakes, indicating a regional spatial transition in hydroclimate between ~20°S and ~22°S.

2.4. Glaciological context

According to the classification of Sagredo *et al.* (2014), the area spans the transition between extant glaciers of the dry outer tropics (western cordilleras of Peru and Bolivia to about 18.5°S) and those of the subtropics (western cordillera of Chile south of 26°S). The dry outer tropical glaciers receive most of their moisture during DJFM – “Bolivian



Figure 1. Inset: Major climate features and location of the study area in the western cordillera of the Andes. ITCZ: Intertropical Convergence Zone; BH: Bolivian High; SASM: South American Summer Monsoon. Main map shows locations of dated glacial deposits as in Table 1. 1: Nevado Sajama; 2: Cerro Tunupa; 3: Cerro Uturunco; 4: El Tatío; 5: Cerro La Torta; 6: Sairecabur; 7: Chajnantor Plateau; 8: Encierro Valley; 9: Cerro Tapado; 10: Cordón de Doña Rosa. Between 18.5°S and 27°S in the western cordillera, no modern glaciers exist, and within the zone labeled “glaciological arid diagonal”, there is no clear evidence for past glaciation.

Winter”, and are moderately sensitive to both temperature and precipitation changes. On the other hand, subtropical glaciers receive more moisture during JJA than during the remainder of the year, and are very precipitation-limited. The region between is currently fully deglaciated save for a handful of rock glaciers, and corresponds to the climatic region known as the “Arid Diagonal” (De Martonne, 1934). The Arid Diagonal is defined by different workers based on different criteria; here, we use a glaciological definition, meaning the latitude band where there are no present glaciers. Within the Arid Diagonal, glacial deposits can be traced as far south as 24°S, but there is no further clear evidence for glaciation between there and 27°S in the western cordillera.

Jenny *et al.* (1996) used aerial and satellite images to map moraines between 17°S and 29°S along the western cordillera of the Andes in Chile, and described three moraine stages: a more degraded, distal set of moraines, and two more proximal and better-preserved stages. These stages were not directly dated, but based on morphology and published proxy

moisture data, were assigned tentative ages of ~130+ ka, ~20 ka, and 17-15 ka, coinciding with documented highstands of Altiplanic lakes. Based on this mapping, Amman *et al.* (2001) calculated snowlines for the most prominent set of moraines based on the AAR method. They show a rapid rise from ~4600 m to >5000 m between 22°S and 24°S to above the topography in the “glaciological arid diagonal” in which there is no evidence for glaciation, and a rapid decline from 5300 m to ~4000 m moving south from 27°S through 29°S. They note however, that the lack of direct dating precludes assigning their calculated ELA trends to the same time frames on either side of the Arid Diagonal.

Interpreting climatic history from the glacial deposits in the western cordillera is complicated by the unusual climate setting. While moisture is regarded as the limiting factor for glaciation (e.g., Kull and Grosjean, 2000; Sagredo *et al.*, 2014), and so glacial stages have been assumed to coincide with documented wet periods, it was likely also 6-8°C colder in this area during LGM, and shortwave radiation has changed significantly over the last glacial cycle as well (Kull and Grosjean, 1998). Moreover, the dating of these moraines, recently enabled by advances in cosmogenic dating, indicate a history for glaciation that may be more locally variable and complex than the three-regional-stages model proposed by Jenny *et al.* (1996). We review these records in more detail below.

3. Methods

3.1. Methods – Literature Review

We examine seven published studies describing exposure ages from moraines and glaciated bedrock spanning the glaciological Arid Diagonal: Nevado Sajama in the north to Cordón de Doña Rosa in the south, including Co. Tapado (Table 1). We also describe cosmogenic ³⁶Cl exposure ages from two new, previously undated sets of moraines in the deglaciated region near 22°S.

While all records reviewed here are based on cosmogenic exposure methods, the specific techniques used in each depended on the available rock for dating and the study design. Recent progress in reconciling varying production rate scaling schemes gives us some confidence that these ages may be compared directly (e.g., Lifton *et al.*, 2014; Blard *et al.*, 2013a; Kelly *et al.*, 2015; see discussion in Ward *et al.*, 2015).

Ages were recalculated using the community standard CRONUSCalc online calculator (Marrero *et al.*, 2016a; <http://web1.itc.ku.edu:8888/2.0/>; v.2.0). All ages were recalculated assuming zero erosion. At four sites, we have rescaled cosmogenic ages as reported in the original studies to be comparable to the other sites (Table 2). For ¹⁰Be, the time-varying Lal-Stone scheme (Balco, 2008; Lifton *et al.*, 2014) was used with a baseline production rate as cross-calibrated with ³He and ¹⁴C at the Cerro Tunupa site of Blard *et al.* (2013a); therefore, the ages from this site and the ³He dataset at Cerro Uturuncu (Blard *et al.*, 2014) were not rescaled. The ¹⁰Be ages for sites 5 and 7 were originally published using these scaling schema (Ward *et al.*, 2015). The ¹⁰Be ages from sites 8 and 10 (Zech *et al.*, 2006, 2007) were rescaled because the authors originally used an older scaling routine that is now known to have a low bias at low latitudes and high altitudes (Lifton *et al.*, 2014). Calculated exposure ages increased due to rescaling by 45-51% at site 8 and by 25-51% at site 10 (Table 2).

Table 1. Locations of published records reviewed here.

Map ID	Nuclide	Location	Mean Latitude (deg S)	Mean Longitude (deg W)	Terminus Elevation* (m)	Reference
1	³⁶ Cl†	Nevado Sajama, Bolivia	18.11	68.88	4300	Smith <i>et al.</i> , 2009
2	³ He/ ¹⁰ Be	Cerro Tunupa, Bolivia	19.87	67.61	3900	Blard <i>et al.</i> , 2009; 2013b
3	³ He	Cerro Uturuncu, Bolivia	22.30	67.20	4700	Blard <i>et al.</i> , 2014
4	³⁶ Cl	Cordillera del Tatio, Chile	22.30	67.98	4100	This study
5	¹⁰ Be	Cerro La Torta, Chile	22.43	67.99	4500	Ward <i>et al.</i> , 2015
6	³⁶ Cl	Sairecabur, Chile	22.71	67.94	4600	This study
7	¹⁰ Be/ ³⁶ Cl†	Chajnantor Plateau, Chile	22.91	67.80	4400	Ward <i>et al.</i> , 2015
8	¹⁰ Be†	Encierro Valley, Chile	29.10	69.90	3600	Zech <i>et al.</i> , 2006
9	³⁶ Cl	Cerro Tapado, Chile	30.14	69.93	4100	Sagredo <i>et al.</i> , 2016
10	¹⁰ Be†	Cordón de Doña Rosa, Chile	30.71	70.40	3100	Zech <i>et al.</i> , 2007

* Most distal prominent moraines of dated glacial valley(s), to nearest 100 m.

† Ages were rescaled for this review – see Table 2.

Table 2. Results of age rescaling by site / publication

Smith *et al.* (2009) ³⁶Cl

Sample	Age ka (published)	Uncertainty	Age ka (rescaled)	Uncertainty	% Change*
BV-06-01	9.4	0.2	19.4	2.6	106.3829787
BV-06-02	7.5	0.2	12.3	1.3	64
BV-06-03	14.1	0.3	21.9	1.9	55.31914894
BV-06-08	15.1	0.4	23.1	2.1	52.98013245
BV-06-09	9	0.3	15.2	1.5	68.88888889
BV-06-13	11.3	0.3	17.6	1.5	55.75221239
BV-06-14	9.7	0.2	17.9	2.3	84.53608247
BV-06-34	8.4	0.2	11.9	1.1	41.66666667
BV-06-35	7.3	0.2	11.3	1.2	54.79452055
BV-06-36	12.8	0.4	19.9	1.1	55.46875
BV-06-28	4.9	0.1	6.1	0.28	24.48979592
BV-06-29	2.2	0.1	4.03	0.67	83.18181818
BV-06-30	3.3	0.1	5.16	0.46	56.36363636
BV-06-31	6.7	0.2	10	1	49.25373134
BV-06-25	6.2	0.2	6.81	0.88	9.838709677
BV-06-26	5.9	0.2	8.04	0.93	36.27118644
BV-06-27	6.8	0.2	5.62	0.73	-17.35294118
BV-06-10	3.2	0.1	6.22	0.42	94.375
BV-06-11	4.6	0.1	4.83	0.61	5
BV-06-12	2.5	0.1	4.81	0.57	92.4
BV-06-17	4.3	0.2	5.57	0.41	29.53488372
BV-06-18	2.7	0.1	3.76	0.63	39.25925926
BV-06-19	2.7	0.1	8.5	1.5	214.8148148
BV-06-32	4	0.1	8.2	1.2	105

BV-06-33	2.3	0.1	8.8	1.3	282.6086957
BV-06-23	0.3	0	0	0	-100
BV-06-24	0.2	0	0	0	-100
BV-06-04	8.5	0.2	11.25	0.91	32.35294118
BV-06-05	8.1	0.4	11.1	1.1	37.03703704
BV-06-06	27.8	0.8	44.7	5.8	60.79136691
BV-06-07	20.3	0.5	32.9	3.6	62.06896552
BV-06-15	8.4	0.2	11.62	0.92	38.33333333
BV-06-16	7.9	0.2	10.9	1.1	37.97468354
BV-06-20	13.4	0.3	18.3	1.2	36.56716418
BV-06-21	10.2	0.3	14.8	1.1	45.09803922
BV-06-22	11.3	0.4	14.79	0.95	30.88495575
MEAN					53.49823494

Ward et al. (2015) ^{36}Cl - Site 7 - Chajnantor Plateau

Sample	Age ka (published)	Uncertainty	Age ka (rescaled)	Uncertainty	% Change
CHAJ-12-03	38.4	5.2	60.5	8.8	57.55208333
CHAJ-12-04	26.4	4.4	31.7	4.6	20.07575758
CHAJ-12-06	177	38	186	37	5.084745763
CHAJ-12-08	49	13.1	55	17	12.24489796
CHAJ-12-11	25.7	1.7	47.9	5.3	86.38132296
CHAJ-12-14	122	14.3	119	26	-2.459016393
CHAJ-12-15	30.1	2.8	53.9	7.1	79.06976744
CHAJ-12-18	40.8	3.5	67.6	7.8	65.68627451
CHAJ-12-19	11.2	1.3	18.8	1.9	67.85714286
CHAJ-12-20	19.1	1.6	26.7	2.8	39.79057592
CHAJ-12-21	14.7	1.1	28.4	2.7	93.19727891
CHAJ-M2	58.6	16.4	62	17	5.802047782
MEAN					44.19023988

Zech et al. (2006) ^{10}Be - Site 8 - Encierro Valley

Sample	Age ka (published)	Uncertainty	Age ka (rescaled)	Uncertainty	% Change
EE11	11.6	0.5	17.485	1.286	50.73275862
EE12	11.3	0.4	17.128	1.223	51.57522124
EE22	10.4	0.4	15.905	1.135	52.93269231
EE24	10.9	0.5	16.571	1.228	52.02752294
EE33	10.9	0.7	16.65	1.415	52.75229358
EE34	14	0.6	20.988	1.633	49.91428571
EE42	12.3	0.5	18.385	1.374	49.47154472
EE51	13.7	0.5	20.358	1.51	48.59854015
EE62	13.1	0.7	19.157	1.538	46.23664122
EE63	9.3	0.4	13.843	1.017	48.84946237
EE71	24.1	0.9	35.027	2.588	45.34024896
MEAN					49.85738289

Zech et al. (2007) ¹⁰Be - Site 10 - Cordón de Doña Rosa

Sample	Age ka (published)	Uncertainty	Age ka (rescaled)	Uncertainty	% Change
DR11	11.6	0.5	17.344	1.247	49.51724138
DR13	12.8	0.5	18.976	1.375	48.25
DR21	17.5	0.6	25.638	1.861	46.50285714
DR31	11.7	0.5	17.31	1.264	47.94871795
DR32	14.7	0.5	21.536	1.539	46.50340136
DR33	13.2	0.4	19.33	1.324	46.43939394
DR41	11.7	0.6	17.297	1.4	47.83760684
DR42	12.5	0.5	18.287	1.356	46.296
DR43	12.1	0.5	17.786	1.289	46.99173554
DR51	98.1	2.5	148.433	10.43	51.30784913
DR52	32.1	0.8	45.488	3.115	41.70716511
DR61	34.4	1	49.304	3.522	43.3255814
DR62	31.1	0.9	43.733	3.054	40.62057878
DR71	29.8	1.4	41.874	3.494	40.51677852
DR72	15.6	0.6	22.142	1.643	41.93589744
DR73	25.1	0.9	35.52	2.625	41.51394422
DR81	31.7	1.2	42.099	3.164	32.8044164
DR82	43.1	1.6	62.118	4.693	44.12529002
DR91	27.2	1	35.061	2.651	28.90073529
DR92	26.6	0.7	34.312	2.391	28.9924812
DR101	16.8	1.6	21.085	2.571	25.50595238
DR102	24.2	0.9	30.416	2.297	25.68595041
				MEAN	41.5104352

For ³⁶Cl, we employ the newer time-varying Lifton-Sato-Dunai (LSD) scheme (Lifton *et al.*, 2014), which for this region gives both ³⁶Cl and ¹⁰Be ages within ~1-2% of the time-varying Lal-Stone scheme, i.e., within analytical error of the scheme used above for ¹⁰Be (e.g., Sagredo *et al.*, 2016). We also use this scaling for the new results presented here (sites 4, 6, and the new ³⁶Cl samples from site 7). Sagredo *et al.* (2016) also presented their ages for site 9 using this scaling. Therefore, only the published ³⁶Cl ages from sites 1 and 7 needed to be rescaled. Similarly to the ¹⁰Be, and for similar reasons, rescaling resulted in an average increase in calculated ³⁶Cl exposure ages of 53% for site 1 and 44% for site 7. Inter-sample variability in rescaling was much higher for ³⁶Cl, however; some ages decreased by tens of percent or more, and a few ages increased by >200% (Table 2). This variability is likely caused by variations in the geochemistry between samples.

Generally, 1-σ analytical plus scaling uncertainties are on the order of 10-15% for the data presented here, and the geologic uncertainty (e.g., due to inherited nuclide inventories and postdepositional erosion) inherent in cosmogenic dating of moraines is likely much larger than that. We discuss those geological uncertainties as necessary in the context of each record, below. Nonetheless, it means that the precision of determining ages of specific landforms in this region, based on these data, is at best ± 2-3 ka.

3.2. Methods -Cosmogenic Dating

Samples were collected for cosmogenic ^{36}Cl dating (Gosse and Phillips, 2001; Marrero *et al.*, 2016b) from prominent boulders at the crests of moraine ridges, using hammer and chisel (Fig. 2). Many moraine boulders were in poor condition and had to be rejected for sampling, limiting the density of boulder samples on each moraine. Measurements of the skyline indicate negligible amounts of topographic shielding at all sample sites, and the arid, windy environment reduces the potential for significant snow shielding on prominent boulders. Generally, boulders with intact, horizontal upper surfaces were samples, and sample thickness limited to ≤ 5 cm; samples thicker than this were cut to this thickness in the lab before processing. Where necessary, surface inclination measurements were made and computed as part of the shielding factor for each sample; these corrections were generally negligible.

Chemical preparation and sample dissolution for ^{36}Cl was carried out at the University of Cincinnati and followed the methods of Stone *et al.* (1996). Methods were modified to accelerate the dissolution process (J. Radler, Purdue University, personal



Figure 2. Examples of moraines and boulders sampled at El Tatio and Sairecabur. A: View to east and upvalley from sample Tat-14-5, right-lateral moraine, El Tatio (Fig. 4). B: View to north of sample Tat-14-8. C: View from sample Chaj-13-2 on the left-lateral moraine at the Sairecabur site, looking to the north diagonally across and downvalley (Fig. 5). Note the moraine ridges in the middle distance. D: View east and upvalley on the right-lateral moraine near sample Chaj-13-5 (not in frame) at Sairecabur.

Table 3. Attributes, site information, AMS measured ³⁶Cl concentrations, and exposure ages for Chajnantor, Sairecabur, and Tatio.

Sample no.	Latitude (°S)	Longitude (°W)	Elevation (m)	Site	Thickness (cm)	Topographic shielding	Cl _{Resk} (ppm)	³⁶ Cl/Cl (10 ⁻¹⁵)	³⁶ Cl Inventory (10 ⁶ at g ⁻¹)	Exposure age ^a (ka)
Chaj-12-12	22.96809	67.79295	5025	Chajnantor	5.0	0.999	47.0 ± 1.37	731.102 ± 19.439	1.368 ± 0.0404	14.9 ± 1.1
Chaj-12-17	23.02122	67.83272	4571	Chajnantor	5.0	0.999	119.582 ± 7.210	3703.870 ± 84.086	10.395 ± 0.511	87.0 ± 13.0
Chaj-12-22	23.00908	67.79659	4898	Chajnantor	5.0	0.999	137.297 ± 1.411	1029.110 ± 26.510	3.324 ± 0.089	22.7 ± 2.6
Chaj-14-5	23.00564	67.77123	5138	Chajnantor	5.0	0.999	21.789 ± 0.975	5655.550 ± 128.761	7.318 ± 0.189	85.6 ± 6.2
Chaj-13-1	22.71420	67.93940	4790	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	62.792 ± 1.622	6864.400 ± 192.046	11.710 ± 0.378	123.0 ± 12.0
Chaj-13-2	22.71380	67.94060	4778	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	183.509 ± 9.091	524.245 ± 13.687	1.970 ± 0.096	13.1 ± 1.9
Chaj-13-3	22.71090	67.93700	4749	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	254.163 ± 24.105	1620.910 ± 28.836	8.033 ± 0.679	41.3 ± 5.1
Chaj-13-4	22.70810	67.93920	4730	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	54.640 ± 3.294	3063.730 ± 53.539	4.819 ± 0.191	48.6 ± 4.8
Chaj-13-5	22.70480	67.93980	4748	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	216.350 ± 14.846	980.787 ± 18.708	4.247 ± 0.260	27.6 ± 3.3
Chaj-13-6	22.70510	67.94220	4736	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	183.509 ± 7.163	3507.960 ± 42.433	13.198 ± 0.456	92.0 ± 13.0
Chaj-13-7	22.70820	67.94790	4690	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	34.611 ± 1.220	879.047 ± 13.429	1.079 ± 0.025	32.0 ± 0.91
Chaj-13-8	22.71150	67.95080	4628	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	147.816 ± 4.770	2041.270 ± 31.841	6.429 ± 0.193	42.5 ± 4.8
Chaj-13-9	22.71280	67.95000	4629	Sairecabur	5.0	0.999	126.249 ± 2.849	702.290 ± 15.714	1.953 ± 0.055	18.2 ± 2.0
Tatio-14-1	22.29417	68.00118	4387	Tatio	2.0	0.997	222.375 ± 14.425	1292.380 ± 31.515	6.172 ± 0.351	40.9 ± 4.6
Tatio-14-2	22.29425	68.00033	4395	Tatio	3.0	0.998	134.027 ± 3.529	1192.850 ± 29.290	3.932 ± 0.120	34.6 ± 3.3
Tatio-14-3	22.29445	67.99959	4405	Tatio	3.0	0.999	249.371 ± 21.601	1708.610 ± 38.433	8.958 ± 0.659	57.0 ± 11.0
Tatio-14-4	22.29452	67.99918	4417	Tatio	0.5	0.999	131.234 ± 2.500	805.625 ± 23.266	2.731 ± 0.086	24.9 ± 2.3
Tatio-14-5	22.29557	67.99724	4423	Tatio	5.0	0.999	159.970 ± 1.764	859.979 ± 23.923	3.220 ± 0.093	26.0 ± 3.0
Tatio-14-6	22.30042	68.00561	4325	Tatio	1.5	0.999	246.793 ± 2.159	2268.300 ± 58.279	11.731 ± 0.313	82.0 ± 15.0
Tatio-14-7	22.30048	68.00562	4330	Tatio	1.0	0.995	59.375 ± 2.774	1067.760 ± 27.364	2.007 ± 0.072	27.0 ± 2.0
Tatio-14-8	22.30060	68.00671	4320	Tatio	6.0	0.999	22.446 ± 0.508	887.784 ± 20.418	1.163 ± 0.028	19.8 ± 0.9

^a Exposure ages calculated by means of time-varying Lifton-Sato-Dunai scaling (Lifton *et al.*, 2014), uncertainties include 1σ analytical uncertainty and propagated production rate scaling uncertainty. See text for further description.

Table 4. Major and trace element concentrations for Chajnantor, Sairecabur, and Tatio samples.

Sample No.	SiO ₂ (wt.%)	TiO ₂ (wt.%)	Al ₂ O ₃ (wt.%)	Fe ₂ O ₃ (wt.%)	MnO (wt.%)	MgO (wt.%)	CaO (wt.%)	Na ₂ O (wt.%)	K ₂ O (wt.%)	P ₂ O ₅ (wt.%)	CO ₂ (wt.%)	B (ppm)	Sm (ppm)	Gd (ppm)	U (ppm)	Th (ppm)	H ₂ O (wt.%)
Chaj-12-17	65.34	0.64	16.19	4.45	0.06	1.54	4.50	3.23	2.79	0.14	0.45	29.0	3.04	2.65	6.8	15.8	0.45
Chaj-12-22	64.35	0.69	15.85	5.29	0.06	1.63	4.60	3.16	2.70	0.04	0.7	27.0	3.47	3.17	6.5	15.5	0.70
Chaj-14-5	60.19	0.92	16.88	6.26	0.08	5.64	5.64	3.34	1.92	0.04	0.6	11.0	2.78	2.98	1.4	6.6	0.60
Chaj-13-1	61.85	0.63	15.60	5.61	0.08	3.12	5.93	2.71	1.81	0.07	0.74	16.6	2.40	1.80	3.7	10.5	0.74
Chaj-13-2	63.74	0.59	16.45	5.24	0.08	2.23	5.01	3.28	2.67	0.05	0.63	23.0	3.10	2.60	5.4	16.3	0.63
Chaj-13-3	63.57	0.67	14.67	5.78	0.09	3.26	4.8	2.72	2.56	0.12	1.30	27.8	4.20	3.40	4.8	14.7	1.30
Chaj-13-4	62.93	0.62	15.74	6.10	0.09	3.33	5.92	2.85	2.2	0.03	0.47	24.9	2.80	2.00	3.7	10.7	0.47
Chaj-13-5	63.38	0.71	15.2	6.59	0.10	3.51	5.61	2.87	2.48	0.04	0.24	39.6	3.10	2.70	4.8	13.7	0.24
Chaj-13-6	62.96	0.60	15.21	5.58	0.08	2.83	5.29	2.70	2.24	0.06	0.94	29.1	3.10	2.30	4.1	12.5	0.94
Chaj-13-7	61.68	0.70	16.39	6.68	0.10	3.71	6.34	2.89	2.07	0.05	0.10	48.0	2.20	1.90	3.7	10.6	0.10
Chaj-13-8	62.34	0.63	15.27	6.19	0.10	3.63	6.20	2.73	1.99	0.06	0.70	18.7	2.50	2.00	3.4	9.7	0.70
Chaj-13-9	61.90	0.62	15.47	6.24	0.10	3.66	6.16	2.75	1.97	0.05	0.69	26.7	2.40	2.00	3.6	9.8	0.69
Tatio-14-1	62.57	0.59	15.79	4.96	0.08	3.66	5.75	2.94	1.98	0.05	0.70	20.0	2.70	2.44	3.0	10.1	0.70
Tatio-14-2	61.16	0.60	17.04	4.99	0.08	3.13	6.25	3.14	2.14	0.05	0.60	29.0	2.89	2.66	3.0	10.8	0.60
Tatio-14-3	63.07	0.63	15.69	5.13	0.08	2.97	5.29	2.91	2.31	0.05	0.80	41.0	3.57	3.40	3.7	12.2	0.80
Tatio-14-4	64.92	0.64	16.05	4.45	0.07	2.33	4.74	3.01	2.89	0.03	0.35	24.0	3.77	3.19	5.2	16.9	0.35
Tatio-14-5	61.30	0.70	17.53	5.09	0.07	2.34	5.99	3.03	2.12	0.15	0.75	19.0	3.53	3.09	2.6	10.0	0.75
Tatio-14-6	61.03	0.67	15.72	5.89	0.09	4.01	6.03	2.72	2.18	0.06	0.70	24.0	3.00	2.81	3.2	11.3	0.70
Tatio-14-7	62.23	0.64	16.62	5.15	0.08	3.37	5.64	3.08	2.14	0.03	0.40	18.0	2.57	2.23	3.0	10.0	0.40
Tatio-14-8	62.39	0.90	17.97	4.88	0.05	1.89	5.87	3.31	2.08	0.01	0.20	9.0	2.60	2.17	2.5	10.0	0.20

Elemental concentrations from Na₂O Fusion and ICP-MS of whole sediment measured at Activation Laboratories, Ontario and Bureau Veritas Commodities Canada Ltd, British Columbia. Uncertainties are taken to be ± 10 %.

communication). Samples were crushed and sieved to the 125-250 μm fraction, and 100 g was leached overnight in dilute TMG (trace metal grade) HNO_3 and subsequently rinsed to remove the meteoric ^{36}Cl component. After drying, a 10 g aliquot was reserved for major and trace element geochemistry while 30 g of the leached material was spiked with ~ 1.0 mg of enriched ^{35}Cl carrier and dissolved in concentrated TMG HF and TMG HNO_3 . Upon complete dissolution, AgCl was precipitated through the addition of AgNO_3 . The precipitate was collected, redissolved through the addition of NH_4OH , and eluted through anion exchange columns to remove interfering ions. Once eluted, the AgCl was re-precipitated through the addition of AgNO_3 and HNO_3 . The AgCl precipitate was dried and loaded into Cu cathode holders for AMS analysis at Purdue Rare Isotope Measurement (PRIME) Lab. Major and trace element geochemistry was analyzed by Na_2O_2 fusion and ICP-MS at Activation Laboratories Ltd. in Ontario, Canada, and at Bureau Veritas Commodities Canada Ltd., British Columbia, Canada. As with the rescaled ages from the literature, the ^{36}Cl ages presented here were calculated based on the LSD scaling scheme using the CRONUSCalc online calculator (Marrero *et al.*, 2016a). Tables 3 and 4 list the details of sample locations, geochemistry, and other relevant data.

3.3. Methods - Age Screening and Stratigraphic Interpretation

Ages presented here (both from the literature and our own) were interpreted in a stratigraphic context. In the manuscripts we review, different authors used different interpretive strategies. For consistency, we reinterpret all datasets based on the rescaled ages and moraine stratigraphy. In most cases, our interpretation agrees with those of the original manuscript.

In this region, relatively few individual landforms or stages have a sufficient number of dates to apply a formal statistical method. Where multiple dates are present on the same landform or stage, we assign landform age based on the range of ages that overlap within uncertainty, and deprioritize ages that do not overlap within the uncertainty range. Exceptions to the above are noted where relevant, for example, cases where insufficient data are available. Finally, regional context is considered in cases where the local stratigraphic interpretation is unclear; nearby records with similar stratigraphy are used as a guide to understanding the age patterns at a site with little or difficult to interpret data. Glaciers in this region were potentially thin and cold-based, leaving locally-variable deposits that have been overprinted in some cases by ashfall deposits, lahars, landslides, rock glaciers, and periglacial features. We therefore consider site-to-site morphostratigraphic interpretation to be unreliable in this setting, because many features are ambiguous in satellite imagery, and we have not visited each site to make more detailed observations.

4. Review of existing glacial studies

*4.1. Nevado Sajama (Smith *et al.*, 2009)*

Nevado Sajama (18.11°S, 68.88°W), a stratovolcano located along the eastern flank of the Western Cordillera in Bolivia, is one of the southernmost peaks in the Western

Cordillera with modern glaciers (Smith *et al.*, 2009). In the Patokho, Huaqui Jihuata, and Phajokhoni valleys (listed from north to south) on the western flank of Nevado Sajama, Smith *et al.* (2009) identified two distinct lateral-terminal moraine groups: (1) tall ~60-80 m high lateral moraines that enclose the valleys, and (2) short 1-4 m high moraines that inset and overlie the taller moraines (Smith *et al.*, 2009). They also mapped four ground moraine deposits. Ground Moraine 1 is associated with the tall lateral moraines (4350 m to 4635 m minimum elevation), and is defined by boulder-rich, hummocky ridges ~3 m high. Ground Moraine 2 (4585 to 4925 m minimum elevation) overprints the up-valley portion of Ground Moraine 1. The deposit is bounded by 2-4 m high moraines and is also interpreted to consist of englacial and supraglacial debris (Smith *et al.*, 2009). Ground Moraine 3 (4745 to 5000 m minimum elevation) is a thicker (>100 m thick) deposit that overprints Ground Moraine 2 in Huaqui Jihuata and exhibits a steep down valley slope with an inset hummocky surface. Owing to the morphology and lack of lateral moraines, Smith *et al.* (2009) interpreted Ground Moraine 3 to represent a fossil rock glacier deposit. In recent Google Earth imagery, active rock glaciers are apparent farther up the slope from this deposit, and its upper extent is partly buried in outwash fan deposits originating from the modern rock glacier margins. The Plateau Ground Moraine identified by Smith *et al.* (2009) occurs on high-elevation low-angle plateaus that surround Sajama, rather than within the glacial valleys. The unit consists of hummocky terrain and lacks bounding moraine ridges, and is interpreted to be deposited by cold-based ice spilling over the valley margins; we consider this interpretation to be speculative.

Huaqui Jihuata and Patokho valleys exhibit terminal moraine/fan complexes associated with Ground Moraine 1 that were dated by Smith *et al.* (2009) using ^{36}Cl . At the terminus of Huaqui Jihuata, three samples from a narrow moraine ridge yield 11.3 ± 1.2 , 11.9 ± 1.1 , and 19.9 ± 1.1 ka. Five ages from the outermost dated moraine at Patokho valley terminus were 12.3 ± 1.3 , 15.2 ± 1.5 , 19.4 ± 2.6 , 21.9 ± 1.9 , and 23.1 ± 2.1 ka. A small loop moraine cross-cutting the outer moraine on the southern margin of the terminal area yielded 2 identical ages of 17.6 ± 1.5 and 17.9 ± 2.3 . In stratigraphic context, we interpret that the terminal complex was occupied at 19-23 ka, with a minor moraine-forming event at 17-18 ka, and deglaciated possibly as late as 11 ka in Huaqui Jihuata. The younger ages here may also reflect incision of the moraine/fan complexes during deglaciation.

Nine samples were dated from glaciated bedrock upvalley from the terminal complexes of Huaqui Jihuata and Patokho valleys. Two groups of samples were dated from each valley. In Huaqui Jihuata, two samples from near the thalweg ~2 km upvalley from terminal complex of yield identical ages of 11.10 ± 1.1 and 11.25 ± 0.91 ka. Two samples from a similar position in Patokho valley yield exposure ages of 10.90 ± 1.1 and 11.62 ± 0.92 ka.

Two samples from glaciated bedrock along the valley side ~500 m upvalley of the terminus of Huaqui Jihuata return older exposure ages of 32.9 ± 3.6 and 44.7 ± 5.8 ka. If this location was ice-covered as late as 11-20 ka, as suggested by the moraine ages, these ages must contain cosmogenic inheritance, and suggest that bedrock erosion in this marginal, distal position was likely limited. Three bedrock exposure ages in Patokho valley ~2.5 km upvalley and high on the valley side yield exposure ages of 14.79 ± 0.95 , 14.8 ± 1.1 , and 18.3 ± 1.2 ka, and suggest that ice had started to thin to expose this sidewall by ~15 ka.

The Plateau Ground Moraine appears to have been deposited outside of the northern edge of Patokho valley. Three boulder samples from its distal margin date to 5.62 ± 0.73 , 6.81 ± 0.88 , and 8.04 ± 0.93 ka. Within the confines of Patokho valley, Ground Moraine 2 overprints the Plateau Ground Moraine. Four boulder samples from its distal portion, ~3.5 km upvalley from the terminal complex, yield exposure ages of 4.03 ± 0.67 , 5.16 ± 0.46 , 6.10 ± 0.38 , and 10.0 ± 1.0 ka. Similarly, 5 samples from Ground Moraine 3 range from 3.76 ± 0.63 ka to 6.22 ± 0.42 , and three other samples cluster between 8.2 ± 1.2 ka and 8.8 ± 1.3 ka. However their origin and cross-cutting relationships are interpreted, Ground Moraines 2 and 3 and the Plateau Ground Moraine appear to have been emplaced between 4 and 6 ka.

Two boulders sampled from the active rock glacier in Phajokhoni valley yield concentrations of ^{36}Cl so low that they calculate as 0 ka ages.

In summary, the rescaled glacial chronology from Nevado Sajama suggests that the main phase of development for Ground Moraine 1 and the terminal complexes was between 17 and 23 ka. Glacial retreat was likely underway ca. 15 ka, and ice had completely withdrawn from the ice contact slopes along the valleys by 11 ka. Minor advances or standstills likely occurred between 4 and 6 ka, developing the Plateau Ground Moraine, and Ground Moraine 2 and 3. Subsequent glacial retreat reduced the glacial extent to near the present ice margin (Smith *et al.*, 2009).

4.2. Cerro Tunupa (Blard *et al.*, 2009, 2013b)

Evidence of glaciation from Cerro Tunupa (19.87°S , 67.61°W), adjacent to the Salar de Uyuni basin, suggests multiple stages of glacial occupation (Blard *et al.* 2009, 2013b). Mapping and ^3He surface exposure dating of glacial moraines and associated glaciofluvial fan deltas in Chalcala Valley on the southeast flank of Cerro Tunupa by Blard *et al.* (2009, 2013b) identified four moraines (M0 through M3) and two fan lobes (Mf1a and Mf1b). An old moraine outlet delineated by M0 (3828 m) is crosscut by M1 (~4200 m), a sharp-crested lateral moraine that delimits the former glaciated Chalcala valley. Blard *et al.* (2009) suggest that a distal glaciofluvial fan delta Mf1 (~3760 m) is associated with the M1 moraine, and stratigraphic relationships therein provide additional temporal constraints on moraine termination. Inset within M1, lateral moraine M2 (~4250 m) likely resulted from the initial stage of glacial retreat. Elongated moraines M3 (4420 m), situated stratigraphically above striated bedrock, denote a later readvance originating from the glacier cirque (Blard *et al.*, 2009).

Surface exposure ages from boulders on M0 indicate moraine abandonment by 147 ± 7 to 172 ± 8 ka. Four exposure ages on boulders of M1 range between 15.6 ± 0.9 and 17.0 ± 0.9 ka. Exposure ages on the Mf1 fan delta yield similar ages, between 15.2 ± 0.8 and 18.2 ± 0.8 ka, and support the proposed genetic relationship with the M1 moraine. An additional exposure age of 27.6 ± 1.3 ka on Mf1 represents a maximum age for the initial glacial advance that led to the deposition of the glaciofluvial fan delta (Blard *et al.*, 2009, 2013b). Moraine M2 is constrained by five exposure ages that range from 14.1 ± 1.0 to 15.4 ± 0.9 ka. Striated bedrock up-valley of the M2 moraine yields two identical exposure ages of 15.1 ± 0.8 ka, while boulders on M3 moraines yield exposure ages

between 12.0 ± 0.7 and 13.7 ± 0.7 ka. The glacial chronology from Chalcala valley on Cerro Tunupa suggests that the main development of the M1 moraine occurred between 17 to 16 ka, and the local LGM likely persisted until ~ 15.5 ka. Subsequent glacial retreat occurred between 15.5 and 14.5 ka, with a minor, short-lived advance ca. 13 ka.

4.3. Cerro Uturuncu (Blard et al., 2014)

Uturuncu volcano is located within the southernmost limits of the Altiplano endorheic watershed, which contained paleolake Tauca. Blard et al. (2014) generated a ^3He exposure age chronology using moraine boulders and striated bedrock from a formerly glaciated valley on the southern flank of Uturuncu volcano (22.27°S , 67.19°W). Exposure ages were calculated using the production rate of cosmogenic ^3He calibrated at Tunupa volcano on the Pocolli fan (Blard et al., 2013b) on the Altiplano. The authors also reconstructed paleo-equilibrium line altitudes (ELA's) in order to evaluate relative ELA changes throughout the late Pleistocene.

Five (M1 to M5) successive moraine sets were identified. The widest and most distal M1 moraine complex (4810 m) exhibits several individual ridges. Five ^3He exposure ages were developed from the outermost dated M1 ridge; these yield 3 overlapping ages of 39.5 ± 0.7 , 40.2 ± 0.9 , and 46 ± 2 ka, and two outliers of 65 ± 2 and 116 ± 4 ka. By our interpretive methods, this suggests an age for M1 of ~ 40 ka. The next, inner M1 ridge yielded 3 ages of 18.8 ± 0.7 , 37.3 ± 1.3 , and 62 ± 2 . Either of these two younger ages are consistent stratigraphically with the outer M1 results.

The M2 moraine (4830 m) was deposited ~ 250 m upvalley of the inner portion of M1 and displayed prominent (10 m wide, 2-4 m tall) frontal and lateral ridges and yielded four samples with ages of 15.9 ± 0.6 , 21.4 ± 0.9 , 32.7 ± 1.6 , 33.5 ± 0.9 ka. The two overlapping ages suggest that M2 dates to ~ 33 ka, further implying ~ 37 ka for the inner M1 moraine. Field relationships support that M2 is indeed younger and even overrode M1. Recessional M3 and M4 moraines, another ~ 250 m inboard, are less prominent than M2 and were not dated. Bedrock from roche moutonnée just inside the M4 moraine yielded two identical exposure ages of 17.5 ± 0.6 and 17.8 ± 0.7 , implying retreat from the M4 position by ~ 17 -18 ka.

Farther upvalley, 3 samples from the M5 moraine gave exposure ages of 13.7 ± 0.4 , 15.9 ± 0.5 , and 62 ± 2 ka, implying a 13-16 ka age for M5. Bedrock on valley side inside the M5 moraines and just below the M5 trimline yielded an age of 19.0 ± 0.5 ka, and bedrock 400 m upvalley from the M5 moraine and near the valley thalweg yielded 3 ages of 14.2 ± 0.5 , 15.5 ± 0.6 , and 15.6 ± 0.4 ka. These support a ~ 16 ka age for M5 and deglaciation by 14-15 ka.

Our conclusions are similar to those of the original authors. We interpret emplacement of the M1 and M2 moraine sets to have occurred between 46 and 33 ka, with the glacial front at 4800 m and an ELA as reconstructed by Blard et al. (2014) of 5250 m. M3- and M4-proximal bedrock ages establish that the glacial front receded ~ 1 km at 17 ka and reached 4900 m to begin depositing M5. The emplacement of M5 is interpreted to be ~ 16 ka, with a corresponding ELA of 5350 m. The upper roche moutonnée samples indicate the onset of rapid valley deglaciation after a late glacial or Tauca stillstand. After 14 ka, ice had retreated to above 5100 m.

4.4. Cerro La Torta (Ward et al., 2015)

Ward *et al.* (2015) presented two ^{10}Be ages from a glacial valley near the dacite dome known as Cerro La Torta (22.43°S, 67.99°W). Here, a narrow valley glacier flowed ~4.5 km from high terrain between two volcanic peaks and cross-cut broader moraine ridges and drift from the much wider valley to the east. The cross-cut drift is very thin (<1 m), with more than 20 individual ridges in the distal 2.5 km, and patterned with polygonal hummocks of 50-150 m diameter in a manner similar to that of sublimation till (e.g., Marchant *et al.*, 2002). One degraded moraine boulder from the narrow, cross-cutting moraine yielded an age of 24.7 ± 1.8 ka, whereas a glaciated bedrock surface ~500 m proximal to the moraine had an exposure age of 31 ± 2.4 ka. Given the degraded state of the moraine boulder, the bedrock age was interpreted to better reflect the timing of deglaciation, although it is certainly possible that this surface contains some cosmogenic inheritance. Taking the moraine age as minimum-limiting and the bedrock age as maximum-limiting indicates that this position was last occupied between 25 and 30 ka. A less prominent moraine position is apparent at a distance of ~800 m upvalley from the outer moraine and may represent the global LGM position, or a late glacial stage. No further moraines are apparent upvalley.

4.5. Chajnantor Plateau (Ward et al., 2015; Cesta and Ward, 2016)

Ward *et al.* (2015) presented a new ^{36}Cl and ^{10}Be chronology for the Chajnantor Plateau (23°S), where a ~250 km² ice cap covered a broad 5000 m elevation ignimbrite shield. Here, we rescaled the ^{36}Cl ages presented in that paper based on the LSD scaling scheme using the CRONUSCalc online calculator (Marrero *et al.*, 2016a). Some of these ages changed significantly, while others changed only by a few % with rescaling. We have additionally included four new ages not presented in that paper (processed following similar methods to those outlined in Section 4, below). The overall conclusions from Ward *et al.* (2015) were not changed, but the record as presented here is more consistent with the other records in this review. The current suite of ages is shown in Figure 3.

Moraines on the Chajnantor Plateau group stratigraphically into three stages. Ward *et al.* (2015) classified these as Stages I-III, with Stage I the innermost, youngest stage; for consistency with other records in this review, we here relabel these as M1-M3 moraines, with M1 being the outermost, oldest moraines. In most locations around the plateau, the M3 moraine is closely nested within the M2 moraine, to the point of being difficult to discriminate between the two, especially on the northern and eastern margins of the former ice cap. Separation of up to ~1 km occurs along the western margin of the former ice cap. As mapped by Ward *et al.* (2015) the local M3 moraines vary from well-defined ridges up to 10 m height on the eastern margin to low, hummocky ridges perched on bedrock divides on the western margin. M2 moraines are the most prominent overall, generally comprising 3-10 m high ridges with many meter-scale boulders. M1 moraines are low and degraded, with few large boulders. In many cases M1 deposits are only recognizable as moraines due to their arcuate traces in map view, as visible in satellite imagery.

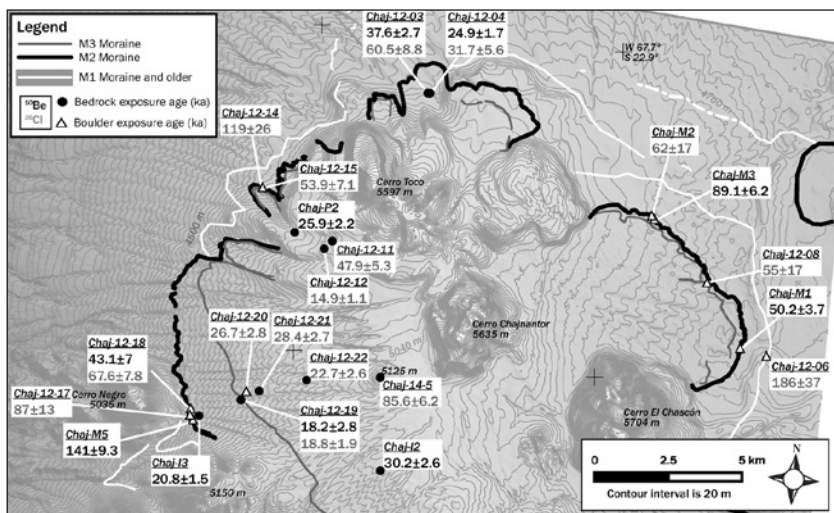


Figure 3. Map of the Chajnantor plateau based on Ward et al. (2015) with updated ^{36}Cl ages (grey numbers). Moraines on the eastern margin appear to have been deposited ca. 50–60 ka, but the scatter and discordant ^{10}Be and ^{36}Cl paired ages imply significant cosmogenic inheritance at this site. Bedrock and boulder ages from the western interior of the plateau suggest deglaciation ca. 20–25 ka.

A single boulder sampled on a degraded M1 moraine on the eastern side of the Chajnantor Plateau yielded an age of 186 ± 37 ka. Out of nine M2 moraine samples, five yield overlapping ages that range from 43.1 ± 7 to 62 ± 17 ka, with outliers of 87, 89, 119, and 141 ka. Two exposure ages on glaciated bedrock between M2 and M3 yield ages of 20.8 ± 1.5 and 18.2 ± 2.8 ka. A M3 erratic boulder gives an age of 26.7 ± 2.8 ka.

There are nine glaciated bedrock ages within the M3 moraines. Five of these cluster in the period 22–30 ka. There is one young outlier of 14.9 ± 1.1 ka and older outliers of 37.6 ± 2.7 and 47.9 ± 1.1 ka. The last bedrock sample (Chaj-14-5) was taken from glaciated bedrock at the peak of Cerro Chico, a small peak in the center of the plateau. This sample gives a ^{36}Cl exposure age of 85 ± 6.2 ka, indicating that that Cerro Chico was likely either a nunatak or only shallowly covered with ice during the most recent glaciation of the plateau.

In general, young outliers in bedrock exposure ages may have experienced unusual transient shielding after glacial retreat, whereas older outliers contain cosmogenic inheritance because they experienced incomplete resetting by glacial erosion. There is substantial evidence that inheritance is a major problem in this dataset, both in moraine and bedrock samples. First, the youngest of the 21–30 ka cluster of bedrock ages are found in samples from lower elevations and more distal positions, where ice may have been warmer-based and more erosive. Second, most moraine boulder ages are significantly older than most of the nearby, ice-proximal bedrock samples, and exhibit considerable scatter on the same landforms. Third, in three of four samples dated with both ^{10}Be and ^{36}Cl , the ^{36}Cl age is 30–50% older than the ^{10}Be age, indicating

incomplete resetting of these samples (^{36}Cl has a deeper production profile than ^{10}Be , and is therefore not as easily reset by erosion; e.g. Wirsig *et al.*, 2016). Only in the youngest sample (Chaj-12-19) are the ^{10}Be and ^{36}Cl ages identical, although in the second-youngest (Chaj-12-04) ages based on the two nuclides overlap within error. Although there is significantly more uncertainty in the ^{36}Cl production rate scaling, particularly beyond ~ 20 ka (Marrero *et al.*, 2016b), the divergence of ages with increasing age is indicative of incomplete erosional resetting, and consistent with the other evidence for inheritance in the dataset.

In light of the evidence for at least locally incomplete resetting of cosmogenic ages, our interpreted timing of the most prominent M2 stage is biased toward the young end of the range 40-60 ka, based on the overlapping moraine boulder ages. Following the same argument, the bedrock ages indicate deglaciation of the plateau interior by ~ 18 -25 ka, during the global LGM.

Along the western flank of the Chajnantor Plateau, a broad bajada extends from the base of the plateau to the margin of the Salar de Atacama. Coalescing gravel fans and debris flows of this alluvial apron emanate from large bedrock canyons (*quebradas*) and smaller, fracture-controlled bedrock channels. The gravel fans of the Chajnantor bajada form a gently undulating surface, and three regional alluvial fan surfaces (Qf1 [oldest], Qf2, and Qf3 [youngest]) are observed. The Qf1 and Qf2 surfaces represent hyperconcentrated flow deposits, predominantly composed of andesitic to dacitic gravels, while the Qf3 surface represents boulder-rich debris flow deposits composed of ignimbrite and andesite clasts.

Cosmogenic ^{36}Cl exposure ages on these alluvial fan surfaces date the timing of abandonment to 175 ± 22.6 ka, 134.5 ± 9.18 ka, and 20.07 ± 6.26 ka, respectively (Cesta and Ward, 2016). The exposure ages indicate two main phases of alluvial fan development. The first phase of alluvial fan aggradation occurred prior to or during MIS 6 and likely resulted in the main period of bajada development, evident from the extensive Qf1 and Qf2 fans. This phase of alluvial development was followed period of quiescence in fan formation, which ended with the initiation of the second phase of fan aggradation during MIS 2. The second major phase of alluvial fan development resulted in the formation and abandonment of the Qf3 surface, characterized by localized, proximal aggradation of debris flow deposits within fluvial channels.

4.6. Encierro Valley (Zech *et al.*, 2006)

In the Encierro Valley (29.10°S, 69.90°W), drift and moraines indicate that a 16 km long glacier occupied the north-flowing valley axis. A 1.8 km long rock glacier exists in the headwaters today. Zech *et al.* (2006) used ^{10}Be to date boulders from several moraine positions. (Ages from this site are presented as rescaled by Ward *et al.* [2015] using the time-varying Lal-Stone scheme). One outer terminal boulder gives 35 ± 2.6 ka. A terminal moraine located ~ 0.3 km proximal to this outer moraine and associated lateral moraines yielded 6 samples of which four lie between 18-21 ka, with outliers of 13.9 ± 1.0 and 16.7 ± 1.4 ka. More proximal moraine positions were dated to 15-17 ka. Small lateral

moraines are apparent in satellite imagery between these late glacial moraines and the extant large rock glacier, and are locally overridden by talus and small rock glaciers.

4.7. Cerro Tapado (Sagredo et al., 2016)

Cerro Tapado (30.14°S; 69.93°W; 5536 m asl), receives most of its precipitation from winter cut-offs of cold air-masses from the Pacific (Vuille and Ammann, 1997; Ginot et al., 2002; Marengo et al., 2004). The southeast slope of Cerro Tapado hosts a ~1.5 km-long glacier (Schotterer et al., 2003), which has an estimated ELA of 5300 m (Kull et al., 2002) and terminates near 4700 m. With a surface area of ~1.2 km², this is the northernmost significant glacier in the western cordillera south of the Arid Diagonal, and its mass balance is strongly influenced by sublimation (Ginot et al., 2006). The presence of the glacier is somewhat unusual, in that peaks of similar elevation at this latitude are presently deglaciated (Stichler et al., 2001).

The distal ice of Tapado glacier is partly debris-covered, and its forefield is occupied by several rock glaciers of different ages, along with debris-covered ice and ice-cored moraines. Sagredo et al. (2016) interpret several moraine stages. Innermost is a moraine complex among debris-covered ice about 200 m below and 500 m downvalley from the current terminus. Distal to the inner moraines and the rock glacier fields are remnants of several older lateral moraines. Sagredo et al. (2016) used ³⁶Cl to date samples from the more distal, lateral moraines, which yielded ages of 3040 ± 330 and 5100 ± 290 yr BP. Samples from the crest of the inner moraines yield ages of 490 ± 130 yr BP, 540 ± 70 yr BP, 780 ± 100 yr BP, 950 ± 90 yr BP and 1830 ± 270 yr BP. The inner moraine is interpreted as being deposited between 500-1000 yr BP. The more distal moraines, on the other hand, were probably deposited during the mid-Holocene (Sagredo et al., 2016).

4.8. Cordón de Doña Rosa (Zech et al., 2007)

Zech et al. (2007) dated many locations along a deglaciated valley in the Cordón de Doña Rosa (30.7°S). (Ages from this site are presented as rescaled by Ward et al. (2015) using the time-varying Lal-Stone scheme). Of seven samples on the outer moraines and drift (~10 km from the headwall), five yield rescaled ¹⁰Be ages of 36-49 ka, plus one 22.1 ± 1.6 ka age and one 148 ± 10 ka age. Approximately 4 km upvalley, a set of moraines is apparent in each of two primary tributaries. The eastern tributary moraine extends below the junction into the main valley, and gives three consistent ages of 17.3 ± 1.4, 17.8 ± 1.3, and 18.3 ± 1.4 ka. In the western tributary, six samples from a sequence of three moraines yield ages of: 17.3 ± 1.3, 21.5 ± 1.5, and 19.3 ± 1.3 ka (outermost of this group); 25.7 ± 1.9 ka (middle); and 17.3 ± 1.2 and 19.0 ± 1.4 ka (innermost). In the context of the scatter, all three moraines were likely emplaced between 21.5 and 17 ka, with the innermost position likely corresponding to the 17-18 ka moraine in the eastern tributary. There is excellent bedrock exposure higher in the headwaters of the western tributary, but this was not dated, and no younger moraines are apparent. It is therefore reasonable that this valley was fully deglaciated shortly after 17 ka. Only a very small rock glacier is apparent there today.

Six boulders were dated from three sites 9, 16, and 21 km downvalley of the outer moraines, and four of these yielded similar ages of 30–40 ka. These sites were interpreted by Zech *et al.* (2007) as representing degraded moraine fragments; the authors disregarded these ages as they did not make stratigraphic sense. Using newer, higher-resolution imagery from Google Earth, we interpret that these samples were not from moraines. Instead, they appear to be from dissected fluvial fill terraces overlain by colluvial fans. The consistent ~35 ka age of these samples could represent fluvial incision and terrace abandonment coincidental with glacial retreat from the ~35–40 ka moraines.

5. New ^{36}Cl results from Cordillera del Tatio and Sairecabur

5.1. El Tatio moraines

In the Cordillera del Tatio, moraines and other drift are clear indicators that well-organized valley glaciers existed in the past. The most well-known of these deposits (22.30°S, 67.98°W, 4100–4500 m) lies a few km north of the El Tatio geyser field and is perhaps the best expression of valley glaciation in the region, with high, sharp lateral moraines grading into a clear terminal complex with no evidence for stagnant ice (Fig. 4). Much of the drift surrounding this valley, on the other hand, is thin and exhibits patterning (as described above in Section 3.4) and poor development of lateral moraines, all of which may indicate thin, cold-based ice. Glacial-climate modeling by Kull and Grosjean (2000) based on the prominent moraines indicated that an extra 1 m

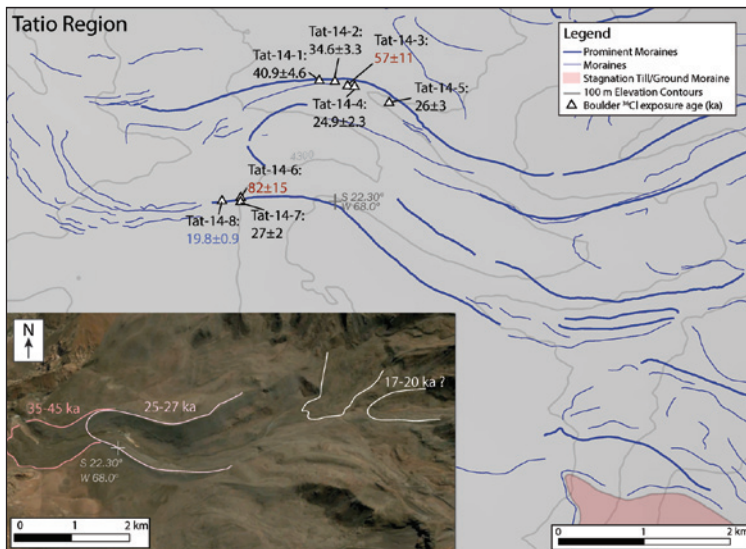


Figure 4. Glaciers and sample locations at El Tatio. Ages interpreted as old outliers due to inheritance shown in red, and as young outliers due to moraine degradation shown in blue. Inset: same region shown on map, with glacial stage interpretation based on cosmogenic ages and regional context. Image from Google Earth, 2016 CNES/Astrium.

of precipitation could be necessary to generate this glacier in conjunction with a 3.5°C temperature depression as was characteristic of the Late Glacial. The model indicated, based on modern precipitation patterns, that most of this moisture must have come from the east during the austral summer.

The prominent moraines of the glacier modeled by Kull and Grosjean (2000) have not, however, been previously dated. Here, we present 8 new cosmogenic ^{36}Cl exposure ages. From the most distal, lower moraines several overlapping deposits may be present, with a broad, slightly degraded set of terminal and laterally distal moraines inset by a less-prominent drift of lateral and ground moraines. On the sharp lateral crests of the inner position, four exposure ages of 19.8 ± 0.9 , 24.9 ± 2.3 , 26 ± 3 , and 27 ± 2 ka indicate deposition prior to or during the global LGM. Two samples in slightly more laterally distal positions give exposure ages of 34.6 ± 3.3 and 40.9 ± 4.6 ka. These are on the outer flanking moraines that can be traced around the farthest terminus of the glacier (Fig. 4), compatible with regional ages indicating early glaciation at 35-40 ka. Two outliers yield ages of 57 ± 11 and 82 ± 15 ka, attributable to cosmogenic inheritance. At least two more proximal sets of less-prominent moraines are present several km upvalley, and could correspond to global LGM and late glacial pauses in the retreat.

5.2. Sairecabur moraines

An ~8 km glacier flowed west from the valley now occupied by the post-glacial northern edifice of Sairecabur and deposited moraines near 4600 m (22.71°S, 67.94°W; Fig. 5). The distal moraine complex occupies the lower ~1.5 km length of the former glacial footprint, and can be described as an outer, prominent, lobate moraine, and an inner hummocky moraine, with patterned, hummocky ridges in between. The morphology suggests that these were likely ice-cored moraines. It is possible, but not clear from the morphology, that the overall complex was deposited by stagnant, debris-laden ice or a detached rock glacier.

Cosmogenic ^{36}Cl ages yield widely scattered ages. Seven samples from the outer moraine ridge give exposure ages of 13.1 ± 1.9 , 14.3 ± 0.9 , 18 ± 2 , 27.6 ± 3.3 , 42.5 ± 4.8 , 92 ± 13 , and 123 ± 12 ka. Two samples from the inner hummocky moraines yield overlapping ages of 41.3 ± 5.1 and 48.6 ± 4.8 ka.

This map pattern of ages defies straightforward interpretation. The only two overlapping ages on the outer moraine are 13-14 ka. The other five samples from this moraine are distributed approximately evenly over the last 120 ka. The two samples from the inner, hummocky moraines imply an age of 41-49 ka, in stratigraphic conflict with a younger outer ridge. Given the regional context, we hypothesize that the valley was last glaciated synchronously with the other local glaciated valleys ca. 30-40 ka, and this advance overrode and incorporated some older materials. Nonetheless, there are many plausible scenarios involving cosmogenic inheritance and moraine degradation that could result in the scattered exposure ages on these deposits, so the most confident interpretation must be that the valley was glaciated at some point between 123 ka and 13 ka, and that the distal portion of the glacier was debris-covered and possibly stagnant prior to deglaciation. We do not use this site in considering the regional pattern of deglaciation.

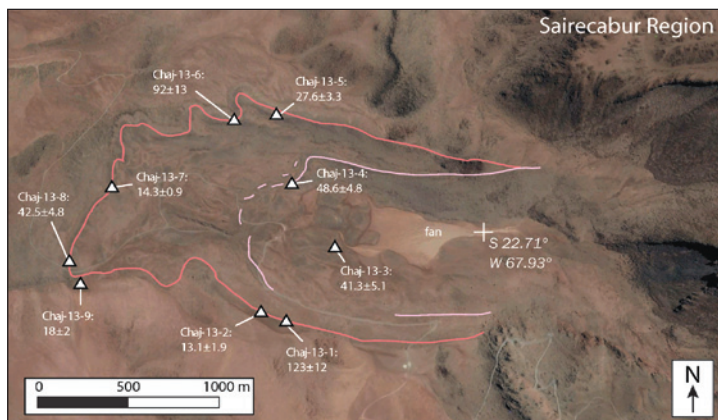


Figure 5. Moraines and sample locations near Sairecabur. Note the deformed hummocky ridges between the key moraine stages, and the “splintered” lobes of the outer margin, possibly indicating stagnant or cold-based ice. Image from Google Earth, 2016 CNES/Astrium.

6. Discussion

Deglaciation trends in the western cordillera of the Andes vary by location, and the locations fall into three main groups with roughly similar behavior within each group (Fig. 6). These groups are the outer tropical and paleolake Tauca-proximal glaciers of Nevado Sajama and Cerro Tunupa; the Arid Andes glacier deposits north of the Arid Diagonal, comprising Cerro Uturuncu, El Tatio, Cerro Tapado, Sairecabur, and Chajnantor; and the subtropical glaciers south of the Arid Diagonal, comprising Valle de Encierro, Cordón de Doña Rosa, and Cerro Tapado.

Where dated, the outer, degraded moraines throughout the region date to within Marine Isotope Stage 6 (130–191 ka). Greater precision is not possible with the available data, but this timing corresponds to deposition of the broad bajada along the Salar de Atacama (Cesta and Ward, 2016). The next stage of more prominent moraines returns ages generally between 35–45 ka on both sides of the Arid Diagonal. Locally, the well-preserved moraines of the next innermost stage date to 25–30 ka, ~19–22 ka, or 15–17 ka, with several of these stages apparent in some locations but not always independently dated. North of the Arid Diagonal, it is common to find moraines that date to < 15 ka. South of the Arid Diagonal, this is not typical, implying rapid deglaciation after 17 ka, except at Cerro Tapado, where a modern glacier remains.

The presence of a ~40 ka glacial stage in the Andes has been suggested before. Zech *et al.* (2008) argues for a ~40 ka advance based on a review of records in Patagonia and south-central Chile. Recent cosmogenic glacial records both from the tropics (e.g., Bromley *et al.*, 2016) and subtropical Argentina (e.g., Moreiras *et al.*, 2016) indicate moraine formation at ca. 40 ka and 25 ka. (More complete reviews of deglaciation in adjacent regions are included in this volume.) This would place the beginning of the regional LGM around the time of the 46 ka Inca Huasi highstand of the Altiplanic lakes, and synchronous with a deep lake at Pozuelos Basin in Argentina (McGlue *et al.*, 2013).

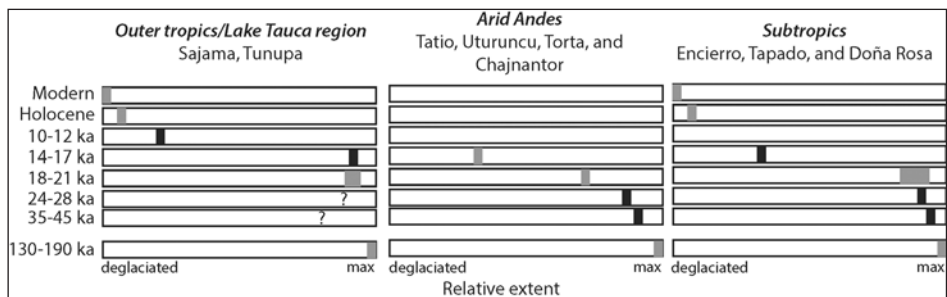


Figure 6. Schematic deglaciation history of the three main portions of the study region. Bars correspond to regionally identified moraine stages. Black markings indicate relative position of moraines identified in most or all records in that region, whereas gray markings indicate positions of stages identified in few or some locations in the region. In the northeastern outer tropical/Lake Tauca region, the Tauca phase (14-17 ka) glacial advance overrode most older moraines. In contrast, in the arid Andes and subtropical regions, the most prominent nested moraines appear to correspond to ca. 35-45 ka and 24-28 ka, with later phases identified at more retracted positions. Rapid deglaciation occurred ca. 17 ka in the subtropics, in contrast with slightly later deglaciation in the Tauca region. Scattered older moraines dating to 130-190 ka are found in all three regions. Modern and Holocene stages are seen only at Sajama, in the north, and Tapado, in the south.

In the outer tropical and Tauca-proximal glaciation records reviewed here, moraines dating to the global LGM and earlier were overridden during the Tauca highstand wet phase (~15-17 ka). Blard *et al.* (2014) attribute a downward shift in glacial equilibrium lines at this time near paleolake Tauca (Fig. 1) to a local positive feedback of increased precipitation over the lake, which was synchronous with an 80% increase in regional precipitation (Blodgett *et al.*, 1997; Blard *et al.*, 2009). Rapid deglaciation at Cerro Tunupa and disappearance of lake Tauca are synchronous with a temperature increase apparent in the NorthGRIP ice core from Greenland and in East Pacific sea surface temperature proxies. Blard *et al.* (2009, 2014) invoke a mechanism by which the warming of the North Atlantic and tropics after the Heinrich 1 stadial event shifted the South American monsoon northward. This resulted in drying and warming on the Altiplano after 14.5 ka.

Later late glacial deposits in tropical and subtropical South America have been interpreted as corresponding either to the Northern Hemisphere Younger Dryas stadial event (YD; 12.9-11.7 ka) or the Southern Hemisphere Antarctic Cold Reversal (ACR; 14.5-12.8 ka). A reasonable hypothesis would be that the Arid Diagonal would demarcate the boundary of influence between these hemispheric effects, but reviews of glacial chronologies have remained inconclusive on this matter (Ward *et al.*, 2015), with some workers (e.g., Jomelli *et al.*, 2014) suggesting that the timing of glacial advances in tropical South America indicates an influence of the ACR there. Among the sites considered here, only the two northernmost appear to have late glacial positions that could correspond to either the YD or the ACR. At Nevado Sajama, bedrock ages in the lower main valleys imply that they were occupied until ca. 11 ka, supporting a YD influence. On the other hand, at Cerro Tunupa, the innermost position indicates a short stillstand that dates to 12-14 ka, conceivably during the ACR. At Cerro Uturunco and

all records farther south, the youngest pre-Holocene positions are 14-15 ka, implying that deglaciation was proceeding during both the YD and the ACR. We reiterate that the nature of the dating methods and the scatter in the resulting ages make these records insufficiently precise to distinguish between the YD and the ACR.

During the late-glacial Tauca phase, a sharp spatial gradient in the glacial climate occurred between Cerro Tunupa, which is located at the geographic center of Lake Tauca, and Cerro Uturuncu, just south of the southern end of Lake Tauca and the Salar de Uyuni and the other arid Andean glaciers north of the Arid Diagonal. Blard *et al.* (2014) point out that the inferred ELA based on the Tauca-phase moraine at Uturuncu was 5350 m, and at Tunupa the corresponding ELA was 4450 m. The spatial gradient in temperature between these locations (e.g., Ammann *et al.*, 2001) is not sufficient to explain the 900 m difference, implicating strong spatial gradients in moisture availability moving south from the southern margin of Lake Tauca. This is supported by the lack of a clear Tauca-phase transgression at Pozuelos Basin in the Puna region, at a similar latitude to Co. Uturuncu and El Tatio (McGlue *et al.*, 2013). Within the arid Andes group of glacial records, the Tauca-phase moraine is either absent or found high in the glacial valleys, and does not appear to be one of the more extensive glacial positions.

The glacier-climate modeling of Kull and Grosjean (2000) matched the El Tatio glacier to its most extensive moraines with a regional temperature depression of $\sim 3.5^{\circ}\text{C}$, and with radiation climate consistent with that of ca. 17 ka. Given these conditions, an extra meter of precipitation would be required to generate a glacier of the correct size. It is not clear what mechanisms might have been able to increase regional precipitation to this extent, even during peak Tauca phase. Proxies at this time indicate perhaps a doubling of modern precipitation from ~ 300 to ~ 600 mm/yr (e.g., Grosjean *et al.*, 2001; Maldonado *et al.*, 2005; Gayo *et al.*, 2012). The indication by the new cosmogenic ages that the extensive moraines in these areas do not date to Tauca phase may place peak glaciation in the arid Andes during a colder period such as mid-global LGM, when temperatures were likely $5\text{--}7^{\circ}$ colder, and therefore less precipitation would be needed to glaciare the region than previously modeled. In support of this idea, south of the Arid Diagonal, Kull *et al.* (2002) used similar methods at Encierro Valley to estimate that a $+580 \pm 150$ mm increase in precipitation, coupled with a 5.7°C temperature decrease typical of the global LGM in this area, would match the observed deposits.

7. Conclusions

Recent cosmogenic dating at formerly glaciated sites spanning the South American Arid Diagonal in the western cordillera of the Andes suggests that glaciation associated with the global LGM began ca. 35-45 ka throughout the region. Dry, cold conditions led to slow retreat during the global LGM (through $\sim 20\text{--}25$ ka) and possibly the formation of stagnant ice where debris cover and glacier geometry were appropriate. These earlier moraines were overridden in most parts of the tropics and Lake Tauca-proximate regions between 15-17 ka as a result of local moisture availability on the Altiplano associated with the Tauca highstand. Just south and west of the southern Altiplano, retreat continued through the Tauca phase with no major readvance apparent at that time, only minor

moraines at retracted positions. In the subtropical Andes south of the Arid Diagonal, the deglaciation history was similar. In both of these more southerly regions, there are no apparent deposits between the 14-17 ka positions and the few modern glaciers and rock glaciers present high in the catchments.

The cosmogenic ages reviewed here suggest that the glaciers north and south of the Arid Diagonal behaved more or less synchronously throughout the deglaciation. The more important transition in deglaciation pattern appears to lie near the southern end of the Salar de Uyuni, where the regional influence of late glacial Lake Tauca tapered off. This conclusion leads to the intriguing hypothesis that the influence of tropical moisture on the Altiplano during the late glacial reached farther south than it otherwise would have due to the great extent of Lake Tauca.

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