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Future Directions in Antarctic Paleoclimate and Glaciology Research

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Several “big” questions include: (1) Did the West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapse 125,000 years ago, a time when our climate was several degrees warmer than today? and
(2) Why did Earth’s ice ages oscillate within a 41,000-year period between 1.5- and 1.3-million years ago? These questions require multiple access holes to the deep ice, to map the spatial dimension in a rapid-access mode that is an order of magnitude faster than traditional ice coring, in which a project can take 5 to 10 years to execute. Potential enabling technologies are discussed.

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